

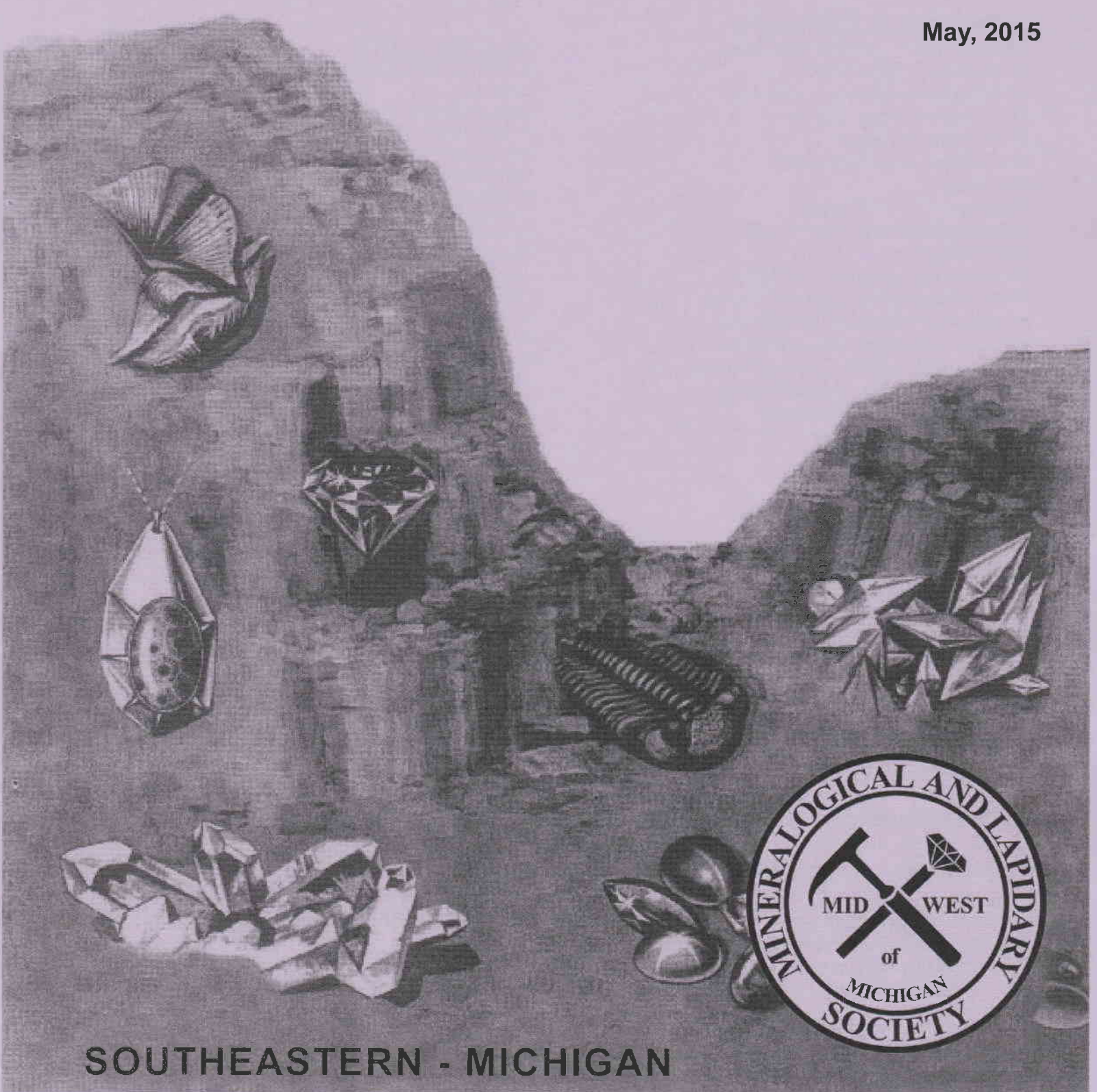
THE

# ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

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

May, 2015



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

## Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

### 2015 OFFICERS

**President:** Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237  
**Vice President:** Gary Slominski (734) 379-3294  
**Recording Secretary:** Edie Esche (734) 771-5269  
**Treasurer:** Doris Snyder (313) 291-2133  
**Corresponding Secretary (Temp) Dan Gumina**  
(313) 766-8944  
**Liaison Officer:** Leonard Swisher (313) 841-1606

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Club Services:** Lynda & Don Baker  
**Door Prizes:** Mike Bomba  
**AFMS Scholarship:** Pat Rutkowski  
**Field Trips – Local:** Bill Barr  
**Field Trips:** Bill Barr  
**Education:** Dave Hendershot  
**Insurance:**  
**Historian:** Dolores Swekel  
**Michigan Material:** Tom Morris  
**Club Publicity:**  
**Membership:** Lynda & Don Baker  
**MMLS Scholarship:** Leonard Swisher  
**Program Coordinator:** Mike Bomba  
**Property – Storage:** Leonard Swisher  
**Property – Meetings:** Leonard Swisher  
**Sunshine Reporter:** Velma Bradley  
**Refreshments:** Janet Slominski  
**Web Site:** Stacey Harper

### ACTIVITIES

**2015 Banquet:**

**2015 Swap:** Lou and Cindy Talley  
**2015 Auction:** Dan Gumina

### 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 1961-62  
Leo Nieman 1963  
Nicholas Rothenthaler 1964-65  
Robert Fedoruk 1966-67  
John Good 1968-69  
Cecilia Duluk 1970  
Stanley Franczak 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 Franczak 1985-86  
Roland Snyder 1987-88  
Jay Ross 1989-90  
Tom Morris Jr. 1991-92  
Diane Kuzara 1993-94  
Bill Urban 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 Rockpile Staff :** Editor Peter Kuzara, [dpkuzara@peoplepc.com](mailto:dpkuzara@peoplepc.com), 734-675-5237

**MMLS website –** [www.mmls.us](http://www.mmls.us) **Email -** [rockhounds@mmls.us](mailto: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 Southgate Civic Arena, 14700 Reaume Parkway, Southgate, Michigan**  
**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

**IMPORTANT NOTICES:**

**WE ARE MOVING! BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER WE WILL BE MEETING AT THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR.**

**ON TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015 AT 7:30PM THERE WILL BE A MEETING FOR DECIDING WHAT WE WANT TO PLAN TO HAVE, A SHOW, SECOND SWAP OR A MEGA SWAP IN 2016. ANYONE WANTING TO HELP PLAN AND WORK AT THIS EVENT IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AT THE KUZARA'S.**

## **The President's Corner**

The 2015 Swap is now history. We had a nice crowd most of the day, but I think we had a bigger crowd last year. It did quiet down a lot the last hour and a half. Thanks to our Chairpersons Cindy and Lou Talley, everything went smoothly, job well done! A big thanks to Gary Slominski for providing transportation of rocks and equipment from storage and our house. Thanks to Dan Gumina, Mike Bomba, Gary Slominski and Pete Kuzara who cleaned and prepared equipment for the swap. Thanks to Don and Lynda Baker for running the three club swap tables. Thanks to Doris Snyder, Pat Rutkowski and Tom Morris for sorting, cleaning and pricing the minerals from the Hanschu donation. Thanks to Ken Slack and Edie Esche who came early to help and to Ken who came back to help at the end of the day. Thanks to our new member Kim Osborne and to Martin Gonzales who stepped in and helped for a while at the club tables. And last but not least, thanks to all the members

who came out to support this event, you are the greatest!! If I missed anyone, I apologize.

Save the date, May 19<sup>th</sup>, for our special speaker, Dr. Patty Rice's program "Amber from around the World Fashion Show". See the article in this issue. We will need 10 models (our own ladies) to wear the amber necklaces Dr. Rice will be bring and talking about. Also if you care to bring some special goodies for the refreshment table, please do so. Let make Dr. Rice feel at home by making a special effort to be there. There will be a few copies of Dr. Rice's book available for purchase.

Diane

**The May Program: "Amber from around the World Fashion Show"** will be given by Patty C. Rice, Ph.D

About the Author . . .

Dr. Rice received her Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Her extensive amber collection has received numerous trophies and first-place awards in mineral shows through out the U.S. and Canada. Her travels include Poland, New Zealand, Dominican Republic, Germany, Sweden, and Russia where she observed first-hand amber museums, the industry and mining techniques. As a popular amber lecturer, she has authored many articles in professional gem and mineral journals. In New Zealand, she visited the Kauri forests similar to the trees that produced the amber resin.

Her articles on amber appeared in *American Way*, *Gem and Minerals International*, *Lapidary Journal*, and *Rocks and Minerals*. She also is an expert appraiser of amber holdings. She travelled to St Petersburg to see the Amber Room in 1987 and again in 2003 to see it after restoration. Her work as a jewelry designer has received wide recognition.

*Amber: Golden Gem of the Ages* was considered the best available reference on amber. The new edition has been thoroughly revised and updated to

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include new information on mining in Baltic areas, added resources in the how-to section for polishing and working amber, more pieces from amber artists, and the latest research on the link between amber inclusions and DNA coding. With many new illustrations *AMBER: Golden Gem of the Ages* has been completely redesigned to be more attractive and reader friendly.

This book contains a wealth of information for amber and gem collectors, historians, and lapidary artists, as well as scientists in many fields (geology, mineralogy, palaeontology, organic chemistry, entomology, botany, and archaeology). (There will be a few copies of Dr. Rice's new book on Amber for sale.)

### **The Minutes of the March 13, 2015 Board Meeting....Briefly Summarized**

Meeting called to order at 7:42pm by Diane Kuzara, President at the Kuzara home. Minutes of last meeting corrected to read: Swap Meet is March 28. Treasurer's report read and approved.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Correspondence: Aaron Riddle sent note concerning father Bill Riddle's illness.

Ken Slack was nominated as committee member to assist Leonard Swisher with property at meetings. We will use the flag from the Democratic Club of Taylor.

Swap: Dan and Gary are getting machines cleaned. We have a trailer to move large items from Storage. Have scale for rocks sold by the pound. The club will have three tables at the swap. Dan will do some pricing. Pat, Tom and Doris are sorting minerals.

Rockpile: Tom Morris made a motion to drop some recipients of the Rockpile so it will be less expensive since we will be mailing The Rockpile first class after the next issue. Doris Snyder seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tom Morris made a motion to reimburse Dan Gumina for the expense of joining the Democratic Club of Taylor. Second by Pete Kuzara. Motion passed. The next Board Meeting will be April 17 at 7:30pm at Don

and Lynda Baker's. All members are welcome. Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 by Diane Kuzara  
Submitted: Edie Esche Recording Secretary

### **The Minutes of the General Meeting March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Summarized:** Called to order at 7:35pm by President Diane Kuzara. Minutes of last meeting corrected to read the swap date is March 28. Treasurer's Report read and approved.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Swap: Gary has cart to help move items, also a trailer. Have grab bags for children.

Liaison: Leonard Swisher has read that rock hunting regulations are getting stricter. Check with locals.

AFMS Scholarship: Pat Rutkowski we have recognition for being the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest AFMS scholarship contributor in the state.

There are MMLS patches available for \$7.50 each, used vest for \$5.00.

Rockpile: There will be no bulk mailing after April issue they will be mailed first class.

Programs: Mike Bomba will have "Mining Artifacts in History" April 21<sup>st</sup>. The "Amber" program will be May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn at 8:05pm by Tom Morris second by Mike Bomba.

Submitted: Edie Esche Recording Secretary

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Tony Pomponio  
23336 Williamsburg Apt. D  
Woodhaven, MI. 48183  
Email: [djtonylamar@hotmail.com](mailto:djtonylamar@hotmail.com)

Mike Cloutier  
523 Smith St.  
Monroe, MI. 48161  
Tel. 734-735-8160  
Email: [marathoner4160@yahoo.com](mailto:marathoner4160@yahoo.com)

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**REINSTATMENTS**

Jessica Ranker  
1790 Edsel DR.  
Trenton, MI. 48183  
Tel. 313-574-2812  
Email: [jranker737@yahoo.com](mailto:jranker737@yahoo.com)

Jackie Presson  
112 W. New York  
Pontiac, MI. 48340  
Tel. 248-338-3472

Add to your directory.

**Dates to Remember**

**Contacts for study groups**

**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**

**Sliversmithing study group meeting is cancelled  
until further notice**

**May 4 Lapidary work shop** 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.  
Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

**May 6 Wire Wrap Class**, Call John Lindsay for details

**May 7 Bead study group** will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm

**May 12 Special Meeting** to plan for a show or mega swap at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown. At 7:30pm. Telephone 734-675-5237  
Email: [dpkuzara@peoplepc.com](mailto:dpkuzara@peoplepc.com)

**May 15 Board meeting** Will be held at Kim Osborne 15088 Sibley, Riverview at 7:30pm.

**ROCKPILE DEADLINE**

**May 19 General meeting** will be held at the Southgate Civic Arena, 14700 Reaume Parkway, Southgate, MI at 7:30 pm.

**May 21 Bead study group** will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm

**May 21 Mineral Study Group** will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor, Mi. at 7:30pm.

**June 1 Lapidary work shop** 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.  
Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

**June 3 Wire Wrap Class**, Call John Lindsay for details

**June 4 Bead study group** will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm

**June 12 Board meeting TBA**  
**ROCKPILE DEADLINE**

**June 16 General meeting** will be held at the Southgate Civic Arena, 14700 Reaume Parkway, Southgate, MI at 7:30 pm.  
**LAST MEETING AT SOUTHGATE ARENA!**

**June 18 Bead study group** will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm

**June 18 Mineral Study Group** will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor, Mi. at 7:30pm.

**Our Sister Club Events**

May 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Kalamazoo, Michigan: 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo Rock Club  
Information: [KalamazooRockClub.org](http://KalamazooRockClub.org)

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May 29, 30 and 31<sup>st</sup> Wauseon, Ohio; Fulton County Fairgrounds; State Line Gem & Mineral Society Show. Information: <http://statelinegms.com>

### Internet Web Sites of Interest

Midwest Federation:

[www.amfed.org/mwf/index.html](http://www.amfed.org/mwf/index.html)

American Federation:

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

### The longest word in the dictionary.

#### **Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis**

This is the longest word in the dictionary. It is an ailment caused by inhaling very fine silicate or quartz dust. Rockhounds take warning and precautions when you are dry sanding; always wear a face mask. The word maybe long but the cure is longer. And you will have a hard time telling your doctor what you have. From News and Views 3/15 via Roadrunner News and seen in Roamin Rams 12/01 via The Post Rock 12/07

**From the Editor**, my two cents. Back in March Diane and I attended the Jackson, Michigan rock show. A very nice show. We talked to old friends and made some new ones. Checking out the show we wondered what was their recipe for their reported success last year. The Jackson Club members stated that the reason is the show is now designed to be more family oriented. Our swap is over for this year and I thought it was good swap and well attended. I do have one beef. This not aimed at any of our club members. If you are asked to put a mineral specimen aside for them you should at least return and say you changed your mind. This happened to me and it bugs me. It was great to see many of our members attending the swap, we have to show support for all our activities.

From your Editor Pete

### More News!!!!!!

Hi All, this is April's ALAA excerpt, but it's not from the ALAA Newsletter. It comes from the newsletter of the Eastern Federation. Still, it's news that people in the MWF need to hear about, so I'm sending it around. I think the lessons are clear enough. Sometimes we're our own worst enemies. By the way, wish me luck in April as I navigate the Jeep down to West Texas for some agate hunting on the ranches. These are guided trips, since all the land is private. After the Woodward Ranch closed to rockhounding the only other source for those great black and red plume agates is the ranch next door, the Walker Ranch. It's the same basalt formation and the same agates but it's not open all the time. Contact Teri Smith ([agatehunter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agatehunter@sbcglobal.net)) for more info on the schedule for that and the other locations. All the trips for April are still open and there are more in May.....Rock on! Tom

Two Pennsylvania Collecting Sites Closed  
Excerpted from: Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Newsletter (March, 2015)

By Scott Peters

First, **Rossville malachite/azurite location in northern York County, Pennsylvania**, well-known to collectors and well-advertised in books and articles, has become dangerous due to overcollecting. **IF ANYONE IS SEEN AT THE SITE, THE OWNERS WILL NOTIFY PROPER AUTHORITIES.**

Second, the **St. Clair, Pennsylvania fern fossil location is now closed to collecting.** A representative for the owners said "overzealous collectors began bringing in power tools to collect, posting their trips and selling the fossils via the internet." The owners will prosecute any individuals they find collecting on their property. Please do not attempt to collect at these locations unless you receive express (current written) permission from the owners of these properties.

You will risk prosecution and may cause the loss of any possibility of reopening these sites.

If you know of any other collecting sites that have been closed, or are in danger of closing, or any laws that may restrict our collecting activities, please email me at: [slipgapdms@aol.com](mailto:slipgapdms@aol.com) . I will pass the information on in future EFMLS Newsletters and also via ALAA website [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org) and Facebook [www.facebook.com/American-Lands-Access-Association](http://www.facebook.com/American-Lands-Access-Association) .

(Scott Peters is the new ALAA Representative for Pennsylvania.) From ALAA by way of the internet.

## The Popcorn Mineral

Perlite, the unique, so-called popcorn mineral, is one of the most surprising actors in the entire mineral kingdom it is highly hydrated variety of volcanic lava, containing as much as 3% water, When brought quickly to a high temperature, between 1,600 and 1,700 degrees F, it expands with almost explosive force, to as much as 20 times its original volume. A cubic foot of expanded perlite may weigh as little as two pounds.

The U.S. is the biggest producer and consumer of crude and expanded perlite. One location, about 8 miles south of Big Pine, CA, is known as the Fish Springs Perlite Deposit and encompasses several hundred acres. A naturally occurring dome containing an estimated 52 million tons of the mineral rises up in hill about 200 feet high.

Perlite is widely used as a loose-fill thermal insulation in masonry construction. It can also be used as an aggregate in Portland cement and gypsum plasters for exterior applications, and for the fire protection of beams and columns. Other construction applications include chimney linings, paint texturing, gypsum boards, and ceiling tiles.

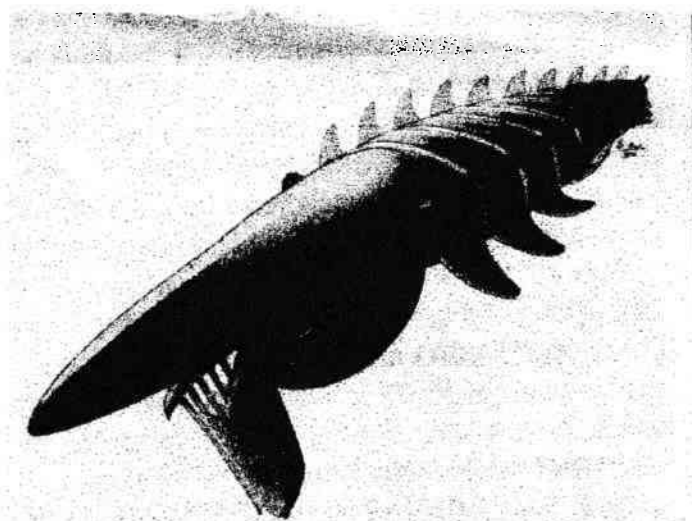
Horticultural uses include soilless growing mixes for rooting cuttings and for hydroponic systems, and as a carrier for fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides.

Perlite is used in cements for petroleum,

water and geothermal wells; as a filter media for pharmaceuticals, food products, chemicals, and water for municipal systems and swimming pools; and as an abrasive in soaps, cleansers and polishes. From the News and Views 3/15, The Tumbler 0L/03, and [www.perlite.net](http://www.perlite.net) via The Pegmatite, 12 /06, Via The Rockcollector, Jan/2007

## Sea creature fossils give evolution clues

New York-Fossils of a wacky-looking, 7 foot long sea creature are providing a new clues about how limbs developed in the family of animals that includes lobsters, crabs, scorpions and insects.



*Marianne Collins /AP*

*This artist's rendering shows an ancient sea creature that lived about 480 Million years ago and belong to the family called arthropods.*

The fossils of the ancient sea creature were in Morocco. The discovery is reported by researchers at Yale and Oxford universities in a paper released Wednesday by journal Nature.

The creature lived about 480 million years ago, and belonged to a family of animals called arthropods. It looked a bit like a huge lobster with out claws, and with a long pointy nose. On each side it had two rows of flaps

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that were precursors to limbs seen in modern arthropods. The lower flap were for Propulsion through the water and the upper ones for steering. From the Detroit News 3-12-15

**Argyle Pink Jubilee**

by Carolyn Weinberger

Via The Backbender's Gazette 12/2014, via Chippers' Chatter, via Moroks 8/2014, and Gritty Greetings 9/2014

The latest buzz comes from the Argyle Mine in the remote East Kimberly region of Western Australia. Rio Tinto, the mining company that owns the Argyle, recently unearthed a 12.76-carat pink diamond. The gem is the largest found in Australia and has an estimated value of more than 10 million. The stone will be cut in Perth. It's estimated that once the faceter begins the process, it will take 10 days to complete. "This rare diamond is generating incredible excitement. A diamond of this caliber is unprecedented-it has taken 26 years of Argyle production to unearth this stone, and we may never see one like this again," said Josephine Johnson from Rio's Argyle Pink Diamonds division.

An interview on NPR with a representative of Rio Tinto claims that the pink color is not a result of impurities in the stone, but rather a twisting of the crystal lattice which results from pressure exceeding that endured during normal diamond formation.

Other pink stones have been found at Argyle, but none of this size. This stone is similar in color to the 24-carat Tanzanian "Williamson Pink," received as a wedding gift by Queen Elizabeth II. The Williamson is ranked among the finest pink diamonds in existence. Once cut, the stone will be graded and showcased globally before being sold later this year.

**Hint:** Use floral clay to attach weights to slab for polishing on flat vibrating lap machine to prevent them from dancing around. via Stoney Statements 6/93

Hint: To cut jade, first grind and polish the jade chunk on six sides as if it were a cube. One of those faces will polish better than the others. Then cut slabs parallel to the best face. Via Stoney Statements 6/93.

**Doublets - Its just not for opals anymore!**

By Pat Westby - Dayton Gem & Mineral Society 10/00 A doublet is the process of applying a clear stone cap ( usually quartz or glass ) over a sliver of a more valuable gemstone using epoxy. This is most commonly done with opal. The process yields a better over all cabochon in a couple aspects. First, the cost is reduced by the use of less of the more valuable base material. Secondly, if a somewhat high dome is put on the cap it acts as a magnifier of the underlying material.

Most plume agate shows their best plumes when cut very thin. The addition of the quartz cap strengthens the cab and magnifies the plume. Any stone with a small pattern could be enhanced with the addition of a high dome quartz cap.

Most rockhounds have some slabs of beautiful material that they can't polish. This could be due to pits or just a porous stone. A little epoxy sandwich between the stone and quartz turns the worthless material into creative useful gems!

Why limit yourself to clear quartz? How about an amethyst cap over a paler purple, or amethyst with inclusions to deep the color. Cabs of rutilated quartz over lapis or varisite are commanding a premium among jewelers. One idea I have but haven't completed yet, is to slice a smoky quartz phantom and put it over an all white howlite.

Once you started looking at your horde of gemstones your mind should be flooded interesting possibilities. So start slabbing that quartz Via The Rockcollector via Flint Flashes 11/01



**THE MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY (MMLS)** is an educational non-profit organization founded in 1956. The Society now has more than 200 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 (1) 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 Southgate Arena, 14700 Reaume Parkway, Southgate Michigan. **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**

**MEMBERSHIP:** 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  
May - Anniversary Banquet  
May - Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show  
November - Auction

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

Advanced Lapidary	Faceting	Paleontology
Basic Lapidary	Wire Study	Bead Study
	Mineralogy	Silversmithing

**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.

**GEOLOGICAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** A permanent committee that serves in an advisory capacity to the Geological Survey Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and meets with its staff in Lansing and at the Eddy Discovery Center, near Chelsea, Michigan, on a regular basis.

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

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Bulletin Editor Contest Awards

*The ROCKPILE*

