

CMLMS  
P.O. Box 24202  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**TIME VALUE  
FIRST CLASS**

## Rockhound News—March 2022

Official publication of the  
**Central Michigan Lapidary and  
Mineral Society**  
Affiliated with MWF and AFMS

**Save the  
Date- Spring  
Banquet May  
19, 2022**



# Rockhound News

This bulletin is the official publication of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of greater Lansing, Michigan. It is published 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 and celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2007.

**Meeting place: Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Street, Okemos, MI**

**Regular meeting date: Third Thursday, except July and August**

**Meeting time: 7:00 p.m., doors are open at 6:30 p.m.**

**Annual Dues: Adults \$10.00; Families \$15.00; Students under 18 \$2.00**

**Board meetings: First Thursday, except July and August; 7:00 p.m., Okemos Library**

## OFFICERS 2022

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## Permanent Mailing Address

CMLMS

P.O. Box 24202

Lansing, Michigan 48909

**Club Website:** <http://www.michrocks.org>

**Please check out the website and Newsletter of our Affiliated club:**

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, <http://www.amfed.org/mwff/>

# ROCKHOUND NEWS

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 17, 2022 @ 7:00 pm**

**PROGRAM: Show and Tell – Rockhound night.**

**REFRESHMENTS: Bring your own snacks/beverage**

**Location and Time:** The CMLMS membership meeting will be held on March 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at the **Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Street, beautiful downtown Okemos.**

## **Calendar for Spring 2022**

March 3, 2022 - Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Okemos Library

March 17, 2022 - Membership meeting, 7:00 p.m.

April 7, 2022 - Board meeting, 6:00 p.m. Okemos Library

April 21, 2022 - Membership meeting, 7:00 p.m.

April 21, 2022 – Science Night at Bennett Woods Elementary

May 19, 2022, Annual Spring Banquet, Masonic Temple

[Editor's note: the deadline for the newsletter is **Monday, 8 a.m.** after the board meeting.]

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**March 17, 2022** – Show and Tell! Bring your favorite Specimens to show off to members.

April 21, 2022 – Steven Veatch- The Ultimate Guide to the Geology of the Pikes Peak Region, Colorado. (To be confirmed)

## **MARCH PROGRAM**

Show and Tell Rockhound Night. Bring your favorite Rocks/Fossils/Minerals from your collection to show off to the club. We will be able see all the different and interesting items club members collect and possibly spark an interest in other club members to start a new collection. If you have different types of conglomerates/ porphyries or granites/rhyolites it would be interesting to show differences in these rock types. Don't be shy- lug in that rock collection!

## **ANNUAL BANQUET**

Our annual banquet will be May 19, 2022, tickets will be available at the March and April club meetings. Members are encouraged to bring guests. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 children and the dinner includes: Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, dinner roll and drinks, along with fruit pie for dessert. We are also setting up an email address for reserving tickets. More information to come. Once we confirm the speakers topic we will advise the membership. **Please plan on joining us for this delightful chicken dinner and help keep the banquet tradition going.**

## CLUB NEWS

### **Dues are ~~now being collected~~ LATE for 2022**

It's that time again when you are asked to renew your membership in the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society (Membership runs from January through December each year). Membership dues for 2022 are NOW OVERDUE. Please try to get them paid ASAP so you will not be removed from the list for the newsletter. If you have not paid, please remember you will no longer have privileges for field trips. **YOU MUST BE A SOCIETY MEMBER TO GO WITH THE SOCIETY. DO IT TODAY BEFORE YOU FORGET!!!!**

**Outreach Committee:** We are always in need of volunteers to help with school science fairs, talks and presentations at schools and other organizations, and educational opportunities. Contact Theresa Hubbard, thrshubbard@yahoo.com to lend a hand.

### **Science Nights:**

**APRIL 21:** We just found out that Bennett Woods Elementary in Okemos is having a Science Night April 21, from 6:30-8pm. This is the first school to have a science night since 2020 and may be a good sign that schools are beginning their outreach activities again.

They have asked if we are interested in participating, and we are looking for volunteers. This happens to fall on our regular meeting night, so volunteers may be hard to round up.

### **Volunteers needed for Kalamazoo Show:**

For the last couple of years, the Kalamazoo club has sent volunteers to help with our annual show. We would like to return the favor and send some help to Kalamazoo for their show from April 29 to May 1. We would like to make up a list of possible volunteers at the next meeting, that way we can figure out when to send people to help.

**Field Trip reminder for the weekend of May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022** field trip to Fishermen's Island State Park. Petoskey hunting and beach combing. **Reservations ARE NOW OPEN** for those planning on camping for the weekend. Michigan State parks are very popular so make your reservations now if you are thinking about coming on this trip. You can always cancel your reservation further down the road, however please note that the DNR now charges a \$10 cancellation fee.

Cell phone **517-599-1882** or **cmenn@yahoo.com**. Please contact him if interested in getting emails as field trips are set up.

If you have been on any trips and would like to pass along field trip ideas or good locations, please email Carl so he can put together a list of future field trip spots- thanks

# Ancient Weevil Pupal Cases: Trace Fossils from Australia's Pleistocene

*Steven Wade Veatch*



Curious pupal cases made by prehistoric weevils, together with worm burrows, are found as trace fossils in rock exposures of the Upper Bridgewater Formation along the western coastline of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia (Flint, 1992; Flint and Rankin, 1991; Rankin and Flint, 1992).

According to Parker and Flint (2005), the Upper Bridgewater Formation is a middle to late Pleistocene aeolian calcarenite (a wind-blown, consolidated gritty calcareous sandstone). These trace fossils are found inland from the coast for a distance of about 40 km.

Microscopic analysis of these ancient pupal cases shows they are made of gritty sand and gravel that were cemented by calcite over thousands of years.



Fig. 1. Fossil pupal cases from the Bridgewater Formation resemble small elongated eggs. These cases have a hole where the fossil organism exited. The trace fossils are characterized by their strong cementation and a hollow interior. Scale in mm. Specimen from the S. W. Veatch collection. Photo by S. W. Veatch.

These cases are thought to have contained the pupae *Leptopius duponti*, a medium-size, soil-inhabiting weevil or snout beetle of the family Curculionidae. The Curculionidae are one of the largest families of organisms, with at least 44,000 described species (Grimaldi and Engel, 2005). Adults of most species of this family have a characteristic elongate snout

or *nostrum*. At the end of this well-developed snout is a small pair of mandibles for biting and chewing food.

The adult female *Leptopius duponti* not only relishes the foliage of acacia trees as food, but also carefully lays her eggs on the leaves. When the larva hatch, they move underground to feed on roots. When they are ready to pupate, they form a chamber or pupal case out of the soil. After their metamorphosis, they cut a hole near one end of their pupal case to leave and then burrow to the surface, where they quickly climb the acacia trees to feed.

The pupal cases are usually too delicate to survive for any length of time, but, occasionally, some of the empty cases remain underground where they become petrified by calcite. (Tilley et al., 1997). Some of these pupal cases in the Upper Bridgewater Formation are estimated to be 40,000 to 100,000 years old.

<b>Taxonomic Classification:</b>	
Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Arthropoda
Class	Insecta
Order	Coleoptera
Suborder	Polyphaga
Superfamily	Curculionoidea
Family	Curculionidae
Subfamily	Leptopiinae
Genus	<i>Leptopius</i>
Species	<i>duponti</i>



Fig. 2. *Leptopius duponti* is common in Australia, where they are called “wattle pigs.” The body length of *Leptopius duponti* averages 20 mm. These slow-moving weevils are plant eaters. Photo by David Nelson. Used with permission.

## References cited:

- Flint, R.B., 1992, Elliston, South Australia, Sheet SI3-6, South Australia Geological Survey, 1:250,000 series, explanatory notes.
- Flint, R.B. and Rankin, L.R., 1991, Kimba, South Australia, Sheet SI53-7, South Australia Geological Survey, 1:250,000 series, explanatory notes.
- Grimaldi, D and Engle, M. S., 2005, *The Evolution of Insects*: New York, Cambridge University Press, 689 p.
- Parker, A.J. and Flint, R.B., 2005, Yardea, South Australia Sheet SI53-3, Geological Survey of South Australia, 1:250,000 series, explanatory notes.
- Rankin, L.R., and Flint, R.B., 1992, Streaky Bay, South Australia Sheet SI53-2, South Australia Geological Survey, 1:250,000 series, explanatory notes.
- Tilley, D. B., Barrows, T.T., and Zimmerman, E.C., 1997, Bauxitic insect pupal cases from northern Australia. *Alcheringa* 21, p. 157-160.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**March 18-20: Jackson, MI** MGMS Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Fri. Mar 18 10am-7pm, Sat. Mar 19 10am-6pm, Sun. Mar 20 11am-5pm, Keeley Park, 200 W Ganson St, Jackson MI 49202

**April 8-10: WYOMING, MI** Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show. Thurs./Fri 9:30-9; Sat 9:30-7. Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 - 28th St. SW, Wyoming. Contact: Kreigh Tomaszewski, (616) 243-5851

**April 29 to May 1: KALAMAZOO, MI** Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society Annual Show. Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo. Contact: Wrifton Graham, (269) 615-7073; [wrifton@greatlakesgeneralstore.com](mailto:wrifton@greatlakesgeneralstore.com)

**May 1-2: SHARONSVILLE, OH** Cincinnati Mineral Society Annual Show. Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd., Sharonville. Contact: Terry Huizing, (513) 574-7142; [tchuizing@fuse.net](mailto:tchuizing@fuse.net)

**May 15-16: NORTH OLMSTED, OH** Parma Lapidary Club Annual Show. 11-5 each day. Soccer Sports Plex, 3515 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted. [parmalapidaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:parmalapidaryclub@gmail.com); [www.parmalapidary.com](http://www.parmalapidary.com)

**May 22: WATERFORD, MI** Livingston County Gem & Mineral Rock Swap. 9-5 Christ Lutheran Church, 5987 Williams Rd., Waterford. [Flyer](#)