

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

November 2023



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2023 OFFICERS

President: Mike Bomba (313) 381-8455
Vice President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Recording Secretary: Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237
Treasurer: Doris Snyder (313) 291-2133
Corresponding Secretary: Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237
Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara (734) 675-5237

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Club Services: Ana Ferguson
Door Prizes: Mike Bomba
AFMS Scholarship: Pat Rutkowski
Field Trips - Mike Bomba/Gary Slominski
Education: Dave Hendershot
Historian: Tom Morris
Michigan Material: Tom Morris
Membership: Ana Ferguson
MMLS Scholarship: Velma Bradley
Program Coordinator: Mike Bomba
Property – Storage: Gary Slominski
Sunshine Reporter: Velma Bradley
Refreshments: Gary Slominski
Web Site: Stacey Harper

ACTIVITIES

2023 Banquet: Andrea Rinker
2023 Club Picnic: Stacey Harper
2023 Swap: Lou and Cindy Talley
2023 Super Swap: Bill Barr
2023 Auction: Dwayne Ferguson

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 ALWAYS WELCOME

STUDY GROUPS

Lapidary: Workshop at Frank Konieczki's
Bead Study: Diane Kuzara
Mineralogy: Bill Barr at David Esch's

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 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
Diane Kuzara 2015 - 16
Dan Gumina 2017 - 18
Diane Kuzara 2019 -2020
Dan Gumina 2021 - 2022



From The President's desk: I

hope you are all enjoying the Fall colors and doing well. I would like to thank everyone who helped and participated at the Super Swap Show this year. We had a good turnout even with the cold weather coming in. Special thanks to our chairman Bill Barr who came through despite some car problems. Gary Slominski for running the Sales table and picking up the rocks and putting out the big signs at the end of the street. And everyone who helped with set up and tear down. A very special thank you to Marge Collins for giving a special memorial for Chuck and providing coffee and donuts with apple cider. Chuck will forever be in our thoughts and memories. I hope I see you all at the Auction and the field trip. Happy Rockhounding and Happy Thanksgiving Everyone.

Mike

TIME TO VOTE

Slate of Club Officers for 2024

President: Mike Bomba

Vice President: Dan Gumina

Recording / Corresponding Secretary:

Treasurer: Doris Snyder

Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara

Nominations are welcomed from the floor, the election will take place in December.

LOST

If anyone found a small fold up table at the SuperSwap please contact Mike Nagy or Mike Bomba. Mike Nagy left it there by accident. Mike Nagy's phone is 734-525-4752.

November Program: A Video "What's Hot in Tucson part two."

Welcome Back:

Ken Maltby

Nichole Pappas

Welcome New Member

Justin Scaggs

Dates to Remember!!

**November 4th MIDWEST
MINERALOGICAL & LAPIDARY
SOCIETY 57TH ANNUAL AUCTION
AT THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
CHURCH**

**5650 S. TELEGRAPH ROAD
DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MI.**

DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

**SALES TABLE OPEN AT 6PM AND
DURING INTERMISSION**

AUCTION STARTS AT 7PM

November 6th, 20th & 22nd Lapidary Work

Shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi. 7pm. to 10pm.

Space is limited so please call Frank Konieczki
734-323-2218 before attending.

November 2nd & 16th Bead Study group will meet

at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

November 21st Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm.

November 21st General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

December 4th, 18th & 20th Lapidary Work Shop

2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi. 7pm. to 10pm.

Space is limited so please call Frank Konieczki
734-323-2218 before attending.

December 7th & 21st Bead Study group will meet at
the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm.

Diane Kuzara 734-675-523

December 19th Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm.

December 19th General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

Sister Club Events:

Nov. 4-5 Mid-Michigan Rock Club Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Laura Foster, Sat & Sun, 10-5 Badour Road, Midland, MI pop345corn@sbcglobal.net

Nov. 8 Miami County Gem and Troy-view Church of God, 1770 N. Mary Manning, Wed, 7-9 Mineral Club holiday sale County Road 25A, Troy, OH manningrockshop@live.com

Michigan Mineral Beginning with the letter W: Wurtzite (Zn, Fe)S

Wurtzite is a zinc and iron sulfide mineral with the chemical formula (Zn,Fe)S, a less frequently encountered structural polymorph form of sphalerite. The iron content is variable up to eight percent.[5] It is trimorphous with matraite and sphalerite.[2]



Color: Brown Black, Orange Brown, Reddish Brown, Black

Hardness: 3.5 to 4 on the mohs scale.

Occurrence: Ontonagon County

From the internet Wikipedia

JASPER



DESCHUTES JASPER

Jasper from a deposit slightly east of Biggs Junction, Oregon, near the Deschutes River, with good banding and interesting color formations.

Apache Tears by Kat Koch



“The name Apache Tears' comes from a legend of the Apache tribe about 75 Apaches and the US Cavalry fought on a mountain overlooking what is now Superior, Arizona, in the 1870s. Upon facing defeat, the outnumbered

Apache warriors rode their horses off the mountain to their deaths rather than be killed. When the warriors died, so did the great fighting spirit of the Pinal

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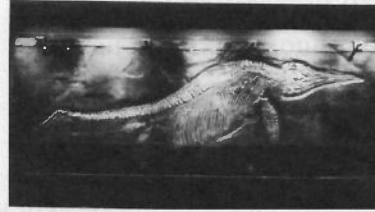
Apaches. The wives and families of the warriors cried when they heard of the tragedy, and their tears turned into stone upon hitting the ground," a quote taken from Wikipedia - Apache Tears. Apache Tears are a sub-group or type of obsidian called Marekanite. Obsidian and Apache Tears are the same black-colored stone made of volcanic glass. Ash-flow tuffs, lava domes, and siliceous lava flows produce "Apache Tears." The small obsidian stones are formed in perlite and are rough and less glassy. The small spheres form due to the varying cooling temperatures and the alkali and water content. Excessive water during the cooling of rhyolitic lava causes the obsidian to hydrate and convert to perlite. When perlite is not completely hydrated, the obsidian remains as pebbles of Marekanite or Apache Tears. The stones generally range from 1 to 2 inches and have a Mohs hardness of 5 to 5.5. Apache Tears make fantastic polished stones. When tumbled correctly, they are beautiful, jet-black, and highly lustrous. The tear stones appear black and opaque, but there are transparent areas when held up to the light. However, you can have difficulty tumbling these natural glass stones because they can easily chip or bruise inside the tumbler. Obsidianite or Marekanite are found on the Nevada/California border in the Fish Lake Valley of the Sierra Nevada mountains. You can also find the stones near Mule Creek, New Mexico, and the Topaz Valley, Utah. But the only stones that should be called Apache Tears are the ones found near Apache Leap in Superior, Arizona. Bibliography: Apache Tears- ALMA de LUCE, Wikipedia, Mindat, The Rock Tumbler, Rockseeker, Onxmaps. Source: The CMS Tumbler, August 2023.

From Michigan Mineral Society Conglomerate 9/23

The Completely Random Fossil Discovery An Expert Called The 'World Cup Of Paleontology'

What do you expect to find when you go beachcombing? Shells, of course. Seaweed. Maybe a

shark's tooth if you're lucky. Probably not 12 million year-old fossils. But that's exactly what Cody Goddard found on Matoaka Beach in Maryland in 2022. As Goddard searched for something



interesting, he noticed a bit of fossil poking out of sediment along the beach. Realizing it was an unusual discovery, he

immediately contacted Stephen Godfrey, curator of paleontology at the nearby Calvert Marine Museum (via All That's Interesting). According to Chesapeake Bay Magazine, Godfrey looked at the fossil via video and identified it as the skull of a prehistoric whale.

He then came down to see it in person and was able to further determine that the skull was about 12 million years old, from the Miocene epoch, which lasted from around 25 to 5.5 million years ago. The skull belonged to a species of baleen whale. Baleen whales still exist today - they eat plankton and are known for using their teeth to filter their food.

However, modern baleens are much bigger than prehistoric ones. Godfrey and his team estimate the whale Goddard found would have been roughly 5.5 feet long and 18 inches wide. It could probably swim fast - and would have needed to avoid being eaten by giant, ancient sharks called Megalodons.

Stephen Godfrey wanted to take the skull back to the museum, but that turned out to be difficult. The block of sediment surrounding it weighed 650 pounds. It took two months for a team of professional and amateur paleontologists to extract the block from its surroundings. Cody Goddard even came back to help with the process (via All That's Interesting). They then transported it to the museum via pontoon boat, according to Chesapeake Bay. Stephen Godfrey wanted to take the skull back to the museum, but that turned out to be difficult. The block of sediment surrounding it weighed 650 pounds. It took two months for a team of professional and amateur paleontologists to extract the block from

November, 2023

its surroundings. Cody Goddard even came back to help with the process (via All That's Interesting). They then transported it to the museum via pontoon boat, according to Chesapeake Bay Magazine. It's now in the museum's Fossil Preparation Lab.

The next step - still ongoing as of January 2025 - is to remove the skull from the sediment. Museum volunteers are chipping away at it with instruments the museum itself describes as "air scribe-like tools (like miniature jackhammers)." They expect the process to take months. Though it's tedious, Godfrey said the sediment was key to the fossil's preservation, acting like a sort of sarcophagus. Once more of the skull is visible, Godfrey hopes to identify exactly what species of baleen whale this was. Museum visitors can see the skull - nicknamed Cody for its finder - on a blue hydraulic cart in the lab.

Matoaka Beach, where the skull was found, is part of the Calvert Cliffs area (pictured), which stretches for 50 miles down the Maryland coast, southeast of Washington, D.C. (via Visit Maryland). The area is known for its fossils - more than 600 different species of them have been discovered there. These include prehistoric sharks' teeth, sea cows, dolphins, and shellfish (via The Baltimore Sun). Chesapeake Living explains the cliffs formed 10 to 20 million years ago, encasing fossils that were already there. Matoaka Beach, where the skull was found, is part of the Calvert Cliffs area (pictured), which stretches for 50 miles down the Maryland coast, southeast of Washington, D.C. (via Visit Maryland). The area is known for its fossils - more than 600 different species of them have been discovered there. These include prehistoric sharks' teeth, sea cows, dolphins, and shellfish (via The Baltimore Sun). Chesapeake Living explains the cliffs formed 10 to 20 million years ago, encasing fossils that were already there.

According to The Baltimore Sun, as of 2010, the Calvert Marine Museum was collecting three or four prehistoric whale skeletons from the area each

year. They were mostly found in the "newer" parts of the cliffs - the parts formed less than 16 million years ago. Cody Goddard's discovery was still significant, though - All That's Interesting says the skull was the most complete of its kind ever found in there. Godfrey told Calvert Marine Museum the find "felt like we had won the World Cup of Paleontology!"

Read more:

<https://www.grunge.com/1208522/the-completely-random-fossil-discovery-an-expert-called-the-world-cup-of-paleontology/>

Thanks to Jeff from the Boston Mineral Club for this article.

From the Michigan Gem News 3/23

DISASTER NARROWLY AVERTED

by Charles "Woolly" Wooldridge

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club

From the June, 2023 Pick & Shovel

I almost burned down the garage and possibly the house the other day.

My 10-inch Lortone Lapidary saw is located in the garage. I put a large sheet of cardboard and some wood against the side of the saw to prevent oil from splashing on things. There were clothes and chest waders hanging close by on the other side. While operating, the saw puts a fine mist of oil in the air. This makes things like cardboard and clothes highly flammable. I put a rock in the saw, engaged the auto feed, and turned on the saw. I was out back when I heard the saw stop. I assumed it had completed the cut. A few minutes later I went to check. The saw had somehow jammed and the motor was burning up putting forth dense black smoke. I immediately shut it off and moved flammable materials away. Fortunately the motor did not catch fire or I think the whole garage would have gone up in minutes.

Like all good home owners, I have fire extinguishers. Two are located within 10 feet of the saw. Upon checking, I found both were empty. There were several lessons learned that day! I won't delineate them here. I think they are obvious. CHECK YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS!

From the MWF NEWS 9/23

Safety Matters – Terribly Toxic

Treasures

By Ellery Borow

Reprinted from the May 2016 A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Tightly tucked toward the top of our trinket trunks are treasures too toxic to touch, tempting us though as they tease our thoughts. Yes, tis true! Tossed throughout our treasure trunks are things that are toxic to the touch and taste, even in this totally tantalizing, yet tranquil, task of teaching there are terrors taxing my task. Well, enough of these terrible, Thesaurus taxing “t’s”. The message this month is a mention that there are dangers lurking among our mineral treasures and what to do about that. Think for a moment, if you will, about the chemical compositions of some of the minerals we collect – autunite, arsenopyrite, cinnabar, betafite, thorite, cuprosklodowskite, malachite, even beach shells for the jewelry we make have within them chemistries that, under certain conditions of working, handling, or storage, can present concerns about their part in maintaining our health. Think of the conditions in which we find our mineral treasures – conditions that hide biting, stinging insects, or rash-causing plants, or offer precarious physical conditions which may impact ones health. Our hobby is associated with great joys but also has within it certain dangers with which we should exercise substantial care and caution. There are minerals that should not be touched with bare hands and fingers. There are minerals that should not be worked dry. There are minerals that produce slivers that, oh so easily, penetrate the skin. There are minerals of a radioactive nature as well. Each of those situations requires certain protective measures. We encounter many specimens of fauna and flora along the way as we walk to our favorite collecting localities. Many of those same fauna and flora are ones which bite, sting or scratch us. Some things just lay in wait to dig into our delicate hides, or scratch and tear us. We don’t usually encounter hiding tigers or crouching dragons on our trips but those pesky little eight and six legged things sure can mess with our enjoyments. 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 (2024) 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: \$20.00
 Juniors (under age 18) \$2.00
 Yes I wish to renew my/our membership in MMLS
 for 2024 and continue to receive The Rockpile

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email address _____

Dues paid after December 31st is subject to a \$3.00 reinstatement fee. Add to your check.

Enclosed is my check payable MMLS for \$ __ __

Would you like your Rockpile sent to you by email?

Yes _____ No _____

DO IT TODAY BEFORE YOU FORGET!!!



What is a body to do to protect oneself? Glad you asked. We have a hobby based on sharing, giving, and teaching! Most of the hobby's enthusiasts out there, ones I've met over the years, follow those practices in all ways. There are folks in our clubs who have all manner of experiences with our hobby's related dangers and hazards. What I would like to offer here is a thought for your consideration. I would like to offer a suggestion that we encourage our members with the most experience to share, give, and teach not just about their knowledge with rocks, minerals, and fossils, but, also share, give, and teach what they have learned about being safe – safe mineral handling, safe storage, safe caring and feeding of our treasures, safe traipsing on quarry roads, safe avoidance of biting insects and so on. I'd like to broaden the sharing approach of our hobby to all things safety. Indeed, if your club does not have a safety coordinator, I would recommend your investigation of the benefits to your club with having a dedicated safety person. And, if you already have such a dedicated person in your club, I applaud your forethought! If you have a safety coordinator making safety a fun, interesting, and a learning experience, you are well ahead of the safety curve! Please be safe, and think safety. Also, please mind those legless critters as well, after all, we all have a place on this Earth and we need to be mindful about sharing it with them.

From Rock Trails 5/16

*Happy
Thanksgiving
From The
Rockpile Staff*

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 (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 Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 **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 - \$20.00 (adult), \$2.00 (junior) on a year basis. Membership expires each Dec. 31.

ANNUAL EVENTS:

March - Spring Rock Swap and Sale, Banquet Fall- 2 Day SuperSwap and Sale November Annual Auction
Yearly Picnic

STUDY GROUPS: Special-interest study groups meet monthly, September through June. Currently the following groups are active: Bead Study, Mineralogy, Wire Study is conducted on individual basis.

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 collecting 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, 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/mw11index.html American
Lands Access Association: <http://amlands.org>

American Federation:
www.amfed.org

The Rockhound's 10 Commandments:

Thou shall not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hands.

Thou shall not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing or biting.

Thou shall not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.

Thou shall not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.

Thou shall not collect at a neighbor's land unless thy neighbor knowst he's there.

Thou shall not argue names of minerals too violently; for sometimes thou couldst be wrong.

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.

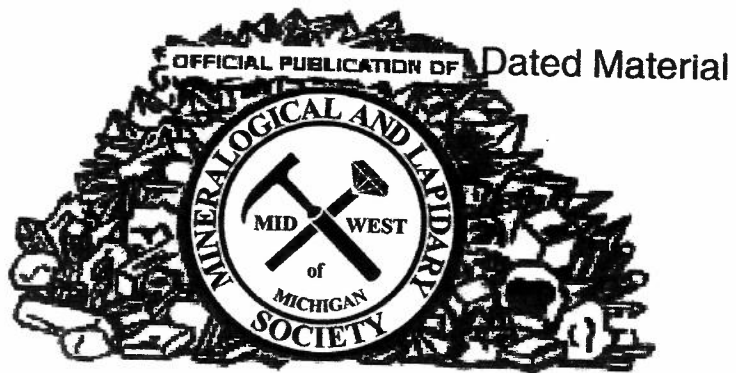
Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.

Thou shall not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggin's, lest thy neighbor's hammer be dropped upon thee.

Thou shall not break uncollectable specimens.

Midwest
Mineralogical and
Lapidary
Society of
Michigan

EDITOR
20281 THOMAS
BROWNSTOWN, MI
48183



The ROCKPILE
Bulletin Editor Contest Awards



■
1993 - 1st Place (Large Bulletin) AFMS
1991 - 1st Place (Large Bulletin) MWF
1990 - 1st Place (New Editor) AFMS
1990 - 1st Place (New Editor) MWF