

CMLMS
P.O. Box 24202
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**TIME VALUE
FIRST CLASS**

Rockhound News— Nov/Dec 2020

Official publication of the
Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society
Affiliated with MWF and AFMS



Rockhound News

This bulletin is the official publication of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of greater Lansing, Michigan. It is published 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 and celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2007.

Meeting place: Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Street, Okemos, MI

Regular meeting date: Third Thursday, except July and August

Meeting time: 7:00 p.m., doors are open at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Dues: Adults \$10.00; Families \$15.00; Students under 18 \$2.00

Board meetings: First Thursday, except July and August; 7:00 p.m., Okemos Library

OFFICERS 2020

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| President | Nate Krupp | 517-626-1136 nathan.krupp1@gmail.com |
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2020

| | | |
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| Membership | Robin J. Smith | 517-290-4891 rsmith@radssmith.com |
| Field Trips | Carl Mennare | 517-599-1882 cmenn@yahoo.com |
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| Web Master | Lyle Laylin | http://www.michrocks.org |

Permanent Mailing Address

CMLMS
P.O. Box 24202
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Club Website: <http://www.michrocks.org>

Affiliated With

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/>

ROCKHOUND NEWS

NEXT MEETING: In person meetings cancelled!!

The CMLMS Board has voted to cancel membership meetings through December. We feel this is the best option in order to maintain the health of our club. The board will update the club in early 2021. Stay safe and healthy.

I hope everyone had a Great Thanksgiving and are getting ready for winter. I had a great drive up north in early October and was able to do some Petoskey collecting in Lake Michigan while catching the great fall colors. I was so excited to find a couple of well polished Petoskey stones that I ended up wading farther and farther out, and next thing I knew I was up to my knees in cold Lake Michigan. The water was quite cold, but the rockhound rush kept me going. I did find a nice county park/camping spot with great beach access at Barnes Park near Eastport. I will be checking this spot out again next year in warmer weather. Stay safe and I hope we will be able to meet again soon. –Chuck T.

Calendar for Winter 2020

In person activities are cancelled.

[Editor's note: Please send any news or stories for the Newsletter to chuck_taricska@yahoo.com.]

Field Trip Report:

CML&MS Field Trip to South Haven Area Beaches October 3rd

It was a cool and misty day.... No, this isn't the beginning of a long story but the weather conditions on Saturday, October 3rd for the CML&MS field trip to look for dragon or lightning stones, a.k.a. septarian nodules (see photos). We met as planned at Deerlick Creek Park but quickly noticed that this once rocky beach was now covered in deep sand. We don't know if the sand was deposited by the hand of God or man but with few visible stones we headed south about 3 miles to the Pilgrim Haven Natural Area which had a nice stony beach.

Michigan's septarians are claystone or mudstone concretions which are believed to have later dried out and shrunk, forming cracks which filled in with calcite (calcium carbonate) crystals. The outsides of the concretions are usually colored brown from iron oxides. On a more metaphysical note, these stones are said to give a speaker confidence while speaking in public and keep the attention of their audience. They

are also said to be grounding stones that allow better tolerance, patience and emotional flexibility (whatever that is).

At least some of our Michigan nodules are thought to have been formed during the Devonian Period – the same as our Petoskey stones, which are also mostly calcite (limestone). Speaking of Petoskey stones, researching our septarians I discovered they are among the most popular stones of Michigan, along with native copper, Isle Royale greenstones, Lake Superior agates, puddingstones, and Charlevoix stones (fossil Favosites coral).

I think everyone had fun, even baby Loki, although it was a chilly day so he didn't last long. So that was our little adventure but we'd like to hear about your summer adventures and rockhounding trips. Or perhaps you've tried a new polishing or tumbling method that worked out or have begun working with a new mineral or rock. Send your articles to our Publications Chair, Chuck Taricska at chuck_taricska@yahoo.com. Thank you, Nate Krupp



President Nate and daughter Kelsey at the Pilgrim Haven Natural Area Beach.



Nate's bucket of septarians & other interesting or colorful stones.



A natural septarian before polishing.



Kelsey's bucket of septarians.



The same septarian polished. The dark brown is only on the outside, the insides being light greys & browns. I'm not sure it improved its appearance.

A 91-million-year-old fossilized shark discovered in Kansas! Newly described as *Cretodus houghtonorum*.



Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Hays, Kansas
<http://sternberg.fhsu.edu/>

A 91-million-year-old shark, recently described as *Cretodus houghtonorum*, was discovered in 2010 near a ranch located in Mitchell County, KS. The discovery and excavation were conducted by the authors, Kenshu Shimada and Michael Everhart, adjunct researchers of the Sternberg Museum, along with two assistants from central Kansas, Fred Smith, and Gail Pearson.

Even though the fossil shark is an incomplete skeleton, it still represents the best *Cretodus* specimen known from North America. The team was able to uncover more than 130 teeth and 60 vertebrae from the site. The shark was estimated to be about 5 meters (nearly 17 feet) long, suggesting the animal was rather sluggish, which is a similar trait to a shark group called Lamniformes. This also includes modern-day distant cousins, the great white and sand tiger sharks.

The specific epithet “*houghtonorum*” is in honor of the landowners Keith and Deborah Houghton, who generously donated the specimen to the Sternberg. Discoveries like this would not be made possible without the cooperation and generosity of local landowners, and the local knowledge and enthusiasm of amateur fossil collectors, according to the authors. “We believe that continued cooperation between paleontologists and those who are most familiar with the land, is essential to improving our understanding of the geological history of Kansas, and the Earth as a whole,” said Everhart.

The study, *A new large Late Cretaceous lamniform shark from North America with comments on the taxonomy, paleoecology, and evolution of the genus Cretodus*, will appear in the upcoming issue of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* and is available online.

More pictures and information from this dig are posted online at <http://oceansofkansas.com/Cretodus.html>

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The CMLMS Board has decided to push forward all memberships into next year. Your 2020 dues will cover your 2021 membership as well. This has been a difficult year, and since we have not been able to meet, the board has decided that the best option is extend membership into next year. Hopefully we will be able to resume meetings at the Masonic Center soon. Please let us know if you have ideas for future meeting topics or locations. Thank you

CLUB NEWS

Newsletter: If you have and club news or information you would like to pass along to the group, please email Chuck Taricska at chuck_taricska@yahoo.com and he will make a note in the Newsletter.

Field Trips!

If you have any ideas for field trips or want to get on the list for field trip notices, please contact Carl Mennare. Cell phone **517-599-1882** or cmenn@yahoo.com.

Activities for young rockhounds:

Teaching **rocks for kids** can be fun, interactive and even yummy with these creative ideas. These 15 activities and ideas are perfect for teaching science about rocks that includes the **rock cycle**, the **types of rocks** and more!

<http://www.teachjunkie.com/sciences/rocks-for-kids-15-fun-activities>

AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program- a AFMS/FRA series of guided activities modeled after the Boy and Girl Scouts Merit Badge systems.

http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

UPCOMING SHOWS

No shows scheduled for December.

CMLMS MINUTES

No meetings conducted.