THE ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

AFFILIATED WITH • MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES• AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

December, 2016

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2016 OFFICERS

President: Diane KU7Jtra(734) 675-5237
Vice President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Recording Secretary: Julie Knechtges (734) 444-91S1
Treasurer: Doris Snyder (313) 291-2133
Corresponding Secretary: Julie Knechtges (734) 444-9151
Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara (734) 675-5237

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Club Services: Ana Ferguson
Door Prizes: Mike Bomba
AFMS Scholarship: Pat Rutkowski
Local Field Trips - Bill Barr
Summer Field Trips - Bill Barr
Education: Dave Hendershot
Insurance:
Historian: Tom Morris
Michigan Material: Tom Morris
Club Publicity:
Membership: Ana Ferguson
MMLS Scholarship: Leonard Swisher
Program Coordinator: Mike Bomba
Property - Storage: Leonard Swisher
Property - Meetings: Leonard Swisher / Ken Slack
Sunshine Reporter: Velma Bradley
Refreshments: Janet Slominski / Kim Osborne
Web Site: Stacey Harper

ACTIVITIES

2016 Banquet:
2016 Swap: Lou and Cindy Talley
2016 Super Swap: Bill Barr / Tom Morris
2016 Auction: Dan Gumina

The Rockpile Staff : Editor Peter Kuzara,
email: Kuzara1126@gmail.com 734-675-5237

MMLS website - www.mmls.us
Email - rockhounds@mmls.us

General Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on every third Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor, MI 48180
GUESTS ARE ALWAYSWELCOME

STUDY GROUPS

Advance Lapidary:
Basic Lapidary:
Bead Study: Diane Kuzara
Faceting:
Mineralogy: Dave Esch
Paleontology:
Wire Study: John Lindsay
Silversmithing: Don Brown

PAST PRESIDENTS

Robert Ellison (interim) 1956
Louis Cox 1957
Robert Heldenbrand 1958-59
Ralph Gamble 1959-60
Fred Miller 1960-61
Bert Smart I% 1-62
Leo Nieman 1963
Nicholas Rothenthaler 1964-65
Robert Fedoruk 1966-67
John Good 1968-69
Cecilia Duluk 1970
Stanley Franc:zak 1971-72
E. Donald Stinnett 1973-74
Ralph Goniea 1975-76
Norman Hanschu 1977-78
Thomas Gibbs 1979-80
Harry Nagy 1981-82
Elspeth Gibbs 1983-84
Loretta Franc:zak 1985-86
Roland Snyder 1987-88
Jay Ross 1989-90
Tom Morris Jr. 1991-92
Diane Kuzara 1993-94
Bill Orban 1995-96
Glenn Swain 1997-98
Bill Peach 1999-2000
Diane Kuzara 2001-02
Cecilia Duluk 2003-04
Russ Ranker 2005-06
Dick DePodesta 2007-08
Rich Williams 2009-10
Leonard Swisher 2011-12
Mike Bomba 2013 - 14

The President's Corner

President's Message-December, 2016

The 51" annual MMLS Auction is history. The auction was well attended and I'd like to thank everyone who helped in any way. Special thanks to Dan Gumina, our auction chairman (we'll need a new chairman next year since Dan will be president), to Gary Slominski for the use of his truck and for bringing refreshments, and to Linda Ard and Karen St. Martin who took care of the jewelry sales tables for the first time. Thanks again to all our members who stayed and help set up and tear down.

Well the last two years have flown by. This will be the last president's message ofmy term of office as your president.

I want to thank all the board members, the committee chairpersons, study group leaders and all the members who made the last two years a pleasure for me.

Please support Dan Gumina, your incoming president as you have supported me.

See you all at the meetings and club events.

Diane

MMLS elected club officers for 2017

President: Dan Gumina
Vice President: Diane Kuzara
Treasurer: Doris Snyder
Recording Secretary: Julie Knechtges
Corresponding Secretary: Julie Knechtges
Liaison: Pete Kuzara
Installation will be at the December General Meeting.

December Program: Our program will be the annual Christmas party. Bring a $5 gift to share, it can be rock related or what ever you prefer just as long as you wrap it or bag it, and if you can a refreshment to pass! I like fudge myself. See you there. Mike Bomba

Board Meeting Summary Oct 14, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM. A motion was made to accept the Sept. 14, 2016 meeting minutes, carried. Treasurer's report Sept. 30, 2016 motion to accept was made and carried. A motion was made to accept Ed Devine as a new member and present him to the membership for approval. November program is "The Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art:" 50 MMLS Club Show cases will be sold to the Kalamazoo club. A motion was made and accepted to sell them to the Kalamazoo club. Our condolences go out to Janet and Gary Slominski on the passing of Janet's mother. Kim Osborne and Julie Knechtges are working on having themes for meetings (more to come Jan). 2017 club officers nominees were announced for vote in November. A motion was made and accepted to offer 15 show table covers at $20 per cover to one of our members who made a request for them. 2004 show magnets will be available at General Meeting for anyone who would like some. MMLS has a Mineral Handbook set of 5 volumes in 6 books and are looking for ideas to get the word out and auction or sell them as a set. Next Board Meeting November 11th at the Kuzara house 7:30 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Submitted by Julie Knechtges, Secretary.

General Meeting Summary Oct 18, 2016

Minutes of the Sept. 20, 2016 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report for Sept. 30, 2016 was approved. October program is "The Mighty Mather". November program is the "Lizzardo Museum of Lapidary Art." Auction November 5th accepting donations for refreshments and auction items will be appreciated. Volunteers are needed, set up starts at 3 PM at the Democratic Club. A motion was made and accepted to accept Ed Devine for membership. October program is "The Mighty Mather" a Lake Superior region mine. November program is"The Lizzardo Museum of Lapidary Art." The Sylvania Quarry "Fossil Park"

Sylvania, OH is open from 10 am until 6 pm, trip planned for Sunday Oct 23, meet at Fossil Park at 10 am. No tools allowed. Looking for volunteers to ring bells during Christmas season for the Salvation Army. More information during November General Meeting. Board Members approved sale of 50 show cases, keeping 13 for club use. Next Board Meeting November 11, 2016 at the Kuzara house. December meeting will also take place at the Kuzara house. A motion was made to adjourn meeting at 8:08 pm, motion carried.

Summarized by Secretary Julie Knechtges.

NOTICE TO STUDY GROUPS IF THEREISCHANGEINYOUR MEETINGS PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW!!!!!

Dates to Remember

Contacts for study gronps
Bead study, Diane Kuzara, 734-675-5237
Mineral study, David Esch, 734-665-5574
Wirewrap, John Lindsay, 734-604-8561
Lapidary work shop, Frank Konieczki
734-323-2218

ATTENTION MEMBERS: The study groups with more than one night in the month, dates will be listed together.

December 1st & 15th Bead study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown, Mi at 7pm.

December 5th & 19th & 21" Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm. Fee is $2.50 for each evening.

December 7t• Wire Wrap Class, call John Lindsay for details.

December 15th Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor Mi., at 7:30pm.

December 16th Board Meeting, The Rockpile deadline at the Kuzara's at 7:30pm.

December 20th General meeting will be held at the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400 WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

January 2•d & 161h & 18t• 2017 Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm. Fee is $2.50 for each evening.

January 411, 2017 Wire Wrap Class, call John Lindsay for details.

January Slh & 19th 2017 Bead study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown, Miat7pm.

January 131h 2017 Board Meeting, The Rockpile deadline TBA at 7:30pm.

January 171h 2017 General meeting will be held at the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400 WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

January 1911, 2017 Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor Mi., at 7:30pm.

From the Editor: My two cents. Well the Christmas Season is upon us and it's hard for me to pass up those Salvation Anny Kettles without putting something in them. We exchange club newsletters with many clubs. At one time we exchanged newsletters through regular mail but now it is through email. The reason for the change is the cost of printing and postage. We do get several by U.S. Mail and when I am done with them I bring them to the General Meeting to share with our members. The newsletters are very interesting. I could forward the newsletters that I receive by email to anyone interested just let me know. It is always good to see what our sister clubs are doing.

MERRY CHRISTMAS Pete

THE QUEST FOR UNKNOWN MINERALS

By Bill Cordua, MWF Geology Chair

We have many listings of what minerals are known, their properties, and occurrences (for example the MINDAT at http://www.mindat.org). But how many earth minerals are there yet to find? Geologist Robert Hazen and colleagues, using sophisticated statistical techniques, estimate that, in addition to the nearly 5,000 minerals we know about, there are over 1,550 still out there on earth for us to find. *(See* Hazen, et al.'s article, "Earth's Missing Minerals," in the October, 2015 issue of *The American Mineralogist* for more details.) The findings show minerals that are colorful or well crystallized are more likely to have been described, as are those with economic importance. Thus, those containing copper, chromium, uranium, or nickel probably form a lower proportion of the undiscovered minerals than those containing sodium, magnesium or aluminum. Minerals that are white and blend in with more common minerals, or minerals that are water soluble, hence ephemeral, are much more likely to be overlooked. A lot of the known minerals are extremely rare, with many found at one, or perhaps, a few localities in the world, forming under odd conditions not readily duplicated. In the past, the search for undetected minerals has been haphazard. Now that we know what environments are "mineral rain forests" for particular elements, we can be more organized in the search for undiscovered minerals. The development of increasingly sophisticated analytical techniques will speed the discovery of rare minerals that only occur as specks. Each new mineral found tells us more about our planet, and can reveal properties that we can use. Technological advances in optics, radioactivity, lasers, electricity, ferromagnetism, superconductors, and many other fields were first revealed by studying minerals.

One group of under-represented minerals are those containing carbon. The inventory of carbon-bearing substances on earth is crucial to understanding the earth's carbon cycle, with applications to climate change, biomineralization, hydrocarbon fuel formation, and deep earth processes. The Deep Carbon Observatory has issued a "Carbon Mineral Challenge." They estimate there are more than 140 unrecognized carbon-bearing minerals on our planet. Some are likely sitting un- or mis-identified in museums and amateur collections. The challenge is to find these undescribed carbon minerals. Here's the link with more information: https://deepcarbon.net/feature/announcing-carbonmineral-challenge-worldwide-hunt-new-carbonminerals#.VsJihYQqbHh. From *MWF News* April 2016,

How do you say that? "Psilomelane"

Via BackBender 's Gazette 8/16 from OMGS The Sooner Rockologist 5/2016, via The Glacial Drifter 6/2016, via Stoney Statements 7/2016

Silo-melane? Pasi-lomelane? Who knows?

However you say it, psilomelane is manganese oxide containing barium and potassium. It looks similar to hematite and polishes up beautifully.
Unlike when working with hematite it is a good idea to be careful (gloves and dust mask), especially if grinding, because its barium content can make it slightly toxic.
Its name is from the Greek meaning "smooth" and "black." It is an important ore of manganese with large deposits in England and in Vermont, Virginia, and Arkansas.

COPROLITE FOSSILS

Coprolites form in much the same way as any other fossil - the original organic material is infused

with water containing dissolved minerals, and as the minerals crystallize, the original material is slowly replaced by stone.

Most people, when handed a coprolite for the first time, go and sniff it as their first impulse. But it smells of nothing but stone, because that's all it is now, technically speaking.

Coprolites are at a disadvantage from the start in the fossil-forming process. Generally speaking, the quicker to decay an object is, the less likely it is to successfully fossilize. Fossilization takes time, and if the whole thing rots before it can finished, well, no fossil. That's why hard and durable objects, such as bones and teeth, are much more common fossils than soft tissues, or coprolites.

Coprolites were first identified as what they actually are, by a woman named Mary Anning (21 May 1799 - 9 March 1847). Mary Anning was a fossil collector and paleontologist from southern England, and noticed these odd stones inside the abdominal areas of the ichthyosaur fossils she was collecting. When she broke them open, she noticed they had fragments of fossilized fish bones and scales..

In 1829, Arming's observations led a geologist named William Buckland to propose that these stones were the digested remnants of the dinosaurs' last meals, and he gave them the name of coprolites. Those fossil fragments inside coprolites contain a wealth of scientific information, for anyone who really wants to look closely. The kinds of fossils contained in the coprolite can tell us a lot about the environment the creature was living in, by what it found in the area to eat. It also reveals the creatures preferred food sources, such as whether it was an herbivore or a carnivore, and sometimes it will even reveal what parasites plagued its creator. And, yes, we learn a lot about its intestinal systems. That's pretty much a given.

The challenge, of course, is in determining exactly *which* species of creature left a particular coprolite behind. In some cases, when there are a lot of fossilized remains of a particular animal around, it's easy to make a good guess. And in some cases, as with Mary Arming's fossils, the coprolites were petrified while still within the animal's body. But with a more isolated coprolite specimen, it can be very difficult.

Early human settlements left the occasional coprolite as well, so they have archaeological value as well as geological value. As it turns out, we can learn about our own history from them. A human coprolite found in a cave in Oregon revealed the existence of a long-lost 13,000-year-old society. And a research team from the University of Colorado, studying an ancient Anansi settlement in Colorado known as Cowboy Wash, uncovered human remains showing what they believed to be evidence of cannibalism. They tested a coprolite found nearby, and discovered it contained a protein only found in human muscle tissue, confirming their theory .

Oddly enough, coprolites from dinosaurs and other prehistoric beasts are often used in jewelry. Due to the mineralization, many of them have bright and beautiful coloration. And, well, you get a great answer to give when someone says, "Ooh, what a pretty necklace! What stone is that?"

Some people may think coprolites are disgusting, but like any other fossil, they're also windows into a lost and wondrous past on this planet.

The Glacial Drifter, Vol. 59, No. 08, Aug 2016

Did you Know?

IN 1870, Detroit became the nation's first telephone customers to have phone numbers assigned to them.

Charles A. Lindbergh was born in Detroit on February 4, 1902

Michigan began charging an annual license fee of 50 cents in 1915 for Autos.

A Little bit of humor.

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back. Zsa Zsa Gabor

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through congress

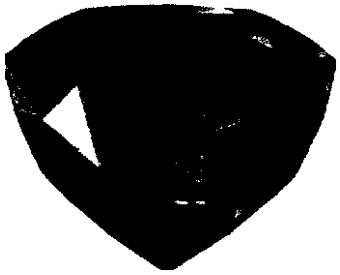
Will Rogers

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!

Lost and Found Archives

by Dave Hennessey
from Mineral Minutes 09/2016

Lost (September, 1792): One large deep blue diamond, known as the "French Blue." Original uncut stone weighed 112 carats and was acquired in India by French merchant traveler, Jean Baptiste Tavernier. Sold to King Louis XIV of France in 1668 and recut to a 67-carat stone. Lost during the French Revolution from the French Royal Treasury during the looting of the crown jewels. If you have information on this missing diamond, please contact the French government immediately. Reward offered. Finding the stone is urgent since Napoleon's government has issued a law providing for a 20-year statute of limitations on crimes committed during the revolution. Criminal liability for the theft will end in 1812.



Found (in 1812, 20 years and 2 days after the French Blue was stolen): A large deep blue 45.5 carat diamond. Acquired from a London diamond merchant by King George IV of the United Kingdom. Sold at his death (1830) through private channels to Henry Phillip Hope, passing through many hands thereafter including Cartiers, Evelyn Walsh McLean (owner of the Washington Post), and Harry Winston Inc., which donated the stone in 1958 to the Smithsonian Institution where it remains a premier attraction to this day.

Speculation that the Hope Diamond is the French Blue, recut to hide its origins, began soon after the diamond made its first appearance.

Continued on page 6

NOTICE DUES ARE DUE

Dear MMLS member:

It 's that time again when you are asked to renew your membership for the year (2017) in the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society. (Membership runs from January through December each year.)

May we ask your cooperation by renewing now. Doing so will ease our Treasurer's job, save the cost of an extra mailing and assure your receipt of The Rockpile without interruption. just use the handy Membership Renewal Form. Complete the form, enclose your check made payable to MMLS and mail to our treasurer:

Doris Snyder
9728 Pardee
Taylor, Mi. 48180

It's that easy! If you would like your membership card mailed to you, please include a SASE.

Midwest Mineralogical Lapidary
Society Adult Dues: $15.00
Juniors (under age 18) $1.00
Yes I wish to renew my/our membership in MMLS for 2017 and continue to receive The Rockpile

Names(s) _

Address _

City

State _____ Zip _____

Phone

Email address

Enclosed is my check payable MMLS for $. _

Dues paid after December 31'1 is **subject to a $3.00 Reinstatement fee. Add to your check.**

Would you hke your Rockpile senfto you by email?

Yes No

DO IT TODAY BEFORE YOU FORGET!!!!!

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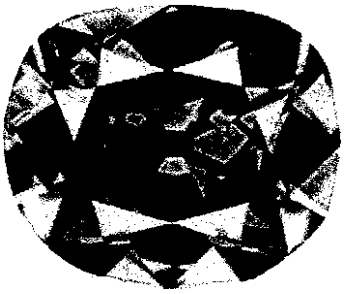
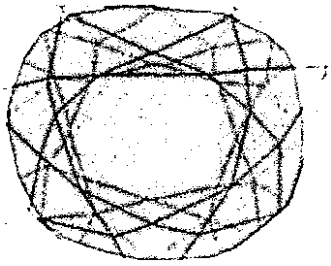


Drawings of the French Blue survive, and the Hope Diamond shape fits nicely (but tightly) within the shape of the French Blue.

In 2007, an inventory update of the mineral and gem collection of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris turned up a lead cast of the French Blue. The cast allowed precise calculation of the stone's shape and dimensions through laser scanning, and for the creation of three-dimensional computer models and replicas of the missing stone. The detailed geometric modeling and studies confirmed that the Hope Diamond could have been cut from the French Blue.



Confirming the validity of the analysis, the Smithsonian Institution Web site recounts the origins and history of this remarkable stone and affrrms-Mineral Minutes, Vol. 75, no. 7, September 2016 Page 4-that the Hope Diamond is in fact the former French Blue that disappeared 324 years ago.

THE BACKBENDER 'S GAZETTE OCTOBER 2016

Merry Christmas
From the Rockpile Sta.ff

THE MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY (MMLS) is an educational non-profit organization founded in 1956. The Society now has more than 100 members and is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Significantly, MMLS has been recognized numerous times by the Midwest and American Federations with first place (gold level) awards in the annual All American Club Awards Program.

PURPOSE: The purpose of The MMLS shall be (I) to promote interest in and increase knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, and paleontology, including lapidary and related arts; (2) to publish articles and information pertaining to these fields; (3) to encourage collections and to display specimens in these fields; and (4) to arrange field trips in support of the interests and activities specified.

GENERAL MEETINGS: the third Tuesday of each month, September through June, 7:30 p.m. at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

MEMBERSIDP: Applications for membership can be obtained at any general meeting or from any MMLS member. DUES: Entrance fee - $3.00; annual dues - $15.00 (adult), $1.00 (junior) on a year basis. Membership expires each Dec. 31.

ANNUAL EVENTS:

March - Rock Swap and Sale November - Auction Coming is October 2016 our second Rock Swap and Sale!!

STUDY GROUPS: Special-interest study groups meet monthly, September though June. No additional fees are involved. Currently the following groups are active:

Basic Lapidary Advanced Lapidary Wire Study Bead Study Mineralogy Silversmithing (Silversmithing is now on hold until furthernotice.)

FIELD TRIPS: Several one day field trips and one longer (one to two weeks) field trips are conducted each year. Mostly, these field trips focus on the collection of mineral and fossil specimens at quarries, mines, and other known collecting sites in the United States and Canada. Field trips are restricted to MMLS members.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND: MMLS has established a scholarship Endowment Fund which provides scholarships to qualified students enrolled in an accredited college or university in southeastern Michigan who have completed at least their junior year and have a major in geology, mineralogy, paleontology or lapidary and related arts.

SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM: MMLS has designated the A.E. SEAMAN Mineral Museum at Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan, as it's "adoptive" museum, pledging to support it with gifts to the museum's endowment fund and the donation of mineral specimens and services.

INTERNET WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

Midwest Federation: www.amfed.org/mwflindex.html American Federation: www.amfed.org
American Lands Access Association: http: //amlands.org

The Rockhound's 10 Commandments:

1. Thou shall not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hands.
2. Thou shall not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing or biting.
3. Thou shall not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shall not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shall not collect at a neighbor's land unless unless thy neighbor knows! he's there.
6. Thou shall not argue names of minerals too violently; for sometimes thou couldst be wrong.
7. Thou shall not climb above thy neighbor's head when on a field trip, lest thou art willing to spend the rest of the day digging him out.
8. Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.
9. Thou shall not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggin's, lest thy neighbor's hammer be dropped upon thee.
10. Thou shall not break uncollectable specimens.

Midwest
Mineralogical and
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Society of
Michigan

EDITOR
20281 THOMAS
BROWNSTOWN, Ml
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The ROCKPILE

Bulletin Editor Contest Awards

1993 -1st Place (Large Bulletin) AFMS
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1990 -1st Place (New Editor) AFMS
1990 -1st Place (New Editor) MWF

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