

**DECEMBER WE EAT!! EACH FAMILY PLEASE BRING A PLATE OF YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY GOODIES TO SHARE, HEALTHY OR OTHERWISE! :)**

**OBLIGATORY NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**-- Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski

Wow, the year sure has passed quickly! I owe a big THANK YOU to Royal Olson and all the board members who kept things moving along. I have to give a special thank you, too, to George Heaton for his many years of service as our field trip chairman. George has reliably provided us with clear directions, perfect weather, and good food of just the right amount to be pleasantly stuffed! He is giving up his duties in order to spend more time taking care of his dad, George Sr.

Over the past year, I have been struck by the importance of an organization calling upon the expertise of all of it's members in order to remain healthy and active. Sharing of responsibility lightens everyone's burden, and gives a sense of ownership to all those who help out. Things may turn out "different" than the past, things may not be "exactly as we might have liked"-- but by gosh, they do turn out! We are a club of wonderful, exciting, intelligent, talented, unusual individuals (I'm quite certain that no one among us qualifies as "ordinary.") Let's do our best to learn from each other, enjoy each other's company, and work together in friendship. Peace.

**BOARD MEETING BRIEFS 11-7-96**-- jawp (based on reports from Jude, Melissa & Royal-- the weather kept me home in Hastings the night of the board meeting)

**Program, Royal Olson:** This month's program will feature **wire wrap skills by Alice Turner**. Alice has some new videos that were professionally done. She will share excerpts from these tapes along with her personal experience.

**Margaret Green, Education:** The mineral of the month will be flexible sandstone or itacolumite. This was one of the featured displays in last month's program on the Lizzadro Museum. Bettie Patterson also has a piece of this amazing rock which she will bring to the meeting. Look elsewhere for an account of Margaret Randolph's classroom visits. The education committee is looking for club members who are willing to host open houses during this next year . If you are willing to spend sometime with interested members sharing with them your perspective on rocks, minerals, lapidary or whatever please call Margaret (882-3637.)

**Show News:** Letters of apology were received from the boys involved in the theft at the show. Gale Hopkins read a thank you from the winner of the \$100.00 raffle prize.

**Field Trips, Melissa Tuchowski:** George has kindly brought me the field trip forms and archives; and, instilled in me his positive approach to the weather. I only hope I can carry on his traditions and expertise. January shall bring us to the annual potluck, a time of culinary and social cuisine. The date is tentatively set for January 19, 12:00 p.m. (pending availability of the Aliedon Twp. Hall.) So everyone bring you favorite dish and antidote, oops, I mean anecdote. I'll be looking for guidance at our December meeting so don't be surprised if you're asked and don't be afraid to suggest. I welcome all the direction I can receive.

**Old Business: Florence Hill** reported her progress developing a club emergency **phone tree**. New members, and members listed in the 1996 Directory who have signed the attendance record at one regular meeting, at least, will be on that list. In case of meeting cancellation, a last minute change of meeting place, or other emergency, every effort will be made to reach you. If you are asked to call someone else, please do so. If you have a second phone number which might locate you, please give it to the person who will normally call you. We want to get in touch quickly

when the need arises.

**BRING IN THOSE EGG CARTONS AGAIN!** We need a fresh supply for the specimen kits for the 1997 children's table. Bring the one dozen size, styrofoam cartons. Please no jumbos or fiber cartons. They are not usable. Florence Hill

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS--jawp**

Al Lowhim is a geologist who has spent time working in Africa. Currently he is pursuing a career change to that of gemologist and is enrolled with the GIA. Al enjoys archaeology, faceting, mineralogy, geology, and tumbling. Outside of our hobby, he enjoys gardening, cross country skiing and walking. Al's address: 300 Parkwest Ct. #H-10, Lansing MI 48917; 886-0515.

Michelle Freridge is a student at Western Michigan University. Her hobby interests include archaeology, carving, faceting, fossils, geology, lapidary arts and tumbling. She also enjoys birds, waterfalls and travel. Michelle's address: 1121 N. Capitol Ave. #2, Lansing MI 48906; 485-0669; X95freridge@Wmich.edu

Bets Caldwell is a student at Michigan State University. Bets is interested in geology, mineralogy and tumbling. She also enjoys exploring and reading; and, has extensive word processing skills. Bets address: 2718 Heather Dr., East Lansing MI 48823-3830; 351-9862; caldwel7@pilot.msu.edu

Is there anyone else out there with an **e-mail** address? If so, please get it to Jude Miller so we can include it in our next membership directory!

**INTERESTED IN ON-LINE ROCKHOUNDING?-- Ed Drown**

There will be available at the December meeting (just in time to use with the computer you might receive for the holidays) an introductory guide to using the internet, from the rockhounds perspective. Topics covered include: communicating with other rockhounds via e-mail; and, using the World Wide Web to gather collecting information, visit museums and swing the silver pick.

(Editors note: Ed is one of our relatively new members who is graciously sharing his expertise. Thanks!)

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1997?** See Bessie at the meeting or send your check to: Bessie Rogers 2222 W. Marshall Rd., St. Johns MI 48879.

**LETTER FROM MARGARET & RANDY RANDOLPH**

Thought I'd better "catch you up" on our rockhound related activities before January.

Last February I furnished a set of 41 rock & mineral specimens accompanied by a listing of said specimens and the use(s) of each to two teachers in the Lordsburg, NM school; a husband and wife team both teaching science, he in high school and she in middle school. The list contained a "foreword"- the same that I use in presenting this unit to students (as part of our general rock & mineral presentations.)

We displayed our Indian artifacts at the Grand Ledge Color Cruise Oct. 11, 12 and 13; we

also displayed them at Fenner Arboretum's Apple Butter Festival (the following Sunday!) October 20. Oops! The next month, November 19 we presented Indians again at Greenwood Elementary in Grand Ledge to 73 3rd, 4th & 5th graders and four adults. The next day (now I've got it!!), Nov. 20, we did it again at Pinecrest Elementary in East Lansing to 2nd & 3rd graders (43 and 4

**Letter from the Randolph's cont.**

adults.) Yesterday, Dec. 2, we presented rocks and minerals to 2nd & 3rd graders (49) and 2 adults at Greenwood Elementary in Grand Ledge.

In between? I'm fixing and egg carton rock collection of different rocks, minerals and crystals for a young friend- in installments. Am also going to take a fossil collection to the young son of a NM Rockmania friend- when we go (after Jan. 4, '97). We really enjoy the good friends we've made out there-- even saw Rich & Lila as they stopped there last year! We love visiting the many historical spots, and being able to get way back from civilization 12-15 miles- especially when we're alone- and fell like we're really in God's country...If it were not so far away-- we're still family oriented! Janice's Erin, now 19, is a second year nursing student at UofM- my alma mater! Her Larry is a junior in high school & Nancy's Heidi (22) was married in August! Time flies-- hope we can make the December meeting. Keep well & God bless.

P.S. Last Christmas I did the children's sermon and tied in God's beautiful creations & presented each of 23 kids with a neat, colorful specimen of chrysocolla on matrix.

**Welcome back to Joe Austin!** In case you missed our November meeting, we were all thrilled to see Joe Austin back in our midst; and, even more thrilled to realize that it wasn't just a visit! Arizona's loss is our gain. :)

**CLUB CALENDAR**

Dec. 19	Regular Meeting; 7:30 North School; Bring a plate of holiday goodies. Program: Wire Wrapping with Alice Turner
Jan. 2	Board Meeting; 7:30 Meridian Twp. Service Center
Jan. 16	Regular Meeting
Jan. 19 ?	Potluck, Aliedon Twp. Hall

**SHOW CALENDAR**

March 14-16	Jackson Show
March 22	Metro Rock Swap
April 11-13	Mt. Clemens Show
May 3-4	Cincinnati Show
May 16-18	Dearborn Show

**CRYOLITE**--via Outcroppings 11/96, original source unknown

When the Norsemen first visited the West coast of Greenland, they found the Eskimos using

pieces of heavy white stone to anchor their craft. When sunk in the water this strange stone became invisible. Today we know the substance as the mineral Cryolite. Greenland is virtually the only source of supply. The name Cryolite means frost stone, and it has the same light bending power or index of refraction as water. Therefore, light goes through it and into water with almost no deviation, so the material is really invisible when immersed.

**YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND IF...** via Tulip City Conglomerate 6/96 via News Nugget 1/96 (a partial list)

- \* Your company asks you not to bring any more rocks to the office until they have time to reinforce the floor.
- \* Your local rock shops send you get well cards when you don't stop by in more than a week.
- \* The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.
- \* The city sends you a letter informing you a landfill permit is required to put any more rocks in the back yard.
- \* You can debate for hours on the differences between spectrolite and labradorite.
- \* You get excited when you find a hardware store with 16 pound sledge hammers and 5 foot long pry bars.
- \* You can't remember the last time your car still fit in the garage.
- \* You think road cuts are build as tourist attractions.
- \* You describe vacations by the rocks you brought home.
- \* The bookshelves in your home hold more rocks than books and the books that are there are about rocks.





