

**PRESIDENT'S CORNERSTONE**

This is my last message as your president. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as president, this past year. We have had a very successful year, and I know that the next year will be just as successful. I want to thank all who helped make things go smooth this year. Next years officers will be installed at our December club meeting. I hope the new officers will receive the same kind of love and support that I received this year. I hope you and yours have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully, Chuck Smith

**DECEMBER PROGRAM SHOULD PLEASE THE FOSSIL FOLKS** (jawp)

Our speaker at the December meeting will be Ken Ford who is working on his Ph.D. in paleontology at M.S.U. He is affiliated with the MSU Museum, the geology department, and the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. Ken's specific interest is paleo-ecology, i.e. using the fossil record to deduce climatic and environmental conditions of the past. His field work is being carried out in a cave near Findley Ohio, not far from one of our club's favorite collecting sites-- Duff Quarry. You may have read about Ken in the Lansing State Journal this past fall. While conducting his field work, he came across an ancient tool which has the archaeological world excited.

Not much of a fossil lover myself, I am anxious to learn more about the whys and of paleontology which Ken promises to share. It seems to me that the more we learn about the scientific context of our hobby, the more appreciation we can have for the pretties in our collections.

**OH YUMMY!!! IT'S DECEMBER** (jawp)

This is the month we enjoy the best of everyone's holiday food delights. **Each family is asked to bring a dozen or so of your favorite cookies or other holiday treats to share at refreshment time.** It sure is fun to taste new recipes and old favorites. Definitely, do not eat desert at supper-- and don't forget to bring a plate of your best!

**EDUCATION REPORT**-- Florence Hill

The mineral for this month's study is azurite, that beautiful blue copper carbonate. It is one of the loveliest specimens to be had. Listen to David Piotrowski's description at the club meeting and bring your azurite to show. I hope you noticed Mary Kay's dramatic malachite ring-bracelet combination at the November meeting.

Be ready to take part in a group demonstration, or give a talk to a school or adult group if you are asked. Better yet, step up and say "I'd like to try my hand at that."

There will be slips available at the club meeting for you to indicate the skill or knowledge you would like to acquire next year. It will be a help in planning activities. The method of "each one - teach one" has worked well in the past. If a number of people are interested in the same thing, we can sometimes set up a class. And we do have skilled members who will give lessons in their art for a fee. If you are willing to lead a study group or "show someone the ropes," please say so on the slip that you turn in.

**NEED SOMETHING TO DO? VISIT THE MSU MUSEUM. SPECIAL DINOSAUR EXHIBIT THROUGH JANUARY 7. MORE INFO ON PG. 6**

**CHANGE OUR MEETING LOCATION?** (jawnp)

Did you like meeting at Cavanaugh School? Many of us enjoyed the cozy atmosphere and convenient parking, as well as the hospitality of the school staff-- our own Barb Smith. Chuck has connections here too, and at the suggestion of several members, approached the principal about using the building on a regular basis.

Advantages: All activities in this building are over by 7pm, so we wouldn't be bumped out by conferences, science fairs, etc. The smaller gym kept us closer together -- I often feel like everyone is fighting for the "back pews" at North School. Yes, there is room to store our library and other club belongings. The principal is a really nice guy.

Disadvantages: The building custodian leaves at 8:00. We can use the building, but this leaves Barb & Chuck personally responsible for making sure that everything is tidy and for securing the building for the night. If everyone pitches in with the cleaning, this will help; but we are a bit concerned about this imposition on Barb & Chuck.

The board will make a decision at the January meeting. Please do some thinking yourself, and feel free to share your opinion with any of the board members at the meeting or via a phone call. Thanks.

**IN MEMORY** -- Florence Hill

It is sad to relate that Clarence Morgan died Thanksgiving morning after a valiant struggle with too many health problems. We will miss his cheerful smile and willingness to help. Our sympathy goes to Hazel and the family.

We have received word that Gladys Kirkby died November 21. With her husband Clarence and son Roger, she was one of the club's founders. Long-time members will recall Gladys as a gracious hostess-teacher, always ready to share her knowledge and the family's collection of specimens with interested visitors. Our sympathy goes to Clarence (he himself took a bad fall and was hospitalized) and the family.

**NEWS FROM THE RANDOLPH'S** -- Florence Hill

As usual, Margaret and Randy Randolph have been busy giving talks on our hobby. Here is a list of their latest activities.

May 15, "Michigan Rocks" to 64 third graders and three adults at Grand Ledge. Oct. 13-15, "Indian Artifacts" at the Grand Ledge Color Cruise & Pioneer Festival (there were 2000+ school children on Friday alone!) Oct. 17, "Rocks & Minerals" to 27 third graders and two adults at Greenwood Elementary in Grand Ledge. Oct. 24, "Indian Artifacts" to 18 adults at the Portland Historical Society. Nov. 1, "Rocks & Minerals" to K-5th graders at Marble Elementary in East Lansing (about 210 children & 15 adults.) Nov. 3, "Indian Artifacts" to 26 third graders and two adults at St. Pat's, Portland. Nov. 13, "Indian Artifacts" to 43 fourth graders and three adults at Murphy Elementary, Haslett. Nov. 27, "Rocks & Minerals" to first, fourth & fifth graders at Pinecrest Elementary, East Lansing (90 students, 8 adults.) Nov. 28, "Indian Artifacts" to 26 fourth graders and one adult at Greenwood Elementary, Grand Ledge.

"Whew! Merry Christmas! (It is fun!) Margaret & Randy"

**DUES ARE DUE**

I will take them at club meetings or you may send them to me. Bessie Rogers

2222 W. Marshall Rd.  
St. Johns MI 48879

### **SHOW RAFFLE WINNERS** -- Sally Barber

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our raffle a success, both by giving gifts and giving their time working.

<b><u>Prize</u></b>	<b><u>Donated by</u></b>	<b><u>Won by</u></b>
\$100.00 cash	club	Jim Lowe, Maple Rapids
fetish necklace, sterling silver	Oleta Brockway	George Olds, Lansing
quartz crystals	club	Richard Stevens, Lansing
gold/malachite wire wrap pendant	Alice Turner	Marcia Larsen
dbl. strand agate necklace	Mary Kay Bean	Alice Bennett, Ithaca
trilobite	Connie Snepp	Pauline Wing, Flint
s.s. earrings amethyst & sodalite	Bev Kemp	Cherley Leuley Perrinton
mother of pearl necklace	Mary Kay Bean	Linda Henderson
gem tree	Marie Duprey	M.F. Green, Lansing
bola & belt buckle	Richard Miller	Joe Austin, Lansing
s.s. earrings hematite & aventurine	Bev Kemp	Candace Caldwell, Ft. Wayne IN
blue agate	Marie Lewis	Lee Wilson
s.s. earrings, pearl & garnet	Bev Kemp	Joe Austin
bismuth wire wrap pendant	Alice Turner	Lee Laylin
copper specimen	club	Joe Austin
s.s. earrings, lapis & turquoise	Bev Kemp	Joe Austin
dendritic agate	Bettie Patterson	Chuck Smith
mother of pearl necklace & bracelet	Mary Kay Bean	M.F. Green
agate necklace	Bettie Patterson	Frances Tourtech
agate geode	club	Ronald Crosby
s.s. wire wrap agate pendant	Alice Turner	Chris Jackson
trilobite paper weight	Neil Snepp	Shelby Bennett
s.s. earrings, howlite & quartz	Bev Kemp	A.B. Diaz
gem tree	Bill & Bessie Rogers	Gordon Lewis
galena specimen	club	Ruth Beauvais
s.s. wire wrap agate pendent	Alice Turner	Chris Mouton
cubic zirconia necklace	Bev Kemp	Diane Tourville
bola & belt buckle	Richard Miller	Jennifer Good
sphalerite specimen	club	Stan Osborne
s.s. earrings, coral & amethyst	Bev Kemp	Denise Damkochler
agate pendant	Alice Turner	Jackie Sanderson
datolite	Lorna Tripp	Caitlin Benallock
agate necklace	Bettie Patterson	Jeff Hukill

### **HINTS**

--When working with a soft stone such as alabaster, marble, onyx or petoskey stone, soak in water a day or two before cutting in oil. The oil will not soak in and when polishing it later, a better finish will result. via Rock Trails 11/95 & many others

--CONSUMERS POWER CO. SURPLUS SALES, 115 W. Trail Street, Jackson MI. Open to the public Monday-Friday, noon to 4:30; closed Saturdays. 788-0668. Used computers as low as \$150.00, copiers, printers, desks, work stations, filing cabinets & supplies, foul weather gear & more. This is ten times better than a yard sale and inside to boot. via Michigan Gem News 11/95

**NEW MEMBERS ACCEPTED AT BOARD MEETING** (jawp)

Sofia Kauma 349-9918  
 3882 Dobie Rd., Apt. 16  
 Okemos MI 48864

Her hobby interests are mineralogy, geology, lapidary craft, archeology, and fossils. Sofia is a student at MSU & LCC and works as a sales person in the toy dept. at Meijers. She also enjoys horses, rocks, trees, outdoors, nature, hunting, and cross country skiing.

Mark, Ann, Sarah & Catlin Ferrin 887-0704  
 5936 Hughes Rd.  
 Lansing MI 48911-4718

The Ferrin's are a rockhounding family with historical connections to our club. Ann is the daughter and granddaughter of deceased members George Fisher and Marie Fisher-McElmurry. Mark lists his occupation as a "Mr. Mom." His interests are mineralogy, geology, fossils, history, inventing, automotive repair & cooking. Ann is a business clerk for Waverly schools and enjoys mineralogy, lapidary work, archaeology, reading, crewel, cross stitch, and other crafts. Their daughters Sarah, age 5, and Catlin age 3 are interested in minerals, fossils, and lapidary craft. Sarah also enjoys reading, Walt Disney movies & attending Kindergarten. Catlin likes spending time with Daddy!

**MISC. STUFF FROM THE BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 6** (jawp)

--Lee Laylin's computer is not cooperating. She has three more boxes of books to enter into the library data base. Roger will spend the winter months pulling field trip articles from back issues of Rock & Gem magazines and putting them into the state folders. Most of the info in them now is ancient history.

--Several members have contacted Hazel Morgan regarding desired memorial contributions. It was Clarence's wish that donations be given to their church, which is trying to raise money for a new organ. A collection will be taken up at the regular meeting for anyone who wishes to contribute to his memorial.

--On the recommendation of our committee which studied our current liability insurance vs that offered through the Midwest Federation, it was decided to make the switch to MWF insurance. (This is the insurance that keeps us from trouble if a **visitor** to a club event is injured.) If you desire more information, speak to Roger Laylin.

--Get well cards were been sent to Betty Tack, Alex Takis, Red Rogers, Bessie Rogers, Milo Hillis and Clarence Morgan. A card of sympathy was sent to the family of Clarence Morgan.

**CALENDAR**

Dec. 21 Regular meeting, 7:30 North School, speaker Ken Ford, Paleontologist  
 BRING COOKIES!!!!

Jan. 4 Board meeting, 7:30, Meridian Twp. Service Center

Jan. 11 Show board meeting, 7:30 @ Laylin's house unless it is snowing

Jan. 21 TENTATIVE DATE, Club potluck, Alaidon Twp. Hall

June 21-23    Bloomington Swap, Geode collecting

**FOR SAFETY SAKE**        via Tulip City Conglomerate 11/95, G.I. Nugget 4/93

Grinding and polishing seems so easy that sometimes we just don't think of the hazards. One good rule to follow is: DON'T BREATHE THE DUST OF ROCKS. For example-- tigereye is quartz with asbestos fiber inclusions, and you should know how dangerous it is to breathe asbestos dust just from all the recent stories about removal of materials containing asbestos from ceilings in schools and other public buildings.

It is asbestos fibers which give tigereye its unique appearance, but the airborne dust particles are carcinogenic and can cause serious health problems if not treated as a hazard. Breathing malachite dust causes nausea, and respiratory problems may develop with continued disregard of the warnings.

Nickel is also a carcinogen and can cause extensive damage to the lungs if dust is inhaled while it is being ground. When nickel residue comes in contact with the skin, it can also cause irritation.

If you do quite a bit of soldering, use a non-fluoride flux. When a fluoride flux is heated it gives off a hydrogen fluoride vapor. When inhaled it turns to hydrofluoric acid, which can burn lung tissues. If you must use a fluoride flux, make sure that the area is well ventilated and don't get on top of your work. Remember that a simple mask may protect you from inhaling dust particles, but it is worthless for obstructing hydrogen fluoride fumes and vapors.

**STORY FROM QUARTZITE AZ** via Tulip City Conglomerate 11/95

Listening to channel 19 on the CB some friends heard this...

First trucker: "What are all those R.V.'s doing there? Must be thousands of them!"

Second trucker: "It's breeding season for snowbirds and this is their mating grounds."

**A FAMILIAR STORY**

There are agates in the ashtrays,  
    some cabs I made myself.  
Geodes underneath the bed,  
    Fossils on the shelf.  
Can't get the dishes in the cupboard,  
    Got to save room for the rough.  
Nor coffee in the canister,  
    It's full of tumbled stuff.  
We haven't got a fancy car,  
    Or a decent pair of sox,  
Or pockets bulging out with dough,  
    But, Boy! We've got rocks!

via Michigan Gem News 11/95 & others