

A NOTE FROM EL PRESIDENTE

Our adventure in Arkansas on Mount Ida and in the diamond mine at Murfreesboro were good fun and a relief from cabin fever.

Due to an illness in June Kulp Zeitner's family, she will be unable to attend our banquet. June has promised to come speak to our club this fall. Thankfully, we have a quality back-up speaker. Any of you who receive fine tuning, WKAR's program guide, must have drooled at the beautiful agate photo gracing the May cover. The photographer, **Dan Metzger**, also happens to be a certified gemologist and has **agreed to speak at our banquet!** Dan has developed his own technique using two stacked lenses under magnification. Don't forget that **anyone who can't get to the eating part of the banquet is still welcome to come to the program following dinner--no ticket required.**

Lee would appreciate donations of **door prizes for the banquet**-- specimens or any other items concerned with our hobby. If you have something, please bring it WRAPPED to the banquet this Thursday.

FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM MELISSA TUCHOWSKI

Well folks it looks like we're heading out of the country again this month. The trip to Hungry Hollow was very eventful and we can't wait to gloat at May banquet. With George's help and a few phone calls the Gem & Mineral Club of Scarborough Ontario has invited us over for the Memorial Day weekend to the Marmora Iron Mine. This mine is built upon a magnetite body under a layer of limestone and we will be collecting from the extensive dump piles located on site. Our pickings will include: epidote, pyrite, garnet, magnetite, chalcopyrite, calcite, quartz and titanite. Some specimens are enclosed in the calcite and will need the acid soaks. The Scarborough group is planning upon our arrival at the Marmora Mine, 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning, followed by a pot-luck sort of thing and specimen swap. This is quite a-ways away (8 hour drive) so the plan is to make a weekend of it.

I'm checking into cabin & campground sites, my hope is to find a combination of both so that we can have the best of both worlds (and shelter in case of adverse weather.) I'd like to make this a real group outing with shared grounds, meals, campfires and camaraderie. Saturday, I've come up with an agenda of three different sites in the Bancroft area to go hound around. (See below) There's plenty more to pick from and I'll have packets of information made up and available at the banquet OR give me a call and I'll send it out. I would like a head count on this trip so I can make arrangements if needed. Please call and let me know, even if you're just toying with the idea (so I can really talk you into it) Phone 339-0459. I look forward to hearing from you & getting your input.... Melissa

To get to the Marmora Mine:

Take Hwy. 401 eastbound to the [525] Trenton exit. This will put you on Hwy 33. Go North into Sterling and catch Hwy 14, again Northbound toward Marmora (Hwy 33 ends in Sterling). The mine is located south of the town of Marmora, on east side of Hwy 14. If you reach Hwy. 7 in Marmora you have gone too far.... turn around. I realize this last bit is a little sketchy but as true rockhounds I know we'll be able to sniff it out.

FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM MELISSA TUCHOWSKI, cont.

The following information was down-loaded from the internet site Rock Collecting Sties: CANADA: Ontario, www.nb.net/~downs/sites/canada.htm

our few hours at the Bear Lake Diggings. Simply turn over the dirt, sift it out, and there's more! There were signs that prior collectors had worked hard to find monster pieces -- deep trenches, piles of broken calcite -- but we had to settle for smaller finds, not having a large pick or large shovel to dig deep in the trenches for nature's bounty. I was taken aback by the climb into deep, dark woods to find minerals, having collected on open rock faces, in dumps and in quarries all my life. Yet the woods were full of minerals! Finds ranged from tiny near-transparent apatites to 3"

wide pieces of larger crystals; thick books of biotite, some 2-1/2" wide hunks of hornblende crystals, and some 3" orthoclase rhombs.

Located 40 minutes west of Bancroft, this site is privately owned and operated by the Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce. This location has outstanding specimens of titanite, apatite, feldspar, hornblende, and biotite. Minerals are collected by digging into weathered calcite veins which cut granitic bedrock. Digging tools and a pry bar are a must; hammers, chisels and screens are helpful. Fees are \$5 per person, per day, with family and group rates available. Permits are sold at the Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce, Dwyer Mine Rock Shop, Princess Sodalite Mine, Great Escape Bookstore, and the Black Forest Schnitzel House. For information call (613) 332-1513, Fax (613) 332-2119.

YORK RIVER SKARN ZONE: Turn left after you cross the York River bridge on 28; park at the old bridge abutments and walk down the river trail. With careful eyes and some light digging, you'll find a slew of small garnets. We also found a lot of a glassy green double-terminated crystal

in matrix -- from visual inspection against our mineral books, it appears to be vesuvianite, but I forgot to ask for verification. There's plenty of massive grossular garnet too, and hunks of blue calcite. Mosquitoes scoffed at our bug spray when we hiked down to the nearby Egan Chute, where the otherwise placid York River rip-roars over falls and through a tight crevice. While collecting, we met a fellow who was returning to collect after 40 years -- he suggested we drop our garnet in matrix into an acid bath to get the best garnets out.

RICHARDSON MINE: First dirt trail leading to the right off the southern end of Mumford Rd. This was the first stop on the Tuesday field trip group that Chris Fouts led. About 18 people attended, including quite a few children. It was a long trek into the woods back to the site, over 1 km, along a wagon road with more than a few mud puddles and a bridge consisting of a few long logs placed strategically over a small stream. The payoff: a crevice high up on a wooded hill yielded vivid purple fluorite crystals in matrix, some small apatites, and other as-of-yet unidentified crystals. It was great to see the small children in our group having a lot of fun picking up "pretty rocks". It only took a few minutes for one little girl to fill her sand pail. Two young boys

whooped and hollered when they found a nice clean apatite crystal after digging into the dirt. This was the first time we'd shared a collecting experience with a bunch of families...it was very different than the usual serious collector's groups we end up in, and a lot more fun.

TV WORTH WATCHING.....

Eyewitness Rock & Mineral will be on WKAR, Ch. 23, May 26 at 8:00 p.m.

SOME HELPFUL ADVICE FOR TRAVELING TO CANADA, contributed by Ed Drown
Rules for entry into Canada appeared in the Detroit Free Press last weekend, timely, eh? The
most important points are I.D. for the border personnel and that we can only take \$60 in GIFTS
to swap with the Scarborough club, we are not taking merchandise across with us.

Money: Exchange money at a U.S. or Canadian bank for the best rate of exchange. It is a good idea to exchange a small amount or cash and charge any larger purchases.

Identification: You do not need a passport or visa, but you may have to prove that you are a citizen or resident of the United States. Proper identification includes passports, certificates of naturalization or citizenship, birth certificates with photo identification or voter registration cards. Permanent residents of the US who are not citizens should carry resident alien cards. Be sure to carry similar identification for all children. If you're with someone else's child, include a letter from the child's parent or guardian.

What you can bring into Canada: Gifts valued up to \$60.00 are allowed.

What you can bring back: If you are in Canada for 24 hours or less you can bring back up to \$200 U.S. in goods duty free, but no alcohol or tobacco. For 48 hour stays you may bring back up to \$400 U.S. worth of goods duty free.

There are all sorts of technicalities regarding quantities of alcohol and tobacco. If you need this information there will be copies of the article available at the banquet.

Tanasychuk, John. "Border Basics." Detroit Free Press, 4 May 1997, pg. 3H.

ANOTHER LITTLE ROCK PUP IS BORN

Nate, Cindy and Krupp are happy to have a new member in their family! Kara Pauline Krupp was born April 4, 1997, weighing 8 lb, 14 oz. ***Congratulations!***

IN MEMORIUM-- Florence Hill

Life member John Hasford died April 3, 1997 after a long period of failing health. John and his wife were ardent field trip collectors.

LAST NOTICE: DUES ARE DUE-- Bessie Rogers

The following members have not yet paid dues for 1997. If you wish to remain a club member, please send your dues: \$5.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students 18 years of age or younger, to Bessie Rogers: 2222 W. Marshall Rd, St. Johns MI 48879 or pay at the meeting.

P. Boocharoen	J. Esch	S. Kauma	J. Slayton family
A. Cooley	D. Gibbs	N. Krupp family	D. Slayton
S. Cheyne	M. Gere family	R. Miller family	L. Volk
W. Davis	P. Harris	L. Parks	J. Vestula
R. Eppelheimer	J. Hansen	C. Smith family	

A NEW FEATURE FOR OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS-- Lila Stevens

It has been suggested that we try having mini silent auctions to liven up our club meetings. Here's the plan: These silent auctions will be held at the September, October, November,

January, February and April meetings, after the program during snack time. Bidding time will be fifteen minutes. Each seller will be responsible for their own cashiering. No more than 10 items per family per month.

MEMORIALS REPORT FROM CONNIE SNEPP

We extend our sympathy to the families of the following members who passed away recently:

Loena VanAtta, LM: avid field tripper, especially in the U.P. and Canada

Harold VonStuck: accomplished lapidary artist

John Hasford: field trip enthusiast

Books will be placed in the library in their memories.

MATERIAL NEEDED FOR SPECIMEN KITS-- Florence Hill

I need many specimens this year to fill the 6,000 spaces in 500 egg cartons!

I would like donations of anything typical of its kind-- hopefully in multiples of 60 for efficiency in packaging and making up the brief descriptions that go in the carton. I particularly need more specular hematite, calcite, and quartz specimens.

If you have saved egg cartons bring them to me, but don't go out of your way to get more. I haven't counted exactly, but think I'll have enough. Thanks a million for all your helpfulness!

EDUCATION NEWS FROM MARGARET GREEN

Dates for open houses are open in May, since this is a busy month, if you are considering hosting an open house please let the rest of us know ASAP.

One more science night to go! Murphy Elementary on May 20th. I have not and am not going to accept any more group commitments for school demonstrations for the next four months, I promise.

"Hats off to ya' Mates" (Australian for thank you very much) Boy! was my sister impressed with you'all! My thanks to everyone, obviously you did a great job making her feel welcome. Next "thanks" goes to Bettie Patterson for being a gracious hostess for the April open house. We had an excellent time together and had an opportunity to visit with a new member of our club, John.

Several club members have faithfully supported our club's educational outreach efforts by participating in Science Night activities for Ralya school. Doing their usual great job was Grit Turner, Florence Hill, George Heaton and Royal & Lee Olson.

Finals are over now and even though you will see me at the next two general membership meetings if there is anything on your mind between now and then give me a call at home please.

CLUB CALENDAR

May 15	CLUB BANQUET, all members are invited to the program after dinner advanced ticket is REQUIRED for dinner
May 24-25	FIELD TRIP to Bancroft area of Ontario Canada
June 5	Board meeting, Meridian Twp. Service Center, 7:30 pm
June 19	Regular meeting, Meridian Twp. Service Center, 7:30 pm

July 26 PICNIC & WORK BEE at the cottage of Rich & Lila Stevens

Yes, this is a real book. What a hoot!!!

SHOW CALENDAR

May 16-18 Dearborn Show. Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield.
 Fri. 5-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5:30

May 17 AE Seaman Mineral Museum Benefit Auction in conjunction with the Dearborn Show.
 8:15-9:30 pm. All sale items from the Seaman Museum Collection. Everyone is invited.

June 7-8 State Line Gem & Min. Swap & Craft Sale. Fulton Co. Fairgrounds just North of
 Wauseon OH on Route 108. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4

June 25-28 Used Lapidary Equipment Sale at A&B Jewels & Tools, 350 W. Grand River
 Williamston MI. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Call Bill Gardener for more info
655-4664.

June 27-29 Lawrence County IN show/swap. Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Bloomington
 Indiana. Fri. 10-7, Sat. 8-7, Sun. 8-4. Camping \$6.00 per night. Free admission.

June 28-29 MGAGS Rockhound Seminar. Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron
 River Dr., Ann Arbor MI. \$10.00 per day, advance \$8.00 per day. See Grit &
Alice Turner for more information.

July 19 Mt. Clemens swap & sale. Mt. Clemens Community Center, 300 N. Groesbeck.
 9 am - 5 pm. Free.

July 19 Seaman Mineral Museum, Houghton MI. Surplus inventory auction. Houghton Co.
 Arena, Hancock MI. 9 am - 5 pm. for more info contact: jaszczak@mtu.edu

Aug. 1-3 Ishepeming Swap & Field Trips?? Haven't received a flier yet

Aug. 3-7 Red Metal Retreat sponsored by Quincy Mine Hoist Assoc., Red Metal Min. & Copper Country Rock & Min. Club. see Jean Ann or Dave Wahl-Piotrowski for more info

Aug. 8-10 Copper Country Gem & Min. Show. Student Development Complex, MTU, Houghton. \$1 adults, .50 cents children 12 & under. Fri. 5-9 pm, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5.