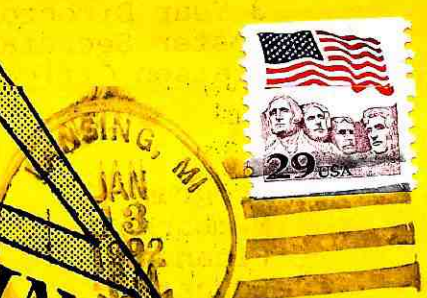
ROCKHOUND NEWS

JAN 1992

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY
& MINERAL SOCIETY
MEMBER OF MWF & AFMS

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY
LANSING



Return To:
C.M.L.& M.S.
14933 Brown Rd..
Lansing, Michigan 48906

FIRST CLASS

TIME VALUE

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 & August
Meeting time: 7:30pm, doors open at 7:00pm
Annual dues: Adults $3.00 Students $1.00

OFFICERS -- 1991

President	Irwin Turner	694-9596
Vice President	Mary Gowans	351-6136
Recording Secretary	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Corresponding Secretary	Donald Lohrer	482-2914
Treasurer	Richard Miller	882-1516
1 Year Director	Joyce Kahres	694-0771
2 Year Director	Mary Crosby	484-1375
3 Year Director	Richard Stevens	321-4379
Roster Secretary	Bessie Rogers	1-224-7596
Liaison Officer	Bettie Patterson	482-3437

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program	Mary Gowans	
Membership	Alice Turner	694-9596
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	Florence Hill	349-3554
Field Trips	George Heaton Jr.	339-8914
Library	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	353-7912
Display	Wm. & Bessie Rogers	
Publication Editors	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	
	Bettie Tack	485-6768
Printer	Dona Lay	393-5418
Show	Neil Snepp	339-2863

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:
14933 Brown Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906

MEMBER OF:
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

MARY'S MEMO

To the Membership:

CMLMS is starting another new year with a new president. Thinking of Grit's year of successful presidency and the successful 1991 show, I have an outstanding year of leadership to follow -- quite a feat to match. What do I do for an encore!

As I watched meeting after meeting, I was impressed with the cooperation of club members participating in monthly meetings, programs, bringing refreshments to both board meetings and monthly meetings, and the willing cooperation of a large number of members working for the show. I feel confident that the same level of participation will continue.

Being a part of CMLMS has been fun, and I am looking forward to working hard to keep our organization strong and to make sure that members continue to have fun. I have three goals that I hope that the club will achieve this year:

1. Match or better the success of the 1991 Show.
2. Develop group sessions to help members increase their expertise in identifying rocks, minerals, and fossils; in improving other skills such as polishing and tumbling; or, in whatever area members request.
3. Increase interest and participation in George's field trips. Please check the field trip section of this current newsletter for directions to and information about the January field trip -- to Alaiedon Township Hall. One thing about this "field" -- it will be warm and dry.

I hope everyone is having a Happy New Year and that it will continue to be so.

Mary Gowans

MEMORIAL

We are sorry to report that life member Reo Hovey died on December 17. Reo had not been active recently because of ill health, but he had been an early supporter of the club. Long time members will remember him for his skill as a silversmith and his zest for field trips.

Our sympathy is extended to members of his family.

JANUARY PROGRAM -- Bettie Patterson

The program for the January 16 meeting will be a video entitled "Gemstones of America." The video features views of gems from the Smithsonian. It also includes interviews with famous miners who find such treasures, those who cut and polish them, and well-known authorities on gems and minerals. This should be a fascinating program.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT -- Don Lohrer

The Society extended condolences to the Reo Hovey family. Mr. Hovey passed away this past month. We all share their grief at this time.

Get well wishes were sent to Scott Taylor who was bruised and shaken in an auto accident; and, to Milo Hillis who had the flu.

We now face a rather slow time of the year. Post holiday doldrums are setting in and that *#* tax time is approaching. But all is not lost!! George says that the January field trip will be a potluck at the Alaiedon Township Hall on Jan. 19. An afternoon of good food, good friends, and pleasant conversation. It's a great time to renew old friendships and make some new ones. It will be a great start for the new year and I hope to see you there.

Respectfully, Don Lohrer

EDUCATION -- Florence Hill

The mineral for this month's study introduces the carbonates. It is a mineral with which we are familiar -- calcite, or calcium carbonate. You will learn some well-known and some not-so-well-known facts about calcite in David's five minute talk.

DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW MORE ABOUT THE ROCKS YOU FIND EVERYDAY IN YOUR DRIVEWAY OR THE LOCAL GRAVEL PIT? The February meeting program will be an introduction to basic rock identification led by David Piotrowski. As an extension of this program, we are planning a seminar (or several) on the identification of rocks found locally. Meetings will be held on the weekend(s). We need to know how many will attend. If you are interested, please speak with Mary Gowans or Florence Hill at the January 16 meeting.

Also, if there is another area of the hobby about which you would like to learn, please submit that request to Mary or Florence.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Mary Anne (mother) and Ann Marie (daughter) Smith
3100 N. Cambridge Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911 484-7804

DUES ARE DUE

I will be taking them at the January and February meetings, or you can send them to me. Make the check out to CML&MS please.

Bessie Rogers
2222 W. Marshall Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879

DON'T MISS THE JANUARY POT LUCK -- George Heaton, Jr.

For January's field trip, we will be having a potluck at the Alaiedon Township Hall on Sunday, January 19 at 1:00pm. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plates, cups and other eating tools. The club will provide drinks, rolls and butter.

Many of you may recall the fun times we had there in the past enjoying "Rocko," watching movies or slide shows and eating lots of food. This year, as of board meeting time, I do not have my entertainment plans set.** I hope someone who may have been on an interesting trip this past summer might have some nice slides and would be willing to volunteer to show them at the potluck. If not I guess I will have to show my old reruns that most everyone has seen already.

Alaiedon Township Hall is located at 2021 West Holt Rd., 1/2 mile east of Okemos Rd. So mark your calendars for January 19, bring the whole family, and enjoy a Sunday afternoon of fun and good food.

** The board decided that "Rocko" would be a good idea. Therefore, we need everyone who comes to bring a hobby related prize. Males bring a male gift, and females a female gift if your choice has a sexual orientation.

SAL AMMONIAC QUESTION ANSWERED -- Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski

As you may recall, in a recent mineral of the month report I noted that sal ammoniac can be created artificially as a vapor, and that the process could be used to put a dull white coating on objects to be photographed. I also wondered WHY? -- Pough hadn't given a reason.

I was rather pleased to receive a response from member John Passaneau (all the way from Pennsylvania!) John pointed out the the dull white coating was used to prevent glare from lights and/or flash. However, these days most photographers simply use a commercial spray which has the same effect.

LOOKING FOR A DISPLAY CASE TO BUY...

Club member Debbie Schankler is interested in purchasing a display case. If you have one that you are willing to part with, please give her a call at 349-4241.

ULTRASONIC CLEANER ADVISORY via Michigan Gem News & Rocky Reader

A lot of professionals and hobbyists have ultrasonic cleaners and like them. In case you are not aware, the following should not be cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner: Tanzanite, Malachite, Agate, Lapis Lazuli, Pearls, Turquoise, Topaz, Mother of Pearl, Emeralds, Opal and Tourmaline.

WISCONSIN DNR ENFORCES RULE: "NO COLLECTING ON STATE LAND" via The Rockpile & MWF Newsletter

A Wisconsin rock and gem club has fallen victim to a belated, unannounced decision by their state's DNR to prohibit all collecting on state lands. After being first threatened with a citation (none issued), the club members who had taken the field trip to look for tourmaline at the Florence Rubellite Pegmatite near Florence, Wis., have been asked to surrender their collected rocks to the DNR.

Janet Blabaum, an environmental geologist who led the field trip, reported on the Wisconsin DNR's actions in the Nov. 1991 issue of the MWF Newsletter. Blabaum wrote,"The current law (which the DNR admits it has ignored in the past) reads that the only materials legally removed from any DNR land are fruits and nuts. There are no specific laws forbidding rock hounding per se."

The collecting prohibition may be only temporary, however, because a DNR committee is studying the matter and may develop some guidelines or rules for mineral collecting, she wrote.

She explained her personal insight on the matter in this way: "The anti-mining sentiment has become so strong in this state that this interim rule may become permanent. The rationale is that if no one is allowed to explore and discover new mineral deposits in northern Wisconsin, then the mining companies will not have any reason to have an interest in this state. It is very unfortunate that environmental groups do not differentiate between the activities of amateur rockhounds and multinational mining companies."

Note from Jean Ann: I had intended to print the entire letter which Janet Blabaum submitted to the MWF Newsletter; however, it seems to have been lost in the Christmas chaos around here. Thankfully, I did locate the above Rockpile summary. I do recall that another facet of the DNR's problem with the collecting of tourmaline from that location was that specimens were showing up for sale in Copper Harbor, MI rock shops -- "professional" collecting from the state land without a permit is clearly prohibited. John Boland, MWF Environment/Legislation Chair has reported that the sight has been posted in regards to the prohibition of collecting. His committee is investigating the legality of the posting since surface collecting is supposed to be legal without a permit.

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW! -- Diane Dare, AFMS Pres., 1990-91 in Earth Science News via The Lithnics and The Rockpile. 3rd place MWF & 9th place AFMS Bulletin Editors Contests in Adult Article--Advanced category

One of the most delicate of crystals is the wintertime specialty, the snowflake. Clouds are made of microscopic droplets of water, thousands upon thousands concentrated in one area. Rain starts when the droplets get so concentrated that they join together into larger droplets, becoming so heavy they fall to earth. Sleet starts as rain, then passes through a very cold layer of air on its way to the earth, freezing into solid raindrops. Snow starts as a nucleus of dust or other particles that attracts the molecules of water from the cold droplets, and as the molecules accumulate, they form ice crystals which get larger as more droplets adhere.

The basic structure is one oxygen atom at the center of two hydrogen atoms, and a single snow crystal may have a hundred million such molecules. A snowflake is an assemblage of individual crystals, both whole and broken, that have joined

together in falling. Six sides are basically inherent in the atomic structure of snow crystals. The form and the growth rate are the result of environmental conditions.

Snow crystals form in clouds with temperatures of from 32 degrees F. to -39 degrees F. As the crystals become larger, they begin to fall, often hitting one another. The resulting part that breaks off becomes the nucleus for another crystal, a chain reaction that makes more crystals, and causes a sudden burst of heavy snowfall!

There are seven common snow shapes, determined by the temperature and humidity of the air in which they form.

HEXAGONAL PLATE CRYSTALS are six-sided and flat, with varying designs on the surface. They have no projections, so float freely, not interlocking with others. The largest can be about 3/16 inch in diameter, but half that is more common. They are only a small percentage of all flakes in a snowstorm, and develop at temperatures of 32 to 27 degrees F. They are perfect hexagonal shapes.

STELLAR OR DENDRITE CRYSTALS are star-shaped with six points radiating from the center. The points may be simple or very elaborate in design. These are the ones we picture when we think of snowflakes. They develop at about 10 to 3 degrees F, and the largest are about 1/2 inch across. They also are only a small percentage of flakes in a storm, forming in low clouds with plenty of moisture. Because of the fancy designs and points, they often interlock when falling and end up as large conglomerate flakes up to two inches across, drifting slowly to the ground. These flakes which hold together so readily are the ones that stack up on branches and street signs.

COLUMN CRYSTALS are six-sided columns with flat or pointed ends, the largest being only 1/4 inch in diameter or length. They often have a hollow air space in them and are not common. They form in clouds with little moisture, at temperatures of 23 to 18 degrees F and again at -13 degrees and lower. When clouds of these crystals pass in front of the moon, they create a halo of color around it.

NEEDLE CRYSTALS are long, slender, six-sided columns with fine points on either end. They are common and account for much of a storm's accumulation. Ranging in size from 1/3 to 3/8 inch long, they freeze together to form conglomerate flakes that seem to break into splinters of ice when they hit the ground. They develop at 27 to 23 degrees F.

ASYMMETRICAL CRYSTALS are groups of plate-like crystals joined together in an irregular shape. Common in our snows, they join to form conglomerates that look like stellar crystals at a distance. The largest of these is about 3/8 inch across.

GRAUPEL are small snow pellets, really small stellar or hexagonal plates that become coated with frozen droplets as they fell through moisture-laden clouds, which obscures the shape of the original crystal. They fall in short, concentrated snow showers within a longer storm, and bounce when they hit the ground.

POWDER CRYSTALS are minute granules, best known to skiers. They don't pack and make for good skiing. They look like small

grains but are really tiny columns and plates joined to one another in irregular formations.

Then there are all kinds of combination crystals that start in one atmospheric condition and travel through another before they land. There are column crystals with hexagonal plate crystals at either end. Stellar crystals with hexagonal plate crystals on the points, (some of the most spectacular of the snow shapes). Bullet crystals are columns with pyramids at the ends where they are joined together, and spatial dendrites which are feathery stellar crystals with other points projecting off the six original points.

So the next time it snows, don't just watch it from inside -- get out and take a good look at these winter-time-only crystals. The best way to see them is to catch them on the arm of a dark jacket or sweater. You may need a small magnifying glass to look at them, and don't breathe on them and make them melt!

CALENDAR

January 16	Regular Meeting
19	Potluck, Alaiedon Twp. Hall
February 5	Board Meeting, Meridian Service Center
March 19	Regular Meeting & SILENT AUCTION
May 21	Club Banquet, Okemos Masonic Temple
June 27-28	MGAGS Rockhound Seminar, Mott Community College, Flint
August 8-15, 1993	MWF Field Trip Convention, Cu Country!!!

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 14-15	Roamin Club AUCTION, Schoolcraft College, Waterman Bldg., 18600 Haggerty,Livonia, MI
March 21	Metro Rock Swap,(Dearborn Club) Sheridan Community Center, Pardee Rd, Taylor 10am -5pm
April 3-5	Flint Rock & Gem Club SHOW
April 8-11	Indian Mounds SHOW, Eastbrook Mall Grand Rapids
May 15-17	Dearborn SHOW, Dearborn Civic Center
July 23-26	Combined AFMS & MWF SHOW, Brunswick High School, Brunswick Ohio