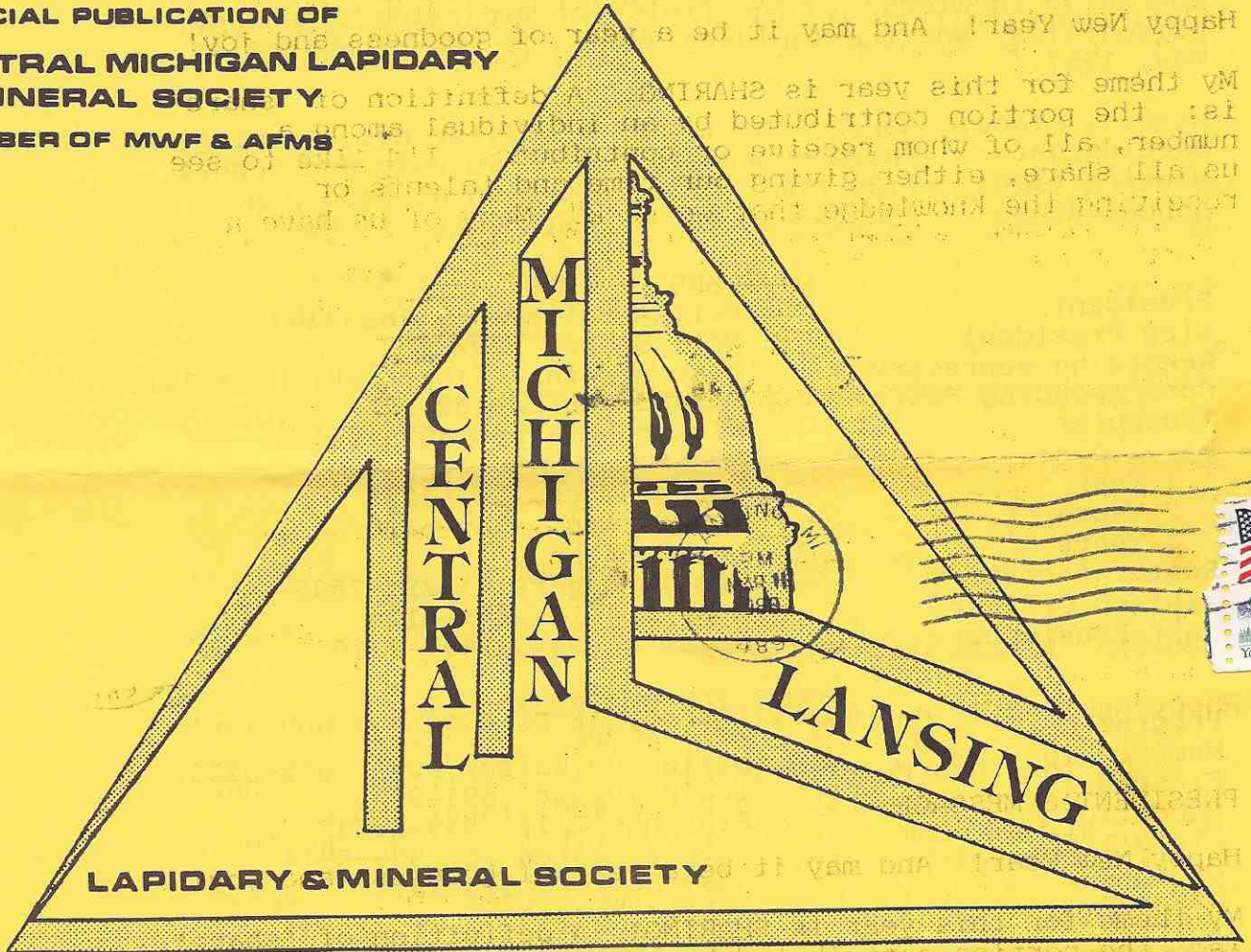


ROCKHOUND NEWS

MAR

1989

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



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FIRST CLASS

TIME VALUE

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, peletonology 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 p.m. Doors are open at 7:00 p.m.
Annual dues: Adults \$3.00 Students \$1.00

OFFICERS -- 1989

President	Bettie Patterson 482-3437
Vice President	Neil Snapp 339-2863
Recording Secretary	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski 353-7912
Corresponding Secretary	Donald Lohrer 482-2914
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Finance	Irwin Turner 694-9596
Education	Florence Hill 349-3554
Field Trips	George Heaton Jr 339-8914
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MEMBER OF:

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was pleased with the response of our members turning out with demonstrations at the Earth Science Teacher's Convention. I was also pleasantly surprised at the amount of interest shown by the people who viewed our exhibits. We were able to refer several to clubs in their areas and also generated some interest in our own club, as well as the upcoming show. My sincere appreciation to all who participated.

Don't forget the Silent Auction for our March meeting. Bring your items to sell and your dollars to buy!

Bettie Patterson

A SAD NOTE: We have just learned of Al Purtil's passing on today, March 8. Funeral services will be held at the Palmer-Bush funeral home on Saturday March 11, at 11:00am.

MARCH PROGRAM — SILENT AUCTION

A reminder to all members, patrons and friends: the annual silent auction will be the program for the March 16 meeting. This is always a fun meeting. Bring your surplus items to sell and your money to buy. Bring friends and guests. Any questions?? Call Gordon Lewis!

JUNIORS — How would you like to help with the auction at the March meeting? Come to the auction table and see what you can do.

APRIL MEETING

The April club meeting will be a special "Demonstration Night" at Haslett Middle School. Demonstrations will be open to the public, while we will also have our regular business meeting in another room. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO DEMONSTRATE. If you are willing to help, call Florence Hill or Neil Snapp. This is a good chance to promote the club and our hobby.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

If you have a red star on your mailing label this will be your last news letter. Your dues are past due. Sorry.

Roster Secretary,
Bessie Rogers

FEBRUARY DOOR PRIZES were all donated by Read Myers. Charley Moran won a fluorite specimen; Richard Foster a piece of pink dolomite; and, Cheryl Powers a dolomite specimen.

FEBRUARY MINI SILENT AUCTION

Thanks to the auction at the last meeting, we took in \$25.20 for the Midwest Endowment Fund.

Thanks a lot,
Bill Rogers

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT

The Society extends their best wishes to Jack Schineman who is quite ill at this time. We pray that he will respond to treatment and be up and around again real soon. It is also my sad duty to report the death of Wesley Manley, early in February. Wes was a life member and a past president of our society. He will be well remembered and greatly missed by all of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Lohrer

FEBRUARY POT-LUCK REPORT — George Heaton

Our pot-luck at the Alaiadon Township Hall on Sunday, February 5 was very well attended with 41 members and their guests showing up to eat food, see a slide show of minerals and field trips, and play games with the chance of winning prizes.

We are sorry it was not properly listed in the January newsletter. A pot-luck was listed for Feb. 5 under the club activities calendar but no location or meeting time were given since these details were not worked out prior to publication time. An effort was made to contact as many people as possible by telephone, and it was also announced with all details given at the January club meeting. I wish to thank Marie Lewis for doing such a good job organizing the pot-luck and reserving the township hall for our use.

Those people who attended the pot-luck were treated to lots of good food, an opportunity to view the beautiful slide photos of rocks and minerals and field trip activities by George Heaton, and a chance to play games and win prizes. The prizes were mostly rocks, minerals, and jewels donated by George Heaton, Bill and Bessie Rogers, Bettie Patterson, Sally Barber and possibly others that I may have forgotten and I am sorry about that.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP TO GRAND RAPIDS — George Heaton

About 12 people showed up for our field trip to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. gypsum mine on Saturday February 25.

Most of us who tried chipping away at the mine ceiling for selenite crystals were able to obtain at least a few of these hard to collect crystals. George Heaton found the best selenite crystal and Dave Piotrowski found the second best cluster of crystals. All who participated on this trip had a good time and went home with various kinds of gypsum specimens. This was certainly better than staying home and watching TV or whatever else people might do on their Saturdays.

MARCH FIELD TRIP: DUFF QUARRY, Sat. March 18

I have scheduled a field trip to the Duff Quarry at Huntsville, Ohio for Saturday, March 18. We will meet at the quarry office at 10:00 am on Saturday morning and have permission to stay until 3:00 pm. All field trippers **MUST** wear a hard hat, hard toed boots, and safety glasses or goggles. Tools needed are chisels in both large and small sizes, crack hammers of 2-3 lb. size, pry bar; and, a sledge hammer of 8-10 lb. size is often useful for breaking large rocks. Also, don't forget wrapping paper and boxes for packing specimens. Minerals to be found include bright, lustrous pyrite crystals of unusual crystal habits, dolomite, sphalerite, calcite and fluorite.

The November-December 1987 issue of the Mineralogical Record has an article about the Duff Quarry and its minerals with photos and line drawings of the various crystal habits of pyrite found there. If you do not subscribe to this journal you might check our club library.

To get to Duff Quarry, take I-75 South in Ohio to Rt. 235. Go South on Rt. 235 through Ada, Alger and Roundhead. Then South on Rt. 117 to Duff Quarry on your left, just before coming into Huntsville. Allow 4 hours driving time from Lansing to Huntsville, Ohio.

Last November, I ran into some problems on Rt. 117 going to Duff Quarry. I found the road blocked for bridge repair at Roundhead with no clear directions given to detour around it. After working around this obstacle with much effort and extra driving time, I finally found my way back on Rt. 117 only to discover the road blocked again just 1 mile north of the quarry and had to drive all the way around Indian Lake to go to Huntsville and drive back North to the quarry. I hope these road blocks no longer exist.

MEMORIAL

Wesley Manley of Haslett died February 12, 1989 after a long battle against cancer. Wes was President of CML&MS in 1977 and Show Chairman of "The Creative Touch" in 1976. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Evelyn, and to his children and grandchildren.

CHILDREN'S TABLE

Many thanks go to Charlotte Munro, who has given us a generous lot of tumbled stones! Those are hard to obtain, so they are very much appreciated.

Keep bringing in your donations to George Heaton. We are going to need a lot of new material this year.

EDUCATION -- Florence Hill

Last November, Wilma Hopkins presented a program on rocks and minerals to the Pioneer class of fourth grade boys at the Colonial Village Baptist Church. She took specimens for the boys to examine, and told them about the characteristics and uses of the rocks.

On February 18, CML&MS members presented a display-demonstration at the Michigan Science Teachers' Convention at LCC. Members taking part were:

George Heaton -- Field tripping and geodes

Bettie Patterson -- Minerals

Richard Miller -- Faceting

Don Lohrer -- Gem trees

Jim Moses -- Fossils

Gordon Lewis & David Slayton -- Geological Survey materials

Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski -- School displays

Dave Gibbs & Mary Gowans -- Polishing petoskey stones

Florence Hill -- Club information

A big thank you to all who contributed.

February 25, Florence Hill presented a program on starting a 4-H group in the rocks and minerals project at the 4-H workshop in Mason.

THERE WILL BE A GOOD TIME AT THE MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL at Fenner Arboretum on March 11 & 12, from 12:00 to 4:30. Some of our people will be demonstrating their skills. Come on out!

WE HAVE SUCH INTERESTING MEMBERS -- Which one do you think is taking flying lessons this year???

MICHIGAN MINERALOGICAL NEWS: "BITS & PIECES" by Arnold Mulzer, from THE JASPILITE, 12/88

A few weeks ago a report coming from the Michigan Technological University stated that they are evaluating the potential use of an estimated three billion tons of graphite in Baraga and Marquette counties. A few graphite mines were started at the turn of the century when the mineral was used as a pigment in paint for battleship hulls and, of course in pencils. U.S. businesses buy most of their graphite from Sri Lanka and Mexico. If the venture pans out, no doubt we rockhounds may be able to scrounge around in their rock piles for specimens.

Also, in the Crystal Falls area, geologists are still in search of diamonds. Two companies are core drilling for Kimberlite pipes. Seven pipes have been found so far and geologists believe there are more to be found. Explorers still think the western Upper Peninsula was the source of the gems found in farm fields to the south. Can you visualize a diamond boom like that of the copper and iron in the 1840's?

In the past I have always tried to impress on rockhounds and visitors the grandeur and beauty of Jasper Knob, the world's largest gem stone. Now I think anyone coming to Marquette shouldn't miss going through the man-made mine in Wattson & Wattsons Jewelers on Washington street. They have displays of many mineral specimens and pictures; you can also watch their employees work with U.P. gold. I know you will enjoy their tour.

ICE STORM ARRANGEMENTS -- Rosemary Hughes, PEGMATITE, 12-88

Dried Weeds, pods, cones, Queen Anne's Lace, etc.
1 lb. lump alum (do not use powdered)
1 galvanized metal pail
1 gallon water

Heat water in the pail and add alum. Stir until dissolved and water is clear. Remove from heat and cool. Immerse heads of the weeds in the solution & hold them in place with clothespins. Or place a stick across the top of the pail and tie weeds to that so the weeds stay in the solution. Crystals will form after one night. Remove carefully & dry weeds hanging upside down on a line inside. When dry they can be carefully made into arrangements. I placed mine inside a tall, clear jar, with white sand in the bottom to hold them in place, and they have lasted for many years. (The jar is covered.)

"5 MINUTE TALK" -- Dave Piotrowski

To allow more time for the silent auction at our March meeting, the five minute "talk" is presented here in written form:

The minerals for this month are ORPIMENT (As_2S_3) and REALGAR (AsS). Their physical characteristics are as follows:

	Orpiment (As_2S_3)	Realgar (AsS)
COLOR	Lemon-yellow to brown yellow	Deep red to yellow with exposure to light
LUSTER	Pearly on cleavage, elsewhere resinous	glassy or resinous to dull
CLEAVAGE	perfect 1-direction	good 1-direction
SPECIFIC GRAVITY	3.5	3.5
CRYSTAL GROUP	monoclinic	monoclinic

Both minerals are found in hydrothermal or in epithermal veins. Realgar and Orpiment form from the precipitation of elements dissolved in super heated water solutions ($50^\circ\text{--}500^\circ\text{C}$) any where from just below the earth's surface, to one kilometer down. These are the same conditions that form hydrothermal and hot spring deposits. Other minerals found in this environment include cinnibar, stibnite, and calcite.

A mineral similar to realgar is cinnibar (as you should recall from the february talk!). Both are red and soft but realgar is softer and lighter. Orpiment is commonly confused with sulfur because of their yellow color, however the cleavage and pearly luster of orpiment are the characteristics which you can use to tell the two apart.

Realgar's name comes from the Arabic word "rahj alghar" which means "powder of the mine". Orpiment comes from the Latin word "auripigmentum" which refers to its yellow gold color. These minerals are both mined as arsenic ore.

LIBRARY UPDATE -- Adam Foster

The following books are overdue at the library. If you have these books please return them as soon as possible. Thank you!

Title	Borrower
Michigan Today	Art Krave

Practical Gem Stone Craft	Art Krave
Jewelry Making for Beginners	Art Krave
Gem Cutting Shop	Art Krave
Gold & Silver Wirecraft	L. Rockwood
Exploring Minerals & Crystals	Kara Miller
Rocks & Minerals	Kara Miller
Minerals and Crystals	Scott Taylor
Mineral Digest	Scott Taylor
The Mining of Ontonagon Co.	Dave Piotrowski
Prehistoric Copper....	Dave Piotrowski
Gems & Jewelry	Dave Piotrowski
Color Encyclopedia of Gemstones	Katie Henderson
The Wilmington Coal Flora	Larry Tripp
The Ecology of Fossils	George Heaton
The Cliff, First Great Copper Mine	Martin Sotola
A Field Guide to Australian Opals	John ????????

SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS FOR AFMS

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Endowment Fund Committee has found an outlet for used stamps. The money received for the stamps goes to the AFMS Endowment Fund.

If you would like to help the Fund, just save your used stamps, commemorative or others, trimmed or untrimmed. Send the stamps to: Irene and Leroy Penton
874 S. Bermont Dr.
Lafayette, CO 80026

CLUB CALENDAR

March 11	Funeral for Al Purtil, 11:00am, Palmer-Bush funeral home
March 11 & 12	Fenner Arboretum Maple Sugar Festival, 12:30-4:00 pm
March 16	Club meeting & Annual Silent Auction
March 18	Field trip to Duff Quarry, Huntsville Ohio
April 6	Board meeting at home of Bettie Patterson
April 20	Club meeting & Demonstration Night held at Haslett Middle School

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.
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 -8; Sunday 10 - 5.
- April 14-16 Mount Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society Show
Mount Clemens Community Center, 300 North
Groesbeck, Mt. Clemens.
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 8; Sun. 11 -6.
- April 21 - 23 Michigan Gem & Mineral Society of Jackson
Jackson Sports Arena, 1300 W. North St.,
Jackson. Fri. 1-9, Sat. 10-9, Sun. 10-5.
- May 19-21 Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society
of Dearborn Show, Dearborn Civic Center,
Michigan & Greenfield.
Hours: Fri. 6-9, Sat. 10-8. Sun. 11-5:30
- June 9 - 11 Bedford Indiana Rock Swap.
4-H Fairgrounds, US Hwy. 50, Bedford.
Fri. 10-9, Sat. 8-9, Sun. 8-3