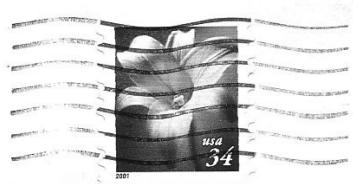


CML&MS  
4519 Seneca  
Okemos MI 48864

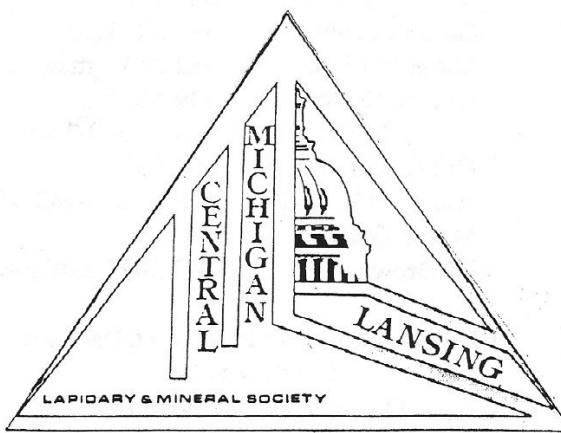
**TIME VALUE**  
**FIRST CLASS**



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# ROCKHOUND NEWS

March 2001



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 2001

✓ President	Ed Drown	347-5097	EdDrown@aol.com
Vice President	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616-948-9589	jawp2@voyager.net
✓ Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans	351-6136	
Corresponding Secretary	Connie Snepp	339-2863	
✓ Roster Secretary	Wayne Zittel	485-2002	
✓ Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125	
✓ 1 Year Director	Milton Gere	886-6047	
✓ 2 Year Director	Gail Hopkins	694-9596	
✓ 3 Year Director	Alice Turner	347-8821	
Liaison Officer	Bettie Patterson	351-1107	
✓ Past President	Mary Kay Bean		

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616-948-9589
✓ Membership	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
✓ Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
✓ Education	Margaret Green	882-3637
✓ Field Trips	George Heaton	339-8914
✓ Library	Lee Laylin	349-3249
✓ Display	Grit (Irwin) Turner	694-9596
Publications Show	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616-948-9589
	Milton Gere	jawp2@voyager.net
	Ed Drown	347-5097
		EdDrown@aol.com

### PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:

4519 Seneca Dr.  
Okemos MI 48864-1837

### AFFILIATED WITH:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

**REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 15**  
**FOLKS WITH LAST NAMES J-Q, PLEASE BRING REFRESHMENTS!**  
**MARCH PROGRAM: SILENT AUCTION**

**Opening Day of Field Trip Season: March 24, Irving Materials Quarry** – George Heaton  
The field trip for March will be to the Irving Materials, Inc. Quarry near Anderson Indiana on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. We will plan to meet at the quarry at 9:00 AM Indiana time. Before entering the quarry we must stop at the office and receive a short hazard training session. At our meeting prior to the field trip I will have copies of Irving Material's "Safety Rules for Visitors" and their "Hazard Training and Recognition Checklist" to give to those members who plan to attend this field trip. I was asked to share these with all who plan to attend this trip. I also have their release form that you may sign at the meeting prior to the field trip.

The quarry is noted for its iridescent calcites and its honey colored twin calcites. Also fossils have been found here.

The quarry can be reached by taking I-69 south from Lansing to Anderson Indiana. Take the Greenfield exit (#22) to Rt. 9 South. The quarry gate is on the left on Rt. 9, just south of the I-69 expressway. Driving time from Lansing to Anderson Indiana is about 5 hours.

The usual assortment of tools and safety equipment for collecting in quarries are needed here. These include a 2-3 lb. Crack hammer, chisels of various sizes from small to large, and a sledge hammer for breaking large rocks is often useful. A light hammer such as a geologists pick is useful for trimming some excess rock from specimens, but be careful not to go too far. Do your final trimming at home.

For safety, remember **in all quarries you must have hard hat, hard toed safety boots, and safety glasses or goggles or you cannot enter the quarry!**

**March Program: Annual Silent Auction** (jawp)

Time for the most exciting event of the year: our BIG silent auction. Bring your extras to sell, and take home a friend's surplus! Anything hobby related is acceptable.

**El Presidente Eduardo has a good idea. Those of you with collecting equipment gathering rust in the garage or basement....how about bringing it to the silent auction? It might offer just the boost some of our newer members need for the collecting season.**

**IF YOU HAVE THINGS TO SELL:** Bid slips including a brief description of the item, your name, and the minimum bid need to be attached to each item you wish to put up for auction. **BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE TOP & PUT YOUR NAME ON THE BOTTOM PORTION OF YOUR TAG!** Failure to do so makes it nearly impossible to get the money in the proper hands. Plenty of tags will be available at the meeting. **All** money goes to the person who sells the item, not to the club. (Unless, of course, the slip does not have a name at the bottom, then we will assume the proceeds are to be donated to CML&MS. :)

**HOW TO BUY:** Bring lots of small denomination bills and change, a few bigger bills might come in handy as well. Hard core bidders will want their own pencil. No bids may be placed before the auction begins. You must begin with the stated minimum, and increases must be at least 10 cents. At the sound of the horn, all bidding must stop. **THE ITEM GOES TO THE LAST COMPLETED BID.**

**Education Report** – Margaret Green**Mineral of the Month: The Garnet Group**

Garnet is a group name for certain neso-silicate minerals that share a similar chemical composition and structure. The individual species name given to each variety of mineral is that of the dominant metal in the composition. The more common garnets fall into two series:

- A. Aluminum garnets
  - 1. Spessartite,  $Mn_3Al_2Si_2O_{12}$
  - 2. Almandite,  $Fe_2Al_2Si_2O_{12}$
  - 3. Pyrope,  $Mg_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$
- B. Calcium garnets
  - 4. Grossularite,  $Ca_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$
  - 5. Andradite,  $Ca_3Fe_2+Si_3O_{12}$
  - 6. Uvarovite,  $Ca_3Cr_2Si_3O_{12}$

It is evident by examining the chemical formulas, every species is based on the silicate tetrahedron combined with a metal and other rock forming elements. In general, the physical properties are within a range. Color can be any color except blue. Lustre is vitreous to greasy. Crystals are mainly opaque, but can be translucent. Cleavage is incomplete and fracture is conchoidal to brittle. The crystal system is Isometric (class, hex-octahedral). Hardness is between 6 1/2 - 7 1/2. Specific gravity is 3.7 - 4.32.

The variety Pyrope in gem form is also known as Rhodolite and the em variety of Andradite is Melanite. In Michigan Almandite, Spessartite and Uvarovite are the most commonly found species of garnet. Many garnets are found in metamorphic rocks, such as garneted schist in the gangue piles of the iron mines in Marquette Co. They can be sieved from the sand and gravel of fluvial and alluvial deposits. Also, in Dickinson Co. they are found in quartz in a pegmatite cutting granite. Garnets also form pseudomorphs with Chlorite.

**References:**

The Smithsonian Treasury, Minerals and Gems. John Sampson White.

Minerals of World, Walter Schumann.

The Mineralogy of Michigan, E.Wm. Heinrich Bulletin #6 1976 Dept. of Natural Resources

Geological Survey Division.

Midwest Gem Fossil and Mineral Trails of the Great Lakes States, June Culp Zeitner.

**Opportunities for Service:**

I am going to Maplewood Elementary School on the 15th of March at 6:00 pm to be a demonstrator for their Science Professional Night. Since I am only a para-professional, I would appreciate a science professional volunteering to be my partner. Call me soon please if you are interested.

Next, since I haven't perfected being in two places at the same time, I would like someone to act on my behalf and nab a mineral or rock specimen at the silent auction for the education collection. Please call me to get specifics for this.

I have put together two demonstration boards for display at the General Membership Meeting, one with more information about the mineral of the month and the other with background geological information about the March Field Trip. Look for them somewhere.

A reminder that we are committed to Fenner Nature Center on Saturday April 21st for Earth Day. I am planning on getting there about 10 am and staying until about 4 pm. Any one else from the club can come when it is convenient for them and stay as long as they like. I would like to know who is planning on helping me, so be sure to call me and let me know please.

Again, a plea for someone in the General Membership population to be willing to be on the Education Committee. Florence is the Honorary Advisor, Milt Gere is a Consultant, and \_\_\_\_\_ is an contributing active club member!

**Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society 2001 Show Report** – Milt Gere

“Michigan’s Geological Treasures” October 26, 27, 28, 2001

Show Co-chairpersons: Ed Drown, Bettie Patterson, Alan Hukill, Milt Gere

Chairpersons updated as of 3/1/01

Armory: Rental/Night Security/Etc.: Neil Snepp

Finance: Alan Hukill

Electrical: Chuck Smith

Dealer Liaison: Grit Turner

**Material Transport: open**

Display: Neil Snepp

Publicity: Shar Gere, Alan Hukill, Larry Bourland

Children’s Table: George Heaton\*

Tickets: Margaret Green

Raffle: Gail Hopkins

Demonstrations: Alice Turner\*

Silent Auction: Larry Bourland, Elaine Angstman

Announcer / Door Prizes: Bettie Patterson\*

Fluorescent Booth: Ed Drown\*

Hospitality Room: Jean Ann Wahl-Pitrowski

Fossils: Connie Snepp\*

**Mineral Kits: open\***

**Petoskey Polishing Kits: open\***

Member Swap: Guidelines: Gordon Lewis

Member Swap Show Table: Bettie Patterson

**Signs: open**

**Loading Ramp/ in & out: open**

Table Rental/Arrangements: Roger Laylin

Security: Dealer Set Up: Grit Turner

**Security Show Hours: open**

**Special for Children’s Tour**

\* jobs above also for kid’s tour

School Arrangements: Mary Gowans

**Bus Parking: open**

**Tour Security: open**

**In/Out Door Help: open**

**Pebble Pond: open**

**Grab Bags: open**

**Departing Gift: open**

Educational Displays: Margaret Green

Basic Rocks: Margaret Green

Rock/Min. Uses: Milt Gere

**Geol. Maps, etc.: open**

Critters: Marie Lewis

Children’s Jewelry: Lee Laylin

I may have missed some items, please let me know if I did. Please volunteer to chair, be another co-chair, or be a happy worker in any category. It will be appreciated! If I missed your name or misspelled it, please let me know that too. Thanks.

Milt Gere, Show Co-Chair, (home phone 517-669-8116, e-mail [miltgere@aol.com](mailto:miltgere@aol.com))

**Sedimentary Rock Review – jawp**

Hopefully, folks interested in basic rock id have a few more ideas of how to begin looking at specimens with the perspective of “how might this have formed?”

These are the web sites that I found helpful:

<http://www.geology.sdsu.edu/visualgeology/geology101/lab4sed.htm#environments>

[http://www.gpc.peachnet.edu/~pgore/geology/historical\\_lab/sedrockslab.php](http://www.gpc.peachnet.edu/~pgore/geology/historical_lab/sedrockslab.php)

<http://www.eos.duke.edu/geo41/seds.htm>

**Tumbling Hints via Southwest Gem 7/00 & Rockcollector 2/01**

One of the cardinal rules in using the tumbler is “do not overload.” The ideal tumbling load is slightly less than ¼ full. Use only enough water to fill the voids between the stones, with no more than 1/8 of an inch over the top of the stones.

Another item that causes difficulty is the amount of abrasive. Use only enough to cover the surface area of the stones. This usually takes about one pound of #100 grit for each eight pounds of rock. This may be further reduced as the #400 and #600 grit is used, as the finer particles possess more surface area and ¼ pound of grit with eight pounds of rock is usually sufficient.

## MOROCCAN TRILOBITES: ARE THEY FOR REAL? By Connie Snepp

This is a question people have asked me at shows and one I have asked myself. An article by Lawrence Osborne in the New York Times entitled *Fossil Frenzy*, addresses this question. The interesting article describes the author's first hand observations from the field. His conclusion: Yes, there are thousands of marine fossils in the Sahara with Erfoud being the trilobite capital of the world. But with the growing demand for trilobites among the rich (Bill Gates is a collector), a top-notch, American prepared Moroccan trilobite ranges from \$15,000 to \$20,000. These do not end up in the hands of our dealers. But what about the large one I purchased for \$400 from a Museum where a similar one was on display? Was it genuine?

Probably not. The Moroccans have learned to produce fakes made with molds and casts of resin saturated with ground up rock matrix. And even the genuine ones may be only about 75% complete with the rest reconstructed. The worst scenario is that the Moroccans sometimes add features to make them look more unusual - a long nose or whiskers!

So, after reading the article, how do I feel about those Moroccan specimens in my collection which, for me, were expensive? Well, I Qig stop buying them some years ago and now, I wonder how I could have been so gullible -especially with the pizza plate of 12 specimens of 4 different species; I bought it at a show where it was the only interesting thing in a sea of beads!

But, look: Are the dinosaurs at the MSU Museum real? Of course not. They are casts and, as you may remember from the time when we were making donations for them, they were very expensive! The Royal Terrell Museum has dinosaurs on the floor that are casts made from some actual bones in their archives, but they have also improvised parts that were not found, presupposing that the right side would be like the left, for example. So if the cast is faithful to the original trilobite, I still have a good representation of that particular species.

Those of us who have collected trilobites in the field know that they are seldom complete, or they may need to be glued because they have broken apart. So, if I have a Moroccan trilobite that is 20% restored or is glued together, it may be as "real" as many others in my collection that I consider to be genuine. Nevertheless, I will stick to buying American trilobites from those who have actually collected them in the field.

**Cutting Tips** via The Lithics 4/00 and Rockcollector 2/01

Agates can be cut and polished on diamond, but we prefer to use carborundum grinding wheels and polish with cerium oxide on hard felt. You can also use leather or poly pads. Try a little red rouge when polishing. It seems to give a more glassy finish. One thing to remember is to get rid of all scratches from the grinding stage with a 600 sanding disk or belt.

Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society  
Membership Meeting  
February 15, 2001

The February meeting was called to order by President Ed Drown at 7:40 p.m. at the North Elementary School

**Minutes:** Recording Secretary Mary read the minutes of the January meeting. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Alan reported the balance as of February 15, 2001, was \$25,362.12. Grit Turner moved to accept the report, seconded and passed.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Connie reported that her report was in the newsletter.

**Roster Secretary:** Wayne asked that dues be paid

**Membership:** Mary Kay presented the member bags to the new members none of whom were present.

**Director's Reports:** Director Gere - no report; Director Hopkins - no report; Director Turner - no report

**Liaison:** Bettie listed catalogues and reported from MGAGS an article about a copper specimen in Lake Superior. She read part of a letter from Lila and Rich Stevens. Letter is available for members to read.

**Past President:** Mary Kay - no report

**Hospitality:** Phyllis thanked all who helped with the potluck.

**Finance:** Gordon - no report

**Education:** Margaret described the mineral of the month - olivine family. She reminded members that her report is in the newsletter.

She also announced that Maplewood Science Night is March 15, the same night as our March meeting. The time at Maplewood is also 7:30 p.m.

Also, April 21 is Earth Day at Fenner and she needs volunteers. More later.

**Field Trip:** George announced that there is no field trip this February.

**Library:** Lee Laylin - no report

**Display:** Grit listed flyers and dates. Also he told members about a folding case that he has built. The materials cost about \$75.00 and when folded, the case can be carried by one hand.

Other shows were Macomb, Ill., March 3-4; Roman Club, March 10-11; Mt. Clemens, April 27-29; Kalamazoo, May 4-6, MAGS, June 16-17 in Clio; and Greater Detroit, October 12-14.

**Door prizes** were won by Gordon Lewis, Bob Hansor, Mary Kay Bean and Daphne Hansor.

**Publication:** Jean Ann read information about a show in Wyoming, June 16, 17, for anyone traveling.

**Show:** CoChair Milt had a list of volunteers at the potluck. He also announced that the flyers are ready and it is not too early distribute.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** In the newsletter, President Ed asked members for a list of possible sites for future use in case our meeting place was canceled. He reminded them again about the list.

Alan Hukill motioned to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. seconded and passed.

**Program:** Jean Ann gave a presentation of sedimentary rocks, videos and specimens to look at.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Gowans, Recording Secretary

**SPRING SHOWS**

March 10 & 11	Roamin Club auction. Sat. 11-6 Sun 12-6. Schoolcraft College, Waterman Campus Center Bldg., 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia
March 16-18	Jackson Show. Fri. 11-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5. Michigan Center Masonic Lodge, 355 Napoleon Rd., Michigan Center
March 24	Dearborn Club Swap. 10-5. Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor (just east of Telegraph Rd.)
April 21-22	"Blossom Land Show" Bridgman MI. 10-5 both days. Exit 16 off I-94, 3 1/2 miles North on Red Arrow Highway. Free admission.
April 5-7	Indian Mounds, Grand Rapids Show. Breton Village Mall, 1830 Breton Rd SE; Thurs & Fri 9:30am-9pm, Sat. 9:30-6:00
April 27-29	Mt. Clemens Show. Fri. & Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-6. Mt. Clemens Recreation Center, 300 N. Grosebeck, Mt. Clemens
May 4-6	Kalamazoo Show. Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Fairgrounds Country Center Bldg., take Sprinkle Rd. to Lake St.
May 5-6	Cincinnati Show. New Location: Sabin Cincinnati Convention Center, 525 Elm St. Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5
June 1-3	"Dearborn" Show. Allen Park Civic Arena, 15800 White, Allen Park



Have **you** paid your dues????  
 If you wish to remain a member,  
 get your \$5.00 to the Roster Rooster,  
 Wayne Zittel, ASAP!

**CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
 FEBRUARY 1, 2001 - FEBRUARY 28, 2001

BALANCE ON HAND(02-01-01)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-01)	\$12236.87
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	13310.18
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	360.91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25907.96</b>

RECEIPTS:	
TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING	500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500.00</b>

DISBURSEMENTS:	
TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING	500.00
2001 SHOW	545.84
PUBLICATIONS	139.11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1184.95</b>

BALANCE ON HAND(02-28-01)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-01)	\$12236.87
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	12810.18
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	175.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25223.01</b>

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER

**FOR SALE:**

**Lighted Jewelry Store Display Case**

69" long, 22" wide and 40" high.

9 drawers in the back

**\$35.00**

517-699-8136. Iral Nutt

*Crude Map to  
 Irving Materials Quarry  
 Anderson, Indiana*

*Approximately 210 Miles  
 from Lansing*

