

# ROCKHOUND NEWS

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 15, 2012**

**PROGRAM: ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION**

**REFRESHMENTS: Members with Initials A–L, Please Bring Goodies**

**Location and Time:** The CMLMS March Meeting will be held on March 15, 2012, at 7:30 pm, at the North School, 333 E. Miller Road, Lansing, Michigan. Please get there a little early to help set up the tables.

## **Calendar for April 2012 and later**

April 5, 2012	Board Meeting–7:00 pm at the Okemos Public Library
April 19, 2012	Membership Meeting at North School, 7:30 pm program Geology of Michigan video
May 17, 2012	Banquet at Okemos Masonic Center
June 21, 2012	Show work day, y'all come now!!! Also at Okemos Masonic Center

**DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE!!! Please see Ernie Aughenbaugh to get paid up!!!**

## **SILENT AUCTION IS COMING - BRING LOTS TO SELL!!**

Silent Auction information: Time to weed out the collection, clean the basement, garage or out-building. Mineral specimens, jewelry, rock-related equipment, book/magazines may be sold at the silent auction. Auction sheets are available at the CMLMS website - [www.michrocks.org](http://www.michrocks.org). Click on the Club Info menu and select Programs. There is a hyperlink to the auction sheets. They can printed out with either 2 or 3 sheets per page. Please have your auction sheets filled out when you arrive. But if you forget there should be a few available at the meeting. Also bring change for cashing out.

## **WELCOME**

New member Edward F. Cook of Lansing

## **TRANSITIONS**

Life member Kathleen Martin of Ionia, Michigan, passed away on February 24, 2012

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Now is a good time to be of service to your society. There is always need for help with various projects and committees. Please think of lending a hand for any of our committees, becoming an officer, and getting to know us better. We are a fun group!!!

**Display committee:** A new committee chair is needed. We also need a person or persons to take the beautiful new cub display cases to shows put on by other mineral, lapidary and gem clubs in Michigan. If you are going to a Michigan show, please consider taking the club's display with you. Call or email Jan Sjoquist to join the committee or President Elaine Beane if you would like to be chairperson.

**Show committee:** Show Chair *Pro Tempore*, Roger Laylin, needs an apprentice to help with the 2012 show committee and who will be willing to take over the show chair position. Call or email Roger Laylin to join the committee or President Elaine Beane if you would like to be chairperson.

**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.

### **ALWAYS WANTED**

Needed for the show and outreach are clean styrofoam egg cartons, about 1,000 and quantities of specimens for the show's children's tables; polished rocks, about 2" diameter, for Ele's Place; Petoskey stones (not Alpena type) for the show and outreach.

### **CLUB NEWS**

**UPDATE YOUR INFO:** Now is the time to update any changes in your address, phone number, e-mail address. Contact publications and roster chairs.

**2012 Banquet will be on May 17: Tickets are on sale now, \$10.00, see Dan Sine.** Volunteers are needed for tickets, hospitality table, decorations, and overall coordination. Please volunteer now. Let's have another successful and fun evening!

**Field Trips!** See Dan Sine to sign up and for more information. Spring will be here soon!

**Science Fairs:** Put on your calendar and volunteer to help out! Always a lot of fun! Sign up sheets at February and March membership meetings.

- **April 11, 2012**, Fairview Elementary School, Lansing, 6 - 9 pm.

**PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO—Check [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)**

### **CMLMS MINUTES**

#### **CMLMS Membership Meeting, February 16, 2012 Minutes**

**Call to Order:** The February membership meeting was called to order by President Elaine Beane at 7:40pm at the North Elementary School, Lansing, Michigan.

**Welcome and Introduction of Guests/Visitors:** None

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the January 19, 2012 Membership Meeting were printed in the February CMLMS Newsletter

**Treasurer's Report:** No report; treasurer absent

#### **Announcements:**

- School Science Fairs; volunteers needed; please sign up:
  - Okemos Science is Fun Day: February 18, 11-3pm
  - Bennett Woods Elementary: March 7, 6:30-8:00 pm
  - Fairview Elementary: April 11, 6-7pm

- CMLMS Banquet, May 17, Okemos Masonic Lodge: Tickets are available for \$10; see Dan Sine. Volunteer need to chair the event.
- Field Trips, Dan Sine: February 25, Grand Rapids Gypsum Mine, 12 members and Basement Field trips with Kalamazoo/Holland Clubs.
- Show, Roger Laylin:
  - Purchasing quartz, peacock ore, pyrite for show.
  - Placemat advertising being developed.
  - Egg Carton Rock Kits: Club needs to prepare these, Lila retired from task.
- Scouts: Nate Krupp gave info that Cub Scouts get “activity” badges, older Scouts get “merit” badges.
- Specimen swap: Therese Hubbard: A request was received to “swap” Petoskey stones for Tisbury Coral, Jurassic coral, from England.

Adjournment: Sherry Sparks moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Lee Laylin. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Program: Dr. Danita Brandt; “Charles Darwin; It Started With a Rock Collection.”

Respectfully submitted, Sue Casler for Janet Sjoquist, Recording Secretary

### **Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society, Board Meeting, March 1, 2012**

**Board Members Present:** Elaine Beane, Sue Casler, Jan Sjoquist, Theresa Hubbard, Bob Mosher, Milt Gere, Lyle Laylin, Ernie Aughenbaugh, Alan Hukill, Roni Sionakides, Dan Sine, Mary Gowans, Kara Miller, Jennifer Martin, Gordon Lewis, Roger Laylin. [Board Members Absent: Kris Wood, Elaine Angstman]. Guests: None.

**President:** Elaine Beane called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, and announced that she is working on getting Professor Summer from Michigan State University to speak at the May banquet.

**Vice President:** Sue Casler has planned programs for the membership meetings:

- March 15: Annual Silent Auction.
- April 19: Cranbrook video, “Geology of Michigan”.
- May 17: Banquet
- June 21: Show workshop (egg cartons)

The May and June meetings will be held at the Okemos Masonic Lodge; site arranged by Neil Snapp.

**Recording Secretary:** Jan Sjoquist said February membership and board meeting minutes will be in the March newsletter.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Theresa Hubbard sent sympathy cards to Nancy Fleming and Nick Crawford, the family of Kathleen Martin, a Life Member of CMLMS.

- In response to the request to swap Petoskey Stones for Tisbury Coral from England, Theresa mailed two pounds of Petoskey Stones and has received the interesting coral in return.
- A request was received from Audry Szymborsk to have someone from the CMLMS evaluate and appraise a 53.75 carat Emerald. Milt commented and will follow up. Bob Mosher suggested a referral to the Geology Department of Wayne State University and semi-retired Professor Lowrie.

**Treasurer:** Kris Wood was absent but emailed February, 2012 report.

**Directors:** Bob Mosher (1-yr.) has developed two reports from samples taken from two Michigan locations. He will share them with whoever may be interested. See Bob for these: *Sands of Lake Superior Beaches* and *Shale-From Grand Rapids Gypsum Mine*. Milt Gere (2-yr) has made contact with the Bellevue, Michigan quarry for possible field trip. Lyle Laylin(3-yr.) had no report.

**Roster Secretary:** Ernie Aughenbaugh has received an application for membership from Edward F. Cook, Lansing, Michigan. Mary Gowans moved to “**accept Edward F. Cook into membership**” and Sue Casler supported the motion. The motion was passed and we are pleased to welcome Edward into

CMLMS.

**Liaison Officer:** Alan Hukill, no report.

**Past President:** Roni Sionakides presented upcoming Science Fairs:

- Bennett Woods: March 7, 6:30-8pm.
- Fairview Elementary: April 11, 6-7pm.

**Membership:** Elaine Angstman, absent

**Field Trips:** Dan Sine did a walk-about at the Grand Rapids Gypsum Mine on February 25, and found thick selenite and satinspar in new locations. Dan has made permission requests to sites in Ohio and Indiana.

**Outreach:** Mary Gowans, no report.

**Education:** Kara Miller and Jennifer Martin, no report

**Publications:** Roni Sionakides has successfully published her first newsletter, unassisted, and states that the system is working and members are welcome to submit half to one- page articles for inclusion in future newsletters. Email them to Roni.

**Club Display:** Jan Sjoquist, no report.

**Library:** Lee Laylin, no report.

**Finance:** Gordon Lewis, no report.

**Webmaster:** Lyle Laylin said the website works on both .com and .org.

**Show:** Roger Laylin talked about

- Expenditure of \$ 506.00 for specimens, printing, advertising.
- Would like approval for \$1200.00 for school transportation. Roger Laylin moved “**CMLMS will offer financial assistance to schools for transportation costs on a proportional basis, limiting total expense to \$1200.00.**” Mary Gowans supported the motion, vote was taken and the motion was passed to budget \$1200.00 for transportation expenses.
- MII’s Rock Odyssey, DVD was reviewed by Elaine Beane.

**Old Business:** Still need banquet committee chair, although all tasks are filled except for hospitality and reception. Mary Gowans is working to fill hospitality slot. Lee Laylin will provide decorations and Marie Lewis will decorate, Dan Sine will provide display, Sue Casler will provide door prizes.

BANQUET TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE (\$10). See Dan Sine.

**New Business:** Roger Laylin obtained a covered flat display case from Fenner and has refurbished it with new labels. It will be a perfect case to use for children’s events as there are many colorful, interesting specimens that are clearly labeled.

- President Elaine Beane is looking for new ideas as to how to best serve the membership by the limited number of active members and also how to engage new members to become involved.
- Lyle Laylin suggested temporary memberships for field trips and a discussion ensued about insurance, liability, field trips, Midwest Federation requirements, etc. Questions were generated and Alan and Milt will follow up to clarify the insurance issues.

**Adjournment:** Alan Hukill made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mary Gowans supported that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Sjoquist, Recording Secretary

## **SHARING**

### **Oil and Vinegar**

By Marvin Oesterle

Me: Honey, this salad tastes kind of Blah.

Wife: Did you remember to shake the bottle to mix the oil and vinegar?

Me: Well no, I didn't know that I had to cook the dinner tonight.

This exchange made me think of something else that doesn't mix well. That is, the farmers that own the land and the sand and gravel operators that want to mine the resources on that land. When they work together, of course, everybody benefits. When they don't, the salad can get a little bland.

My grandfather farmed just south of Mason and his farm straddled the Mason Esker which is the sand and gravel esker that runs from St. Johns to Jackson. I grew up on stories of how the sand and gravel robber barons took advantage of the poor honest farmer. Remember, this was around the Great Depression and there wasn't a great amount of cash in anyone's pocket. There were no scales to weigh the loads so the farmers were paid an agreed amount on each truckload that was removed. Somehow a few loads or so were accidentally missed in the counting especially if the farmer was not always present. Sadly to say, there was plenty of suspicion and distrust to go around.

Many years later, I was to see the other side a lot better. My father-in-law turned out to be Stan Hartman. Many of you probably know him as the co-founder of Hartman Fabco, a Lansing manufacturer of sand and gravel equipment. Stan traveled all over the state and throughout the Midwest selling equipment to "pit" operators. He was able to get us into pits that were usually closed to outsiders for rockhounding and fishing. I think that there is a direct relationship between fishing and the sand and gravel guys. Part of the reason they get into the business is to dig holes so they can grow fish. I've heard that the first question on the job application to work in a pit is, "Can you fish?" The second one is, "Would you be willing to clean the boss's catch?" In fact, the biggest Pike I ever caught was off a dredge in the Boichot pit, north of Lansing.

Once, Stan invited me to accompany him to a pit. He said I could drive. Turns out, he needed my pick up. It seems that he had located an outstanding rock that he wanted for his yard. It was a conglomerate boulder that had split in half. Each side was over 300 lbs. No way were we going to lift them. Then, like some huge monster (or the government debt), out of the pit came this very large front-end loader and scoops up our rocks. I thought, "My God, he is going to flatten my truck and not even know it!" But I needn't have worried. The operator, like so many of them, could have performed surgery with that loader and those rocks just kissed the bed of my truck.

Stan was not only a master salesman but a strong advocate for the industry. Pit operators were always calling on his expertise. He said that he knew he was going to heaven because he had already spent his time in hell (other people called it testifying at Planning Commission hearings).

Both my grandfather and father-in-law have passed on now. They were both gentlemen with strong opinions. I wish they could have met each other. I'll bet the salad would have tasted great.