

CMLMS  
15785 Park Lake Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

**TIME VALUE  
FIRST CLASS**

# **Rockhound News—January, 2014**



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

**2014 DUES ARE  
DUE!!**

**NOTE: NEW MEETING  
PLACE**  
Masonic Center  
Okemos, Michigan

# 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, Hamilton Street, Okemos, MI**

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

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

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## Affiliated With

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<http://www.amfed.org>

# ROCKHOUND NEWS

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 16, 2014**

**PROGRAM: Speaker, Dean Anderson, State Archaeologist - Chert and Granite and Slate, Oh My! Stone Artifacts and Archaeology**

**REFRESHMENTS: Members with Initials M - Z Please Bring Goodies**

**Location and Time:** The CMLMS membership meeting will be held on January 16, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., at the **Masonic Center, Hamilton Street, beautiful downtown Okemos.**

**Calendar for Winter 2014 and later**

January 16, 2014 - Membership meeting, Dean Anderson, speaker

February 6, 2014 - Board meeting - time and place to be announced, possibly Okemos Public Library

February 10, 2014 - newsletter deadline

February 20, 2014 - Membership meeting

February 26, 2014, Wednesday; Bennett Woods Family Science Fair

March 6, 2014 - Board meeting - time and place to be announced, possibly Okemos Public Library

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Let Sue Casler know if you have any ideas for speakers, or other programs.**

January, 2014: Dean Anderson, State Archaeologist is speaker.

February, 2014: DVD, Norwood Chert.

March, 2014: Silent auction. Bring items you wish to sell-use sales slips that are on website.

Members keep the money. Get started on this fun event NOW.

## A message from Roster Secretary Ernie Aughenbaugh Dues are now being collected for 2014!!!

### From the Publications Chair

Our mailing list for a paper copy newsletter has grown over the past year. I currently have 50 members receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, but I know some of you are also getting an electronic copy too. Sending the newsletter electronically saves us on costs for copying and postage but also on time. You will receive the electronic copy earlier than the paper copy. If you are receiving both a paper copy and an electronic copy, please let me know. I will remove your name from the paper copy labels. You can contact me by email at [rsionakide@yahoo.com](mailto:rsionakide@yahoo.com). Also, PLEASE NOTIFY THE BOARD, EITHER THE WEBMASTER OR PUBLICATIONS, IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS so you can get your electronic copy of the newsletter and messages. Sometimes field trips get scheduled on the fly and that is one way the board can notify members of upcoming events.

## **SOCIETY HAPPENINGS**

**Outreach Committee:** Always in need of volunteers to help with school science fairs, talks and presentations at schools and other organizations, and educational opportunities. Contact committee chair Mary Gowans to lend a hand.

### **UPCOMING SCIENCE FAIRS/EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS**

February 26, 2014, Wednesday; Bennett Woods Family Science Fair. CMLMS is invited to participate again and we can set up at 5:30 pm. Start time is 6:30 pm. CMLMS members are invited to participate in this fun event by bringing a display or specimens and talking to the students and families about them. Bring something or just come to help out and join the fun. Bennett Woods Elementary School is located 2650 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan.

### **MAY BANQUET**

Banquet date is May 15, 2014. The speaker will be The Agate Lady, Karen Brzys. Karen is a well-known expert on agates who has written books, created DVDs, developed online courses and on-site courses, and created agate works which she sells at shows. She also has the Gitche Gumee Museum in Grand Marais, Michigan. Mark the date! ([www.agatelady.com](http://www.agatelady.com)). Members are encouraged to bring guests and a display of agates.

### **CIRCLE J RANCH PROJECT**

Dave Berquist spoke about an opportunity to ID some rocks at the Circle J Ranch in Portland owned by Robert Jones. It is near the Portland Game Area and the grave of Chief Okemos. See Dave at the membership meetings for more information if interested in helping..

### **Spring River Gem & Mineral Club Suggestion**

The following came in an email from the club in Cherokee Village, Arkansas:

We hope you will do a rock swap with us, of mineral/fossil specimens found on club field trips and members individual field trips in different states in the US. We would trade UPS medium size flat rate boxes, with a minimum of 10# of specimens, each individually wrapped and identified. No leaverites. This trade is fun for us, as well as educational. It's Christmas and a treasure hunt, all over again. We hope you will consider this.

Mary Kocz, Spring River Gem & Mineral Club

If anyone is interested in this project, please contact the board. Sounds like a worthy and fun project. (Editor's note: I included this in the newsletter since it was to go before the board first but our meeting was cancelled. Thought it needed an airing right away.)

### **CLUB NEWS**

**Field Trips!** See Dan Sine to sign up and for more information. Cell phone 517-316-5713 or [daniel.sine@opm.gov](mailto:daniel.sine@opm.gov)

January 18, 2014 - Alabastine Gypsum Mine in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Contact person is Kreigh Tomaszewski ([Kreigh@Tomaszewski.net](mailto:Kreigh@Tomaszewski.net)). Expect to find selenite, alabaster gypsum, epsomite hairs, and fossils. There is a \$3 fee for entering the mine to cover the cost of electricity and elevators. There are specific directions and those are available from Dan Sine.

February 22, 2014, second trip to the Alabastine Gypsum Mine in Grand Rapids, Michigan 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Three Rivers Gem and Mineral club (jwphilipps@gmail.com) has invited CMLMS members to participate in their summer trip and the information was distributed: June 20-28, 2014, Wyoming. Collecting will be at many sites for specimens such as agate, moss agate, various petrified woods, jasper, fossils, opalized wood, fish fossils. Contact Jim Philipps if you are able to join them; be sure you mention your membership in CMLMS.

Cincinnati Dry Dredgers(drydredgers.org). They are having a GeoFair on May 3-4 and have scheduled field trips in 2014.

Minimum age for a quarry is 12. No children under 12 will be allowed at the quarries (their rule). Trips to other collecting sites may have no minimum, or maximum, age requirement. Safety rules in the **Field Trip Guide** are posted at the society website. They should be reviewed, printed out and **taken to every field trip**. Also, insurance coverage for the field trips by the Federation is very limited. It provides only for damage that members might do on-site. There is no personal injury coverage; no coverage underground. Coverage is only for members, so our policy is that field trips are only for members. Members should review this insurance information on our website. Let Dan know of any other locations and contact information that you may know about and would like to visit. Dan does a fabulous job getting these field trips lined up for club members so please take a moment to thank him personally for all his work.

**PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO—Check [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)  
or our website [www.michrocks.org](http://www.michrocks.org)  
FoundMichigan, an online magazine on culture in Michigan—  
[www.foundmichigan.org](http://www.foundmichigan.org)**

**Check out our website for items for sale. There are links to eBay and Craig's List.**

## **CMLMS MINUTES**

### **CMLMS, Membership Meeting, December 19, 2013**

**Call to Order:** President Elaine Angstman called the December membership meeting to order at 7:35 pm at the Okemos Masonic Center.

**Welcome and Introduction of Guests/Visitors:** Mary Anne Smith introduced visitor Nancy Feldbush. Welcome, Nancy.

**Announcements:** President Elaine Angstman announced:

Our May 15, 2014 banquet speaker will be The Agate Lady, Karen Brzys. Karen is a well-known expert on agates who has written books, created DVDs, developed online courses and on-site courses, and created agate works which she sells at shows. She also has the Gitche Gumee Museum in Grand Marais, Michigan. Mark the date! ([www.agatelady.com](http://www.agatelady.com)). The cost to CMLMS for the banquet meal is \$10.00 per plate. This is what we have been selling banquet tickets for and the club absorbs the cost for guests and other expenses. Members are asked for their input about raising the tickets to \$12.00 per person.

**Bennett Woods Family Science Fair:** Wednesday, February 26, 2014, starting at 6:30pm. Set up is at 5:30pm. CMLMS members are invited to participate in this fun event by bringing a display or specimens and talking to the students and families about them. Bring something or just come to help out and join the fun. Bennett Woods Elementary School is located 2650 Bennett Road, Okemos, Michigan.

Bessie Rogers, a long time member, has passed away. Roger Laylin shared the history of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers' considerable involvement in CMLMS.

President Angstman provided contacts for printing of our reminder postcards sent out prior to our fall show.

Field trip information was shared. This included the Wyoming trip June 20-28(jwphilipps@gmail.com) and a new trip in February to the Grand Rapids Alabastine Mine

(Kreigh@Tomaszewski.net). More information later. Watch your email. Contact Dan Sine for more information.

Dave Berquist spoke about an opportunity to ID some rocks at the Circle J Ranch in Portland owned by Robert Jones. It is near the Portland Game Area and the grave of Chief Okemos.

**Vice President:** Sue Casler shared program reminders: January-Dean Anderson, state archaeologist. February-Norwood Chert. March-silent auction.

**Minutes of the Last Meetings:** Minutes of the November membership meeting and of the December board meeting were printed in the December newsletter. Corrections were made in the spellings of the names Berquist and Roland.

**Treasurer's Report:** None

The meeting was adjourned by President Angstman.

Program: Member sharing about how they became interested in rocks; optional gift exchange.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Sjoquist, Recording Secretary

### **CMLMS, Board Meeting, January 2, 2014**

Canceled because of inclement weather. Not rescheduled.

## **SHARING**

### MY HAJJ

By Marvin Oesterle

The Hajj is an annual pilgrimage to Mecca, their most holy city, by the followers of Islam. It is a religious duty to be undertaken by every able-bodied Muslim at least once in his or her life. Somewhat comparable to this religious trek is the annual gathering in Tucson, Arizona for the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. It occurs from the end of January through the middle of February. It is hard to pin down because there are said to be 40 different shows running at about the same time.

Several years ago, my son, Blair, announced that he had found the woman of his dreams and would marry her. I was ecstatic. Not only was I getting a fine daughter-in-law but her home town was, you guessed it, Tucson, Arizona! Cheap sleeping quarters! This was finally the year I was going on my Hajj.

I began to prepare for the trip. For years, I had followed Bob Jones, senior editor of Rock and Gem magazine, as he posted daily pictures of the Tucson Show on his website. But nothing can prepare you for the real thing. It is huge. It is in exhibition halls, motel rooms, the back of moving vans, car trunks, courtyards or any vacant spot of ground that one can pitch a tent. A shuttle bus is provided and needed due to the great distances. However, a car is best so you got some place to stash all your purchases. Oh, and you will need a pile of money. It doesn't matter how big a pile because you will always wish you brought more. Think you are a hot negotiator? Try bargaining with a teenager who doesn't speak English and you don't speak whatever he's speaking but you want his rock and he wants your money.

Finally the day came to leave. I was staying with my son and his wife. I had the airplane ticket. I had packed light so as to have room to bring back my rocks. But I needn't have bothered. As I pulled into Detroit Metro Airport just ahead of my flight, my wife called and asked if I knew that I had left my bag at our front door. Oh well, that is why they make Walmarts.

Needless to say, it was a fantastic trip. My son, who may suspect that I have an affinity for rocks, made reservations for us to tour the nearby Kartchner Caverns. These caves were discovered in 1974 and kept secret even from the landowners (Kartchner) until 1978. Then everyone decided that the best way to protect these sensitive caves were to sell them to the Arizona State Parks. They do give closely monitored tours and carry on research projects with the Arizona State University. Part of the caves are even closed during the summer months because it is used as a bat nursery for over a thousand bats.

The tour ends with the viewing of the 58 foot tall "Kubla Khan" column. It was very impressive

but the guide said that if they weren't suffering a power failure, it would knock my Walmart socks clean off. I guess I'll just have to go back.