

Rockhound News

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 17TH

PROGRAM: Datolite: Crystals, Diversity & Color

REFRESHMENTS: J thru Q bring refreshments.

REMEMBER-THE JUNE 17TH MEETING WILL BE AT **WOLDUMAR** Nature Center
Club Calendar

JUNE 17th June meeting will be held at **WOLDUMAR NATURE CENTER**

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JULY 17TH Work-Picnic July 17th, 12 noon at the Laylins, bring dish to pass and own table service. Let Laylins know if you are coming. 349-3249

SEPTEMBER 2ND CML&MS board meeting at the Okemos Library 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 16TH Regular club meeting 7:30 at North School.. **Map to Woldumar**

The Pres Says:

A big thanks to our Banquet Chair, Marie Brooks, and her committee.

From reports of other members, we had good food, good friends and fun.

Thanks also to all who brought displays.

June is the last meeting of the season. Please come to Woldumar Nature Center on June 17. See map for directions. At the June meeting, the Board must select a nominating committee which will be calling members during the summer and into the fall to serve on the Board of Directors and any other open position. Please think about accepting one of our openings

CMLMS takes a meeting break during July and August. That does not mean that members become hourly TV viewers, not at all. Many of you will be rock hounding and finding all that good stuff for the children's table, silent auction or your own collection. Groups of members will be making bags of rocks and stuff for our children's show.

We have a new committee, Webmaster, co-chaired by Arie Koelewyn and Fred Stahmer. Check out our new website at: michrocks.org.

Have a good summer. May we have sunny days with a light cool breeze.

Mary Gowans

NEWS FROM FIELD TRIP CHAIR- ED DROWN

The Lincoln Brick Park Interpretive Center, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge, MI is now open for the season, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The center includes displays of fossils found at the park (carbonized plants from the Pennsylvanian) and other fossils from the United States (plus some minerals). You can walk down to the old shale pit where the fossils were found and can still be observed, but follow the posted rules about collecting them. A walk in Fitzgerald Park (across the river) will also allow one to observe a seam of coal ~1' thick underneath a capping layer of sandstone.

There is an entrance fee for the parks. For the Geocachers, there are a few in the area:
www.geocaching.com

May Field Trip - Thedford, Ontario - Ed Drown

The May field trip to Thedford was a rousing success for those who braved the “in progress” weathering (to the amusement of the new owners of the lumberyard). A dozen club members slipped and slid about in pursuit of long-dead reef critters. Horn corals were found in abundance, Sue C found a very nice rolled phacops in the Hungry Hollow formation and Dan S had a blast “up top” looking for brachiopods. I found a handful of *Microcyclus sp.* corals and a dozen or so of *Xenocyathellus sp.* corals sitting atop the pile of weathering Arkona Shale that had been pulled out for the potters. I’m sure many other treasures were found; my face was just too close to the ground to see them drop into collector’s buckets and bags.

June Field Trip - Bloomington Indiana Rock Swap - Ed Drown

The June field trip is traditionally centered on the Bloomington Rock Swap, one of the bigger swaps around and with careful looking one can find many interesting (and at times under-priced) treasures. Road cut collecting is popular this far south in the state so here are two locales that you may want to try:

Harrodsburg Road Cut: There are several road cuts in the Harrodsburg area where one can collect, the most well-known and diverse site for minerals is on Indiana Highway 37, 1 mile south of the Harrodsburg exit, Monroe County, Indiana. The geodes here range from the size of a pea to over 15 inches in diameter. Park your car well off the road, there is plenty of room here, just be careful of the incessant truck traffic. You will see the work of many previous collectors lying at the base of the cut. Look carefully through the larger pieces of limestone and find one that has a broken geode in it (there will be many). Notice that the surface of the limestone covering the geode will just bow out a little, this is the clue that you’ll use when looking at the wall of the cut to find your own to pry free. Once you find a likely bump in the wall, look for a nearby crack. The objective is to drive a chisel/pry bar or geologist’s pick into the crack and lever off a sheet of limestone that encases the geode. This will take a bit of practice to get right, but what doesn’t? If breaking living rock is too much work, look at the larger pieces of limestone that others pulled down, you never know what they left behind. If you break a geode and it is solid, check to see if it is pure quartz or if there is calcite in the center. If there is calcite then this is a good candidate to take home and etch in acid to reveal what is underneath. Make sure any debris you generate are placed at the bottom of the cut, if the break-down lane is littered with rock shards the Highway Department and Sheriff get annoyed. A hard hat is not a bad idea, and of course all other aspects of working safely with tools needs to be followed. Reported minerals from here include: quartz, calcite, dolomite, sphalerite, barite and millerite. The formations are Mississippian in age, the top of the cut is the Harrodsburg Limestone and the bottom of the cut is the Ramp Creek Limestone.

South Gate Hill: This is also known as the “Indiana Route 1” or “Cedar Grove” locality. This is a bit of a drive from Bloomington, however, this is one of the best invertebrate fossil localities you will find, ever. This road cut is ½ mile long and 200 feet high in places; there are literally millions of fossils on the surface. The locale is on Indiana Route 1, 1.0 - 1.5 miles north of the crossroads at the village of South Gate and 1.9 - 2.4 miles south of the junction with U.S. Route 52 west of Cedar Grove, Franklin County, Indiana. The exposures are Upper Ordovician in age from the Richmondian Stage. From the bottom of the cut the formations/members exposed are the: Excello mbr, Waynesville Shale mbr,

Liberty mbr, Brookville fm, Whitewater fm and the Saluda fm (Hay, Kirchner and Cuffey; 1998). The fauna is too diverse to describe in this space, just go and fill your bucket. Of note, enrolled trilobites (complete), gastropods and plates of limestone with scores of critters on their surface (sea bottom plates) are prized. The road cut is marked with "No Digging" signs - so the only tool that you should be carrying is an awl, screwdriver or sturdy ice pick. The road cut gets hot so take plenty of water, park well off the road to be safe from the road traffic and have fun! The Dry Dredgers of Cincinnati have pictures from their field trips to South Gate Hill on their website: <http://drydredgers.org/maysva.htm>
I will have information packets for these and other road cut localities at the June general meeting.

WIRE WRAPPING CLASS

I am worried, I have only had 3 people confirm that they would like to take this class. It is to be held at Woldumar Nature Center on June 25 & 26 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and I need at least 6 students but not more than 10. We will be spending the first 2 weeks in June in Ga at the lapidary school there so I will be hard to get hold of before the 14 th of June. You can still e mail me at gritalice@comcast.net but my answering machine will be off. Same goes for Grits spool knitting class except he will do fewer students before he cancels.

October Show --- Raffle Prizes Needed

We have the first three prizes lined up for the October Show Raffle. They are: #1- \$100 cash; #2- A custom faceted gemstone in a pendant mounting; and #3 - A gemstone globe. The first one is from raffle ticket sales, the other two are being donated by members.

Now we are asking for additional Raffle Prizes. It's time to begin thinking about what rock hobby related item you may be able to donate. Please let us know at one of the meetings or call us at home. Thank you. Milt & Shar Gere, 517-669-8116

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO-SUMMER & FALL

Michigan Geology & Gemcraft Society Washtenaw Community College 19 & 20 Jun 04

30th Annual Seminar Gunder Myran Building (parking Lot B) Clark Road, Ann Arbor, MI

Greater Detroit South Macomb Community 8 - 10 Oct 04 Gems, Minerals, Fossils, College Expo Center & Jewelry **Show** Bldg. P, 12 Mile & Hayes, Warren, MI

Flint Rock & Gem Club Carter Middle School 16 & 17 Oct 04

37th Annual Show Rogers Lodge Drive (exit Interstate 75 at exit 131 Vienna Road./M57) Clio, MI
