

Rockhound News

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 16TH, NORTH SCHOOL

PROGRAM: FALL BRAG/SILENT AUCTION

REFRESHMENTS :R thru Z please bring goodies.

September Program

Program Chair, Mary Gowans, has arranged for Midwest Federation 1st vice President & Membership Chairman, Alan Hukill to provide a summery and discussion of the information provided by the Gemological Institute of America's (GIA) course on "Colored Stones"

Club Calendar

Feb 20th Regular Meeting, North School, 7:30

Feb 22nd Usual date for Field trip, There is no field trip schuduled. Ed Drown is working on finding places for field trips, but many places no longer allow visitors. See article by Ed for more information

March 5th Board Meeting has been changed again. This month it will be held at the Okemos Public Library in their public meeting room.

March 20th Regular Meeting, North School, 7:30. This will be our annual Silent Auction. Slips for the auction will be availble at the Feb meeting.

PLACES TO GO AND THING TO SEE AND DO

March 8-9 Roamin Club Auction. Fri. 11-6; Sat.. 12-6. Schoolcraft College, Livonia

March 14,15,16 The Michigan Gem & Mineral Society 41st Annual Show. Fri-Sat 10-7
Sun.10-5. Michigan Center Masonic Lodge, 355 Napoleon Rd.
Michigan Center, Mi.

March 22 "Dearborn" Club Swap. Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd
Taylor, 10-5. If you go ask a member for directions to the Pink Flamingo
for lunch or supper, great food.

March 29-30 Blossomland Show. Berrien Co. Sportsman Club, 2985 E. Linco Rd., Berrien Springs. Sat & Sun 10-5.

April 11-13 Mt. Clemens Show. Mt. Clemens Community Center, 300 North Grosbeck, Mt. Clemens. Fri. & Sat. 10-7, Sun 11-5

May 2,3,4 Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society Gem & Mineral presents T- Rex a full sized cast of Sue's Skull. Fri5-9, Sat.10-6, and Sun. 10-5. Kalamazoo County Center Building "Fairgrounds"

May 3-4 Geofair 2003. Sat10-7,Sun.11-5. Cincinnati Convention Center.

May 23,24,25 Memorial Day Rock Swap. Hidden Hill Campground 3246 Loper Rd.N.E.

Newark, Ohio.

May 30-June 1 "Dearborn Show." Allen Park Civic Arena, 15800 White, Allen Park MI
Fri 5-9; Sat. 10-8; Sun. 11-5:30

Milt's Mutterings for February 2003 -----

Volunteers are Needed !

Once again I'm **asking for volunteers** to help work on the various committees. We could use active members for ALL committees and co-chairs for several committees. However, the **Education, Community Outreach** and **Display** committees are in **special need** for members.

One committee needing several willing workers NOW is the **Display Committee**. New member, Daniel Sine, has agreed to chair the committee, but he needs **several eager members** to help. They are needed to set up and take down our **Club Display** at a number of nearby rock & mineral shows. It is a very time consuming job when done show after show by one person or couple, as Alice and Grit Turner did for many years. However, with several folks sharing the task, we could get widespread club recognition and not wear out any one particular person in the process. Please give Daniel and the Club a helping hand. **Please call him to volunteer** --- phone **517-381-0805**. Thank you.

Milt

Report from Corresponding Secretary: (Marie Lewis filling in for Margaret Green until she's feeling 100% again.)

Get well cards were sent to Pat Olds, Joe Manina, Margaret Green and Margaret Randolph. We hope all of them are feeling better. A sympathy card was sent to Phyllis White whose son passed away recently.

Field Trips - Ed Drown

Well, the January trip went off without a hitch. Thirty-three people braved the blowing snow to assemble at the Alaiedon Township Hall to eat a bunch of great food, play musical take-away and surprise the snot out of Jean-Ann.

The traditional February/March field trip remains on hiatus. Michigan Natural Storage's gypsum mine is still off-limits to tour groups and field trips. I guess the prospect of having a group with hammers, chisels and pry bars just freaks out some people with underground computer farms. If access is restored we'll go, but until that happens you'd better dig through your backyard rock pile for pencil ore for the children's table.

We lost another "old reliable" last year, Duff Quarry in Huntsville, OH was closed to collecting due to an on-site accident (I don't know if the injured were rockhounds or flag stone pickers). If the quarry remains closed this year be ready to dive into your basement to find bright and shiny pyrite for Friday morning festivities on the school tour.

If the weather breaks I'll try to set-up a trip to a quarry a bit to the south, Bluffton or Anderson (if they'll still let us in).

Cheers,

E.

Progress Report on 2003 Gem and Mineral Show

A show board meeting held following the January Field trip produced much discussion and numerous good ideas. It was decided that the title for the show would be "Lords of the Rocks".

The entrance display will feature a "Petting Zoo" of rocks. Members with **large specimens** that will not be damaged by touching by little fingers should let chairman Roger know and we will work out ways to get them to the show. At the Feb. board meeting it was decided to raise the admission fees to \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for teens, 12 and under with an adult will still be free.

The hall rental fee has been paid to the county fair board and contracts have been mailed to dealers, so at this time we are about on schedule.

I will have, at the club meeting a list of all the jobs, tasks and duties that I can think of, that must be completed to hold a successful show. Members that have volunteered or been assigned to some activities are listed. **Please** take your pick of those that are open and volunteer or volunteer to assist on an activity. A show board meeting is needed very soon. Would an alternate Thursday be acceptable? Feb 27 or March 13th? Roger Laylin

Mineral of the Month: Talc -Mg (OH)₂(Si₄O₁₀)

The softest known mineral, seldom seen in collections because of the scarcity of all but massive specimens, few of which are attractive. Interesting talc pseudomorphs after enstatite occur at Bamie and Snarum, Norway. Fine foliated green talc specimens are obtained from several places, one place being Holly Springs, Cherokee, Georgia. Talc is used in making lubricants and talcum powder.

New in the Library

"Rock & Mineral" -Eyewitness-Video-Narrated by Martin Sheen Reviews are mixed on this, parts are very good, others not so good, view it and make up your own mind.

"Rocks & Minerals"-National Geographic-My First Pocket Guide-ages 6-10. Very good to get children interested in rocks and minerals.

"Beading for the first time" Ann Benson, beginning beading-has all the basics plus several small projects.

"Guide to Pennsylvanian Fossil Plants of Illinois" James R. Jennings, up dated from the 1960's.

"Rainbow Minerals of Franklin/Sterling Hill, New Jersey" Bob Jones, a color portfolio of minerals from the fluorescent mineral capitol of the world.

"Collecting Crystals" Darcy & Mike Howard, a great book on collecting quartz crystals in Arkansas.

NEWSLETTER

We have revised the mailing list if your name or address are not the way you want them or are misspelled please let us know so we can correct them.

At the board meeting someone threw out the idea that to save on mailing cost that people with e-mail might like to get their newsletters by e-mail. Does any one have any ideas on this. It would take your editor a while to figure out how to do it, but if there was lots of interest it could be done. Let me know how you feel about it both pro or con. Editor Lee Laylin

Library

We have gone through the CML&MS library and weeded out some older editions of things also duplicates. These books will be on display at the Feb.20th meeting and will be on the table for the silent auction. You may want to go through them to see if there is any thing you can use. I will also have out for people to look at, a flyer from the DEQ Geological Survey Division listing many books and pamphlets put out by the Michigan Geological Survey. If there is an interest in these I would be willing to place an order for them. lee