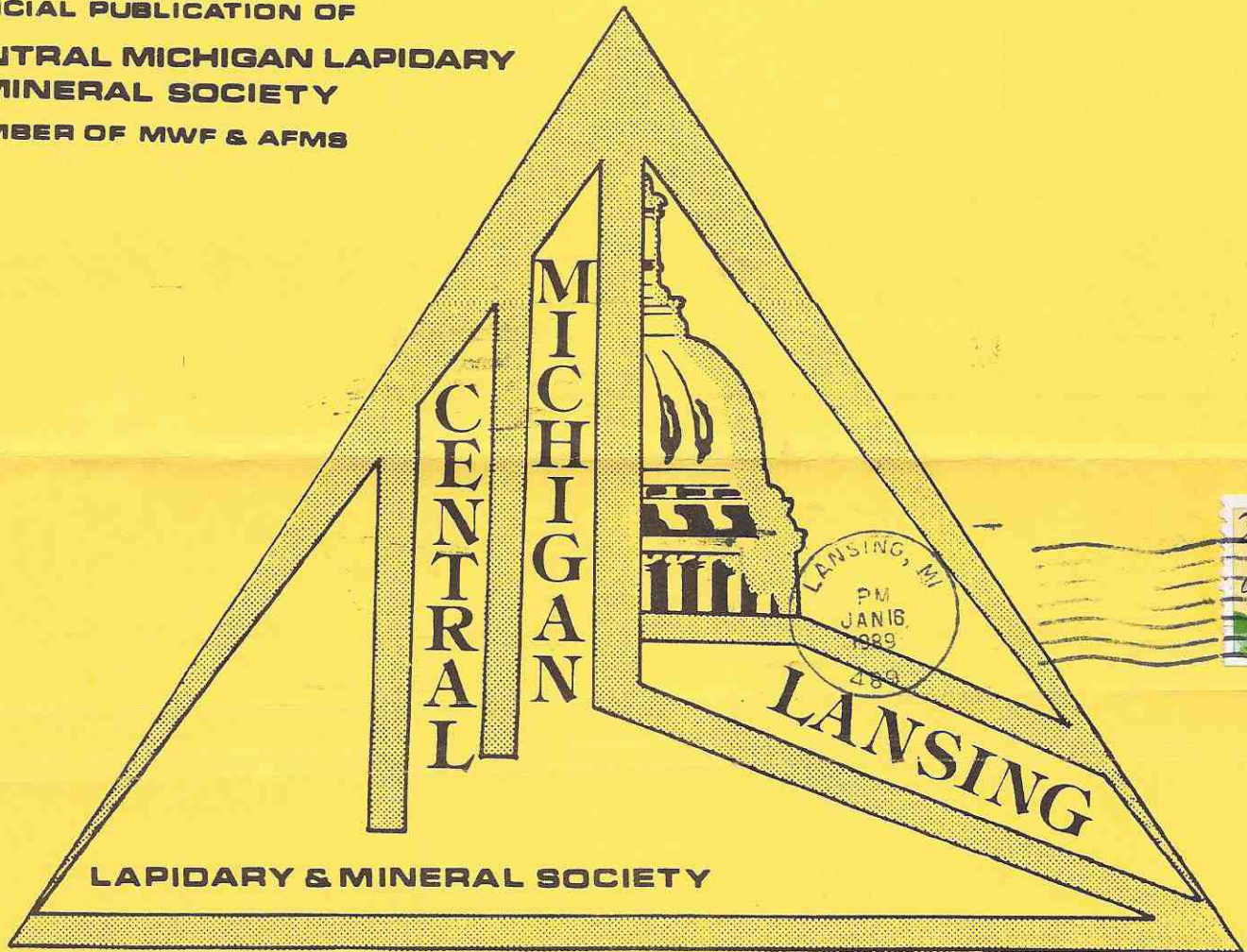


# ROCKHOUND NEWS

JAN 1989

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



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! And may it be a year of goodness and joy!

My theme for this year is SHARING. A definition of "share" is: the portion contributed by an individual among a number, all of whom receive or contribute. I'd like to see us all share, either giving our time and talents or receiving the knowledge that we seek. Many of us have a special talent, a certain expertise or know-how, the experience of many years, or the love and knowledge of a special facet of our hobby. Others of us want to learn, to gain experience, to become skilled, or to satisfy our urge to broaden our knowledge of the earth and world around us. So, we need each other!

We have a wonderful hobby for people of all ages but unless we can share it with others, it falters and dies. We not only need to share within our own society, but also with other organizations and the general public. So, let's not hide our light under a basket of shyness, indifference, indecision, inferiority or "let George do it". Come join with me in a year of learning, sharing and joy of fellowship!

Bettie Patterson, President

## PROGRAMS — Neil Snapp

Pat Conway, recipient of our club's 1988 MSU Scholarship, will give the program at the January meeting. Pat will fill us in on his geological research.

For the February meeting, you can look forward to a presentation by Dr. Bill Cambray, Chairman of the Geology Department at MSU. Dr. Cambray will discuss recent research regarding the Midcontinent Rift which underlies the Great Lakes area.

March is silent auction time; so start rounding up any specimens or rock related items that you would like to auction off!

## TREASURER'S REPORT -- Richard Miller

## FINAL 1988 SHOW REPORT

## Receipts

Dealers	\$1400.00	
Tickets	1610.00	
Silent Auction	542.90	
Raffle Tickets	682.00	
Children's Table	2321.62	\$6,556.52

## Expenditures

Electrical	100.61	
Children's Table	278.45	
Raffle	182.60	
Flyers	284.34	
School Tour	68.69	
Publicity	1029.19	
Working Demonstrations	57.20	
Insurance	250.00	
Display	201.49	
Decorations	49.19	
Hospitality	223.19	
Programs	74.52	
Tables and Chairs - Rental	700.12	
Security	180.00	
Miscellaneous	55.73	
Silent Auction	55.25	\$3,790.57

## Gain

\$2,765.95

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT -- Don Lohrer

The Society extends condolences to the family of Mr. Alfred Fox. Al was a life member, who was currently residing in Venice, Florida. Al passed away early in December and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

As we face a new year with its challenges and goals, let's all join together to promote and expand our hobby and our Society. Together we can do much to bring this about.

## DUES ARE DUE:

I have to have them by the end of the February meeting if you want to be included in the club directory!

You can see me at the meeting or send them to:

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

Make checks out to CML&MS.

Thanks,  
Bessie

## EDUCATION — Florence Hill

The mineral talk for January will be on Lake Superior agates of Grand Island and will be given by Steve Sawdy. This was originally set for December, but Steve had to cancel because of illness. So all you people who missed our happy, friendly meeting will have a second chance on hearing what Steve has learned about the formation of those special agates.—And let's have a display of agates. You all have some tucked away, maybe lots of them!

## DO YOU HAVE A SKILL TO SHARE? WANT TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW?

In keeping with President Bettie's theme of sharing, you can expect to receive a questionnaire at the January club meeting. You will be asked to check off aspects of the rock hobby which you are willing to help someone learn, and/or, those which you would like to learn more about. The Education Committee will then make an effort to match up eager learners and eager teachers on a one to one basis.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE — Florence Hill

These reports of member activities are all to be credited to the year 1988.

On November 11, Bettie Patterson gave a talk on the phases of the rock hobby to the Voyagers Club of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lansing. She illustrated her talk with a display of hobby materials.

Down in New Boston, Texas, Sharon Davis continues her activities with rocks and minerals. She presented a display of Indian arrowheads and other artifacts, and gave a report on the Cado Indians of North East Texas to her son Allen's third grade class. In early December, she took a large display of rocks and minerals to the classroom. She also gave each child a small rock collection mounted on poster board.

Margaret Randolph's schedule this fall included several talks at the Delta Center School in Grand Ledge, and to the senior citizens of Portland. Her talks were on rocks and minerals, and also on Indian artifacts.

## THE LIBRARY TABLE

I appreciate our club library and those who work to keep it up and set it out each meeting night. There are many books in our home, but the club library extends my selections even more. I could go to the public library, but

the borrowing time is limited and I must make a special trip.

One convenient volume I have especially enjoyed from the club library is Fossils For Amateurs by Russell P. MacFall and Jay C. Wellin (Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, c1972). The book is simply written but covers the subject of fossils thoroughly and in depth. From the enthusiastic opening chapter, which promises that the results of fossil hunting are more important, more worthwhile and more enduring than those of any other sport (p. 11), to the last chapter outlining the procession of life from the most primitive plants and animals to the invertebrates that prepared the way for mammals, the book captures reader attention.

Other subjects covered include essential background and practical techniques for amateur collection, including what a fossil is and a study of geologic time and processes with state by state maps that show where there are rocks likely to contain fossils. The book also explains how to prepare for a collecting trip, interpret maps, free fossils from the matrix, and protect them on the trip home. There are instructions on how to clean, prepare, preserve, exhibit and photograph fossils.

This comprehensive volume is a "must" for those interested in fossils. For those who aren't, I dare you to read it without becoming a convert.

Connie J. Snapp  
Club Member

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT -- Jean Ann & Dave Piotrowski

Wintertime is well known as the cold & flu season, but we rockhound types know that it is also the season for diseases such as rock pox. The following WARNING is therefore issued:

#### ROCK POX

##### VERY CONTAGIOUS TO BOTH SEXES

SYMPTOMS -- Continual complaint as to need for fresh air, sunshine and relaxation. Patient has blank expression, sometimes inattentive to the family. No taste for work of any kind. Checks frequently lapidary and mineral shops and their catalog longer than usual. Makes secret phone calls to rock pals. Mumbles to self. Lies to rival collectors. There is only one known cure.

TREATMENT -- Medication is useless. Disease is never fatal. Victim should go agate hunting immediately and often at beach, mountain and desert areas.

(from a little blue card picked up at the '87 Detroit Show)

Well, if its too cold to go rocking in Michigan, and you can't afford a trip to a warmer climate, the next best thing is reading about the adventures of others! We thought

you might enjoy these words of wisdom regarding equipment and supplies needed for serious exploring:

"All explorers, with scarcely an exception, when they set out for the first time, encumber themselves with about as much that is useless as that is useful. I will therefore state what is necessary only, as the necessities are usually found quite burdensome enough...

You will require a tent, two blankets for each, a camp kettle, frying pan, tin cups and plates—if you are nice, coffee-pot, ground coffee, and sugar; but the plates, coffee-pot, etc., may be dispensed with, and often are, the kettle or frying-pan being the dish from which each helps himself,—the knife is in your belt...

Your clothing should be a pair of thick-soled boots of cowhide; no stockings are required, but most persons wear them, and consequently have the nightly recurring duty of drying them almost dry, and thus putting them on damp in the morning, producing a contest between the boots and feet of entrance and resistance, rather disagreeable. A pair of pants of cotton canvass, and a coat of the same to reach below the knee, with side and breast pockets. Cotton canvass is found to be as good as anything to turn water, and the best to turn the brush, which is a work of labour and perseverance often to be endured for hours in exploring. A red flannel shirt will not require so often washing as a cotton one, and 'it is always warm and dry, though never so wet and cold;' besides, washer-women are rather scarce, and when you have performed the office yourself a few times, you will become less fastidious in relation to such matters. A red woollen comforter. No suspenders; they will confine you in crawling under logs and limbs, and through difficult passages in the cedar thickets. A belt, carrying a hatchet and knife, buckled round the waist, will sustain your pants, and allow free exercise of your body and limbs. A wool hat, with wide brim and low, round crown, is the best to turn rain and brush. A pocket compass, and perhaps a pipe, completes your equipment, saving a few fish hooks and line. These are the really necessities, though most travellers are not content with them."

from A True Description of the Lake Superior Country... by John R. St. John, 1846. Reprinted 1976 by Black Letter Press, Grand Rapids, MI.  
(Now that's the way to travel!)

## CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR:

January 19 Club meeting - North School  
February 2 Board meeting - Capital Federal Bank  
February 5 Club Potluck  
February 18 Science Teacher's Convention - LCC --  
club display & demonstrations  
March ? Fenner Arboretum Maple Sugar Festival --  
club display and demonstrations  
October 27-29 Club Show - Demonstration Hall, MSU

## SHOWS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

March 19 Metro Rock Swap, Allen Park Civic Hall,  
15871 Philomene, Allen Park, MI. Midwest  
Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of  
Dearborn  
March 29 - April 1 Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club, 14th  
Annual Gem & Mineral Show. Eastbrook Mall,  
Grand Rapids, MI.  
April 7-9 Flint Rock and Gem Club Show, Williams  
Community Education Center, 3501 Minnesota  
Ave., Flint, MI.  
May 19-21 Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society  
of Dearborn Show, Dearborn Civic Center,  
Michigan & Greenfield.