

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

February 2024



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2023 OFFICERS

President: Mike Bomba (313) 381-8455
Vice President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Recording Secretary: Andrea Rinker (734) 755-2570
Treasurer: Doris Snyder (313) 291-2133
Corresponding Secretary: Andrea Rinker (734) 755-2570
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: Hey everybody. I hope you're all staying warm with this cold snap that's been going on. I want take time to be thankful this new year for everyone involved in keeping our club alive. I want to thank Andrea Rinker for stepping up as our new Recording Secretary and also Lou Talley our Spring Swap chairman for his perseverance in locking in our Spring Swap this year. Yoo-hoo, I also want to thank Diane

Kuzara for the many years of service to the club. There are some interesting things coming up so everyone please come out to support us in making this year special. See you all at the meeting.

Mike

February Program: Surprise video program

SAD NEWS

On December 16, 2023 Ardeana Marie Roberts a long time Member of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society passed away. Ardeana was a member of MMLS since January 1989. She participated in rock and gem shows. A talented crafter, Ardeana was often adorned in jewelry she wire wrapped herself. Ardeana was 94 when she passed away at Cedar Woods Assisted Living.



FOR SALE

About three weeks ago I received this email from Rhonda Gaw. My brother recently passed and prior to his passing he had purchased two microscopes (one small and one larger) and a gem refractometer. My local jeweler

suggested that I bring them to one of your gatherings and that I might be able to rent a table and sell them there. When and how do I go about this?

Rhonda Gaw

One microscope is a Gem-Vue, the other one is listed as a large microscope.

A gem refractometer is listed.

For further information contact Rhonda Gaw at rhondawgaw7174@gmail.com or 734-790-1877.

Dates to Remember!!

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.

March 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.

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

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

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

March 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

March 23rd 51st Annual Metro Rock Swap For Details See Flyer On Page 6

REMEMBER BEFORE TRAVELING A GREAT DISTANCE TO A SHOW CHECK FIRST THAT IT IS GOING ON.

Sister Club Events

March 1-3—RICHMOND, INDIANA: Annual show; Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society; Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salsibury Rd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; contact Judy Lee, (937) 339-1966; Email: jleeburton@woh.rr.com

March 2 & 3 Roamin Club's 51st Annual Auction
Saturday 11AM. To 6PM
Sunday Noon To 6pm
VisTa Tech Center Building, at Schoolcraft College
18600 Haggerty Rd. Livonia, MI. For information call Todd Gall at 248-348-5093 or Clarence Sterling at 248-884-0431 RoaminRockClub.weebly.com

March 15-17 Michigan Gem and Mineral Society JACKSON, MICHIGAN: Show and sale; Michigan Gem and Mineral Society; American One Event Center, 128 W. Ganson Road ; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Dealers, Demonstrators, Kids Activities, Raffle, Silent Auction, Displays Free Parking, Food Court. EVERYONE IS WELCOME. FAMILY-FRIENDLY; contact Sally, (517) 522-3396; Email: saltoosal2@yahoo.com; Website: mgmsrockclub.com.

March 23-24—CANTON, OHIO: Annual show; Stark County Gem & Mineral Club; Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Avenue; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; , Scouts in uniform free; contact Show Chairman Vicky Waltz, (330) 862-2162

Michigan Mineral Beginning with the letter B: Biotite $K(Mg,Fe)_3(AlSi_3O_{10})(F,OH)_2$



© geology.com

Biotite from Bancroft, Ontario, Canada. Specimen is approximately 4 inches (10 centimeters) across

What is Biotite?

Biotite is a name used for a large group of black mica minerals that are commonly found in igneous and metamorphic rocks. These include annite, phlogopite, siderophyllite, fluorophlogopite, fluorannite, eastonite, and many others. These micas vary in chemical composition but are all sheet silicate minerals with very similar physical properties. Color: Black, Dark Green and Dark Brown. Hardness: 2.5 to 3 on the Mohs scale. Occurrence: Marquette County. From the internet and Geology.com

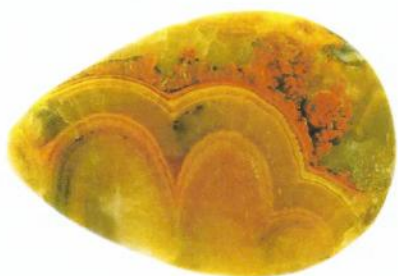
JASPER

Bumble Bee Jasper

Bumble Bee Jasper, also known as Orpiment or Eclipse Jasper, is a unique and vibrant form of volcanic rock that is primarily composed of sulfur, manganese oxides, realgar, orpiment, and other minerals. What sets Bumble Bee Jasper apart is

its striking coloration, which includes vivid yellow, orange, and black banding, resembling the appearance of a bumblebee, hence its name. The intricate patterns and vibrant hues make it a popular choice in the world of lapidary and jewelry design

Bumble Bee Jasper is primarily found in Indonesia, particularly on the island of Java. It is formed in volcanic environments, specifically within fumaroles, which are openings in the Earth's crust that emit steam and gases. The unique combination of minerals and elements present in the volcanic activity in this region contributes to the distinct coloration and banding patterns seen in Bumble Bee Jasper.



From the internet Geologyscience

The Largest Gold Nugget in the World



The Largest Gold Nugget in the world, The Pepita Canaã, on display at the Banco Central do Brasil's Museu de Valores

The Pepita Canaã is the world's largest existing gold nugget in the world, And the

largest gold nugget ever found in Brazil, and It was discovered on July 16, 1983, by a garimpeiro (prospector) named Júlio de Deus Filho in the Serra Pelada mine, located in the state of Pará, Brazil.

At the time of its discovery, the Pepita Canaã weighed 60.82 kilograms (134.08 pounds) and had a gold content of 52.33 kilograms (115.38 pounds). It was later purchased by the Banco Central do Brasil (Central Bank of Brazil) for 4.4 million Brazilian cruzeiros (approximately US\$1 million at the time).

The discovery of the Pepita Canaã was a life-changing event for Júlio de Deus Filho. He became a local celebrity and was able to use the proceeds from the sale of the nugget to improve his life and the lives of his family and community.

The Pepita Canaã is currently on display at the Banco Central do Brasil's Museu de Valores (Museum of Values) in Brasília, the capital of Brazil.

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Facts about the Pepita Canaã

The Pepita Canaã is made up of a mixture of gold and quartz.

The name "Pepita Canaã" means "Canaã Nugget" in Portuguese. It was named after the nearby town of Canaã dos Carajás.

The Pepita Canaã is not the only large gold nugget that has been found in Brazil. In 1980, a nugget weighing 36.2 kilograms (79.8 pounds) was found in the same mine.

The nugget is valued at over \$10 million.

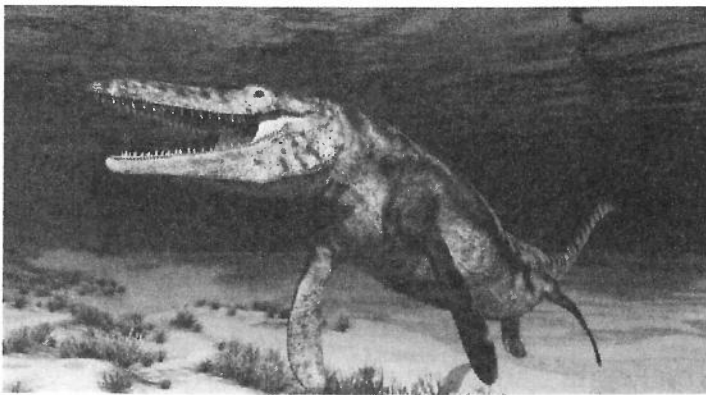
The Pepita Canaã is a significant cultural and economic symbol for Brazil. It represents the country's rich history of gold mining and its continued importance as a global producer of gold. The nugget is also a popular tourist attraction, drawing visitors from all over the world to see its incredible size and beauty.

Historically

The Welcome Stranger, discovered in 1869 near Moliagul, Australia, had a gross weight exceeding 2,520 troy ounces (78kg) and yielded over 2,284 troy ounces (71kg) of pure gold after melting. Unfortunately, it was broken into pieces for transport and eventually melted down, leaving no physical evidence to definitively verify its original form and total gold content.

From the internet GeologyIn

72 million-year-old 'blue dragon' unearthed in Japan is unlike anything we've ever seen, experts say



Scientists in Japan have unearthed the near-complete remains of an ancient great white shark-like sea monster that terrorized the ancient oceans it used to inhabit. The prehistoric predator, which researchers

have named "blue dragon," has an unusual body plan that sets it apart from its extinct relatives and is unlike any living creature.

The exceptional fossils, which are around 72 million years old, were discovered along the Aridagawa River in Wakayama Prefecture on Honshu island. They belong to a never-before-seen species of mosasaur - a group of air-breathing aquatic reptiles that were apex marine predators during the Cretaceous period (145 million to 66 million years ago). The "astounding" remains are the most complete mosasaur fossils ever uncovered in Japan and the northwest Pacific, researchers wrote in a statement

In a new study published Dec. 11 in the Journal of Systematic Paleontology, researchers named the new mosasaur *Megapterygius wakayamaensis*. The new genus *Megapterygius* translates to "large-winged" after the creature's unusually large rear flippers, and the species name *wakayamaensis* recognizes the prefecture where it was found. The team nicknamed the creature the Wakayama Soryu - a soryu is a blue-colored aquatic dragon from Japanese mythology.

Mosasaur share a similar body plan and there is very little variation among species. But *M wakayamaensis* is something of an outlier, which has surprised scientists.

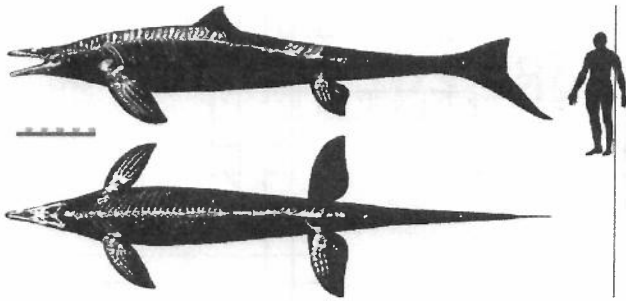
"I thought I knew them [mosasaurs] quite well by now," study lead author Takuya Konishi, a vertebrate paleontologist at the University of Cincinnati, said in the statement. But "immediately, [I knew] it was something I had never seen before."

Like other mosasaurs, *M wakayamaensis* had a dolphin-like torso with four paddle-like flippers, an alligator-shaped snout and a long tail. But it also had a dorsal fin like a shark or dolphin, which is not seen in any other mosasaur species

However, what confused researchers the most was

February, 2024

the size of the new mosasaur's rear flippers, which were even longer than their front flippers. Not only is this a first among mosasaurs but it is also extremely uncommon among all living and extinct aquatic species.



Almost all swimming animals have their largest flippers toward the front of their bodies, which helps them steer through the water. Having larger flippers at the rear of the body would be like driving a car by steering the rear wheels instead of the front ones, which would make it much harder to turn quickly.

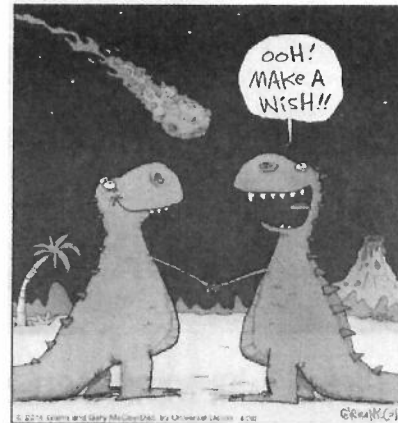
"We lack any modern analog that has this kind of body morphology - from fish to penguins to sea turtles," Konishi said. "None has four large flippers they use in conjunction with a tail fin."

The researchers suspect that instead of using the rear flippers to turn, *M wakayamaensis* angled them upward or downward to quickly dive down or ascend through the water column, which may have helped make them adept hunters. The dorsal fin could have made it easier for the creature to turn, which may have counteracted the extra drag from the rear flippers, they added.

"It opens a whole can of worms that challenges our understanding of how mosasaurs swim," Konishi said.

From MGMS 1/24

Did you pay your 2024 dues?



From MGMS 1/24

Just A Little Humor

"Don't Expect Perfection From Geologists They All Have Their Faults"

Geology Teacher: If H₂O is the formula for water, what is the formula for ice?

Student: H₂O cubed.

From the internet

Scrambled! Looks weird, but you can read it — give it a try:

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacilty uesdnatnrnd waht I was rdgnieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan

mnid. Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a

wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt ting is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The ret can be a taotl mses and you can sill raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter

by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?

Source: *AFMS Newsletter*, March 2023; via *Golden*

Spike News, Jan 2022 From MMS Conglomerate 3/23

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

51ST ANNUAL METRO ROCK SWAP

HOSTED BY
THE MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD 2024

10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

AT

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
13115 TELEGRAPH ROAD
TAYLOR, MICHIGAN



FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS
AND INFORMATION CALL:
734-837-8920

\$15.00 PER 8-FOOT TABLE

- PUBLIC INVITED
- FREE ADMISSION
- FREE PARKING
- REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

SWAP - SELL - BUY

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MINERALS | | CRYSTALS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FOSSILS | | SLABS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JEWELRY | | LAPIDARY ITEMS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BEADS | | RELATED BOOKS |



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 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