

Rockhound News

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 19TH

PROGRAM: Petrified Wood of East Texas plus demonstration by club member Gaylord Brooks

REFRESHMENTS: J thru Q bring refreshments.

The program this month will be a slide presentation on the the petrified wood of east Texas. Gaylord Brooks will present a live demonstration. Hope to see you all there.

Club Calendar

February 19th Regular club meeting 7:30 at North School

February 21st Field trip to the Michigan Historical Center. 1:00 p.m. (See article by Ed Drown for details)

March 4th CML&MS board meeting at the Okemos Library 7:00 p.m.

March 18th Regular club meeting 7:30 at North School. Silent Auction night.

DUES ARE NOW DUE

Dues should be paid to roster secretary Ernie Aughenbaugh at the January meeting or sent to Ernie at P.O. Box 67, St. Johns, MI 48879-0067. To be included in the membership directory, dues must be paid by the February Meeting. To continue to receive the newsletter dues must be paid by or at the February meeting.

President's Paragraph(s)

February is a beautiful month; Presidents Day, Valentines Day, MSU Chocolate Party and for all members who have paid their dues-they will receive the newsletter for another year. **PLEASE GIVE ERNIE YOUR DUES** by or at the February Meeting.

Don't forget to look through your collection for specimens to add to the Silent Auction at the next meeting. It will soon be March.

The Michigan winter season is here and we may have bad weather on a meeting night. If you hear that North School is closed because of weather or any other problem, you will know that the meeting is automatically canceled. Mary

Membership please note. Our new corresponding secretary, Marie Brooks asks to be notified of any member who needs to receive a card (get-well, sympathy etc). Marie's phone number is 394-7211. Lets all help new secretary Marie.

Field trip to the Michigan Historical Center - Ed Drown

The "Michigan Relics" are a group of artifacts that were "discovered" over a period of 30 years beginning in 1890. They were made of stone, slate, clay and copper and had decorations and inscriptions that looked

like Egyptian, Phoenician and ancient Greek writing. Some of the artifacts had characteristics that led some to quickly doubt their authenticity, however, this did not completely dampen the enthusiasm for them. Even into the late 1990's there were some who studied them looking for evidence of pre-Columbian movement of Christians into North America. So, for those interested we'll meet on the ground floor of the Michigan Historical Museum at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 21. Parking is free in the lot south of the Museum on Kalamazoo Street (just west of MLK Blvd). Admission to the Museum is free as well, they do take donations. At 1:30 pm there will be a lecture on the Kensington Runestone that does provide evidence of early Viking exploration of North America. After the lecture we can explore the display of the "Michigan Relics" and spend some time on the other floors (they do have exhibits on copper and iron mining). After this we'll can find someplace for a early supper (The New Dynasty Chinese/American buffet has some awesome rhodonite slabs on their walls).

Map to the museum:

http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445_19273-51058--,00.html

On-line display of the "Michigan Relics"

<http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/michrelics/intro.html>