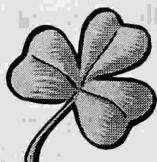


Return to:  
CML&MS  
4519 Seneca  
Okemos MI 48864  
**FIRST CLASS**  
**TIME VALUE**



Neil & Connie Snepp  
1325 Orlando Dr  
Haslett MI 48840

48830>3733 97

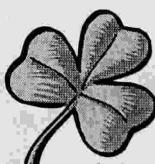
# ROCKHOUND NEWS

March 1999

Official publication of the  
**Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society**  
Member of MWF & AFMS



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:  
MARCH MEETING PLACE  
IS CHANGED TO THE  
ALAIEDON TWP. HALL!!!**



## **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 p.m.; doors open at 7:00 p.m.**

**Annual dues: Adults \$5.00, Students under age 18 \$1.00**

### **OFFICERS 1999**

President	Larry Bourland	543-6669
Vice President	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans	351-6136
Corresponding Secretary	Lee Olson	339-2059
Roster Secretary	Wayne Zittel	485-2002
Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
1 Year Director	Ed Drown	347-5097
2 Year Director	Alice Turner	694-9596
3 Year Director	Gail Hopkins	886-6047
Liaison Officer	Bettie Patterson	347-8821

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Program	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Membership	Rich & Lila Stevens	616-693-2733
Hospitality	Phyllis White	349-9159
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	Duane Jorgensen	339-2812
Field Trips	George Heaton	339-8914
Library	Lee Laylin	349-3249
Display	Irwin "Grit" Turner	694-9596
Publications	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616-948-9589
Show	Roger Laylin, Milt Gere & Larry Bourland	

### **PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS**

4519 Seneca  
Okemos MI 48864

### **MEMBER OF:**

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
<http://www.comean.com/rock/mwf>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

**NOTE: March 18 meeting will be at the Alaiedon Twp. Hall located at 2021 West Holt Road., 1/2 mile east of Okemos Road. A-I please bring refreshments. Program: Silent Auction**

**March Board & Show Board Meeting Briefs:**

- Get well cards were sent to Joe & Alberta Manina, Joe Austin, Lucy Dewey & Wilma Hopkins
- Note change of date for banquet to May 27, Okemos Masonic Hall
- Roger Laylin has two helpers for show co-chair: Milt Gere & Larry Bourland
- Show theme will be "Century of Gems." Show dates: Oct. 22-24.

**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.

**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.**

**Vice-President's Report- Mary Kay Bean**

The club has been made the recipient of a large donation by the formerly known store, "Gods creations." The entire back of Sofia Kauma's pick-up truck was filled to over-flowing with gems, minerals, clocks, jewelry, specimens from around the world; many exquisite articles ranging from fossils to quartz clusters and everything that will peak a rockhound's appetite.

Sofia and I have spent days and nights separating and categorizing the material, some of which will be offered at the Silent Auction at the club meeting on the 18th of March. Many more items will be sold at the October Show and used as door prizes and raffle prizes with the hope of making this up coming event the most prosperous to date, largely due to the thousands of dollars of materials donated by the Rutherfords.

We are grateful beyond words that "God's Creations" has chosen the CML&MS to donate nearly their entire closing inventory to us. Thanks to all in the Rutherford family and to Sofia Kauma for their hard work in this venture.

**Some Minerals found in Geodes, or What's That in There?-- Duane Jorgensen**

Who knows how geodes are formed, or what their origin is? That's the quiz of the month, for those of you who were not prepared last month. There will be no organized test, nor disorganized test either, so no one need fret about missing out on the prizes, as there will be none, unless you bring some. There will be geode minerals to oooh! and aaah! over, but only if YOU bring your finest specimens for others to admire. Several diverse hypotheses for origin of geodes have been offered, all of which make some sense, depending on the geologic environment of the "geode". The geodes of southern Indiana's and Kentucky's Harrodsburg Formation have been described as originating as fossils which have enlarged into geodes by an accretionary process, somewhat similar to the process that results in gypsum/anhydrite nodules. Anyone who has seen the part fossil-part geode "geodes" might easily believe that all geodes were originally fossils, but such is not the case. Other original forms that may now be "geodes" include gypsum nodules, and (burp) gas bubbles, especially if the "geode" originates in or from a lava flow. Also it is worth considering what makes a geode a geode, it is only the fact that there is a shell of some mineral that is more weathering resistant than the surrounding rock. Just imagine all the geodes that might come from the quarry at Corydon, Ind. if the pink dolomite were harder than the surrounding rock and weathered out of the rock. Geodes should not be confused with geodesics (a type of dome), nor geoids (the triaxial shape of the earth), nor concretions, although septarian concretions may sometimes resemble geodes. The following list of minerals includes only those that I have been fortunate enough to observe or find in person, and I'm sure some of you have "I found it" lists much more extensive than the following:

Quartz: Probably the most common geode mineral, usually found as crystals radiating inwardly toward the center of the geode. Chalcedony is also found, sometimes as an outer rind or shell containing crystalline quartz.

Calcite: Not real common but does occur.

Dolomite: Probably more common than calcite in geodes, and often containing traces of iron resulting in ferrodolomite or ankerite.

Aragonite: Anyone who has collected the spectacular aragonite geodes from the Ind. Highway 37 roadcut north of Bloomington has real "goodies"- bring some.

Kaolinite: Geodes from Gray's quarry, Hamilton, IL. contain kaolinite as crumbly bright white powder.

Sphalerite: Often black due to contained iron. I haven't found any, but goslarite or zinkosite, the sulfates, might be expected.

Pyrite: In a great variety of crystal forms. I don't recall collecting any marcasite, however, it is likely to occur.

Hematite: One of the abandoned quarries near Bloomington has geodes that contain small hematite crystals as trillings and other combinations.

Millerite: One of the most spectacular geode minerals. This NiS mineral tarnishes to nickel sulfate which Dana 4th edition gives as morenosite. Others have called the tarnish honesite, however they probably are two different minerals, differentiated by their water content.

Celestite: One of the most sought after minerals in geodes, the blue celestites from southern Indiana are world famous.

**For Sale: Lighted Showcase, 4'x6'x3'. As new: \$150.00  
Call Sofia Kauma @ 887-2386 or Mary Kay Bean @ 351-1107**

**FIELD TRIP: Corydon Indiana, Saturday March 20 -- George Heaton**

The field trip for March will be to the Corydon Crushed Stone Co. Quarry near Corydon Indiana on Saturday March 20. The Corydon quarry is known for its beautiful pink dolomite crystals and some very nice calcite crystals. Purple fluorite is sometimes found with the pink dolomite. We will plan to meet at the quarry office at 11:30 am on Saturday. (This part of Indiana is on the same time as MI.) Corydon is located very near the bottom of Indiana and is a long drive from Lansing, probably at least 9 hours. To be at Corydon Quarry at 11:30 am you may want to plan to leave Friday afternoon or night and travel most of the way.

After our visit to the quarry on Saturday we can also visit an interesting road cut on Rt. 56 between Salem and Scottsburg in Washington Co. on Sunday morning before heading home to Lansing. This road cut is large and contains quartz, dolomite and calcite geodes. The calcite crystals here are especially attractive.

To get to Corydon you can take I-465 South to I-65 and go south on I-65 almost to Jeffersonville IN which is located on the Ohio River across from Louisville KY. At Jeffersonville you can take I-64 east to exit 105 at Corydon and Rt. 135. Go north on Rt. 135 about 1/4 mile to the first road to the left. You take this road west to the quarry, which will be on your right. There are motels and restaurants near the intersection of I-64 and Rt. 135.



**Field Trip to Grand Rapids -- George Heaton**

Our field trip to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. in Grand Rapids on Saturday, February 13th attracted about 15 members and guests. Typical of George Heaton arranged field trips the weather was good, being sunny and dry. I saw very few crystals collected. I believe most of us spent our time collecting alabaster and pencil ore gypsum, mostly for the children's table and a few large pieces for yard rocks. George's brother Roger Heaton collected a large chunk of good quality alabaster and Dave and Jean Ann had a very large piece of pencil ore gypsum which I suspect will be used to decorate their yard.

**SHOW CALENDAR**

March 20	Metro Rock Swap (Dearborn Club). Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor (just East of Telegraph). 10am-5pm. Free.
April 7-10	Indian Mounds Show. Eastbrook Mall, Corner of 28th St. & East Beltline (M-37), Grand Rapids. 10am-9pm Free
April 10-11	Midwest Federation Show & Convention. Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad St., Columbus OH. Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5.
April 16-18	Mt. Clemens Show, Mt. Clemens Community Center
May 1-2	Cincinnati Show. Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 Seymour Ave, Cincinnati. Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5.
Apr. 30-May 2	Kalamazoo Show. Fairgrounds County Center Bldg., 2900 Lake St. Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Admission \$2.00, under 12 free with Adult.
May 21-23	Dearborn Show. <b>NEW LOCATION: Allen Park Civic Arena</b> , Allen Park MI. Fri. 5-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5:30
June 25-27	Lawrence County IN show/swap. Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Bloomington Indiana. Fri. 10-7, Sat. 8-7, Sun. 8-4. Camping \$6.00 per night. Free admission.
June 19-20	MGAGS Rockhound Seminar. Southwestern MI College, Niles MI \$15.00 per day, advance \$12.00 per day. See Grit & Alice Turner for more information.
Aug. 8-16	Red Metal Retreat. Houghton MI

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
FEBRUARY 1, 1999 - FEBRUARY 28, 1999

BALANCE ON HAND(02-01-99)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99)	\$11109.36
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	11496.34
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	550.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23156.00</b>

RECEIPTS:	
DUES	50.00
TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING	500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>550.00</b>

DISBURSEMENTS:	
TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING	500.00
PUBLICATIONS	128.72
1999 SHOW	500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1128.72</b>

BALANCE ON HAND(02-28-99)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99)	\$11109.36
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	11046.34
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	421.58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22577.28</b>

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER

## ANCIENT BELIEFS OF MARCH BIRTHSTONES

One of the two birthstones for March is Bloodstone, a green Jasper flecked with blood-red spots. Legend has it originating at the time of the crucifixion, with drops of blood falling on the jasper stones at the foot of the cross.

Many strange powers have been attributed to it from time to time - Pliny recorded that under the spell of certain magic words, it had the power of making the wearer invisible. Nothing was said about regaining visibility, which could have been an inconvenience if one was permanently trapped in the invisible state. That, however, was hardly likely to have caused a problem since the scribes neglected to set down the ritual and the charm to be recited.

Bloodstone was supposed to retain the ability of ordinary jasper to reveal plots of an enemy and to sustain courage in danger. It gave to its wearer the good will of his companions and influenced him to regard them with consideration. It assured success to the wearer in any venture where a hard struggle was involved, but a calm mind was needed.

Soothsayers of old claimed that Bloodstone was emblematic of wisdom, courage and vitality. The wearer was assured of health and strength, both physical and mental. It was the favored stone of Roman athletes, who attributed their endurance to its magic power.

For some unrecorded reason, the Bloodstone was a stone held in high reverence by cattle breeders during medieval times. Also gardeners believed it protected them against bites by poisonous insects or serpents. Early Greeks and Romans believed it cured a nosebleed because the red spots resembled drops of blood. More than likely, pressure and the coldness of the stone did the trick.

It is a strange fact that such widely separated races as the Arabs and the aborigines of North America preferred the Bloodstone cut in the shape of a heart to ward off the evil eye. And so, in ancient times few houses were so poor as not to own a Bloodstone for its curative and protective powers. The person and his possessions were doubly protected if the gem was also his birthstone.

The other March birthstone is the Aquamarine, a lovely green to blue-green to blue variety of Beryl. From ancient times it has been held in almost the same reverence as Emerald and has often been considered the stone of purity for an engagement ring. Sometimes it has been chosen for an anniversary gift from a man to his wife, assuring happiness and constancy in love and marriage, preventing quarrels between husband and wife, and protecting them against scandal and slander.

In ancient times it was sacred to Neptune and was worn by sailors and travelers on the sea. Engraved with the head of the sea god and his trident, the stone had special power to protect the wearer from the perils of the sea, not only from wind and wave, but from sea monsters and submerged rocks. Travelers by land also believed that the Aquamarine preserved them from dangers in strange lands, and assisted them in finding hidden objects. It also

had power to preserve the wearer against poison administered by the envious or by enemies.

Aquamarine was a favored stone for students and those whose professions required deep study. It was believed to stimulate the intuition as well as the intellect and to make the wearer quick witted. Students of the occult considered an amulet of Aquamarine stimulated their insight and imagination to discover concealed meanings in the writings of the ancients, even to discover long-lost scrolls and manuscripts.

Medicinally, Aquamarine was endowed with the power to cure ailments involving the jaws and the throat, as well as the stomach and liver. Necklaces of Aquamarine beads were believed to cure the toothache as well as to preserve the teeth.

If the Aquamarine is worn as a birthstone, it has the power of banishing fears and of controlling the emotions of stress and anxiety.

Submitted by  
Bettie Patterson

### Detroit Salt Mine Reopens

Detroit is back in the salt business. The salt mine located in the Schaefer/Fort Street area of Detroit has recently reopened, it was reported in the Feb. 14, 1998, issue of *The Oakland Press*.

It is operating under the name of the Detroit Salt Co., the name it had when it opened in 1906 as a subsidiary of the International Salt Co.

In the 1980's its ownership changed to Crystal Mines, Inc., who closed the mine in 1985, citing unprofitability as the reason. The owners then sought government approval to use the mine for the storage of toxic waste. Such approval was not granted.

With road salt, its product, now selling for \$25 - \$30 a ton, the mining of salt is again profitable. The mine expects to produce one million tons of salt this year.

A detailed history of the Detroit Salt Mine by club member Diane Kuzara is included in *The Rockhound's Michigan*, published by MMLSD in 1998.

Walt Vogtmann  
via Rockpile 3/99

### "Vacation"

The book gave me an approximate location  
and there is where I went to spend my  
vacation.

I thought, this is going to be swell;  
but it ended up looking for that elusive  
pimpernel.

I looked to the east and then to the west  
I wondered . . . which direction was the  
best.

The hills looked so alike,  
where oh where was that site.

Now and then I would find a likely spot but  
it usually turned out to be not so hot.

Looking for some kind of sign,

Then one day, full of despair  
at a piece of bone did I stare.

With great jubilation, I began my  
excavation . . .

and that is how I spent my vacation.

Pat Rutkowski  
via Rockpile 3/99