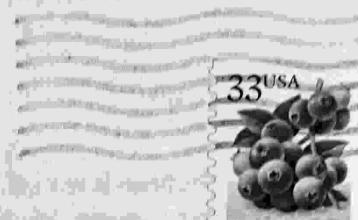


CML&MS  
4519 Seneca  
Okemos MI 48864  
**TIME VALUE**  
**FIRST CLASS**



1/12/2000

Neil & Connie Snepp  
1325 Orlando Dr  
Haslett MI 48840

48840X3733 07



# ROCKHOUND NEWS

January 2000

**You Are Invited**

**What: Open House**

**Where: Larry Bourland's classroom  
Charlotte Middle School**

**When: Saturday, January 15 1:00-6:00 pm.**

**Why: To see the "toys" Larry uses to teach earth science  
Map Inside**

Official publication of the  
**Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society**  
Member of MWF & AFMS

### 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 2000

President	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Vice President	Ed Drown	347-5097 EdDrown@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans	351-6136
Corresponding Secretary	Connie Snapp	339-2863
Roster Secretary	Wayne Zittel	485-2002
Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
1 Year Director	Alice Turner	694-9596
2 Year Director	Gail Hopkins	886-6047
3 Year Director	Beth Stinnett	521-3375
Liaison Officer	Bettie Patterson	482-3437
Past President	Larry Bourland	bourlal@scnc.cps.k12.mi.us

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program	Ed Drown	347-5097
Membership	Lila Stevens	693-2733
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	Larry Bourland	bourlal@scnc.cps.k12.mi.us
Field Trips	George Heaton	339-8914
Library	Lee Laylin	349-3249 laylin.leora@acd.net
Display	Grit (Irwin) Turner	694-9596
Publications	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616-948-9589 jawp2@voyager.net
Show	Larry Bourland	bourlal@scnc.cps.k12.mi.us
	Ed Drown	347-5097 EdDrown@aol.com

### PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:

4519 Seneca  
Okemos MI 48864

### MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

<http://www.comean.com/rock/mwlf>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<http://www.AmFed.org>

**If your last name begins with R-Z,  
please bring refreshments to the meeting!**

**PROGRAM - Ed Drown**

This month's program will be a video about the copper mining industry of the Keweenaw Peninsula, aptly titled "Mining Native Copper". The narrator is William "Cousin Jack" Foster who provides an introduction about growing up in Centennial when the mines were operating. The video then presents a film from the late 40's or early 50's produced by the Michigan Department of Conservation. There is an overflight of an operating mine, the action then goes underground to show drilling, blasting, mucking and tramming. The film follows the ore to the surface for sorting, transport, crushing, flotation, smelting, refining and casting. The epilogue was filmed in a Calumet cemetery where Cousin Jack details how Pete Sauers became the Warren Buffet of the UP through good business sense.

**MINERAL OF THE MONTH : ACTINOLITE - Larry Bourland**

You can tell a lot about a mineral by how it forms. Actinolite is a metamorphic mineral, it forms under great heat and pressure. This mineral starts out as dolomite that has some quartz and iron in it. The dolomite is buried very deep underground, this causes lots of heat and pressure, and changes it into actinolite. The iron gives Actinolite its shades of green. Heating gives it a creamy or stretched look. The pressure sometimes causes Actinolite to have a fibrous nature (a type of asbestos). A creamy translucent form is Nephrite, a type of jade.

I hope that this whets your appetite to understand how minerals form. For more information on this mineral come to the meeting.

**DON'T MISS THE JANUARY POTLUCK-- George Heaton**

For January we will be having a potluck at the Alameda Township Hall on Sunday, January 23rd at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plates, cups and eating tools.

The plan is to enjoy a few games of "Rocko" for our entertainment. "Rocko" is our club's version of "Bingo." To add to the fun, please bring a wrapped prize or two. A hobby related item is great; however, family members have been appreciative of other items like plants.

Alameda Township Hall is located at 2021 West Holt Road., 1/2 mile east of Okemos Road. So mark your calendars for January 23rd, bring the whole family, and enjoy a Sunday afternoon of fun and good food.

**Okemos Schools' Science is Fun Day is Saturday, January 22.  
If you would be willing to demonstrate some aspect of our hobby,  
please call Bettie Patterson @ 347-8821.**

**"I have a wonderful memory. Unfortunately, it no longer offers same day service."  
Anonymous (via MGAGS Fall 99)**

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT- Connie Snepp**

A telephone call to Howard Randolph on December 17 revealed that he has completed his chemo and radiation and is doing well after cancer surgery. We are delighted for such a good outcome.

On December 20 I went to visit Bessie Rogers after her life-threatening surgery in Sparrow Hospital and, although still in isolation, she was doing better than I had expected. She reported that her doctor had said she was a "tough lady." Of course, we already knew that from her earlier field tripping and all of her hard work for the club. Now she is back in St. Johns, so I sent a glad-you-are-home card from the club.

Cards were sent to Frank Swaggart and Lindsey Bean. Lindsey weathered her surgery well and is back to normal.

**SELF-GUIDED FOSSIL FIELD TRIP - Ed Drown**

Now that Earth has tilted away from Sol and interrupted collecting for a bit, an indoor field trip to the Midland Center for the Arts to see the display "Trilobite Treasures: Anthropods of the Ancient Seas" may be worthwhile. The display is from the collection of Joseph Kchodl and will be at the Center until March 31. Admission is free, compliments of the Dow Chemical Company Foundation. The exhibit is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and for further information call: 517-631-5931 ext. 1217.

**FIELD COLLECTORS TAKE NOTE - Ed Drown**

New rules from the Department of Labor are now going to regulate surface mining operations such as limestone quarries and gravel pits with the same strictness as underground operations. The effect on rockhounding is unknown at this point but the rules do require safety training for those exposed even intermittently to the hazards of quarry operations. Some efforts are being made for a rockhound-friendly training session in the Toledo area to cover Ohio quarries (yes, training is on a state-by-state basis). See me at the meeting, call me at 347-5097 or send me e-mail at eddrown@aol.com and I'll try to keep you apprised of developments.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:**

Evelyn "Evi" Fredman

1141 W. Saginaw

East Lansing MI 48823

351-5613

Interests: Archaeology, Geology, Mineralogy,  
Sailing, Hiking

Gary Green

4103 Marland Dr.

Lansing MI 48910

ggre@webTV.net

882-3637

Interests: Fossils, Geology, Golf

Karen Kanine

5488 Croswell Rd

St Louis MI 48880

463-5783

Interests: Fossils, Geology

Jennifer Martin

2700 Eaton Rapids Rd. #300

Lansing MI 48911-6331

394-1121

CLUB CALENDAR

Jan. 15 Open House in Larry Bourland's classroom, Charlotte Middle School  
 Jan. 20 Regular Meeting, North School, 7:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 22 Science Day @ Okemos High School  
 Jan 23 Potluck at Alaiedon Twp. Hall, 1:00 p.m.  
 Feb. 3 Board Meeting, Meridian Twp. Service Center, 7:30 p.m.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY  
 TREASURER'S REPORT  
 DECEMBER 1, 1999 - DECEMBER 31, 1999

BALANCE ON HAND(12-01-99)  
 CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-2000) \$11664.95  
 COMERCA BANK SAVINGS 13322.94  
 COMERICA BANK CHECKING 1045.95  
 TOTAL \$26033.84

RECEIPTS:  
 DUES 90.00  
 BADGES 7.00  
 TOTAL 97.00

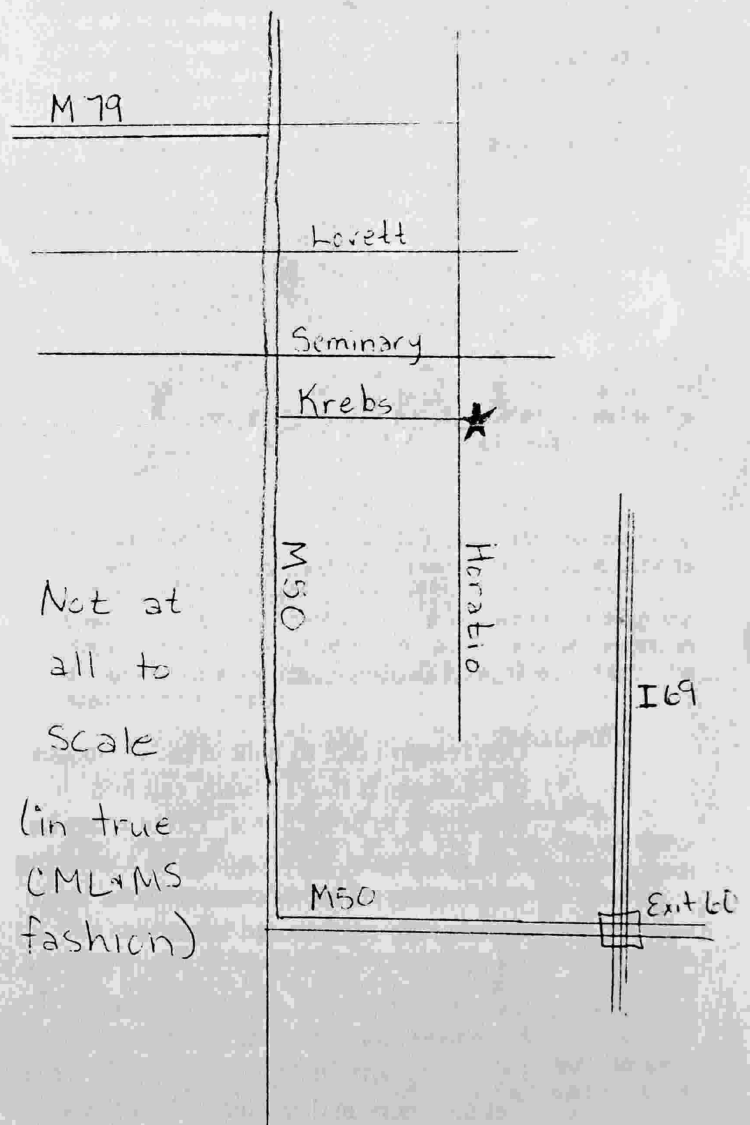
DISBURSEMENTS:  
 PUBLICATIONS 125.45  
 TOTAL 125.45

BALANCE ON HAND(12-31-99)  
 CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-2000) \$11664.95  
 COMERICA BANK SAVINGS 13322.94  
 COMERICA BANK CHECKING 1017.50  
 TOTAL \$26005.39

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

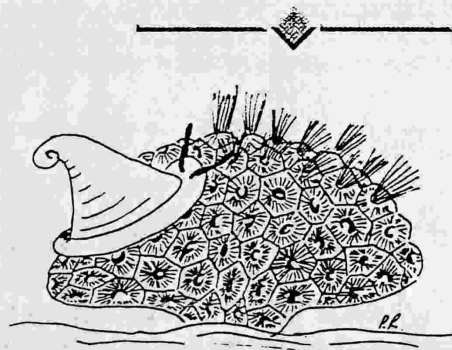
ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER

Map to Charlotte Middle  
 School, Open House



**SPRING SHOWS**

- March 11 & 12 Roamin Club auction. Sat. 11-6 Sun 12-6. Schoolcraft College, Waterman Campus Center Bldg., 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia
- March 17-19 Jackson Show. Fri. 11-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5. Michigan Center Masonic Lodge, 355 Napoleon Rd., Michigan Center
- April 1-2 "Blossom Land Show" Bridgman MI. 10-5 both days. Exit 16 off I-94, 3 1/2 miles North on Red Arrow Highway. Free admission.
- April 7-9 Mt. Clemens Show. Fri. & Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-6. Mt. Clemens Recreation Center, 300 N. Grosebeck, Mt. Clemens
- May 13-14 Cincinnati Show. New Location: Sabin Cincinnati Convention Center, 525 Elm St.
- June 2-4 "Dearborn" Show. Allen Park Civic Arena, 15800 White, Allen Park
- Aug. 18-20 Midwest Faceters Guild Seminar. For info call or write Harold Rice (810)463-5972, 122 Lois Lane, Mt. Clemens MI 48043



HEXAGONARIA CORAL HEAD IN LIVING POSITION WITH THE GASTROPOD PLATYCERAS. SOME POLYPS SHOWN IN THE FEEDING POSITION.

**Fossil Notes .....**

One reason I like to hunt in the Devonian of Michigan is that I usually can find something to bring home. Often it can be only specimens of Hexagonaria, something which many of call "Petoskey stone". So my interest was aroused when the September 2, 1999, Detroit Free Press ran an article about this gigantic specimen. I have seen large heads of these corals in the Lafarge Quarry in Alpena that easily were 2 feet and more in diameter. All of them were generally broken up in the lasting process of the working quarry. Did bring

home one that was a foot in diameter though it resided in my garden. The specimen in the article however was even much, much larger. It seems that Chuck Schnake was combing northern Michigan's woods for Petoskey stones last summer when he stumbled across an exposed plate-sized rock in the forest floor. He returned with a shovel and began digging, and digging, and digging.

Finally when the stone was unearthed, it weighted up to 1 ton and measured 40 inches long by 20 inches deep. That my friends, is one very, very, big Hexagonaria. The rock is at least for times bigger than the one at City Hall in Petoskey, The stones namesake.

Schnake's Titanic Petoskey stone, which he has dubbed Pete (why Pete I do not know), went on display at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, where it was found. Petoskey stones are remnants of Michigan's tropical days, about 362 million years ago. Much of the country then was a sea, and Michigan was home to coral reefs. The tiny Hexagons that dot Petoskey stone -- six-sided beehives with rays extending -- are these fossilized corals. And aren't they gorgeous polished.

Pat Rutkowski

The Rockpile 12/99



## Faceting Information on the Internet

By Dan Imel

Below is a list of Internet sites worth visiting. To be included in this article, they all include shareware software, designs or how-to information. Most of the sites listed are commercial sites where the owner is hoping you will also buy from them. In most cases, I know little about the web site owner or the quality of their material and neither recommend nor warn against buying from any of the sites listed.

First, a chance to download a sample of a very promising program still being developed:

<http://www.gemcad.net/index.html>

The **GemCad** web site provides multiple facet designs as well as most of the faceting software currently available. Especially noteworthy is the new Gemprint preview by Robert Strickland. This is a print-only preliminary version of the not yet released Windows version of GemCad. GemCad is probably the most popular program in use for creating and viewing gem designs on your computer. Until now, it has only been available for DOS. The new Windows preview looks very promising. You can use it to view and print existing designs but it won't allow you to change the refractive index or save modifications as well as several other limitations the full version will have when it is released.

It also provides a link so you may subscribe to **Facetor's Digest**. This is one of the better daily digests of information on faceting. I urge you to subscribe.

The **Facet Shoppe's** web site graciously provides all back issues of Facetor's Digest in a monthly Zipped format. To download these files, go to:

<http://www.gemcutter.com/digest.htm>

Another excellent site for facet information and designs are the facet pages on **Bob's Rock Shop**. As of last count there are 43 designs available for free downloading as well as a Zip file of these designs that downloads very quickly and can be viewed and printed by the Gemprint mentioned above. Also available on the same page are a few how-to articles. Bob's Rockshop also contains a great deal of non-facet related information. The address is:

[http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/gem\\_designs/index.html](http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/gem_designs/index.html)

If you're interested in building your own machine or adding a digital readout, try Jonathan Rolfe's web site. Jon, known as "**Gearloose**" on the internet, is the maker of BATT polishing cast tin alloy laps. They've been getting great reviews from the folks on the Facetor's Digest. He also has instructions for cutting a heart he calls "Le Coeur de la Mer II". Explore around his site at:

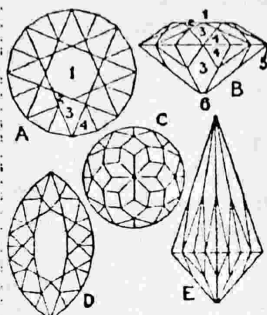
<http://www.gearloose.com/newgem.html>

Excellent instructions for determining what you are doing wrong while polishing can be found on Lance Kanaby's site. I've spoken with Lance (**Mine Design or GemData**) to encourage him to post a few facet designs there also. Other worthwhile faceting information is also posted on his site:

<http://www.gemdata.com/facet/facet1.html>

Some good general information on faceting and other lapidary areas are provided on **John Miller's Gemology and Lapidary Pages**. I haven't found anything in the way of designs or software but it's still worth the visit. His web site is:

<http://www.tradeshop.com/gems/howcut.html>



For more instructions on "How Too", try the **Rock Peddler's** site. Instructions on the use of many of the items they sell including tin and ceramic laps and how to dop stones are available:

<http://www.donriddle.com/Catalog/p244.htm>

A site with a true international flavor is the Swedish web site of **FACETTMÖNSTER**. Editor: Torbjörn Lorin:

<http://www.sarf.org/gems/design.html>

The **Josefina Cut** designed by the editor of the site is available for download. The site also provides several links for other mineral related interests. Unfortunately for us English-

speakers, only a portion is in English but you can do the same thing I do and guess a lot.

Another good site for information is **The United States Faceters' Guild** site. It lists available articles including *Sequencing Facets* by Fred Van Sant. They also have an application form to join USFG available on the site. Their newsletter can be quite good.

<http://members.tripod.com/~USFG/#membership>

**International Gem Society** offers several articles in subjects like Faceting, choosing rough or retrofitting your facet machine with a digital readout as well as how to use all those CD's AOL keeps sending you to polish gemstones. Their web site is:

<http://www.gemsociety.org/info/info.htm>

**Jeff Graham, Gram Faceting**, has a nice web site showing several of his designs. Most of these are also available at Bob's Rock Shop but a few are new. Also available for purchase are a series of facet designs Jeff has published. To view these designs, go to:

<http://www.faceters.com/designs/>

The **American Federation (AFMS)** has a relatively new web site with various information and around a half dozen designs available for downloading. Most of these designs, too, have been published elsewhere but it's a site worth checking out since I have a feeling that they'll have additional designs in the future. Take the time to sign up for their e-mail list. The site for the designs is:

[http://www.amfed.org/faceters/faqs\\_designs.shtml](http://www.amfed.org/faceters/faqs_designs.shtml)

I'll give one last site offering cutting diagrams:

<http://www.vipxlnet.com/lapilia/designa1.htm>

Most designs at **Lapilia** are by the site owner, Claude Marc-Aurele. You'll notice a few of his designs on other sites such as Bob's Rockshop but there are a few new ones here also.

The above list of web sites is anything but complete. With the rapid growth of the Internet, this would be next to impossible. It is, however, a list of many of the major sites. I hope you enjoy exploring all the possibilities. Make sure you check out other pages on the web sites and other links you will find. You'll run across some fantastic pictures of both lapidary materials and minerals. The most important part is **HAVE FUN!!!**

To use Zip files (used to condense files for faster download), you'll need WinZip or a similar product to extract the files so you may use them. If you don't already have it, a fully functional trial version of WinZip is available free. Their Web site is: <http://www.winzip.com>. The current version is 7.0.

**Double the life of your diamond blade** by keeping the oil clean and feed low. Adding  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of liquid detergent to the oil acts as a coagulant and holds the grit to the bottom of the reservoir.

Orange Coast Gazette 11/91, via Stoney Statements, 9/99.

**Mineral oil** is an excellent cleaner for selenite crystals, brightens them, too. It is also fine for preserving borax crystals so they don't hydrate, makes variscite a deeper green and improves the appearance of fluorite and calcite.

Via West Seattle Petroglyphs 9/97, via Stoney Statements, 9/99.

**Burlap Your Slab Saw:** The next time you clean your slab saw, line the bottom with a double layer of burlap. When it's time to clean again, pick up the liner by the corners and let it drain overnight on the carriage. Most of the sludge will be trapped inside the burlap and can be disposed of easily. The oil left is much cleaner, and you may be able to use it again.

from the Green Valley Rocker, via The Backbender's Gazette, 7/99

**If you have a thick slab** you would like to slice in two and keep the cut parallel to the existing one, first clamp a junk rock in the vise and cut it. Without unclamping that rock, clean the face of the cut and glue the slab to it. This may be a little slow and require clamping while the glue dries, but the resulting cut will be exactly parallel to the slab face. In saws that use oil, use water-soluble glue, and saws that use water, use glue that can be dissolved by acetone.

From Snoopy Gems, via Rock Writings, 8/99.

**To cut unlined obsidian**, first immerse in water. Hold it against the sunlight while turning it. You will see a point where the coloration is brightest. Cut parallel to that point.

From Burro Express, 4/99 via Rock Writings, 8/99.

**Have trouble getting your specimens clean** to see what you really have? After trying your normal solutions, try a regular automatic dishwasher compound such as Cascade. Soak for a day or so in a concentrated solution. Rinse with clear water.

From Gems of the Rogue 2/88 via Rock Rollers 8/99.

**Vinegar** has the same reaction on epoxy as acetone, only it does not attack opal, as acetone will. Some epoxy mixtures may take longer, depending on what brand of epoxy or ratio used in make epoxy.

Via Rocky Trails 4/99, via Rock Rollers 8/99.

**Use floral tape adhesive** to mount mineral specimens, cabochons, and other opaque material for display. The adhesive is similar to the material sold by mineral suppliers for the same purpose and it is much cheaper. It supports the objects firmly and can be easily removed.

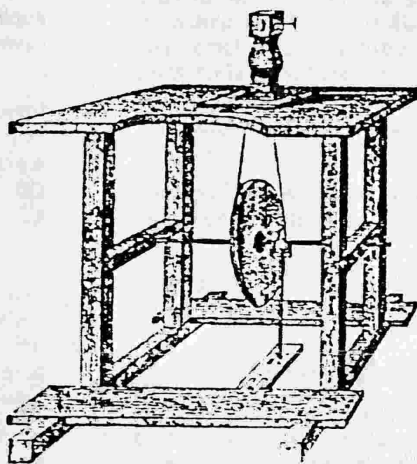
Original source? The Nugget 6/99, via Rock Rollers 8/99.

**Jade Polishing:** A little graphite mixed with chrome oxide and applied to ordinary muslin buffs makes a wonderful jade polishing agent, and is fine on hard-to-polish agate.

via The Tulip City Conglomerate 6/90 via The Backbender's Gazette, 7/99.

**Scratches While Polishing?:** Stones may develop thread-like scratches while being polished. They are due to grit on the polishing cloth and can be removed by holding a piece of balsa wood or plywood or crepe rubber against the wheel while it is in motion. The grit penetrates the wood or rubber and leaves the polishing cloth clean.

via The Tulip City Conglomerate 6/90 via The Backbender's Gazette, 7/99.



**Quality Polish:** The final polish on silver depends on the number of buffing wheel threads, not on the amount of rouge used. A cheap buff will not give the same results as a quality one.

from Chert Chatter, via Crystal Gazer 5/90, via The Backbender's Gazette, 7/99.

**To get a better Polish** on material that will undercut such as sagenite, moss and plume agate, porous wood, etc., try this:

First, elevate the slice on a small object such as a jar ring. Completely cover the slice with water in a flat pan with some detergent and a shake of Comet cleanser. Boil about 10 minutes, keeping the slice covered at all times.

Remove pan from heat; leave slice in pan until water reaches room temperature.

Go through the fine sanding, clean well, and spray with a coat of clear plastic.

Let dry, fine sand again lightly with polish. This fills in the porous spots, enabling you to polish the surface. You will end up with a beautifully polished piece. This thin coat over the iron in picture wood almost eliminates the shiny iron streaks.

Breccia 9/98 - via Rock Rollers 8/99.

**What's a Hobby?** A hobby is getting exhausted on your own time. A hobby is something to go goofy over to keep you from going nuts over things in general. A hobby is anything you don't have to do for a living. The best thing about a hobby is it gives you something to do while you worry.

Petrified Digest 7/95 via SIES Club News 8/99.