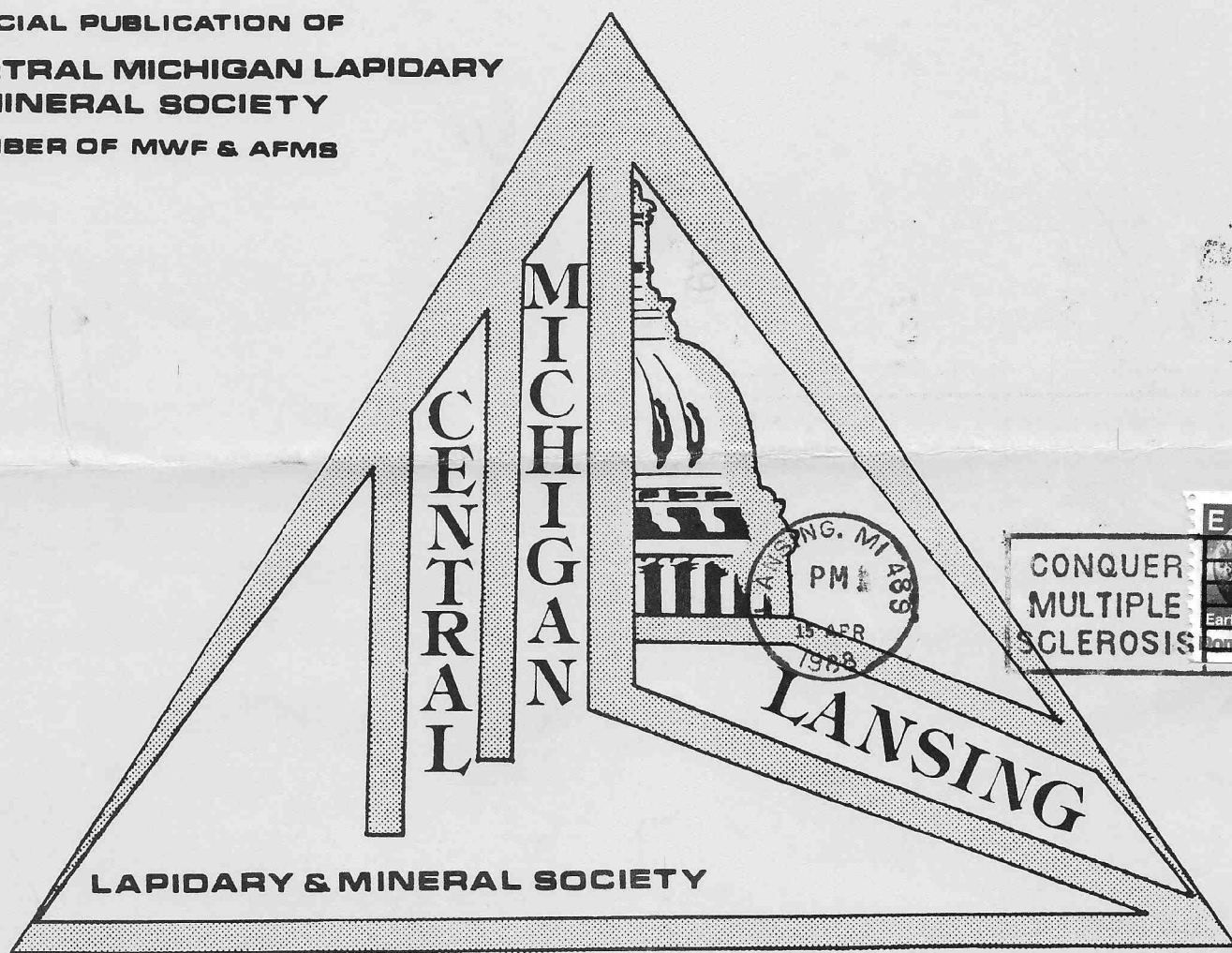


ROCKHOUND NEWS

APR

1988

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



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C.M.L. & M.S.
15705 Park Lake Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

FIRST CLASS

TIME VALUE

ROCKHOUND NEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
CENTRAL MICHIGAN LABORATORY
& MINERAL SOCIETY
MEMBER OF IMA & IMA



CONQUER
MULTIPLE
SCLEROSIS

RETURN TO:
C.M.L. & M.S.
15155 Ford Lake Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48821
FIRST CLASS
TIME VALUE

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Spring-like weather has finally come in Michigan, and I am sure that most of us have already been outside cleaning up the yard, checking the lawn mower, working on the car, or otherwise having a great time in the fresh, clean air. Maybe a few have even had time to pick up a rock or two.. Personally,, I have been attempting to find out how many hours a person can hold on to a chain saw an ax in one weekend.

Our banquet is coming soon, so please get ready for a good meal and some entertainment. The committee has been working, and so we are getting all the information ready for you.

I would like to thank Richard Miller for his donation of a ruby pendant and earrings, as well as Bettie Patterson of a citrine necklace (over 8-6 carats) for the show raffle. If you have any donations to make, please let me know. We have enough prizes to order the raffle tickets, but we need many more. They can be in the form of jewelry, crystal groupings, carved material, fossils, and anything else rock-related.

An appeal must be made here, also. Marie Lewis is not able to continue being our editor. If we still want a newsletter we must have someone to take over this responsibility. We have the necessary equipment. All we need is a person to type five or six pages a month and prepare the newsletter, which is our main method of communicating important information to the whole membership.

The May 5 board meeting will be at the Capitol Federal Bank branch office in Okemos, at 7:30 p.m. as usual.

Jim Moses

PROGRAM - Joe Manina

The speaker for the April 21st meeting is Mrs. Kay Christin of Chateau Gems of Lansing, Michigan.

She is a Graduate Gemologist and her program is titled, "Expanding on the 4 C's."

Board Meeting April 7.

Corresponding Secretary --Don Lohrer

The Society extends its deepest sympathy to Mr. Scott Taylor and to the George Heaton family as we too share their sorrow at the loss of a loved one. The club sends get well wishes to Ruth Hillis, who was injured in a household accident; to Florence Hill, who was plagued with bronchitis for a while; and to Nancy Collins and Anna Williams, both of whom underwent surgery. We wish them all a speedy and complete recovery.

Membership - Walter and Doris Aven

The Board approved the application for membership of Joyce Kahres, 1724 Kahres Rd., Holt, Mi 48842, phone 694-9355. Welcome to the club, Joyce!

Field Trips - George Heaton, Jr.

March Field Trip to Huntsville, Ohio

Thirteen of our members met at Duff Quarry, Huntsville, Ohio, for the March 19 field trip to look for the unusual pyrite crystals found there. There was little evidence of the snow that the weather forecasters had been predicting. If there had been any snow the strong sunshine must have melted most of it before we arrived. The weather was cool, but dry and very sunny, making good collecting conditions because you could work hard without getting hot and sweaty. Collecting was very good with two large blast piles in the right part of the quarry to produce an ample quantity of pyrite. All members of our party were able to find some pyrite specimens as well as some of the other minerals to be found at this quarry. Jim Moses found a specimen with tiny ruby sphalerite crystals. This was one of the best finds of the day, since sphalerite is probably the rarest mineral to be found at Duff Quarry. Probably the largest quantity, and some of the better specimens of pyrite were collected by Gordon and Marie Lewis. Other minerals collected included dolomite and fluorite.

Field Trip for April

The field trip for April will be to Hungry Hollow near Arkona, Ontario, on Saturday, April 30. This is the last day in April and not our regular field trip date because I will be at the Cincinnati Gem and Mineral Show the weekend of the 23rd and 24th. The Hungry Hollow field trip will be for the fossil collectors, and the fossils are plentiful. We will meet at the North end of the steel bridge over the Ausable River at Hungry Hollow at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

To get there from Lansing, take Rt. 69 east to Rt. 94 at Port Huron. Go north on 94 about 5 miles to the Blue Water Bridge, which crosses the St. Clair River to Sarnia, Ontario. The bridge is a toll bridge and costs 50¢ for passenger cars, small trucks, and vans. After crossing the bridge and going through Customs, the expressway Rt. 402 is right in front of you. Take 402 east from Sarnia to exit #44 for Rt. 9. Go north on Rt. 9 about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Rt. 7. Turn right (east) on Rt. 7 and go about 2 miles to where Rt. 7 turns north (left). Go north on Rt. 7 about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Arkona. In Arkona, turn right at the traffic light on Rt. 12 and go about 2 miles to the Hungry Hollow Road. It will be a gravel road immediately on your left going north. There is a small, green, arrow-shaped Hungry Hollow sign on your right just before the Hungry Hollow Road but it is easily missed. Turn left on the Hungry Hollow Road and go a little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to a steel bridge over the Ausable River. Cross the steel bridge and turn left onto a small gravel road just at the north end of the bridge. There is room here near the entrance to the gravel road for several cars to park along the side of the road, and this is where we will meet. The clay pits where we will collect are beyond a gate at the end of the road.

SHOW - William Rogers

The show committee is still looking for a dealer to replace the Semperts. Jim Moses has applied for the raffle permit, and will get the raffle tickets printed.

Treasurer's Report April 7, 1988 - Richard Saxman

Balance on Hand 2/29/1988 Checking Account	\$784.18	\$784.18
Receipts		
Badge	3.00	
Show Dealers 1988	260.00	
Miscellaneous - Auction	11.55	274.55
Disbursements		
Rent	15.00	
Publications	101.36	
Membership	7.38	
Miscellaneous	12.12	135.86
Balance on Hand March 31, 1988		922.87

Education - Florence Hill

The mineral of this month is staurolite. This is a hydrous iron magnesium aluminum silicate with a complex formula and an interesting crystal habit. Ernie Oliver has volunteered to give the talk on staurolite since he has quite a bit of firsthand information on that mineral.

Thank you, Adam Foster, for your report on pyrrhotite in March, and Richard Miller for your talk on chalcopyrite in January.

Community Service - Florence Hill

Grit Turner has been making good use of the Kreps cases of rocks, minerals, and fossils. In February he showed and explained them at the Father-Son dinner of the Robbins United Methodist Church, and at a 4-H club meeting at the Aurelius Town Hall. He took them to exhibit at Father and Son banquet at the Brookfield United Methodist Church in March. Good work, Grit!

If you talk or demonstrate for a group, or put an exhibit in a public place, please inform us so others may know of your work.

Banquet

The Board accepted the recommendation of the banquet committee that we hold our annual banquet at the First Christian Church, Lansing. The church is at the corner of Chester and Covington, one short block west of US 127 and one block north of Grand River Avenue. The dinner will be May 19, with a social hour at 5:30 pm and the meal served at 6:30 pm. Tickets will be available at the meeting April 21. Cost is \$5.00 for adults; \$3.00 for our student members and for the children of our adult members. See Marie Lewis.

In Memoriam

The sudden death of Thelma Taylor March 5 has taken from us a lovely enthusiastic lady. Her warm smile and friendly helpfulness will be sorely missed. We extend sincere sympathy to Scott and other members of her family.

From the March 17 meeting --

Attendance was 50 members and 5 visitors.

Joe Manina accepted the position of vice-president.

President Jim Moses stated that volunteers are still needed for newsletter editor, and reporter for the 1988 All-American Club contest.

The educational talk on pyrrhotite was given by Adam Foster.

A banquet committee, consisting of Mary Crosby, Florence Hill, Marie Lewis and Bettie Patterson, was appointed to select a site and menu. It was voted to go as high as \$7 in cost, and agreed to hold the dinner on our regular meeting night, the third Thursday, May 19.

Alan Hukill reported that Kitty Starbuck of Kalamazoo had discussed with him the possibility that a group of neighboring clubs might cooperate with the Kalamazoo club in hosting the 1989 MNF Convention-Show. The consensus was to offer our assistance. Alan will follow this up.

Read and Erma Myers have sold their house and are moving. They are giving material to the children's table (Thank you, Read and Erma!). They are also selling equipment. Vickie Jacobs offered to pick up the material.

John Takis brought in some interesting photos he took at our show last fall.

Door prizes were won by Alberta Manina, Joe Manina and Scott Powers.

The silent auction was lively and productive. Much good material changed hands.

Children's Table - George Heaton, Florence Hill

Now is the time to bring in things for the children's table. We need them as soon as possible so they can be prepared for the show.

Needed -- foam egg cartons, one dozen size
specimen size rocks, typical of their kind but not necessarily perfect
smaller rocks for starter kits

It helps if you label the container with name and location of rocks.

Collecting Hint -- To break a cavity with fragile crystals from a large matrix specimen while in the field, fill the cavity with fine dirt and hold the material with the cavity facing up to retain the dirt while you trim the specimen. The dirt prevents the shock of the hammer blows from loosening the crystals.

From the Pegmatite

The human brain is a wondrous organ that starts working the moment you are born, and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.

From Rock Roll rs

Places to Go

- April 15-17 Mt. Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society Show, Mt. Clemens Community Center, 300 N. Groesbeck, Mt. Clemens, Michigan.
- April 22-24 Michigan Gem & Mineral Society Show, Jackson Sports Arena, 1300 W. North St., Jackson, Michigan
- April 16-May 1 Grand Rapids Mineral Society Displays, Demonstrations, Talks, Blandford Nature Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- April 30-May 1 Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society Show, County Center Building, Fairgrounds, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- April 30-May 1 Blue Water Lapidary Society Show, American Legion Charles Hammond Post No. 8, 1026 6th St., Port Huron, Michigan
- May 20-22 Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of Dearborn Show, Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield, Dearborn, Michigan
- June 25-26 Michigan Geology & Gemcraft Society Seminar, Delta College, Bay City, Michigan
- June 10-12 Lawrence County Rock Club, Bedford, Indiana, Swap.
- July 14-17 MWF Convention-Show, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois
- Aug. 11-14 AFMS Convention-Show, Shreveport, Louisiana

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FULGURITES

Fulgurites are funny little things, but they're really not little. They are reputed to be as big as haystacks! The largest one reported was forty feet long. Unfortunately, they have a habit of collapsing, so what we find is likely not over an inch in diameter, and 3 to 5 inches long. Fulgurites are PETRIFIED LIGHTNING. When lightning strikes silica sand, usually open dunes with ridges for good drainage, it goes through the drier surface sand in search of moisture below.

Because of the extremely high temperature of lightning, up to 30,000 degrees Centigrade, it vitrifies the sand it passes through (silica melts at 1710 degrees), forming hollow tubes -- glassy on the inside, rough and showing the fused sand on the outside. The resulting mineral is an amorphous form of quartz, called lechatelierite, and rarely occurs except as fulgurite.

There are also rock fulgurites - when lightning strikes mountain tops, leaving a glassy surface on silica-rich rock. Mt. Theilson, in Oregon, and Toluca, in Mexico are sites for these, while the Michigan shores and the Atlantic coast are hunting grounds for the sand variety.

From The Crystal Gazer, via the Potoskey Stone and
Michigan Gem News

Club Calendar

- April 21 Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm, North School, Lansing.
- April 30 Field Trip to Hungry Hollow, Arkona, Ontario, Fossil collecting.
Meet there at 10:00 a.m.
- May 5 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Capitol Federal Bank, Okemos, Michigan.
- May 19 Annual Banquet, First Christian Church, corner of Chester and
Covington, Lansing, Michigan. Social Hour, 5:30 pm. Dinner served
at 6:30 pm. See Marie Lewis for tickets.

ON IDENTIFICATION

I've looked into Pough's
And I've memorized Mohs
I've even paid Dana a visit.

But when it's all said
I still scratch my head
And sit and wonder
What is it?

taken from the Conglomerate