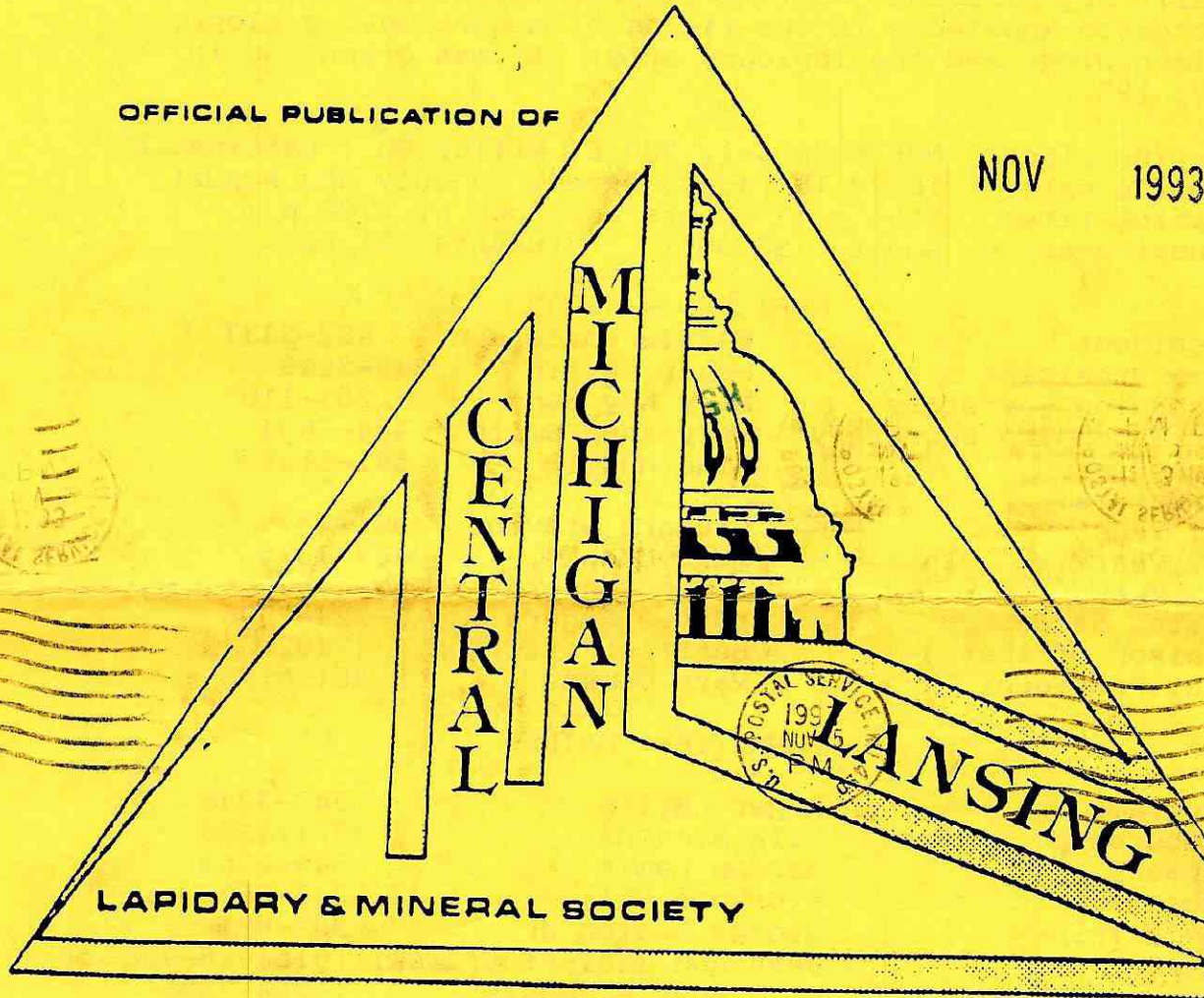


# ROCKHOUND NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

NOV 1993



LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

MEMBER OF MWF & AFMS

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14933 Brown Rd.,  
Lansing, Michigan 48906

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## ROCKHOUND NEWS

This bulletin is the official publication of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of Greater Lansing, Michigan. It is published the second week of each month except July and August.

The Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization, meeting to promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, paleontology and the lapidary arts. It was organized in May, 1957.

Meeting place: North School, 333 E. Miller Rd., Lansing, MI  
Meeting date: Third Thursday, except in July and August  
Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Doors are open at 7:00 p.m.  
Annual dues: Adults \$3.00 Students \$1.00

### OFFICERS -- 1993

President	Bettie Patterson	482-3437
Vice President	Roger Laylin	349-3249
Recording Secretary	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Anne Smith	484-7804
Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
Directors:		
1 Year	Richard Stevens	321-4379
2 Years	Mary Crosby	484-1375
3 Years	Irwin Turner	694-9596
Roster Secretary	Bessie Rogers	1-224-7596
Liaison Officer	Bettie Patterson	482-3437
Past President	Mary Gowens	351-6136

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program	Roger Laylin	349-3249
Membership	Lila Stevens	321-4379
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	Florence Hill	349-3554
Field Trips	George Heaton Jr	339-8914
Library	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	(616)948-9589
Display	Wm & Bessie Rogers	1-224-7596
Publication	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	(616)948-9589
	Betty Tack	485-6768
Show	Richard Stevens	321-4379

### PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:

14933 Brown Road  
Lansing, MI 48906

### MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

**PRESIDENT PATTERSON'S PATTTER:**

What a show! I heard from so many people that it was a lovely show. My deep and sincere appreciation go out to Lila and Rich Stevens, Show Chairmen, and to all you hard-working members who made it the beautiful show that it was. The number of school children who came Friday morning was down from last year which affected our dollar intake. However, the crowds at the show itself seemed to be fairly steady most of the time and the dealers went away happy; so this is good. Thank you one and all!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Bettie Patterson

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM--** Richard Laylin

The November program will feature Dr. Michael Velbel who will speak on "Minerals in the Environment and their Affect on Acid Rain."

Dr. Velbel is a professor in the Geological Science Department at Michigan State University, specializing in sedimentology. As many of you may remember from Dr. Velbel's talk on meteorites at the 92 banquet, he has a talent for making hard core science easy to understand.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Cards of cheer have been sent to Frank Card, John and Wilma Hopkins, and Milo Hillis (who incidentally celebrated a birthday while working at the show.)

Our thoughts are also with Florence Hill who hopefully will be at home recuperating from knee surgery by the time you read this newsletter.

Please continue to call with news of any of our members.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Smith

**ELECTION RESULTS** (editor) The following officers for 1994 were elected at the October meeting, and will be installed in December:

President.....Roger Laylin  
 Vice President.....Chuck Smith  
 Recording Secretary.....Mary Gowens  
 Corresponding Secretary....Mary Anne Smith  
 Treasurer.....Alan Hukill  
 3 Year Director.....Joe Austin.

Mary Crosby and Irwin Turner will continue to serve as 1 and 2 Year Directors, respectively.

**THANK YOU**

A hearty thank you to the committee chairpeople and the many members who helped out with the show. Lila and I certainly appreciate all your hard work. Without a devoted membership such as ours, a show would never be possible. Thanks!

Richard Stevens

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT -- Florence Hill**

Whew! It's hard to get down to normal after the excitement of the Show, isn't it? Especially if you were present when the school children came in Friday morning. I hope their visit was as educational for them as it is for us. Their questions and comments show a greater sophistication each year.

We're going to relax a bit after pursuing basic geology and turn to the more elegant side of our hobby. We will ask David Piotrowski to tell us about topaz, the November birthstone, this month. Bring in your topazes, raw or in jewelry, and let us admire them in all their colors!

Margaret and Howard Randolph spent Saturday October 16 at Kedzie Hall, presenting six hourly programs to Girl Scouts, grades 4 through 8. The program reached approximately 120 Scouts and 20 leaders. This was part of a statewide program in math and science for girls. On November 13, Diane Baclawski will be presenting her program on tracking dinosaurs as a part of this same state scheme, to Girl Scouts grades K through 3.

Actually, hardly a month goes by when Margaret and Howard aren't making a presentation somewhere! On May 2 they shared their rock collection with 55 Sunday schoolers; and then in June, shared their Indian artifacts with the whole congregation of 150. July 29 found the Randolph's teaching 150 Cub Scouts and 20 adults about dinosaurs. September 15, 50 adults benefitted from their rock knowledge at camp. On October 4, the rock collection traveled once more to Hayes Elementary School for the enlightenment of 175 children and 12 adults. Margaret and Howard also prepared and donated 28 more rock study cartons for a Hayes Elementary teacher. We should all thank Margaret and Howard for their outstanding efforts to promote and educate others about our hobby.

Margaret Green worked with the fourth grade at Holt Dimondale Elementary on October 28th. This group was studying the rocks of Michigan. Chuck Luoto aided 13 Brownies in earning their jewelry badge by teaching them polishing and beading.

**MARY CROSBY WISHES TO THANK** all the people who helped with the plastic table covering. I appreciate your help.

**LILA STEVENS' APPLE DIP** (this was a big hit at the October meeting)

3/4 c. brown sugar

1/4 c. white sugar

1 8oz. package cream cheese

1 t. vanilla

1 c. ground peanuts

**EQUIPMENT FOR SALE:** Spin caster and ney crafter for \$200.00. Contact Dan Haulin 374-6123.

**FOSSIL INTEREST GROUP--** Connie Snapp

Eleven people met at the home of Neil and Connie Snapp on September 24 to consider mollusc fossils. Specimens arrived to represent numerous geologic ages, and many interesting "fossil stories" emerged from the group. In addition to the 4 F's (fossils, fun, fellowship and food) the group viewed a videotape of the galleries of the Royal Tyrrell Paleontological Museum in Drumheller, Alberta.

The next session, to be announced after the first of the year, will cover arthropods (trilobites, barnacles, crabs, insects, eurypterids.) (I found Connie's article in a stack of unopened mail while cleaning the week before the show. My apologies for its delay. Jean Ann)

**NEW ADDRESSES FOR OLD MEMBERS**

Clarence Kirkby PO Box 85 Alamo, Texas 78516

Dona Lay 972 W. Dexter Trail Mason MI 48854 676-3293

Tim Lay 6153 Echo Ct. Apt. 3D Portage MI 49002 (616) 329-2651

**THOUGHTS ON OXALIC ACID** (editor) and **OXALIC ACID MADE EASY**

thanks to editor Ed Benjamin of the Arrowhead News

I suppose that most of us have heard that oxalic acid is the cure for removing nasty iron oxide (rust) stains from quartz crystals-- including the ever popular Keokuk geodes that we haul back from Indiana each June. George Heaton "cooks" his geodes & oxalic in a crock pot, as a matter of fact. The question is-- where do you find oxalic acid in the first place. The local pharmacy should carry oxalic, and I remember buying some there in my younger days to use for cleaning leather. However, it is somehow embarrassing to walk up to that counter and ask for chemicals.

Editor Ed has found an easier way: "Go to your friendly True Value Store and ask for a 12 oz can of Wood Bleach made by Bondex. It'll cost \$6.29 and comes in a handy plastic container from which you can shake or pour just what you want. My first teaspoon of the stuff looks like it'll last a long time and polish a lot of Petoskey Stones yet, so in use it's cheap!" There's the second hint...oxalic for polishing.

"Using a plastic-lined container, I added about a teaspoon of crystals, then added enough water that I could easily wet my previously "polished" Petoskey Stones. It Worked! In no time the stones fairly glistened. With just a bit of real effort, it appears that it'll take care of the dullest Petoskey Stone and make a real gem out of it."

### NEW MEMBERS (editor)

In the past two months we have gained 15 new members, and had 4 former members rejoin! WOW!! Members rejoining are:

Mike Abel, 818 Vine St. Apt. 8, Lansing MI 48912

David Gibbs, 4421 Stillwell Ave, Lansing MI 48911

Phil Harris, 1016 Lake Lansing Rd, Lansing MI 48906-4212

Chuck Luoto, 313 W. Willow, Lansing MI 48906

And now for a bit about our new members:

Nicholas Askew -- age 9, likes bugs

Gary Askew--his dad, likes photography; they both are interested in geology, archaeology and fossils.

1118 Maryland, Lansing MI 48906 482-4502

David Buchko-- age 9, likes electronics, exploring, lapidary, archaeology

Jeanette Rae Klima-Buchko-- his mom, likes reading, sewing, archaeology

Clarence Buchko--his dad, likes fossils; and they all enjoy minerals and

geology! 933 Brad St., Lansing MI 48911 394-4343

William Converse III-- age 10, likes astronomy, sports & fossils

William Converse-- his dad, likes geology, astronomy & music

264 Lexington Ave, East Lansing MI 48823 351-6929

Alexandria Takis, has long been active in the hobby with her hubby John.

We welcome Alex as an official member!!! She especially is interested in minerals.

Alan Jennings-- interested in computers, lapidary & fossils

4380 Letapl, Saginaw MI 48603 790-1980

Judy Hansen--enjoys animals, antiques, reading, sewing, music, plants, walking, mineralogy, lapidary, geology, archaeology & fossils  
1509 Old Mill Lane, Lansing MI 48911-7070 694-1491

Jerry Vsetula--intested in cars, coins, antiques, mineralogy, lapidary, geology, archaeology & fossils  
235 Raritan Rd., Lansing MI 48911 393-0350

Sharleen Getschman--enjoys archery, excercise & geology  
308 Wanilla Ln, Dewitt MI 48820 669-3279

Richard Lassin--Among his "other talents" on the application form, Richard tells us that he "took 3rd place in the hog calling contest at the Ban River hog & steer auction in 1979." He happens to be a geologist by trade! 2614 Tammany Ave, Lansing MI 48910

Joseph Molbert-- enjoys jewelry making & wire wrap  
224 Brynford, Lansing MI 48917 484-8096

Earl Rutz-- interested in mineralogy & geology  
1886 Melrose, East Lansing MI 48823 351-2433

**CHUCKLES FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS:**

from The Happy Hounder, Muncie IN

A LAPIDARY-- someone who grinds his fingernails, sands his knuckles and polishes his vocabulary while trying to do the same thing to a piece of rock.

I've looked into Pough's  
And I've memorized Mohs  
I've even paid Dana a visit.  
But when it's all said,  
I still scratch my head

And sit here and wonder, What is it?

from the Border Gem Chatter, Pharr TX

At the turn of the century a respected lawyer was filling out some insurance papers when he came to the question: "If your father is dead, state the cause." Not wanting to reveal that his father had been hung for cattle rustling, he evaded the problem by answering, "He died while taking part in a public ceremony when the platform gave way."

**NEWS FROM THE SEPTEMBER AFMS MEETING IN DENVER**, borrowed from The Glacial Drifter 11/93

A new division, the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies was elected and its representatives joined the AFMS board.

A 25 cent dues increase was voted and passed. This will be effective on January 1, 1995. Additional dues increases were also proposed and discussed. It should be noted that this increase, while raising approximately \$13,000, still does not completely cover the costs of present services and activities, but it does significantly slow down the rate at which the AFMS supplements its operating expenses by dipping into endowment funds.

Also, two new committees were formed: one whose responsibilities will be publications and supplies; and, the other to investigate a manner to have individuals as associate members in the AFMS.

**HELPFUL HINTS FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS:**

from the Flint Rock & Gem Club 10/93 via others

**Wet diamond laps with water.** Then use a bar of LAVA soap against a slow moving lap until it is well covered with soap. With the lap still moving, use an old toothbrush and scrub well. You will see that it cuts better. Fels Naptha soap also works well.

from The Petoskey Stone via Michigan Gem News & others

**AMBER VERSUS PLASTIC-** Distinguishing between amber & plastic is quite simple. Amber, because of its extremely low specific gravity, will float in salt water. Plastic will not. Make up a saturated solution of salt in a bowl of water (add salt until no more will dissolve.) Put the article in question in the water. If it sinks, it is plastic. If it floats, it is amber.

**CALENDAR**

- November 18      Regular meeting, 7:30, North School  
Program: Dr. Michael Velbel, M.S.U.
- December 2      Board meeting
- 9      Show Board Meeting, 7:30, Bettie Patterson's
- 16      Regular meeting
- 30      Board meeting