

Rockhound News

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 18, 2010

PROGRAM: Annual Silent Auction

REFRESHMENTS: Members with Initials A-L, Please Bring Goodies

Location & Time: The CMLMS March Meeting will be held on March 18 at 7:30 pm at the North School, 333 E. Miller Rd, Lansing, MI. Please get there a little early to help set up the tables. Bring all those great rocks, mineral specimens, jewelry, books, and lapidary equipment that need a new home. Print your auction forms from the www.michrocks.org website, fill them out, and be ready to roll!

Calendar for April 2010

April 1, 2010 Board Meeting-7:00 pm at the Okemos Library

April 15, 2010 Membership Meeting at North School. Program is the spring **Show & Tell**.

Club News:

- **2010 Officers are:** President – Roni Sionakides; Vice-President – Richard Lassin; Recording Secretary – Sue Casler; Corresponding Secretary – Mary Anne Smith; Treasurer – Kris Wood; 3 Year Director – David Westjohn; 2 Year Director, Mary Gowan; and 1 Year Director, Bob Mosher.
 - The CMLMS Club Display Chair is **David Westjohn**, who is looking for volunteers to serve on the Display Committee. David is taking the Club Display to the Kalamazoo Show. Please help.
 - **Milt Gere** and several other CMLMS members had a good time at the Okemos *Science is Fun Day*, held on February 20, 2010, at Chippewa Middle School at Okemos Rd. & Kinawa Rd.
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News About CMLMS Members:

Len Espinosa created a beautiful photographic tribute to honor his wife **Janis**, who passed away on February 2, 2010. Memorial contributions to the Capitol Area Humane Society are suggested.

Joan Ammerman, wife of **Archy Ammerman** for over 50 years, died March 8, 2010. Services were held on March 13. Joan and Archy owned and operated Archy's Rock Shop and Lansing Mason Ambulance. Memorial contributions to the American Cancer Society are suggested.

Ernie Aughenbaugh was hospitalized with pneumonia last week at Clinton Memorial Hospital. Please send him your best wishes for a swift recovery. We miss you Ernie. Get well soon!!!

This month, we are catching up on MINUTES!

Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society Membership Meeting, January 21, 2010

Call to Order. The January membership meeting was called to order by President Roni Sionakides at 7:40 pm at the North Elementary School.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests/Visitors. Dan & Sandy Taylor; Bonnie Eckhart; and Theresa Hubbard.

Minutes of Last Meeting. Sue Casler summarized the December membership meeting minutes as they have not yet been typed/printed in the newsletter.

Announcements:

*Midwest Federation: Our own Neil Snapp was selected as the Midwest Federation Scholarship Honoree. Neil therefore has the honor and responsibility of selecting those who will receive a scholarship.

*Assistance is requested for transportation and setup/take down of the club's display at the shows of other clubs.

*The Okemos "*Science is Fun*" day is scheduled for February 20 (Sat.) from 11am-3pm and will be held at the Chippewa Middle School on Kinawa Drive in Okemos.

*Meridian Schuler's Book Store, January 27th at 7pm, rock picker makes jewelry.

*MSU Museum, February 14th from 1-5pm, Darwin Days (flyers on front table).

*American Federation Newsletter; the club's nomination of Roger & Lee Laylin for Rockhounds of the year was mentioned.

*Elaine Beane requests that CMLMS members provide updates/changes for names/addresses/email, for the 2010 directory to be produced in April or May.

*Lyle Laylin discussed the CMLMS website's statistics. Activity is increasing.

*Door prizes were handled by Milt Gere in Dan Sine's absence.

Adjournment: Richard Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Lee Laylin. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Program: Roni Sionakides introduced a Slide show on Agates (from the Midwest Federation).

Respectfully submitted, Sue Casler, Recording Secretary

Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society Board Meeting February 4, 2010

President: Roni Sionakides called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the Okemos Public Library.

Board Members Present: Elaine Beane, Sue Casler, Milt Gere, Mary Gowans, Mary Anne Smith, Alan Hukill, Richard Lassen, Lyle Laylin, Gordon Lewis, Jennifer Martin, Kara Miller, Bob Mosher, Dan Sine, Roni Sionakides, David Westjohn and Kris Wood. Also in attendance were George Heaton, Grit Turner and Wayne Zittel. [Board members absent: Elaine Angstman, Ernie Aughenbaugh, and Roger Laylin]

Vice President: Richard Lassen – Reviewed Program Schedule: Feb–Dave Westjohn will speak on the Saginaw Sandstone: Crystal Repository and Much More; March--Silent Auction; Richard Lassen also offered a suggestion for a Banquet speaker – Steve Letho, author of the new Douglass Houghton book.

Recording Secretary: Sue Casler was absent at the January Board Meeting. The regularly scheduled meeting (1/7) was cancelled due to weather and the Board met Sunday, 1/10 at the Mosher/Beane residence. Thank you to Elaine Beane for taking the minutes.

Corresponding Secretary: Mary Anne Smith – A sympathy card will be sent to Leonard Espinosa whose wife Janis passed away this week. A get well card will be sent to Ernie Aughenbaugh.

Treasurer's Report: Kris Wood - reviewed receipts/disbursements for December 2009 and January 2010.

The Audit Committee, Elaine Beane and Roni Sionakides, will be reviewing the books for the 2009 Internal Audit.

Directors: 1-YR, Bob Mosher – 1) Discussed safety issue for potentially toxic minerals in a silent auction; and 2) report from the internet of a Cincinnati club that has a partnership with the university for use of facilities/meeting room. Bob suggests that our club could explore a partnership with MSU for a meeting place. 2-YR, Mary Gowans – Discussed the school day tour of the Oct. Show; the issue with when rocks & minerals are studied in the curriculum; contacts with schools and science teachers; get the word out about the October show; how can we “help” school classes to come? 3-YR, Dave Westjohn – On the issue of schools and education on geologic resources, Dave handed out a letter he has drafted for outreach to educators.

Membership: Elaine Angstman (Absent). In Elaine's absence, President Roni Sionakides presented a new member application for board action. **Alan Hukill moved to accept Theresa Hubbard as a new member; seconded by Mary Gowans. Motion approved. Welcome to new member Theresa Hubbard!**

Field Trips: Dan Sine/Dave Westjohn – possible field trips: LaFarge Quarries –Ohio and Alpena; road cuts Indiana; Mason esker from Jackson north to Grand Ledge (geology), and March --weather permitting – South Haven for Septarian nodules.

Education/Community Outreach: Kara Miller/Jennifer Martin reported that they will be making a one hour presentation on Petoskey Stone polishing at the MGAGS seminar in June; and they will also be doing a Petoskey Stone polishing demonstration in May.

Display: Dave Westjohn reported that he had checked the inventory of the club's display/specimens. Recommendations included display upgrades and corrections, make labels uniform, lights need to be replaced in displays. The purpose of the Club display is both Educational and Memorials. Possibly we could make a special appropriation in the budget to cover the costs of upgrading the club displays. It was suggested that Dave might also confer with Neil Snapp (who was constructing some new display units) and Ruth Lehner.

Finance: Gordon Lewis – Presented the proposed budget for 2010. Several items were discussed. The line item for MSU Scholarship was zero (with the uncertainty of the geology dept. at MSU remaining a dept. at the university). **It was moved by Elaine Beane to increase the scholarship to \$2,500 to cover geology/earth science/other (in place of “MSU” Scholarship); seconded by Milt Gere. The motion was passed.**

Alan Hukill moved to accept the 2010 Budget as amended; seconded by Sue Casler. The motion was passed.
New Business:

- Club member, Grit Turner presented the idea of a lapidary scholarship. Another club offers a club member a scholarship to attend Lapidary school, with the condition of sharing what was learned with club.
- Reminder that Okemos “Science is Fun” day is Feb. 20 (Sat.) from 11am to 3pm.
- Discussed whether offering a “Bus” scholarship to schools for the Oct. School Tour would encourage/assist teachers in bringing their classes to the school tour.
- Need to get 2010 Banquet information from Neil Snepp.

Kara Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Roni Sionakides. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Casler, Recording Secretary

Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society Membership Meeting, February 18, 2010

Call to Order. The February membership meeting was called to order by President Roni Sionakides at 7:40 pm at the North Elementary School.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests/Visitors. No guests or visitors tonight; however, new member **Theresa Hubbard** was present.

Minutes of Last Meeting. Sue Casler – summarized the January membership meeting minutes as they have not yet been typed/printed in the newsletter.

Announcements:

*Vice President Richard Lassen outlined the program schedule for the next few months:

March will be the annual Silent Auction (forms are available to use with your specimens);

April – Show and Tell evening; and May 20th will be the club’s annual banquet.

*Discussion of Banquet – The membership continued the long-standing tradition, and voted to have chicken as the entrée. Elaine Beane will take care of the Banquet programs.

Volunteers are needed for: the Appetizer table; Tickets (printing the tickets, selling and collecting at the door); Sue Casler will take care of door prizes, but could use some help; and the speaker is to be identified and secured by the President. A final count for the banquet needs to be given to the cook the Friday before the Banquet (Neil Snepp will probably be out of town, so we need someone to follow up with that item).

*Another reminder from Elaine Beane – updates/changes to the directory.

*Gary Smith mentioned that Neil Snepp and Dr. Mike Verbal (sp) MSU Prof. gave a “rock” talk to a group at Mr. Smith’s church.

*Lyle Laylin mentioned that if there is a good (sunny, 50 degrees, no gale winds) Saturday in March he will be going over to South Haven to collect Septarians. Anyone who is interested should please give Lyle your phone number/email.

Adjournment. Sharon Patton moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Kara Miller. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Program: Club member Dr. David Westjohn presented an interesting slide program on *The Saginaw Sandstone: A Crystal Repository*.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Casler, Recording Secretary

Why Do You Pick Them Up? By CMLMS Member Marvin Oesterle

“Honey, did you know that a blacksmith is working in our basement?” Hurrying toward the basement, my wife gave me her adoring look. Or it may have been her disgusted look... I get them confused. Soon the clatter ceased and she returned bearing the offending items in her hand.

“Somebody left some stones in their laundry again. Why do you pick up these plain white stones anyway? Are you trying to test the warranty on our washer and dryer?” Ah Hah, I thought. She’s given me a philosophical question that I can really sink my teeth into. (Also, she made me resolve to find those warranty papers.)

“That is a genuine piece of quartz and you should have seen it sparkling in the sun. It was winking at me and saying ‘Hey sailor, would you like to take me home!’”

She gave me another adoring look and said “Quartz is the most common mineral on the planet. Why don’t you leave some for somebody else?”

Of course, she is right. Why DO we pick them up? Rocks can be beautiful or ugly, useful as money, an obstruction, a raw material, or a tasty addition to dinner (salt). Why are some people “bitten by the rock bug” and other people are not? -- And why do the opposites marry each other?

After several seconds of deep thought, I came up with an answer: We’re nuts. Not so much as to be institutionalized, but we definitely qualify for “character” status – and we enjoy it! The USA cable channel’s slogan is “Characters Wanted” and they have a project to show characters in all walks of life. So we are not alone.

Sometimes I think that it is not so much the rocks but the people that are so interesting. – Naw, it’s the rocks AND the people.

I once served on a board with the Chair of the Geology Department at MSU. I was forever bringing to our meetings samples to identify or simply show off. Finally, he said “Don’t you have anything interesting?” How could he say that about my treasures!

What he was telling me was that he was a fossil man. Fossils are what appealed most to him and all that he cared about. I told him that I didn’t have the imagination or nerve to be a fossil man. I couldn’t look at some faint shadows in a stone and solemnly proclaim that this was the remnant of a 150 million year old dinosaur that died facing the south and eating a peanut butter sandwich. It takes supreme confidence and a lot of “character” to be a paleontologist.

Or take the miner who digs a hole in the earth and then tunnels for perhaps miles digging at the walls that are holding up the ceiling; that takes “character” and a certain amount of faith. Or the prospector panning for gold in a cold mountain stream as he slowly loses feeling in his feet – “I’m going to be rich, I’m going to be rich”. Or the flint-knapper who still is practicing a craft that was mastered tens of thousands of years ago – “those Neanderthals aren’t going to beat me!” And there must be a psychiatric term for the precision fetish of the faceter (Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, perhaps?).

Yup, we’re characters all right. I don’t know why we pick them up but I wonder if Maytag knows what a good job their washers do on cleaning up my quartz treasures. – Now, where’s that washer warranty?

Places to Go and Things to Do:

March 19-21. Jackson, MI. Michigan Gem & Mineral Society 48th Annual Gem and Rock Show. *Treasures and Gems in 2010*. Jackson County Fair Grounds, Fair Event Center, 200 W. Ganson St, Fri 10-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5. Check www.mgmsrockclub.com.

March 20 & 21. Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Cedar Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. *Dinosaurs: Featuring a 33’ Duckbill Skeleton*. Teamsters Union Hall, 5000 J Street SW, Sat 8:30-6 Sun 9:30-5. Check www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org.

March 27. Taylor, MI. Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society 38th Annual Metro Rock Swap. Free admission & parking. Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Road, 10-5. Call 734-525-1684.

Check the Midwest Federation website www.mwf.org for more information on shows.