

PRESIDENT'S CORNERSTONE -- Chuck Smith

Our show is coming up fast. We still need help with selling tickets, set-up Thursday morning and evening, Friday morning school visits, hospitality room, silent auction and clean-up on Sunday evening. If you can help, sign up at our next meeting. We are also in need of good quality specimens for the silent auction. If you have a piece or two you would like to donate, contact Gordon Lewis. See you at the show.

MICHIGAN MINING HISTORY FOCUS OF OCTOBER PROGRAM-- Jean Ann

Hope you are feeling nostalgic.... For our October program we will view two 16mm films produced in the late 1950's or early 60's (I couldn't find a copyright date) by Michigan State University television-- the program being "Michigan Conservation." The films briefly discuss the geology of each region, and then focus on the daily workings of the respective mining district.

I ran the films at work to check their condition & watched what I could while carrying on with my other tasks. I found myself chuckling frequently through the iron film, which includes a good amount of hammering-it-up by the miners. The copper film has comparatively little in the way of human interest shots-- most footage is of the machinery. The text also warns of the immanent closing of the copper mines without technological progress. I'm accustomed to seeing the copper country in it's current architectural decay. It is sad to see that only 40 or 50 years ago these same buildings were bustling with activity-- shiny & vibrant.

Thanks to Alan Hukill who recovered these films from storage. If time permits, there is a third film on the salt mines near Detroit and we can watch that as well.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS (jawp)

Six new members were accepted at the October board meeting!

First we have a father and son team, Boyd & Kyle Schumaker. Boyd works for MSU and likes lapidary work. Kyle is 10 years old and attends Forrest School. Their address: 2924 Canarsie, Lansing MI 48910.

Already a familiar face at meetings, Judith (Jud) Miller, has officially joined the club! Judith also proved herself to be a hardy field collector at this years Red Metal Retreat. I don't think she and Larry (Parks) missed a single event! Judith works as a secretary at MSU. Her address: 601 N. Magnolia Ave, Lansing MI 48912. 482-7616.

Ruth Ann & Melvin Lehner were introduced to our club as guests at our banquet last May. Melvin is a toolmaker and Ruth Ann keeps busy as a foster parent. Their address: 1100 W. Chadwick Rd., DeWitt MI 48820. 669-3787.

Last, but not least, is Lawrence Mouton, age 8, grandson of members Larry & Lorna Tripp! Lawrence is a well learned rock-pup, and had a beautiful display at our show last year. He attends Cavanaugh School. His address: 4618 Donald St., Lansing MI 48910. 882-8424.

EN MEMORIUM, KELSEY GIBBS-- Florence Hill

Former member Kelsey Gibbs died September 21 after a long illness. He is David Gibbs' father. Old time members will remember the excellent demonstration on magnetism which Kelsey put on at the 1978 show. Our sympathy goes to David and the

family.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP-- George Heaton

The field trip for October will be our Gem and Mineral Show at the Marshall Street Armory October 27-29. I hope all of our members will be willing to participate in this event by working at one or more of the many jobs that must be done to put on a good show.

The children's table will need lots of help, especially during the school tours on Friday morning, and George would like enough help on Saturday and Sunday so he can goof-off now and then and look at stuff, have a snack, check the silent auction, etc.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT-- Mary Kay Bean

Wishes for a speedy recovery after eye surgery were sent to Florence Hill. We also offer our sympathy to Florence on the death of her sister, Gladys. A card of sympathy was also sent to the family of former member Kelsey Gibbs. Mary Ann McMann suffered a massive heart attack, but is now home. A card & letter were sent to her. Mary Ann traditionally has stood permanent duty at the club swap table at our show-- we will need a few extra volunteers to fill her shoes! Please call me if you are willing to help out.

EDUCATION-- Florence Hill & Royal Olson

The mineral of the month will be aurichalcite, a carbonate of zinc and copper.

These people have responded to requests from teachers for classroom visits: Grit Turner to Pinecrest and Cumberland; Royal Olson to Murphy School; Neil Snepp to a Montessori School. We need to know which of you are willing and free in time to fill other requests as they come to us. Each one of you will bring a different perspective to such a session. That is just as it should be, so don't be afraid to try. You have more to give than you realize.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1996, ELECTION IN NOVEMBER (jawp)

With no willing volunteers for the nominating committee, Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski, Richard Stevens and Royal Olson were conscripted into service. The following slate of officers is presented:

President-- Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski

Vice-President-- Royal Olson

Recording Sec.-- Mary Gowans

Treasurer-- Alan Hukill

Corresponding Secretary -- Mary Kay Bean

3 year Director--Gail Hopkins

Other nominations will be accepted the night of the election. Nominations may not be made without the permission of the nominee.

MAKE YOUR OWN "GEODES"--via Happy Hounder 10/95

This looks like a fun crystal growing activity.... Make a solution of 1/2 cup of warm water and as much salt as will dissolve. Add food coloring to solution. Fill bottom

of egg shell halves with solution after you have carefully removed the inner skin of the egg shell. As the solution evaporates, the "geodes" will form. Epsom salts or sugar also make easy solutions for crystal growing.

SHOW ALERT (jawp)

"The Show" is the most important event in our club's year. It's the time when everyone is needed, and indeed just about every able-bodied member of our club does pitch in and help. Some of us live at the armory from Thursday to Sunday, others can give an hour or two. (Then there's the hard-core bunch that even show up Monday morning to make double sure everything is clean and tidy.)

Your contributions of time, energy and materials are appreciated! Scan the list of needs below & see what suits you. You can sign up for a job at the meeting, or just show up and say "Where do you need me?"

Donations are needed for:

--Silent Auction --Door Prizes --Raffle Prizes --Kids Table

Please label any of the above with proper identification of mineral content & location where found.

--Snack items for the hospitality room are also welcome. Many folks, including our dealers, don't get a chance to leave the show from early morning to closing time. They appreciate some sustenance.

Displays. We depend on our club members to provide most of the displays at our show. An "application" is attached to this newsletter. Please fill it out & give it to Jean Ann at the meeting, or put it in the mail. If you have an empty case that someone could borrow, please let me know as well.

Work to be done.

Thursday

--9:00am meet at Turner's house to begin hauling rock, signs, equipment etc. to armory.

--till 5pm, limited set up at the armory. (Have to leave room for the 5-7pm dance classes.)

--7:00-9:00pm finish set-up; bring in displays

Friday

--8:30 ish am to 1:00 pm. The invasion of over 1000 school children. We need help selling minerals to these young'uns and monitoring their behavior. Dress comfortably & be ready to hustle!

--At 1:00 there is a flurry of activity to rearrange things a bit to accommodate the arrival of our dealers. George Heaton & Gordon Lewis could use help at this time to organize the kids table and silent auction for the evening.

During Show Hours we need bodies in the following positions:

--Ticket Sales --Raffle Tickets --Silent Auction --Kids Table
--Security/Host(ess) --Swap Table --Hospitality

HANDLE WITH CARE via Rock Trails 9/95

With extra care I chose the stone,
I sawed, preformed and dopped it.
Next, sanded it to a mirror sheen

HINT--Bill Horton via MWF

For a better cabochon, lap the back of the cab, and finish the back first. This will give you a very flat back. It is hard

And then, by dang, I dropped it.

to achieve a good flat using the wheels.

An article to make your day via The Rockpile 10/95.....

SEPT. FIELD TRIP TO HALLS GAP & DANVILLE KY AREA-- George Heaton

Seven of our members and George Heaton's brother, sister, and nephew met Kirtly Settles and his son, Dan, at the Pioneer Playhouse Campground in Danville Kentucky at 8:00 am on Saturday September 30. Kirtly and Dan had made the arrangements for our visits to the Caldwell Quarry and a couple of creek geode collecting sites.

Dan Settles led us to the Caldwell Quarry and to that part of the quarry where the fault zone and mineral veins are located. Unfortunately, there had not been a blast in that part of the quarry for a while and the mineral veins were not well exposed. There were a few large blocks of rock and some clay and smaller rubble that had fallen from the wall at that site that produced a few specimens of barite and fluorite. Roger Laylin and Gordon Lewis found a few barite and fluorite specimens from these rocks. Gordon Lewis also found a large vug with sharp scalenohedral calcite crystals, some of which showed internal phantoms. Connie Snepp found some fossils, Marie Lewis found a small vug of calcite with a purple cube of fluorite, and George Heaton found calcite.

We left the quarry at about 11:45 am and had lunch, after which we went to another area on quarry property which Kirtly had told us was good for fossil collecting. We spent a short time there investigating the site before we had to go and meet Kirtly again at the entrance to the camp ground.

While at the fossil site Connie Snepp found a small segment of a straight shelled type of cephalopod, Roger Laylin found a large segment of cephalopod about 8 inches long, and Marie Lewis found a trilobite. Then we left the fossil site and met Kirtly at the campground at 1:30 pm and he led us to a creek site south of Danville where we collected geodes. Some nice geodes were collected here.

Sunday morning our group met for breakfast at a Shoney Restaurant on Rt. 150 on the south side of Danville at 7:00am and left from there for the Halls Gap road cut to look for the millerite geodes. While there some millerite specimens were found by Roger Heaton, Neil Snepp, and George Heaton. Others may have been found but these were the ones I saw. Roger Heaton found the best millerite specimen.

HUMOR AT FEDERATION SHOW via MWF Newsletter 6/95

Larry Bailey reports that at a recent Federation Show he spotted a specimen of celestite and sulfur in a competitive mineral case. The display had been docked the maximum points because, to quote the judge, "the specimen should have the specific location, not maybe Michigan."

Needless to say, the judge was soon informed about Maybee, Michigan.

MORE LAPIDARY HINTS FROM BILL HORTON via MWF Newsletter 10/95

--Each time you clean the lapidary saw, reverse the blade. This will give longer life to the blade as you wear each side evenly.

--The best way to get all the material from a rock is to make one cut in the saw. Then glue the remaining portion of the rock to a piece of wood (2x4, etc.) with Elmers glue. Place the wood in the saw vice and cut the rest of the rock. Soak the last piece from the wood by placing the wood/rock in water.

--When the lapidary saw needs to have the tub cleaned, filter all of the oil through about four or five big grocery bags. The oil will be clean and re-usable. The oil never wears

out. The oil is also very expensive.

A PETRIFIED WOOD FACT via Border Gem Chatter 10/95 & Gneiss Gnews

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially from the Northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green when it was buried. The water in the green wood evaporated, making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the area left between them and the cast was filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of wood.

THE TATER FAMILY via Border Gem Chatter 10/95 & Gneiss Gnews

Have you heard the story of the Tater family? Members of this family are found (though perhaps by another name) in almost every club. There is the head of the family, Dick Tater who wants to run everything in the club. His brother, Ro Tater, wants to change everything and his sister, Agi Tater, is always stirring up trouble. Agi Tater's son, Hesi Tater, pours cold water on almost every proposal that is made, while cousin, Vege Tater helps the proposal to die, even if it is adopted. Then there is Irri Tater, who doesn't seem to go along with anyone. Imi Tater wants the club to do what everyone else is doing. Spec Tater is content to sit on the sidelines and let someone else do all the work.

But, thank goodness, not all of the members of the Tater family are trouble makers. There is Facili Tater, who is a charming person and very helpful. Cogi Tater thinks things through carefully and plans well. His brother, Medi Tater, makes a positive contribution at meetings he attends; and, Common Tater, perhaps the most down-to-earth and the friendliest of the Tater family, is helpful and supportive.

BOARD BRIEFS, OCTOBER 5, 1995 (jawp)

- 14 board members, 3 members present
- Liaison, Bettie Patterson. Information was received re: the publication World of Stones which features the minerals of Russia & is published quarterly in English & Russian. See Bettie if interested.
- Gordon Lewis reported that one of our members recently had non-elective, unplanned surgery..... Marie cut three of her fingers while slicing squash, forcing Gordon to play doctor!
- Red & Bessie Rogers put up a display at the Clare rest stop this past weekend. It will be in place for a month.
- November board meeting will be at Community Church, Okemos.

CALENDAR:

- Oct. 19 Regular meeting, 7:30 North School
- Oct. 27 Show set up
- Oct. 28-30 OUR SHOW
- Nov. 2 Board meeting,
 Okemos Community Church
- Nov. 4 Lunch at Dave & Jean Ann's house, noon
- Nov. 10-12 Midwest Faceters Guild. Dearborn Civic Cntr.
 Greenfield at Michigan Ave.

Fri. 6-9 Sat. 10-6 Sun 10-5

Tell the world: a young environmentalist speaks out---Suzuki ?