

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 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: Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah everyone. I want to say I picked up some nice Christmas presents at our annual auction this year. For those of you who missed it there were some very nice items at the auction this year. Not to mention, I found some nice mineral specimens at our field trip to the Sylvania aggregates

quarry in South Rockwood. Thanks to Gary Slominski for setting it up for us. We had 14 members show up and everyone found nice stuff to show off on Brag night. Come to the Christmas party at the general meeting and enjoy our present giveaway and refreshments I will see you there.

Mike

Slate of Club Officers for 2024

- President: Mike Bomba
 - Vice President: Dan Gumina
 - Recording / Corresponding Secretary:
 - Treasurer: Doris Snyder
 - Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara
- In December the club officers will be sworn in.

December Program:

Will be our annual Christmas Party.

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.

WE GOT MAIL CHECK OUT PAGE 6.

Dates to Remember!!

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 Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

THERE WILL BE NO BEADING STUDY GROUP ON DECEMBER 21ST.

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.

December 21st Mineral Study Group will meet at the West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St., Ann Arbor at 7:30 PM. Contact for the group is Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218.

January 7th & 21st, 2024 Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

January 15th & 17th, 2024 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.

January 16th, 2024 Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm

January 16th, 2024 General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

January 18th 2024 Mineral Study Group will meet at the West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St., Ann Arbor at 7:30 PM. Contact for the group is Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

December, 2023

Michigan Mineral Beginning with the letter Z: Zircon $ZrSiO_4$

Zircon is a mineral belonging to the group of nesosilicates and is a source of the metal zirconium. Its chemical name is zirconium(IV) silicate, and its corresponding chemical formula is $ZrSiO_4$

In Michigan usually found as grains.



Color: Reddish brown, yellow, green, gray, colorless

Hardness: 7.5 on the mohs scale.

Occurrence: Dickinson, Houghton, Keweenaw, Marquette and Ontonagon counties.

From the internet Wikipedia

JASPER Dalmatian Jasper

Take one look at Dalmatian Jasper, and it's not hard to see why it gets its name. The unique spotted appearance is reminiscent of the iconic dog, and many believe that this whimsical gemstone conjures up many of the same emotions people felt seeing those creatures for the first time as children. Playful and wondrous, most people can't help but fall in love with this stone! The first cuts of Dalmatian Jasper were found in Chihuahua,



Mexico. Most of the rocks on the market today come from that area. While it's readily available, many consider it a lesser-known addition to the crystal kingdom.

From the Internet

Arkansas Man Finds 3.29-carat "Big, Ugly Diamond" at State Park

A diamond discovered at an Arkansas state park has been dubbed "Bud" by the man who discovered it.



An Arkansas man found a 3.29-carat brown diamond at the Crater of Diamonds State Park earlier this month. It is the largest diamond found in the park since September 2021, the park said in a statement.

David Anderson, a regular visitor to the park, found the diamond on Mar. 4 while searching through soil in the park's 37.5-acre diamond search area. He named his discovery B.U.D., which he said stands for "Big, Ugly Diamond."

Anderson said he initially thought the stone was quartz. It was identified as a brown diamond with a pitted surface. Brown, yellow and white diamonds are the most common ones found in the Crater of Diamonds park. Anderson said he initially thought the stone was quartz. It was identified as a brown diamond with a pitted surface. Brown, yellow and

white diamonds are the most common ones found in the Crater of Diamonds park.

"Mr. Anderson's diamond is about the size of an English pea, with a light brown color and octahedron shape," said park interpreter Tayler Markham in the park's statement. "It has a metallic shine typical of all diamonds found at the park, with a partially resorbed surface and lots of inclusions."

From the internet Geologyin

SNOWBALL!

I MADE MYSELF A SNOWBALL,
AS PERFECT AS COULD BE,
I THOUGHT I KEEP IT AS A PET,
AND LET IT SLEEP WITH ME.
I MADE IT SOME PAJAMAS,
AND A PILLOW FOR ITS HEAD.
THEN LAST NIGHT IT RAN AWAY,
BUT FIRST, IT WET THE BED!

Shel Silverstein

From the internet



**Christmas is not so
much about opening
presents, as opening
our hearts!**

www.christmas2013.cc

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!!!



Something To Try

For those of you planning to go on the UP trip, here is a special way to clean Copper. Follow the directions carefully!



Directions for using *Sulfamic* acid to clean copper.
(From-Steve)-- - -

Sulfamic acid can be bought at Home Depot. It is a little milder than Hydrochloric acid.

Always use plastic gloves and eye protection!

Directions:

Use 1/4 cup to 1 gallon of water.

1. First put your acid into the bottom of a plastic bucket
2. Put in your copper pieces into the plastic bucket
3. Boil a gallon of water. Then pour the gallon of water into the plastic bucket containing the copper pieces and the acid. Let set.
4. Check often.
5. When the piece reaches the desired look, rinse totally. **THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS ENTIRE PROCESS IS THE DRYING! USING A HAIR DRYER, DRY THE PIECE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THE LONGER IT TAKES TO DRY THE LESS OF A NATURAL EFFECT YOU WILL HAVE TO THE LOOKS OF THE PIECE.**
6. Good Luck!

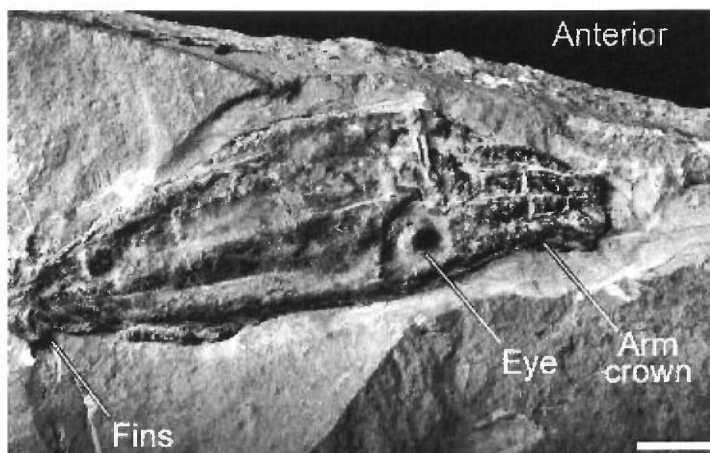
From MGMS Newsletter 9/23

Fossil of Glowing Fish With Vampire Teeth Found in Jurassic Rocks

The vampire squid (*Vampyroteuthis infernalis*) is the only living species of the cephalopod order Vampyromorphida, which also includes many extinct species.

Named for their blue eyes, reddish-brown skin and webbing between their eight arms, these creatures are not technically true squids.

They combine features from both octopuses and squids, and likely represent an ancestral line between the two groups. The newly-described vampyromorph species lived during the Middle Jurassic period, some 165 million years ago.



The specimen of *Vampyrofugiens atramentum* showing the 3D preservation of the mineralized soft tissue. Credit: Rowe
The specimen of *Vampyrofugiens atramentum* showing the 3D preservation of the mineralized soft tissue. Credit: Rowe

Named *Vampyrofugiens atramentum*, it had an ink sac, two internal light organs, Vampyroteuthis-like sucker attachments, and an octopus-type arm configuration and musculature.

“The combination of the ink sac and internal luminous organs is known from the recent times, although not from the coleoid (octopuses, squid and cuttlefish) fossil record,” said Sorbonne Université paleontologist Alison Rowe and colleagues.

Vampyrofugiens atramentum had a pelagic lifestyle in the La Voulte-sur-Rhône setting, and occupied a predatory niche.

The mosaic of characters in this species highlight that it used both predatory and defensive strategies, with a combination of defense mechanisms so far unknown from the fossil record.

The presence of an ink sac indicates that *Vampyrofugiens atramentum* was likely to be prey to contemporaneous predators and used concealment as a tool for evasion.

Its photophores suggest that it used bioluminescence as a form of obfuscation and communication. The configuration of the arms and suckers in *Vampyrofugiens atramentum* in conjunction with the sensory functionality of the cirri, suggests that it used both to detect and capture prey.

“It is likely that the manipulation strategies used by *Vampyrofugiens atramentum* were similar to those seen in living octopuses given that the internal arm musculature mirrors that present in the extant eight-armed group,” the researchers said.

“This is the first evidence of this type of arm musculature preserved in Jurassic forms.”

The fossilized remains of *Vampyrofugiens atramentum* were found at the locality of La Voulte-sur-Rhône in Ardèche, France, and were preliminarily assigned to a previously known species, *Vampyronassa rhodanica*.

The study authors examined the fossil using high resolution X-ray-based imaging and reflectance transformation imaging.

“The addition of this new vampyromorph species not only increases the coleoid diversity known from the site, but also broadens the morphological variation observed in the co-occurring coleoid species,” they concluded.

“The findings suggest that there was a high diversity of cephalopods occupying differentiated communities during the Middle Jurassic.”

The above story is based on Materials provided by University of Tübingen.

From the internet GeologyIN

Hi Diane and
members of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society,

10-26-23



We apologize that it has taken us so long to get this letter to you. It has been quite the journey to retirement! Like many things, it took longer than we anticipated and was more exciting/overwhelming than we had imagined. There simply wasn't time to keep up with everything and we're glad to be reconnecting 😊

Thank you so much for your donation to our Scouting For Food project in April. We appreciate your kind heart in helping us to remember our son Tim, support the Scouts, and enable Food Gatherers to provide over 70,000 meals to those in need! It is so encouraging to the Scouts (and us) to see what can happen when people get together to do something worthwhile.

In May and early June we focused on finishing up our Barton Hills Village work. Dave weeded, trimmed and cleaned up to leave everything looking nice, and Jan filed, sorted and tried to organize things in the office. Neither of us got everything done that we wanted to, but it was an awesome moment when we said, "There you go—it's all yours" and turned in our keys after 40+ years at jobs we love. Here's our 15 minutes of fame: <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2023/07/a-stable-constant-caretakers-step-aside-after-73-years-serving-a-village-near-ann-arbor.html>

The Village gave us a wonderful retirement party, full of surprises that included having the newly created nature preserve named for us (!). After our last official day of work on June 16 we left for our usual block of vacation time up north: camping/service on St. Helena Island in the Straits of Mackinac with the Scouts, two weeks of great joy and fellowship at a Christian camp in the Upper Peninsula, and in the middle, the July 4th week with a final family picnic on our Barton Shore porch. (This is also the end of an era for Dave's extended family who are thankful for Sunday dinners, family picnics, ball games and other special times of growing up in and continued enjoyment of Barton Hills.) That brought us to July 15 and the start of THE MOVE.

We had been moving things little by little to our daughter Julie's house north of Dexter, but ran out of time and ended up asking the friends who came to help to just "put it in a box—we'll sort it out later" (guess what we're doing now 😊). We got most of the things out of the main house by our August 1 target date, but Dave's rocks in the basement seemed never-ending. We had four weekends of yard sales before all three of us came down with Covid! That put us in a fog of do-whatever-you-feel-like—eat, sleep, open a box, sleep, play with the cats, sleep—for about two weeks. We're thankful to the Lord that we healed quickly and were back at the job by mid-month. Dave ended up with bursitis in his shoulder so he couldn't help as much (but tried anyway—better now). We are extremely thankful for friends and fellow rockhounds who spent hours packing rocks for us! The final moment of victory came when we got five guys to help dismantle the big rock-cutting saw in the basement, haul it out to Dexter, and reassemble it in the barn. There are still rocks in the garage (that we hope to sell some more of at a yard sale on November 4—we'll confirm that soon), but we're glad to be out of the way so the folks who moved into our jobs could move into the house.

In all of this we have been blessed beyond blessed, and are now settling into our new home with Julie and her two cats (Augie and Chester, who love unpacking boxes!). We are near family and around the corner from Hudson Mills Metropark, not to mention just a stone's throw from Dairy Queen 😊 Our new address is 7371 Dexter Pinckney Road, Dexter MI 48130. Dave's cell remains 734-368-7884; Jan's cell is 734-665-5574, and our email address is still dandjesch@comcast.net.

Thanks again for being good friends, supporters, and fellow rockhounds. God bless!
Dave & Jan Esch

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.

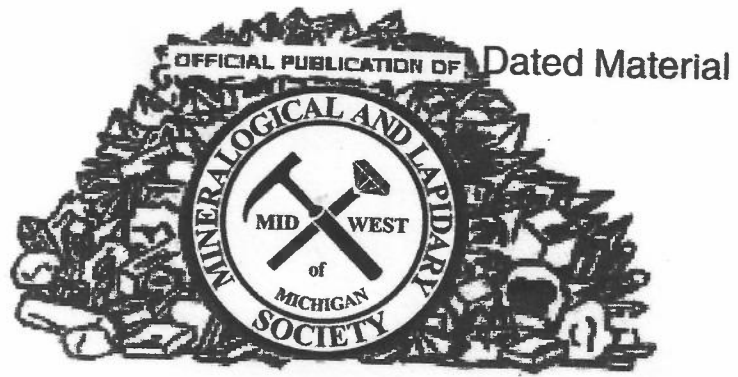
Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.

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