ROCKHOUND NEWS

official publication of the
Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society
member of MWF & AFMS

November 199[illegible]

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY LANSING

Return to:
C.M.L. & M.S.
4510 Seneca
Okemos MI 48864
FIRST CLASS
TIME VALUE

Rich & Lila Stevens
291 Dausman Park
Clarksville MI 48815

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 and August
Meeting time: 7:30 pm; doors are open at 7:00 pm
Annual dues: Adults $5.00, Students $1.00

OFFICERS 1998

President	Larry Bourland	543-6669
Vice President	Connie Snepp	339-2863
Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans	351-6136
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Roster Secretary	Wayne Zittel	485-2002
Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
1 Year Director	Gail Hopkins	886-6047
2 Year Director	Ed Drown	347-5097
3 Year Director	Lila Stevens	616 693-2733
Laison Officer	Bettie Patterson	~~482-3437~~ 347-8821
Past President	Royal Olson	339-2059

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program	Connie Snepp	339-2863
Membership	Florence Hill	349-3554
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	Margaret Green	882-3637
Field Trips	Mellissa Tuchowski	339-0459
Library	Lee Laylin	349-3249
Display	Grit (Irwin) Turner	694-9596
Publications	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616-948-9589
Show	Roger Laylin	349-3249

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:

4510 Seneca
Okemos MI 48864

MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

ATTENTION EXCHANGE EDITORS. We have a new club address: 4510 Seneca, Okemos MI 48864.

Regular Meeting, November 19, 7:30 p.m.
A-I please bring refreshments.
Program: "Hunting Cretaceous Fossils in Madagascar" by Mike Godfrey

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT NOVEMBER MEETING

The proposed slate is as follows:

President	Larry Bourland
Vice-President	Mary Kay Bean
Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans
Treasurer	Alan Hukill
Corresponding Sec.	Lee Olson

2 Year & 3 Year Director: Elaine Angstman, Ruthann Lehner, Alice Turner, Gail Hopkins
Liaison Officer Bettie Patterson
Other nominations are welcome the night of the election, however, you must have the permission of the person you are nominating.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS-- Florence Hill
Welcome to three new members. Duane & Carol Jorgenson were active helpers at our show before they even became official! Duane's interest is mineralogy as evidenced by his fine display. Their address: 1900 Haslett Rd, Haslett MI 48840; phone 339-2812. Karen Keaton, our other new member, enjoys metalcraft and wirecraft. (She is a professional artist.) Karen's address: 223 Rosamond St., Lansing MI 48912; phone 484-2477.

Help! Have you enjoyed the sociability and the exchange of information over your coffee and goodies? Well, Mary Crosby, who has so kindly presided over the kitchen for a long, long time is in need of help for November and December, and a replacement for the following year. If you would be willing to take over-- or take a turn at it-- please call Florence at 349-3554.

BOARD MEETING BITS NOT PRINTED ELSEWHERE:
-- Mary Kay Bean suffered a fall which caused a broken arm and the need for a back brace and neck brace. Please keep her in your thoughts & offer some cheer to our selfless cheer giver.
-- December program will feature holiday music.
-- Show stuff. 1700 well behaved students visited Friday, a record number. Over 60% of the kids table "stuff" sold for a gain of $3340.99 (Friday morning alone?)
-- We need a new show chairman. Roger IS retiring.
-- Next year's show will be October 22-24.

IT'S THAT DUES TIME OF YEAR. GET YOUR $$ TO WAYNE ZITTEL!

SPECIAL AWARD-- Connie Snepp
William "Red" and Bessie Rogers will receive a plaque this year for Meritorious Service to the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society. Avid field trippers in the early years, they continued to serve in many capacities.

Bessie was roster secretary, oversaw the hospitality room at the show, helped with many show preparation tasks, and brought tasty sugar-free treats to meetings.

Red managed our door prize give away at club meetings, announced at shows, demonstrated faceting star sapphires, and served as club president in 1974.

Together they transported club cases as well as their own to area shows, hosted the annual club picnic on occasion and could be counted on to be early for every activity of the club. For years they were dealers and had a rock shop in their home: Roger's Rock Ranch. They are members of the Facetors Guild, the Wonderland Club, and the Michigan Geological and Gemological Society.

They stand out as colorful, memorable hobbyists. A few years back we were vacationing in Florida and attended a show in Sarasota where we wore our club badges. Someone made a point of stopping us to ask if we knew Red and Bessie.

How our clubs need dedicated, hard working members like the Rogers. Thank you, Red and Bessie, for your many years of service!

GEORGE HEATON'S REPORT
Our field trip for October was our 33rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show on Oct. 23-25. It appears to have been a very successful show and field trip with lots of nice things to see in the exhibits and on the dealer tables. Attendance seemed good and lots of rocks were sold at the Children's Table which even sold quite a few fossils. The Children's Table is now greatly depleted of material and it will need lots of donations of new stuff to be ready for next year's show.

I want to thank all those people who helped at the Children's Table. They gave me lots of time to go eat food, go to pot, go look at stuff at the dealers tables and exhibits, and just goof off. Thank you to those who moved stuff from and back to storage at Grit and Alice Turners place, and helped set up and break down the Children's Table.

There will be no field trips for November and December and January will probably be our usual pot luck. The next field trip will probably be to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. in Grand Rapids in February.

LAPIDARY & ROCK DEMO WEEKEND via Dearborn Rockpile 11/98
The Dearborn club is having a free demonstration/"show" at the Lake Erie Marshlands Museum & Nature Center on Sat. & Sun. Nov. 21 & 22. (Sat. 10-5; Sun. noon -5). The Museum is located in Lake Erie Metropark, 32481 West Jefferson, Brownstown MI. Take I-75 to Gibralter Rd. exit 29 (toward Gibralter.) Continue 2 miles east to intersection of West Jefferson. Continue South on West Jefferson about 1.5 miles, past Carlson High School. Vehicle entry $3.00.

SILENT AUCTION -- Gordon Lewis

The following equipment has been donated to the"Club" by Mrs. Sandy Jakeway, to be sold at silent auction to **MEMBERS ONLY**, at our mini-auction at the November 19 meeting, with the proceeds going to the "Club" treasury. If you intend to bid on any of this equipment, please bring your checkbook; I may have difficulty trying to make change for you. Some of the items will have minimum bids as high as $200.00 and minimum raise as high as $20.00; **Items are to be paid for at the auction.**

An 8 inch grinding - sanding unit manufactured by Star Diamond Industries; wheels, drums, and discs are all on one shaft; includes two 1.5 inch silicon carbide grinding wheels, two 3 inch expanding rubber sanding drums, two 8 inch end-plates for sanding or polishing, one motor and belt. The unit is 31 inches long, 18 inches deep(not counting the motor), and 12.5 inches high.

A Raytech "Hustler" 10 inch vibrating lap, still in-the-box; appears to be new.

A Raytech 10 inch saw, screw feed, with motor; ready to go.

A Dremel Moto-flex tool, number 232, with desk mount and wall hanger, appears to be new, still in-the-box.

A Graves faceting machine, variable speed, with a two-sided nickel bond diamond lap, 15 dops, and a straight transfer jig. Needs a belt and some bearing adjustment. Appears to have been used very little.

The "Club" will also be selling at the auction, and next month's auction, some of the nicer items donated by Read and Erma Myers; these items were "held back" from the show auction because members working at the show have indicated they cannot get to the auction to bid on items donated to the "Club."

==========

The Midwest Federation Website is now Online

The Midwest Federation Website is now online at **http://www.commean.com/rocks/mwf**

Presently, the site includes a resume of the MWF, a listing of all MWF clubs (with email and website links to clubs, if available), the MWF calendar of shows and events, portions of the MWF newsletter, info on ordering MWF and American Federation supplies, and links to the Amercian and regional federations.

A special section called, "Just for Editors," includes geology/mineralogical clipart, as well as a section with newsletter fillers which may be copied and pasted. In additon, links to many non-commerical online informational resources are listed.

Clubs may email Kitty Starbuck, Editor of the MWF Newsletter, and submit info for the newsletter via the website.

The site continues to grow as more and more information is added.

The website was made at no cost to the MWF federation and includes music and animation effects, web counter and guestbook. The purpose of the site is to enhance communication between the federation and clubs. To assure privacy, names of individuals, addresses and phone numbers are not on the site.

Each club is asked to check their club listing and show info for accuracy and submit their email link or club website if not listed. Info that was not printed in the 1998 Directory may be submitted to the webmaster to be included on the site.

Everyone is invited to drop by and please take a minute to sign our guestbook!

Elizabeth "Boo" Commean
Boo@commean.com
MWF Webmaster

Via MWF Newsletter 11/98

==========

SHOW REPORT-- Roger Laylin

I wish to thank *ALL* of the club members who gave so generously of their time and labor to make our 33rd show such a great success. I counted over ninety members, relatives and friends of members ,and members of near by clubs who assisted at the show in some way.

It takes this kind of a total effort to make the the show an enjoyable experience and not a tiring drudge.

We had about 100 more in attendance and received about $2000.00 more in gross receipts than last year despite the beautiful weather.

I wish to specifically thank the members who took on and so successfully completed their committee assignments.

ADMISSION TABLE	MARY GOWENS
ARMORY RENTAL & SECURITY	NEIL SNEPP
CHILDRENS TABLE	GEORGE HEATON
DEALERS CONTACT	GRIT TURNER
DISPLAYS & ENTRY DISPLAY	JEAN ANN WAHL-PIOTROWSKI
ELECTRICAL SET-UP	CHARLES SMITH
EMCEE	LARRY BORLAND & JOHN JOHNSON
FLORESCENT BOOTH	BOB HANSOR
HOSPITALITY ROOM	RUTH LEHNER
MATERIAL PICKUP	GRIT TURNER, JOHN GROSJEAN, MILO CROSBY, CHUCK SMITH AND RICHARD STEVENS
PUBLICITY	MARY KAY BEAN & ALAN HUKILL
RAFFLE	GAIL HOPKINS
SCHOOL TOURS	MARGARET GREEN
SIGNS	GRIT TURNER
SILENT AUCTION	GORDON LEWIS
SWAP TABLE	MARY KAY BEAN
TREASURY	ALAN HUKILL
WORKING DEMONSTRATIONS	RICHARD MILLER & JOE MANINA

These members and the rest of the 80+ members who came and helped set-up,take down and clean up are to be credited with a successful show.

Many, many thanks
Roger Laylin, show chairman

WHAT IS A ROCKHOUND via Yellowstone Deposit 9/96 via Crystal Cluster 11/97

A rockhound is a kind of nut
Whose mind is lightly undercut.
He swings a pick and drives a jeep,
And dreams of agates in his sleep.

He'll pick up any kind of stone,
Or piece of glass, or even bone.
If he can't name it, he'll assert
That he has found a piece of chert.

NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE ROCKHOUND: THE PHOTO-ATLAS OF MINERALS

review by Ed Drown, CML&"MS

One of the constraints of field guides is that for the sake of portability only one or two photographs of a particular mineral can be included. For a mineral such as calcite, which can occur in literally hundreds of habits and forms this is quite limiting. The first step past a field guide on paper has been taken by placing it on a CD-ROM instead. "The Photo-Atlas of Minerals" is published by The Gem & Mineral Council Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

The CD has descriptive data for all known mineral species (about 4,000) and nearly 6,500 high-quality images for about 800 of them. You select a mineral by its: name, synonym/variety or Strunz system. For unknown minerals you can start be choosing the: location, metallic element, crystal class, hardness, specific gravity or luster. Being able to choose based on physical properties brings this close to being an identification guide. The descriptive information includes the: chemical formula, origin of name, synonym/varieties, color, streak, hardness, luster, tenacity, specific gravity, cleavages and detailed information on crystallography and habit. The handy part is that for any term that is obscure or specific to mineralogy the user can click on it and the definition will pop-up on the screen. For example, if a mineral is described as having a "sectile tenacity" - a click will reveal that this means the mineral can be cut into thin shavings with a knife. One of the greatest helps for tongue-tied individuals such as myself is the pronunciation guide for the minerals that have photographs, you will no longer wonder how to say "nenadkevichite"

The photos for each mineral are arranged by locality in a descending hierarchy, e.g. country >> state >> mine. When multiple photos are available from a site they are grouped in their own "album". For example, there are 50 images of Michigan coppers, with multiple images from the Quincy, Phoenix and Mohawk mines. A click of the mouse will bring up a map with the location highlighted. Images of micro-minerals obtained using light and electron microscopy are included. The photos can be printed-out, using a color ink-jet printer I was able to produce a realistic image. There is a slide-show that can be used as a screen saver, it cycles images randomly from the CD. There is an identification game that starts with an image, if you can't visually i.d. the mineral, its physical properties are used as hints.

Michigan has 13 minerals listed, the species and number of photos (if more than one) are: Analcime (3), Calcite (10), Celestine, Copper (50), Cuprite, Datolite (13), Gold, Manganite (2), Powellite (2), Pyrochroite, Pyrolusite, Quartz and Silver (34).

System requirements are: an IBM compatible 486-33 or better running Windows 3.1, 95, 98 or NT, CD-ROM drive, sound card and speakers for the pronunciation guide, 16 Mb RAM, mouse and a 24-bit video card. This is version 1.0 of the software, I have found error messages popping-up at random times, but the program recovers and hasn't yet crashed my system running Windows 98. There is a web site for the CD at http://nhm.org/~gmc that has: sample screens, on-line ordering and technical support. Since this is version 1.0 of the software, please check the web site for further information concerning updates and corrections to the software. The cost was $49.95 plus $5 shipping and handling as of 10NOV98). If you're not on-line yet, the address for the Council is: The Gem & Mineral Council, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Disclaimer: I have no affiliation with the Council or Museum, other than a visit to the Museum (they have an awesome display of minerals and a pretty good one of fossils) where I saw the ad for the CD and decided to give it a spin. Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
OCTOBER 1, 1998 - OCTOBER 31, 1998

BALANCE ON HAND(10-01-98)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99)	$11109.36
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	6220.66
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	599.54
TOTAL	$17929.56
RECEIPTS:	
DUES	30.00
TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING	4500.00
1998 SHOW RECEIPTS	10263.85
INTEREST(SAVINGS)	34.65
TOTAL	14828.50
DISBURSEMENTS:	
LIBRARY*	191.24
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY*	41.60
MISCELLANEOUS	114.88
1998 SHOW**	3915.55
TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING	4500.00
TOTAL	8763.27
BALANCE ON HAND(10-31-98)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99)	$11109.36
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	11278.66
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	1606.77
TOTAL	$23994.79

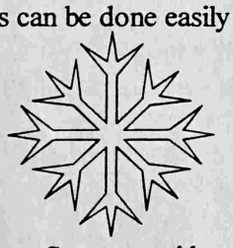
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER

* - ITEMS PAID FOR IN CASH FROM SHOW RECEIPTS
** - PAID IN CASH (HOSPITALITY ROOM - $202.63, SECURITY - $200.00, ELECTRICAL - $13.63)

COLLECTING SNOWFLAKES

You can add immensely to your enjoyment of the winter by observing and collecting snow crystals. This can be done easily by obtaining the following equipment and following this procedure:



1. Glass cover slides.
2. Plastic artists spray.
3. Black paper or velvet.
4. Toothpicks.

1. Spray one side of each slide with plastic spray. Store these slides outside or in your freezer.

2. When it's snowing, collect some crystals on black velvet cloth. Working outside, select those crystals you wish to keep and transfer them to the glass slide. Spray the slide with the plastic spray. Repeat after 15 or 30 minutes and let dry for one hour.

3. When dry, take your permanent show crystal inside for viewing.

Crystal Cluster 11/97

Via **Trilobite** and **Rock Rollers** 12/96

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 and August
Meeting time: 7:30 pm; doors are open at 7:00 pm
Annual dues: Adults $5.00, Students $1.00

OFFICERS 1998

President	Larry Bourland	543-6669
Vice President	Connie Snepp	339-2863
Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans	351-6136
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Roster Secretary	Wayne Zittel	485-2002
Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
1 Year Director	Gail Hopkins	886-6047
2 Year Director	Ed Drown	347-5097
3 Year Director	Lila Stevens	616 693-2733
Laison Officer	Bettie Patterson	347-8821
Past President	Royal Olson	339-2059

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program	Connie Snepp	339-2863
Membership	Florence Hill	349-3554
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	Margaret Green	882-3637
Field Trips	Mellissa Tuchowski	339-0459
Library	Lee Laylin	349-3249
Display	Grit (Irwin) Turner	694-9596
Publications	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616-948-9589
Show	Roger Laylin	349-3249

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:

4519 Seneca
Okemos MI 48864

MEMBER OF:

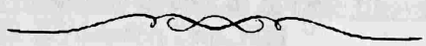
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Attention exchange editors, again: I managed to mistype our new club address. It should be: CML&MS, 4519 Seneca, Okemos MI 48864. My apologies for the hassle.

December meeting highlights:

--Our annual goodie feast. Each family please bring a dozen cookies or a plate of healthy goodies to share! Thanks.
--Mineral of the month will be December's birthstone: Zircon.
--In the true spirit of Christmas, the December program will be a cantata by the very talented choir of the Gunninsonville United Methodist Church.

Sympathy is extended to the families of Erma Meyers and Preston Whipple, both of whom passed away recently.



WOW, EIGHT NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to the newest members of CML&MS:

Linda & Thomas Ogston
Interested in all aspects of our hobby; plus, spelunking, artistic sandblasting and crafts!
1122 N. Chestnut St.
Lansing MI 48906 374-9553

Giles Roehl
3986 West M21
St. Johns MI 48879 224-2225

Joseph Senkeresty
Interests: Fluorescents, Fossils, Geology, Lapidary, Metalcraft, Mineralogy & Tumbling

Sandi Senkeresty
Interests: Archaeology, Carving, Faceting, Fluorescents, Geology, Lapidary, Micromounts, Mineralogy, Tumbling & Wirecraft
1076 North Gunnell Rd
Eaton Rapids MI 48827 603-5912

Norma Jean Ek
Interests: Fossils, Lapidary, Tumbling, Wirecraft
1106 University Village
East Lansing MI 48823 355-5811

Sheri & JoAnne Ofol **(JoAnne is a Junior member)**
Interests: Carving, Lapidary, Metalcraft, Tumbling, Wirecraft
1568 Mojave Court
Okemos MI 48864 349-5932

1998 CML&MS Show Financial Report

ACCOUNT	BUDGETED	SPENT	+ or -
SHOW CHAIRMAN	20.00	0	-20.00
RENT	3000.00	3000.00	0
PUBLICITY	1100.00	636.05	-463.95
FLYERS	600.00	547.62	-52.38
CHILDRENS TABLE	500.00	440.77	-59.23
SILENT AUCTION	350.00	324.90	-25.10
DECORATIONS	100.00	33.13	-66.87
DISPLAY	100.00	0	-100.00
RAFFLE	250.00	219.50	-30.50
TICKETS	25.00	13.76	-11.24
SCHOOL TOUR	150.00	0	-150.00
SECURITY*	200.00	200.00	0
HOSPITALITY*	200.00	202.63	+2.63
SIGNS	40.00	0	-40.00
ELECTRICAL*	50.00	13.63	-11.37
TABLE RENTAL**	500.00	402.21	-97.79
FLUORESCENT BOOTH	20.00	0	-20.00
DEMONSTRATIONS	40.00	133.18	+93.18
ENTRANCE DISPLAY	25.00	0	-25.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0
TOTAL	7270.00	6167.38	-1102.62

INCOME:

DEALERS	2700.00
TICKETS	2543.60
RAFFLE	614.00
CRITTERS/JEWELRY	748.40
FOSSILS	355.65
CHILDRENS TABLE	1248.40
MINERAL KITS	650.35
SILENT AUCTION	2030.75
GRAB BAGS	656.61
PETOSKEY KITS	67.09
TOTAL INCOME	11614.85

INCOME	11614.85
EXPENSE	-6167.38
DIFF.	5447.47

* = PAID ALL OR PART IN CASH
** = 402.61(402.21)

ALAN HUKILL
CML&MS TREASURER

"So often the first screw that works loose in a person's head is the one that holds the tongue in place." via Rock Trails 1/96

DUES ARE DUE

It's time once again to forward your dues dollars to Roster Rooster Wayne Zittel. You can see Wayne at a meeting, or mail your check to 3401 Walker Rd, Lansing MI 48906-3205.

Adults $5.00 Students under 18 yrs. $1.00

Requirements for Club Officers

via Tulip City Conglomerate, Gneiss Times 11/98, Rock Rollers & others

1. Must have good eyesight and be able to distinguish a mountain from a mole hill at fifty paces.
2. Must have a tough hide to be able to fend off back biters.
3. Must have an adjustable hearing aid in order to tune out loud arguments, yet be able to hear the slightest rumbling of club unrest.
4. Must have a flexible time table.
5. Must have a complete set of fingernails to chew during the meetings.
6. Past Presidents must have poor memory, and never begin a sentence with "When I was president....!"

Mark your 1999 Calendars with Club Events & Spring Shows:

Jan. 24, 1:00 p.m.	Potluck @ Alaiedon Twp. Hall
March 6-7	Roamin Club Auction, Schoolcraft College
March 20	Dearborn Swap, Democratic Club of Taylor
April 7-10	Grand Rapids Show, Eastbrook Mall
April 10-11	MWF Federation Show/Convention, Columbus OH
Oct. 22-24	Our Show. Get theme ideas to any board member.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 1, 1998 - NOVEMBER 30, 1998

BALANCE ON HAND(11-01-98)		
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99)	$11109.36	
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	11278.66	
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	1606.77	
TOTAL	$23994.79	
RECEIPTS:		
1998 SHOW		1.40
DUES		19.00
BADGES		7.00
MINI-SILENT AUCTION		836.60
TOTAL		864.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY		5.00
PUBLICATIONS		263.02
1998 SHOW		868.85
TOTAL		1136.87
BALANCE ON HAND(11-30-98)		
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99)	$11109.36	
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	12115.26	
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	497.30	
TOTAL	$23721.92	

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER

Editors note: My old faithful data disk crashed in the midst of last month's newsletter. While attempting to retrieve archives and tidy the harddrive, I found the following articles in a file called "tidbits." I don't think I have used them before .....

STONES TO CARVE via The Prospector 2/96 via G.I. Nugget 9/95 & others
The following stones can be carved with only a file and/or moto-tool, and maybe a few other hand tools. Some of these stones are known by several names.

Sepiolite: (Meerschaum) Famous as a material from which to make pipe bowls. Can be worked and even finished with steel wool.
Alabaster: (Gypsum) The hardness varies and hard types respond well with hand tools, others with files and "wet or dry" sandpaper.
Talc: (Soapstone) Worked with files and sandpaper, even carving tools.
Anthracite: (Coal, Jet) Worked with files, sandpaper, and polishes to a shine equal to hematite.
Calcite: (Marble, Onyx) Worked with hand tools and tungsten bits.
Argonite: Similar to Calcite and worked the same.
Howlite: Worked with hand tools and has the advantage of being dyed easily.

Most of these rocks can be easily sawed this a hacksaw. Also most can be easily polished by hand with a piece of leather and tin oxide. Also remember that the sandpaper called "wet or dry" is one of the carver's best friends.

A GEOLOGY PRIMER via The Petoskey Stone 3/96 via Coral Geode 2/96
Geology is mostly about rocks. There are three main kinds of rocks: ignominious, sedentary and metamorphic. Ignominious rocks can be taken for granite. Sedentary rocks are mostly chalk, which comes in cliffs, or small round sticks, and sandstone about which the less said the better. Metamorphic rocks are more interesting. One kind is marble which come in little round balls, flat slabs and shapes that look like naked people without arms which are kept in museums. Another kind is slate which is for geologist to write on with chalk. The only other kind worth mentioning is steatite, or soapstone, which is found in the shape of ashtrays and old-fashioned sinks. The other kinds are, mostly, a lot of schist.

Stones come in a lot of different periods. These were invented by geologists, and they are the only ones who can remember which is which. The only one I can remember is the Plasticence Period, which is when man first learned how to model and get oil stains on his rompers.

You have to sort of get used to geologists. At first they seem to have nothing but rocks in their heads, and when they talk about beds, they don't mean what you think. But underneath they are almost normal. When they go on a field trip with little hammers, they sit around the evening fire on their terminal moraines and sing just like anyone else. Songs like "Lava Come Back to Me," "Shale be Cambrian Round the Mountain," "You'd be so Gneiss to Come Home To," and, "When the Chalk is on the Greensands, I'll come Huronian Back to You in my New Red Marl."

When you meet a geologist, be nice to him, he may be somebody's mammal.

THE COLORS OF ABALONE via Rock Trails 1/96, Quarry Chips 10/95 & others

The colors of an abalone shell arise from the interference of light waves by laminations of nacre deposited by the abalone. The unattractive outer layer of the shell can be removed with nitric acid. After the removal, both sides of the shell will shimmer.

NITRIC ACID IS TOXIC--USE OUTSIDE, WEAR RUBBER GLOVES. Make a brush by pounding the end of a stick into a bunch of fibers. Apply the acid. To stop in a location, dab with household ammonia. To stop all action, soak in household ammonia and then rinse well with water.

The following articles are from a "new" exchange bulletin, "The Rockcollector" newsletter for the Rochester (NY) Lapidary Society, December 1998

CRYSTAL INCLUSIONS

Almost every time nature grows a crystal, she encases it in a variety of objects call "inclusions". They are scientifically important because they are evidence of the temperature, pressures, composition and other characteristics of the environment in which the mineral was found. Not only solids, but liquid and gasses are often trapped during crystal growth. The difference between the white, opaque variety of quartz and the clear variety is caused by multitudes of tiny bubbles trapped in the opaque quartz.

Frequently, the inclusions will be of more than one kind, each called a phase. One of the most amazing sights to see under a microscope is the two-phase inclusion of a tiny bit of carbon in one of the liquid filled cavities found in quartz from Herkimer County, New York. The carbon can be seen jittering around, bombarded this way and that by the ever-moving liquid molecules.

via Grindings, 11/98

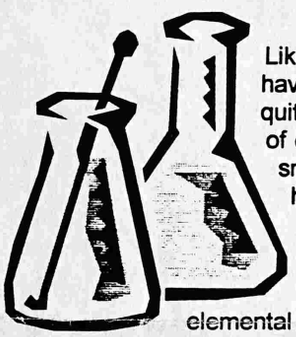
WHAT IS A PHANTOM CRYSTAL?

A phantom crystal is actually a crystal within a crystal- the makeup of one phantom must be the same as the one which encloses it. There may be more than one inside a single crystal. The usual explanation of phantoms is intermittent growth, growing for a while, then stopping. For a period, the crystal is exposed and a very small amount of foreign matter (dust, etc.) falls on the surface. The conditions then change and the crystal starts to grow again, with the possibility of this happening several times. The result is a crystal that appears to have one or more crystals enclosed within it. Sometimes phantoms are oriented the same as the enclosing crystal, at other times they're not. In clear crystals, such as quartz, the enclosed crystal appears shadowy and faint, and therefore we have the name "phantom." The difference between a phantom and an inclusion is that the inclusion must be a different mineral species.

via Grindings, 11/98

Safety First - Dangerous Rocks and Minerals

by Alex Wade



Like mushrooms, rocks sometimes have substances in them that can be quite dangerous. Even though your risk of exposure to dangerous levels will be small, you should be aware of a few hazardous substances.

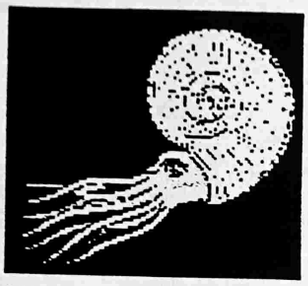
A number of minerals, especially the metallics, have highly toxic substances as part of their elemental makeup. Galena, of course, is our primary source of lead and is known to have serious side effects. Realgar, orpiment, and arsenopyrite are rich in arsenic, which is a deadly poison. Iron, aluminum, and antimony dust can make you sick if inhaled. Cinnabar is a basic ore of mercury, an ancient poison if you follow Shakespeare and Greek Theater. Uranium ores, such as uraninite and pitchblende, can be hazardous if you inhale its dust or if exposure is prolonged and close. You should wash your hands after handling any of these minerals.

Some rocks are dangerous only because of the way they chip and fracture. Any quartz-based rock such as chert or jasper can be dangerous in this regard. A nasty gash can occur if the material is mishandled. On a recent trip to collect obsidian, I was amazed at the number of cuts and bloodletting I endured before I got smart and slipped on my gloves. The cuts, if left unattended and exposed to bacteria, can become infected.

Asbestos, once a stalemate of any rock collection, has been identified as a dangerous substance. This is definitely not one of your scratch and sniff minerals. I keep my specimen in a drawer rather than in the open. You might be wise to keep your example in a small box with a transparent cover.

Lastly, be especially wary of the most dangerous mineral of all: chuckerite (A2Z). Chuckerite has been known to cause severe injury when unintentionally tossed in the direction of a fellow collector.

From EFMLS News, 12/98



Ammonite Jewelry

By Chester Miller, Delta, British Columbia,
Member of Tualatin Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Forest Grove, Oregon

Ammonite, with its beautiful flashes of red, green, orange and purple, rivals the finest Australian opal when fashioned into wearable jewelry. The process is more demanding than making an agate or chrysophrase cabochon but the results are definitely worth the effort.

Ammonite, being relatively soft in comparison to other gemstones, requires a protective surface. In some cases, because pieces are so thin, they must be backed with a more durable material, thus making a doublet or triplet, as the case may be. In this article I will describe the procedure I use to make ammonite jewelry.

Lapping

After choosing a piece of ammonite, the area to be on top is flat lapped on either a 180 or 200 grit diamond lap. If the piece you are working with has sufficient "mud" on the underside, it can be flat lapped and used as the base. If the piece is very thin, it will be necessary to lap both sides, as it is advisable to apply a thin slice of harder material for the base. I use black basalt, applied with 5-minute epoxy. No special care in gluing is needed here as long as it is securely fastened.

Though ammonite is colorful, it is soft and the top of stone needs to be protected. This is done by applying a slice of quartz to the upper side. Man-made quartz is ideal for this purpose and less expensive than optical quality natural quartz. The thickness of the quartz slice can be a personal choice, anywhere from 1/16" to 1/8", or more if preferred. More thickness gives greater magnification, which can be desirable, depending on the setting chosen for the finished piece. This must also be flat lapped on the side to be fastened to the ammonite. If preferred, pre-finished quartz cabs in calibrated sizes are also available from gem dealers.

Fastening the pieces

Choose an object to raise a working surface above the level of your desk or table, such as a brick. Cover this with waxed paper. Materials needed to fasten pieces together are Opticon and Epoxy 330. Clean both slices with acetone and place on the brick. Put the Opticon and Epoxy on or near the brick, place all this under a desk lamp for approximately an hour to warm both slices and materials.

The next step is to put a generous amount of Opticon on the ammonite slice, leave under lamp from 2 to 4 - hours. Use only Opticon A - do not mix with hardener.

Note: The hardener in Epoxy 330 also hardens the Opticon. It is for this reason no hardener is used when applying Opticon.

After this, using the straight edge of some object, (credit card or similar hard card works well) scrape off the excess Opticon.

The following directions should be followed closely:

Place two parts of Epoxy 330 on a flat surface (piece of glass or a tile). Do not stir! Using a round toothpick, carefully roll the toothpick back and forth through both parts of the epoxy to thoroughly mix the two parts together, making sure not to lift the toothpick off the surface, as this could create bubbles. Now, holding the ammonite slice by the edges only, apply mixed epoxy. If any bubbles are detected these can be punctured with the end of a toothpick, or carefully lead them out to the edge of the slice. Again, holding both pieces by the edge, starting at one corner, gradually lower the quartz piece onto the ammonite and lightly press the pieces together without sliding or moving pieces.

At this stage some of the excess epoxy can be placed on the quartz top. This allows you to see if any bubbles were trapped. (This can be removed in a later finishing stage).

If no bubbles are found, allow the ammonite piece to dry for 24 hours- However, if bubbles were obvious, you must start over, using acetone to clean all pieces.

Final steps

After the drying period, your ammonite piece can be worked as for any cabochon: shaping, sanding and polishing the top part prior to setting in a finding of choice, or fabricated finding, if making an irregular shaped stone.

From: The Canadian Rockhound, http://pangea.usask.ca/-dfs846/rockhound/summer97/smr97_ammonite.html via **AFMS Newsletter, 11/98**