

CML&MS
4519 Seneca
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TIME VALUE
FIRST CLASS

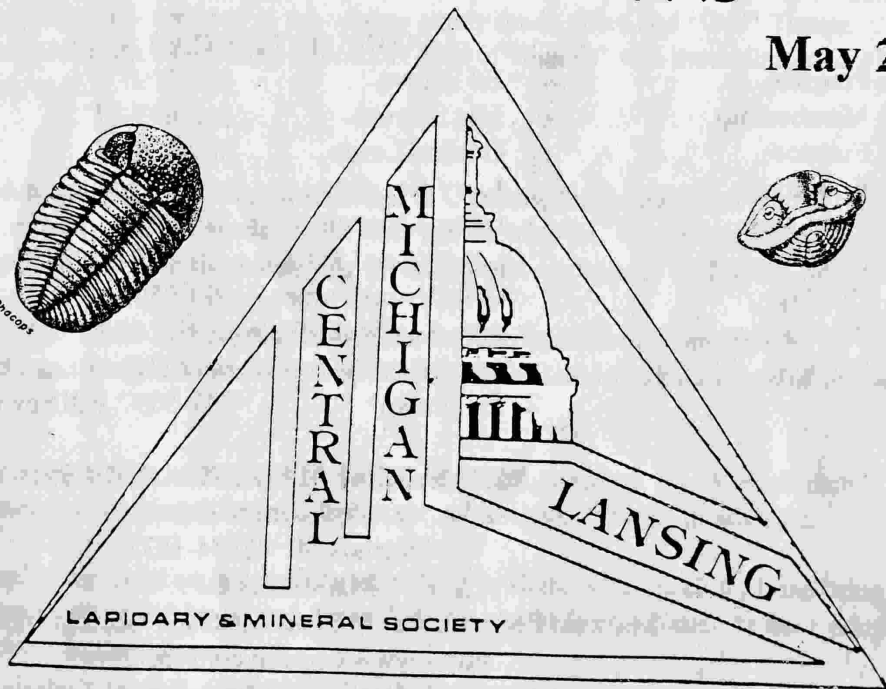
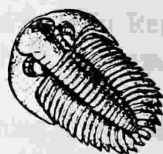
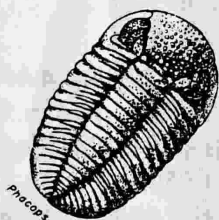
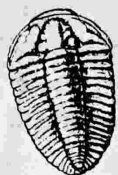


5/13/00

Neil & Connie Snepp
1325 Orlando Dr
Haslett MI 48840

ROCKHOUND NEWS

May 2000



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

X President	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
X Vice President	Ed Drown	347-5097 EdDrown@aol.com
X Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans	351-6136
X Corresponding Secretary	Connie Snapp	339-2863
X Roster Secretary	Wayne Zittel	485-2002
X Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
X 1 Year Director	Alice Turner	694-9596
X 2 Year Director	Gail Hopkins	886-6047
X 3 Year Director	Beth Stinnett	521-3375
X Liaison Officer	Bettie Patterson	347-8821
X Past President	Larry Bourland	bourlal@scnc.cps.k12.mi.us

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X Membership	Lila Stevens	616-693-2733
X Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
X Education	Larry Bourland	bourlal@scnc.cps.k12.mi.us
X Field Trips	George Heaton	339-8914
X Library	Lee Laylin	349-3249 laylin.leora@acd.net
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MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<http://www.AmFed.Org>

BEGINNINGS.....Mary Kay Bean, President

In recognition of his extraordinary contributions to his profession and to Michigan State University, the College of Natural Science, the Department of Geological Sciences and grateful alumni and friends conferred up Dr. Thomas A. Vogel the title of "Distinguished Professor of Geological Sciences." On the 25th of April 2000, Neil Snapp and I attended the Awards Recognition Ceremony at the Kellogg Center. The Master of Ceremony was Dr. Michael Velbel who added a touch of personal humor to the assembly making certain there was not a single dull moment during the two-hour gathering. The Corniche Room was full to capacity-- standing-room only in many cases-- where a delicious luncheon was served to the delight of everyone's palate.

Twenty-eight students were presented \$26,067.00 in scholarships, special awards and fellowships in the area of Earth Sciences. The Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society awarded George Bennett two thousand dollars based on past academic performance, financial need and the potential for academic and later professional success. The recipient is selected by members of the Society. Proceeds for this scholarship are obtained from the Society's annual Gem and Mineral Show.

It is well to recall at this time the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Scholarship winners were selected by Ms. Florence Hill, who was the 1998 Honorary Award Recipient for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation from the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies. Michael Brennan and Karen Stockstill are those beneficiaries and each student is in his/her second year of that two-year scholarship of \$2000.00 each per year.

Bill Steffen, Meteorologist for WZZM-TV Channel 13 in Grand Rapids was the guest speaker at the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club Banquet on the 29th of April, 2000. His very informative presentation was preceded by a Potluck Dinner prepared by "The Greatest Cooks in Rockhounddom." The Banquet Committee as well as all members in attendance surely made Alice and "Grit" Turner, Lindsey and me feel very welcome from beginning to end. A note of "thanks" was immediately sent to President, Gordon Spalenka, et.al.

BANQUET - Ed Drown

The Banquet will be held on May 18th at the Masonic Lodge in Okemos, the Social Hour starts at 5:30 p.m., dinner promptly at 6:30 p.m. Tickets needed to be reserved by May 12. If you neglected to get your tickets, or can't make it in time for the meal, you are still welcome to join us for the program.

The speaker will be Joseph "Paleo Joe" Kchodl who is famous for his dynamic multi-media presentations. "Paleo Joe" is accustomed to working with school children and so should be able to keep us all alert and entertained.

For the social hour the Refreshment Committee will be providing punch, crackers, etc. We ask club members to help with expenses by bringing a favorite dip or spread to share. Thanks in advance.

We are planning to have displays as usual so if you have something to share with the club please bring it along. If you have specimens or other hobby-related items that you would like to donate as door prizes, you can bring them --wrapped-- to the banquet.

FIELD TRIP TO BLUFFTON OHIO-- George Heaton

Our May field trip will be to the Bluffton Stone Co. Quarry at Bluffton Ohio on Saturday, May 20th. We will meet at the quarry office at 8:00 am and must leave by noon. Minerals to be found include fluorite, dolomite and sphalerite.

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 bars and sledge hammer of 8-10 lb. size are often useful. Also don't forget wrapping paper and boxes for packing specimens.

To get to the Bluffton Stone Co. Quarry take I-75 south in Ohio to the second Bluffton exit, exit 140. Just before the exit you will see the quarry next to the highway. Take exit 140 and turn right. Go a short distance to Harmon road and turn right on Harmon road. Take Harmon road to the next street, turn right and cross a railroad track and you are at the quarry.

APRIL FIELD TRIP TO DUFF QUARRY-- George Heaton

Six members of our club and four from Cincinnati showed up for our field trip to Duff Quarry on Saturday, April 22nd. We had good weather for collecting again. The rain had stopped, the temperature was comfortable, and we didn't have to worry about sunburn. There was a lot of rock down in the blast piles but none of it was new since late last fall and had already been searched over by many people. Even though the rock had been looked over many times by many people it was still possible to find nice pyrite specimens with careful searching and all of us were able to find a few good specimens. Pyrite was scarce but dolomite was plentiful and George Heaton spent most of his time collecting dolomite for the Children's table since we will not be able to collect any at Corydon this year. Magda Hutna found the best pyrite specimen I saw collected this time. It was a beautiful vug about 1" x 3" containing bright iridescent blue pyrite crystals.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT-- Connie Snepp

We were delighted to see Bessie Rogers back at our club meeting in April. A card was sent to Wilma Hopkins who spent some time in Sparrow Hospital this past month, and a letter of thanks went to Mrs. Elaine Garlock who donated many of her rocks to the club through Rich and Lila Stevens. This included some Brazilian agate slices and copper.

HOW ABOUT A VISIT TO FENNER ARBORETUM?-- Marie Lewis

The "Midwest Minerals" display in the Fenner Arboretum Visitor Center, is from the collection of George Heaton. These mineral specimens from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky were collected in quarries and road cuts by CML&MS club member, George Heaton.

An avid mineral collector, George is our Field Trip Chairman. Good collecting and good weather are guaranteed for all George Heaton field trips. You are encouraged to stop by Fenner Arboretum to enjoy the nature trails and George's mineral specimens-- both truly wonders of nature.

CLUB CALENDAR

May 18	Club Banquet, advanced ticket required for dinner
May 20	Field Trip, Bluffton Stone Co, Bluffton OH, 8am to Noon
June 1	Board Meeting, Meridian Twp. Service Center, 7:30 p.m.

REPOSING EASILY via AFMS website

Whenever we rockhounds go on a field trip, we are likely to be around a creek bed, a road cut, a quarry, a steep bank, or a spoils pile. If so, we should all remember that there is something called the angle of repose.

No, I'm not talking about how flat you should be when you lie down to rest. The angle of repose is a civil engineering term. It is a fact that a pile of anything - sand, rocks, marbles, hay, or whatever - has the property that the slope of the side of the pile determines whether the pile slides down or not. If the slope is over the angle of repose, it WILL slide - sooner or later. If it less than the angle of repose, it will sit there forever without sliding. The angle depends on the materials in the pile and on their sizes, so there is no general rule as to what angle is safe. Therefore, most road cuts and fills are slightly less steep than the angle of repose.

If you stand below or try to climb a slope that is too steep for the material it is made of, there is a very good chance that the top will come down on you.

It gets more complicated. Consider what happens when you step into the side of a slope. Your foot forms a hollow. This means the material just above and just below your footprint is at too steep an angle. So, it slides down. As it goes, it continuously forms a slope that is too steep, so the material slides and slides and forms a major slump. If you are trying to ride it or if you are below it, that is not good.

When you dig or extract a sample from a pile or a cliff or a quarry wall, the same thing happens. If you dig a tunnel, you have definitely formed a highly unstable slope and the slightest jar may bring it all down on you. That's why mines have shoring. Several children are killed each year because of this. I'm sure you have heard of it.

So, when hunting rocks, test the slope you're on or below for stability before getting into a position where you might get hurt or buried. And, always keep an eye on any rockhound that is above you. They might start something that hurts you!

by Mel Albright - AFMS Safety Chairman

DANGER - SUNSHINE via AFMS website

One of the fastest increasing diseases today is skin cancer. It is caused by too much sunshine. It does not appear right after you get too much sun, though. It will appear 10, 20, 30, or more years later. So, the only sure protection is to start now to develop good habits to avoid sun damage to your skin. Then, keep on being careful.

The basic cause of damage from the sun is through ultraviolet radiation. Recent research has said that one serious sunburn as a child can lead to cancer. Recent research reports that sunscreen does not protect against skin melanomas - the deadliest cancer. In my area, our TV weathermen report the UV exposure factor. They include the safe exposure time. In summer, it typically is something like 8 minutes for fair skin people, 14 for medium skin people, and 22 for dark skin people.

The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends the following as ways to prevent and control skin damage from the sun. Stay out of the sun during the most dangerous times - 10 AM to 2 PM (11 AM to 3 PM daylight time). Wear a hat, a long sleeve shirt, and long pants (tight-knit cloth) when in the sun. Apply sunscreen before going out and re-apply every 2 hours or after swimming while outside. Use at least a 15 SPF sunscreen on all exposed skin (the 15 means it takes 15 times as long to reach the same sun exposure as with no sunscreen). The higher the altitude, the more UV comes to you and the more sunscreen is needed. Cloudy days do not protect you - UV comes right through clouds. If you work outside, use sunscreen daily. A tan does NOT protect you. Some medicines, drugs, cosmetics and birth control pills make you more sensitive to sun damage. If you develop an allergy to one sunscreen, change to another one. Watch out for reflective surfaces - sand, snow, water (The Great Salt Plains). Staying in the shade doesn't help around these. Stay out of tanning parlors. Keep infants out of the sun. Start using sunscreen on children when they are 6 months old. Teach your children sun protection early and insist they follow the rules.

Sources: American Academy of Dermatology; The Skin Cancer Foundation

by Mel Albright - AFMS Safety Chairman

INTERESTED IN BEADING? Give this web site a try. It offers some basic information on beading, including some simple projects. www.beadtown.com

SPRING SHOWS AND SUMMER FUN

- May 27-29 Chicagoland Show. DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester Rd, Wheaton IL.
- June 2-4 "Dearborn" Show. Allen Park Civic Arena, 15800 White, Allen Park
- June 23-25 Bloomington (Bedford) Indiana Swap. Lawrence County Fairgrounds.
- June 17-18 MGAGS Seminar, Roscommon Middle School. See Grit & Alice Turner for more info.
- July 30-Aug 4 13th Annual Red Metal Retreat sponsored by Quicy Mine Hoist Assoc. and Red Metal Minerals. Field trips above and below ground, talks, snorkeling for agates, & more. For info: copper@red-metal.com OR www.geo.mtu.edu/museum/Events/rmr/html
- Aug. 7-13 Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Keweenaw Week. Field trips. Show Fri. - Sun. For info: swhelan@portup.com OR www.portup.com/~swhelan/ccrmc
- Aug. 18-20 Midwest Faceters Guild Seminar. For info call or write Harold Rice (810)463-5972, 122 Lois Lane, Mt. Clemens MI 48043

POLISHING TIPS

Two questions the beginner often asks about cabochon polishing are: "What's the best kind of buff? and What's the best kind of polishing powder?" Like as not he will hasten to add, "I'm having trouble getting a good polish with my felt buff and tin oxide, and I'm wondering if I shouldn't try leather with cerium." Or, "so-and-so is using a muslin buff with Linde A and, man, does he get a shine. Maybe that's the combination I should be using."

Well, the truth, of course, is that all of the combinations are good. But until the beginner Prepares His Cabs Properly, no combination of buff and polishing powder will give him the polish he is looking for. I would say use whatever you have, whatever it may be. I have never been able to tell if the best polishing agent was any one of a dozen different kinds that you see advertised in the magazines. They will all do a good job, and while eventually most of us will favor one or another, the beginner should be assured that there is really very little difference between any of them.

The simple secret of a good polish, as any veteran can tell you, depends a great deal upon the preliminary sanding or lapping. This is extremely important. You can't get a good polish on any cab or flat without the preliminary proper sanding. Many experts use a well-worn-600-grit belt as the final sanding, which gives the stone the appearance of having been polished, but then the polishing agent and buff can finish the job. It requires a trained eye and careful inspection with a good glass to detect scratches that will not buff out quickly and completely.

If you can't get the scratches out of your cabs with very little buffing, don't expect much improvement by changing buffs or polishing compounds. Instead concentrate on your preliminary finishing; it can't be emphasized too much. Maybe that old buff is O.K. after all.

by Chuck Hull

Black Hills Prospector - via The TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE

GROTTO OF THE REDEMPTION

The Grotto of the Redemption at West Bend, Iowa is the largest Grotto in the world. It is frequently considered "the Eight Wonder of the World." It represents the largest collection of minerals and petrification concentrated in any one spot in the world. The Grotto has an estimated geological value over \$2,500,000.

Father Paul Dobberstein started construction on the Grotto in 1912. For 42 years, winter and summer, he labored setting ornamental rocks and gems into concrete. When in 1954 he died he had created the incredible "Grotto of the Redemption," covering one city block. Since the death, Father Louis Greving, who had worked with him for eight years before he died, has been continuing construction on the Grotto.

The Grotto of the Redemption is a composite of nine separate Grottos - each portraying some scene in the life of Christ in His work of redeeming the world. Over 100,000 visitors see the Grotto every year. The Grotto is financed by the freewill donations of the people who come to see it. There are systematic hourly tours through the Grotto from June to October 15. However, the Grotto is open to visitors the year around. After every hourly tour a geological lecture is given in the Rock Display studio. This lecture identifies the materials used in the construction of the Grotto and features an ultra violet ray display.

There is a restaurant on the grounds. It is famous for its home-cooked meals. It is suggested that reservations for meals be made when a large group comes to visit the Grotto - 515-887-2371. There is a 18 unit modern motel one block from the Grotto 515-887-3611. There is free over-night camping (with electrical hook-up) on the Grotto grounds. The Grotto is flooded with spot lights for evening viewing.

Adjacent to the Grotto is St. Peter and Paul's Church. The Christmas Chapel in the Church is Father Dobberstein's finest work. It contains a Brazilian amethyst that weighs over 300 lbs. The theme of the Redemption is told in faceted stained glass windows in the Church. A historical altar which won first place at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 graces the sanctuary. It is a 22 foot high birds-eye maple, hand carved altar. Masses are held every Saturday and Sunday.

- via Grotto pamphlet

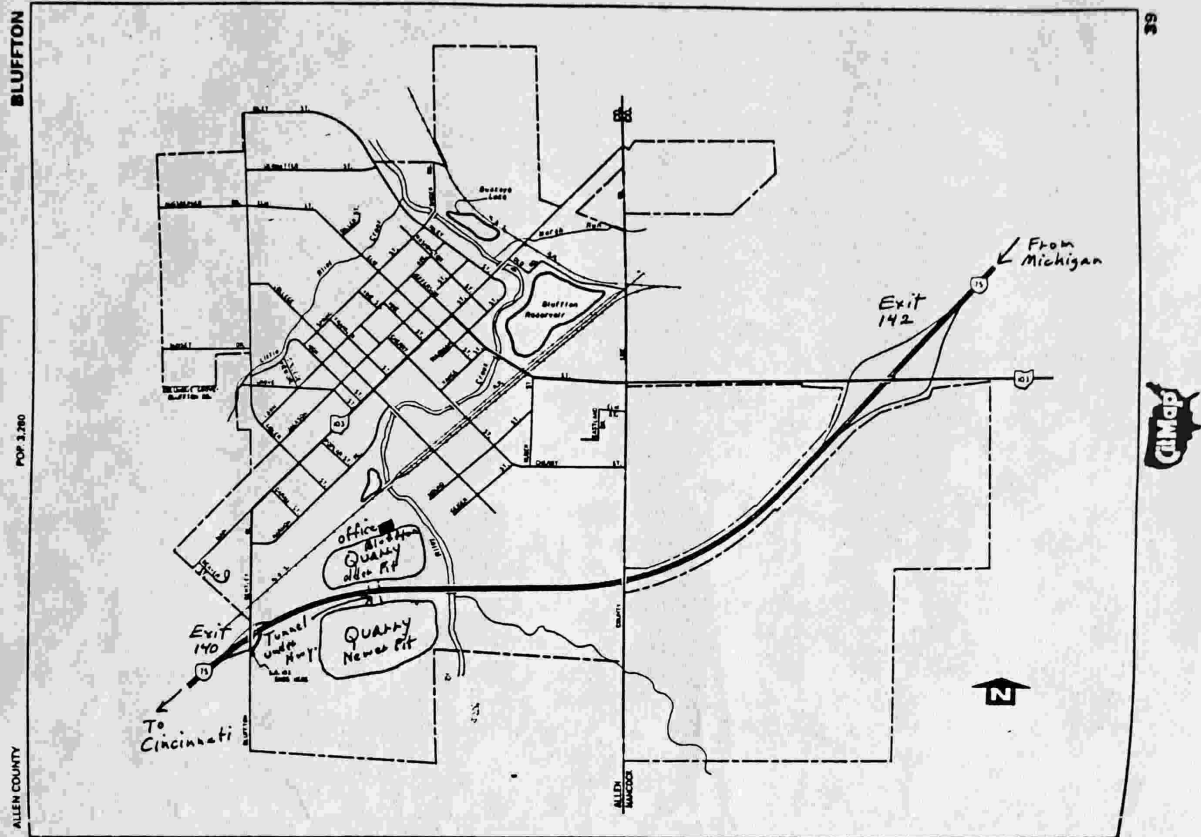
EDITOR'S NOTE: By calling the Grotto, I learned that a very special event for Rockhounds will take place in the near future. We will be notified when plans are completed. Watch for it.

WHAT ELSE TO SEE IN IOWA

The "Great Lakes" in the northwest corner of the state are Iowa's best kept secret, West Okoboji Lake is especially beautiful - it is one of the world's three blue-water lakes (the other two are Lake Louise in Canada and Lake Geneva in Switzerland).

ALSO - In the western part of the state are the striking Loess Hills, carved by windblown quartz silt. There's nothing even remotely like them anywhere else in the U.S. In fact, this geological rarity occurs in only one other place - the People's Republic of China.

Via: Fandex Family Field Guides



CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
APRIL 1, 2000 - APRIL 30, 2000

BALANCE ON HAND(4-01-00)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(7-16-00)	\$11664.95
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	11862.62
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	436.03
TOTAL	\$23963.60

RECEIPTS:	
DUES	27.00
BADGES	7.00
TRANSFER FROM SAVINGS TO CHECKING	2000.00
INTEREST (SAVINGS)	37.22
2000 SHOW (DEALER DEPOSITS)	1350.00
TOTAL	3421.22

DISBURSEMENTS:	
TRANSFER FROM SAVINGS TO CHECKING	2000.00
MSU SCHOLARSHIP	2000.00
BANQUET	16.00
PUBLICATIONS	139.54
MISCELLANEOUS (DIRECTORY)	103.88
2000 SHOW (RAFFLE)	15.00
TOTAL	4274.42

BALANCE ON HAND(4-30-00)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(7-16-00)	\$11664.95
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	11249.84
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	195.61
TOTAL	\$23110.40

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER