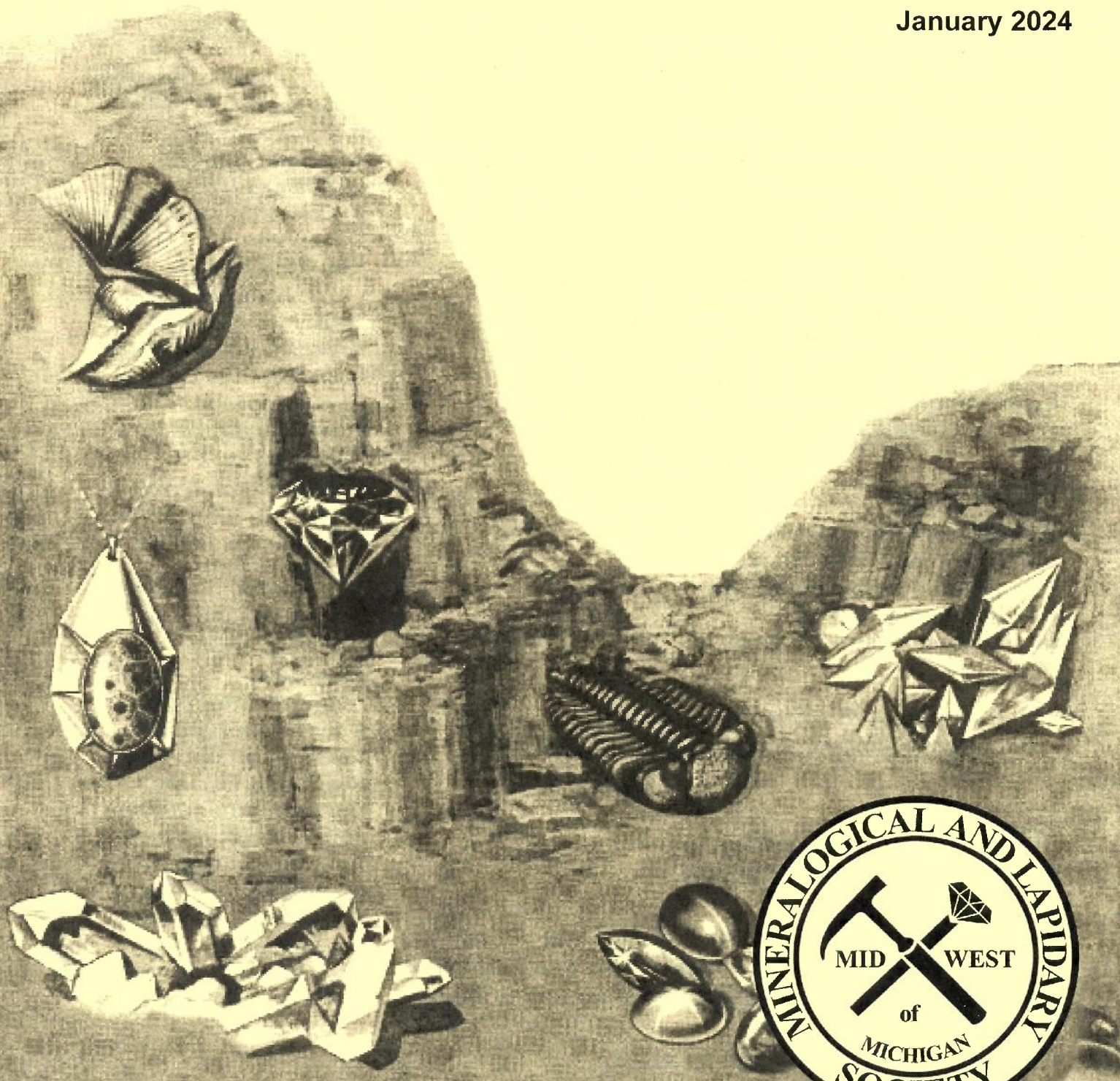


THE ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

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

January 2024



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: : Happy New Year everyone ! Hope all is well? I'd like to thank everyone who helped us make 2023 a success. The club could not do it without all your help. The New Year brings new beginnings , so please come to our club meeting and get involved with whatever your passion and interest is. I'm thankful for this club. As a

novice you all took me under your wings and were quick to answer questions and teach me the ropes about lapidary and mineralogy and I'm still learning. So I'll see you at the meeting .

Mike

ELECTION RESULTS

President: Mike Bomba

Vice President: Dan Gumina

Recording / Corresponding Secretary: Andrea Rinker

Treasurer: Doris Snyder

Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara

In December the club officers will be sworn in.

January Program: The Program for January will be a talk / presentation on Scrimshaw by our own Don Baker !

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.

Dates to Remember!!

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.

February 1st & 15th, 2024 Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

February 5th, 19th & 21st, 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.

February 15th, 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

February 20th, 2024 Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm.

February 20th, 2024 General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

Michigan Mineral Beginning with the letter A: Apophyllite

$(K,Na)Ca_4Si_8O_{20}(F,OH) \cdot 8H_2O$

Apophyllite is a hydrated potassium calcium silicate mineral that crystallizes in the form of pyramidal structures, cubic crystals, as well as druzi on a matrix or other minerals. This mineral was first



January, 20

discovered in 1806 by R.J. Haüy, and was named after the Greek word meaning "leaf".

Color: Usually white, colorless, also blue, green, brown, yellow, pink and violet.

Hardness: 4.5 to 5 on the Mohs scale.

Occurrence: Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.

From the internet Wikipedia

JASPER: Blue Mountain Jasper



Blue Mountain Jasper is found in Oregon, on the south end of Blue Mountains, just a few miles north of McDermitt, Nevada. From the internet

Larimar Is a Beautiful Gemstone With Only One Source

Nick Smith Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN) From the February, 2023 Strata Data



Picture from internet istock getty images

I am interested in rare gems, the rarity being that they are only found in one location. Here are my top ten facts about larimar.

1. Along with wollastonite, it is a variety of the mineral pectolite. It receives its blue color from trace amounts of copper.
2. Although residents of the area had been aware of the stone later called larimar for some time, larimar was rediscovered and first commercially made available in the 1970s. It is found in and near mountains near the city of Baharona in the southern Dominican Republic. It became popular in the 1980s, with the first reported specimen appearing in a jewelry store in 1975.
3. Miguel Mendez, a Dominican artisan, was the first person to have a plentiful supply for sale. He coined the name larimar, with "lari" for his daughter named Larissa, and "mar" for sea.
4. Larimar forms in basalts. It is a hydrothermal mineral occurring in veins and cavities. Also, peridot can occur with larimar. Additionally, hematite inclusions may add red specks throughout the blue.
5. It has a triclinic crystal structure.
6. Larimar ranges from 4.5 to 5 on the Moh's Scale, so care must be taken when worn with other harder stones to prevent scratching.
7. It can exhibit chatoyancy.
8. No known imitations exist, but other stones such as turquoise can be distinguished from larimar from physical and optical property differences.
9. Larimar is most commonly cut into cabochons, rather than faceted.
10. While larimar is not the most valuable gem, the deeper the blue color, the more valuable it is.

Sources: gemsgociety.org/gemstone-encyclopedia
gemsgociety.org/article/gem-pricing-guide-sample
[Firstclasswatches.co.uk/blog/2021/08/the-10-rarest-gemstones-in-the-world/](https://firstclasswatches.co.uk/blog/2021/08/the-10-rarest-gemstones-in-the-world/)
From the MWF NEWS 12/2023

Happy New Year!!!

Nebraska (& Other) Clay Has Many Uses

Eric Fritsch Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE)

From the May, 2023 Pick & Shovel

Clay is often an overlooked mineral. It is formed by the chemical breakdown of minerals such as feldspar. Clay is perhaps the most common mineral type in Nebraska, and montmorillonite is perhaps the most common species. Nebraska has many clayey soils, and anyone who's walked over a wet field knows your boots are going to be caked in it.

Braided rivers have crossed and crisscrossed Nebraska for many millions of years. These rivers flood, and much of the material that is released by a river after flooding is clay. The minerals that become clay begin as boulders falling off the Rocky Mountains, rounded as cobbles, moved as sand and gravel, flooded as clay particles.

Clay is used to make bricks, adobe, and other building materials. Earthen dams and levees are commonly covered in clay. Clay has to be sought out to rebuild a broken levee along the Missouri River.

Clay is used for a wide variety of purposes and is a multibillion-dollar industry. Many of us think about the clay that potters use to form clay pots, bowls, and other objects. Kaolinite is a soft white clay that when fired becomes hard. It is used to make ceramics like plates, cups, and toilets. Clay is a common dispersant used in things like pesticide. It is a filler in medicine, paper, and paint.

Bentonite is a clay that is formed by weathering volcanic ash, often in ancient oceans. Huge deposits of bentonite are found in Wyoming, South Dakota, and elsewhere. It is used in a variety of products from cat litter to milkshake thickener. There is even this common commercial on TV where a 20-something girl with impeccable skin is hawking wrinkle cream that comes from "shale minerals." Yes, that stuff is bentonite (aka cat litter) that people are putting on their faces.

In Colorado Springs, Colorado, housing developers built expensive houses on clay seams that

swelled and destroyed the houses.

Whereas most collectors don't have samples of clay, there are collectible examples of clay. From Cornwall, England there are orthoclase crystals replaced by clay and mica commonly called Pig's Ears that collectors appreciate.

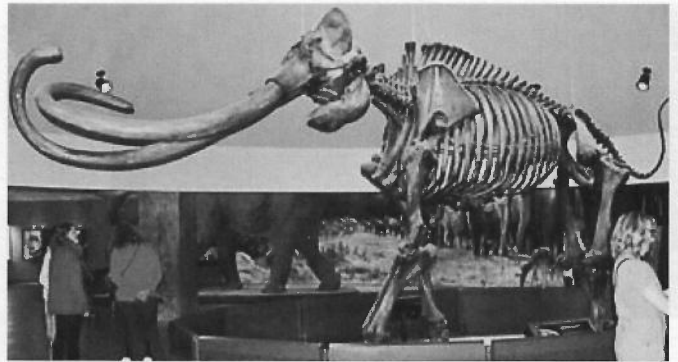
Clay – don't take it for granite, but it is made from highly weathered granite.

From the MWF News 12/23

Mammoths Are Fascinating Long After Their Extinction

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Regional Vice President
From the May, 2023 A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Other than dinosaurs and Megalodon sharks, few prehistoric critters hold attention so much as the great beasts of the Ice Ages: cave bears, saber-tooth cats, ground sloths, and mammoths. Our ancestors painted their images in the caves of Europe.



The Imperial Mammoth was truly huge. Photo by Jim Brace Thompson, who further noted that at the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum in Los Angeles, where this photo was taken, "You can still see tar bubbling up in spots on the grounds around the museum!"

Mammoths roamed the earth starting five million years ago. Examining cells from mammoths frozen in Arctic permafrost, scientists have determined they shared 98.5% of their genes with today's African elephants. It's believed elephants

migrated out of Africa and evolved into two family trees. One led to today's Asian elephants; the other, to mammoths.

Mammoths tromped their way throughout the Northern Hemisphere. In some states, their bones are so common that they've been named the state fossil, as in Alaska, Nebraska, and Washington. Their bones have been found in my state of California, including the locally famous Moorpark Mammoth (an example of the Southern Mammoth, *Mammuthus meridionalis*) and Columbian mammoths (*Mammuthus columbi*) excavated from the tar pits of Rancho La Brea.

On the Channel Islands, a unique group of pygmy mammoths, *Mammuthus exilis*, trumpeted just offshore from my hometown of Ventura. It's believed this population became stranded and underwent "dwarfism," or shrinking over the course of generations, as often happens to large animals that find themselves on small islands with limited resources.



The Channel Islands Pygmy Mammoth at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Photo by Jim Brace-Thompson.

Most mammoths went extinct 10,000 years ago. A remnant population on Wrangel Island in the East Siberian Sea held on until 3,500 years ago – or the time of the Egyptian pharaohs! What finally did them in? Did cavemen hunt them to extinction? Were they wiped out by some deadly disease? Or did they simply fail to adapt to changing climate?

And is it possible that someday, using cells from mammoths frozen in the Siberian permafrost,

we'll be able to clone and raise the mighty mammoth to walk and amaze us in a "Pleistocene Park"? The answers are yet to be written, and the questions invite you to join in the hunt.

From the MWF NEWS 12/23

Rockhounding Improves Family Communication

By Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge, Nebraska State Director



Family rock collecting is an underappreciated recreational activity and is more than just fun.

Families who rockhound together experience better mental health and improved communication with each other. All leisure activities contain elements which may be more or less helpful to families. Playing video games or watching television add little value to a family's communication. They are passive individualized interactions and can have negative results. A parent or parents taking their children to a ballgame is usually a more positive experience. In this situation, the family members communicate and interact more, although as spectators, their level of activity is limited.

During family rock collecting, there are a number of positive factors that make it, in my opinion, one of the best shared recreational activities. Rockhounding offers an opportunity for family members to have a positive influence on each other, while offering a chance to be alone without being lonely.

Finding a spot to hunt away from the other family members can provide a sense of separateness, while maintaining a sense of others being close by. The development of boundaries is an important element in our psycho-social development. Rock collecting reinforces the establishment of personal boundaries. A person, for example, should not cross another person's line of sight while searching for

specimens. It is inappropriate in rockhounding to crowd into another person's spot.

Watching someone, especially kids, playing video games, as well as many other leisure activities, I get concerned about the high level of competition. In rock collecting there can be healthy competition on the size, quality, number or even smallest specimen found. As the atmosphere of competition focuses on doing the best you can, rather than beating someone else, valuable lessons are learned.

While people rock collect for a wide range of reasons, increased cooperation and communication can be developed during the hunt. When rockhounding, people, even strangers, tend to share information about locations where rocks are located and what techniques work to find them.

Collecting encourages children to gain independence through building their own collections, choosing their own collecting spots, accepting or rejecting advice, and taking responsibility for their own equipment, displays and collections.

Most people find rockhounding to be relaxing. Locations in nature have been recognized through the ages as areas for reflection and tranquility. It is often a welcome relief to get away from the fast pace of urban life and the day to day problems that work, school, or even home life brings to us all. This year make a plan to take your family rockhounding. You deserve it!

- via MWF News 9/13 via Glacial Groove
5/16Page 6 June
From Rock Trails 6/2016

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

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!

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Famous Quotes to Use as New Year Wishes

“Let our New Year’s resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.” —Göran Persson

One thing with gazing too frequently into the past is that we may turn around to find the future has run out on us.” —*Michael Cibeuko*

“Tomorrow, is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one.” —*Brad Paisley*

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” —*Eleanor Roosevelt*

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.”—*Bill Vaughn*

“Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.”—*Oprah*

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.”—*Albert Einstein*

“All of us every single year, we're a different person. I don't think we're the same person all our lives.”—*Steven Spielberg*

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”—*Walt Disney*

“Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it.”—*Mother Teresa*

“It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.” —*William Shakespeare*

“The beginning is the most important part of the work.” —*Plato*

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/mw1index.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.

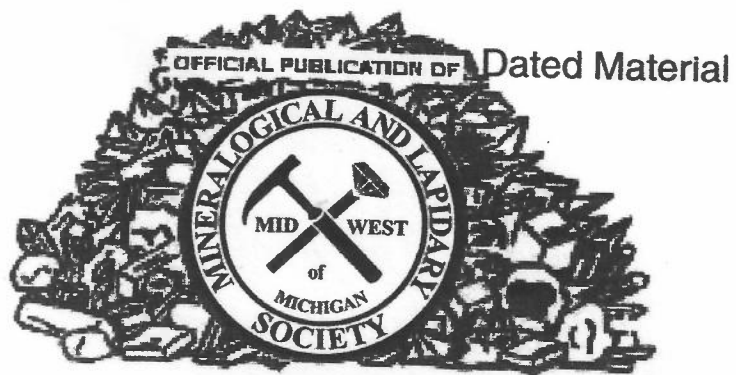
Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.

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