

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

September 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:

Wow how time is flying by. I hope you all are having a wonderful summer. I'm just back from another camping trip to Ludington Mi. Lake Michigan is the best. I'm sure looking forward to seeing everyone at the Club picnic at Stacey Harper's house in Belleville, Michigan. Thank you Stacey and Mike for hosting. I'm

hoping to see all your amazing finds at the September general meeting. We have a lot coming up like the SuperSwap and our annual auction. So please come out and get Rocking !

Mike Bomba

September Program: The program this month is our annual Brag Night we ask our members to bring to the general meeting any thing that they crafted or collected (bought or self collected) over the summer months.

Reinstatement:

Welcome back Amy Officer.

Dates to Remember!!

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH: OUR CLUB PICNIC WILL BE AT STACEY HARPER'S HOME IN BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN. SEE FURTHER DETAILS IN THE SEPTEMBER ROCKPILE.

September 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.

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

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

October 2nd & 16th & 18th 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.

October 5th & 19th Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara's 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

October 17th Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm.

October 17th General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

SEPTEMBER 16TH & 17TH MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION HOWELL, MI AT THE LIVINGTON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW.

October 7 & 8 Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society Rock Swap

WhereWayne County Fairgrounds & RV Park, 10871 Quirk Rd, Belleville, MI 48111, Contact: Bill Barr; (505) 803-4888; wbarr@umich.edu; www.mmls.us

Sister Club Events:

September 8-10—BOWLING GREEN, OHIO: Annual show; Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club; Wood County Fairgrounds, Pratt Pavilion, 13800 W Poe Rd contact Jerri Heer, (419) 344-9999; Email: jheerx6@aol.com; Website: rockyreader.com

Sept 9 & 10 500 Earth Sciences Annual Show WhereHancock County 4-H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple, Greenfield, IN **Description**Contact: Tom Odom; (765) 325-2690; tomodom650@gmail.com; www.500earthsciencesclub.org

September 2023

September 16 & 17 Howell, Michigan: Annual Show Livingston Gem and Mineral Society; Hartland Educational Support Service Center, 9525 East Highland Road; contact Sandra Jo Wrestler, (248)875-5921; email: sjwrestler@gmail.com
Website: <https://livingstongems.com>

September 15, 16 & 17 Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show Where Soccer Stop Sportsplex, 5 River Hills Dr, Holland, MI 49424,
Contact: Michelle Bennett; (712) 240-0490;
mickieannbennett@gmail.com www.tulipcity.org

September 30 & October 1 Mineral Club Annual Show Where VFW Post 2780 Canteen, Grand Traverse Area Rock & 3400 Veterans Dr, Traverse City, MI 49684, USA
Contact: Lauren Vaughn; (231) 276-6150; maple28@aol.com;
terockhounds.com

October 13, 14 & 15 Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Show where Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center, 14500 12 Mile Rd., Warren MI
Contact John Peters, (313) 2557774
Joopett13@hotmail.com www.michmin.org

Oct 20-22—MASON, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society (Lansing area club); Ingham County Fairgrounds, Main Arena, 700 East Ash St; Fri. contact Ruth Ann Lehner, (517) 643-4406; Email: Geacie48@gmail.com; Website: www.MichRocks.org

OCT 20, 21 & 22 Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show
Where Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46818, USA ([map](#))
Description Contact: Bev Jenkins; (260) 639-0727; 3riversshow@gmail.com;
3riversgem_mineral.tripod.com

Oct 28, 29 Akron Mineral & Summit Lapidary Semi Annual Show Where Emidio & Sons Banquet Center, 48 E Bath Rd, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223, USA
Description Contact: Evelyn Tryon; (330) 673-9664;
gemboreelead@gmail.com;
summitlapidaryclub.com

Oldest Dinosaur Egg

by Kat Koch

“The dinosaurs became extinct because they didn’t have a space program...” The extinction of the dinosaurs is one of the greatest mysteries in natural history. For centuries, scientists have been trying to unravel why these impressive creatures suddenly disappeared



from the face of the Earth. It has been suggested that a natural event such as an asteroid impact caused “The dinosaurs became extinct because they didn’t have a space program...” The extinction of the dinosaurs is one of the greatest mysteries in natural history. For centuries, scientists have been trying to unravel why these impressive creatures suddenly disappeared from the face of the Earth. It has been suggested that a natural event such as an asteroid impact caused their demise, but new research suggests that it may have had something to do with their lack of a space program.

~ Larry Niven

I chuckled when I read the above quote. In central India, sometime between 1817 and 1843, Charles Fraser discovered a spherical agate rock. In 1883, it was identified as a crystal using the current scientific knowledge at that time and became a part of the Natural History Museum in London. It was circular, about 6" across, and pinkish. The museum thought it wasn't a significant find when displaying it. However, the agate was discovered before the word dinosaur was even defined.

It was around 80 years, 1923, when the scientific community confirmed Dinosaur eggshells existed when an entire nest of fossilized eggs was found in Mongolia. This discovery, too, was when the word dinosaur was first defined. It was around 80 years, 1923, when the scientific community confirmed Dinosaur eggshells existed when an entire nest of fossilized eggs was found in Mongolia. This discovery, too, was when the word dinosaur was

first defined. In 1976 an entire clutch of Massospondylus dinosaur eggs was unearthed in South Africa. The clutch is estimated to be roughly 190 million years old, making them a good contender for the oldest dinosaur eggs found in the world. In 2018 a mineral collection curator from the London Museum traveled to France to visit a mineral show.

Continued on page 4

Michigan Mineral Beginning with the letter V: Vermiculite $(Mg,Fe^{2+},Fe^{3+})_3[(Al,Si)_4O_{10}]$



Vermiculite is a hydrous phyllosilicate mineral which undergoes significant expansion when heated. Exfoliation occurs when the mineral is heated sufficiently, and commercial furnaces can routinely produce this effect. Vermiculite forms by the weathering or hydrothermal alteration of biotite or phlogopite

Color: Colorless, White, Yellow, Green, Brown, Black

Hardness: 1.5 - 2 on the mohs scale.

Occurrence: Houghton, Keweenaw, and Marquette Counties

From the internet Wikipedia

JASPER

Australian Mookaite



Found in Western Australia

From the Internet

Polka Dot Agate

A beautiful translucent blue to white agate with suspended dots of various colors.

Author: Hobart M. King, PhD, GIA Graduate Gemologist



What is Polka Dot Agate?

Polka dot agate is an orbicular agate produced from the Friday Agate Beds of central Oregon. It has an appearance that sounds just like its name. It is a semitransparent to semi translucent agate with suspended round "dots" of contrasting colors. It is a favorite **Oregon gemstone**.



Polka dot's base colors range from blue to white to pale yellow. The dots can be almost any combination of yellow, orange, red, brown, or black. Nature has also marked some specimens with black dendrites. Other specimens are

cross-cut by intrusions of brown jasper. The diaphaneity ranges from almost transparent to almost opaque. This color and geometry makes some of the most interesting and beautiful types of agate that you will ever see. The dots in the agate range in size from nearly invisible up to about 1/4 inch across. Most of them are completely agatized, but some appear to be a soft iron oxide material similar to **limonite** or **hematite**. Most of the dots are sharp, concentric spheres. Others are spherical but with a slightly irregular outline.

Native Americans Were the First Miners

The first people to mine polka dot agate were Native Americans. They valued the agate because it could be knapped into sharp tools such as scrapers, blades, and projectile points. They carried, worked, used, and traded these materials across what is now the northwestern United States and southwestern Canada. Today, West Coast Mining company operates the polka dot agate mine, located near the community of Madras in Jefferson County, Oregon. They produce rough, slabs, cabs, and other items made from polka dot agate. They also own mines that produce Opal Butte opal, Owyhee picture jasper, Paiute agate, amethyst sage agate, and Rock Butte picture jasper. Some of these mines are open to the public for fee mining. On a limited schedule, they are open to people who want to visit the mine, pay a fee, look for agate, and keep what they find. The company also sells agate, jasper, and opal directly to the public and online.

Lapidary Properties

Polka dot agate is a favorite lapidary material of many people. It cuts nicely on a diamond or carbide wheel and produces a brilliant luster when polished on felt with aluminum, tin, or cerium oxide. It can be used to make beautiful **tumbled stones** in a **rock tumbler**. The colorful dots make interesting cabs regardless of their density. Marking up a slab into cab outlines can be a pleasurable challenge. Most people really enjoy specimens of polka dot agate with a blue base color and have given it a cool nickname "blue ice." Polka Dot Agate from the Priday Agate Beds (geology.com)

New and Views 4/23

Continued from page 3

A dealer showed the curator a specimen of an agatized dinosaur egg. Bells went off, and when the curator returned home, the museum set out on a mission to have their "agate" identified. It turned out to be about

190 million years old Massospondylus egg too.

Massospondylus lived about 190 million years ago during the Early Jurassic period. Massospondylus was around 13 feet long and weighed approximately 2,200 pounds with a height of 20 feet. It had a small head, a long neck, and a slender body. The physical build was typical of early sauropodomorphs. The forearms were half the length of the hind legs, and both had five digits. Their "hands" were short and wide, with a large sickle-shaped thumb claw used for feeding and defense against predators. The thumb was the longest finger, and the fourth and fifth digits were tiny, giving their "hands" a lopsided look. Massospondylus was a treetop browser and grazer that moved very slowly at times. Yet it is believed that Massospondylus was one of the fastest dinosaurs to have ever existed. By the end of the Jurassic period, 165 million years ago, the Massospondylus had become extinct.

Bibliography: Canadian Broadcasting Company – Kids News, Yahoo News, Wikipedia, The Natural History

Museum – London, Quote Collectors Club, DinoPit, US National Park Service

Source: *The CMS Tumbler*, May 2023.

From the MMS Conglomerate 5/23



For M/M/S Members, Family & Friends Only

***Gem and Mineral Club Picnic
Saturday, 16th of September, 2023
11:00 am until 3:00 pm***

***Hosted by Mike and Stacey Harper
15312 Elwell Road, Belleville
734-828-7253***

Bring your family and friends for some good food and a relaxing time to get to know others in the club. This is a great opportunity to connect if you're new or reconnect if we haven't seen you in awhile!

We'll provide the burgers, hotdogs, buns, iced tea, and the paper products. Please bring a lawn chair, a dish to pass, and your favorite beverage.

***We appreciate your RSVP for you and your friends/family to Stacey Harper at 734-828-7253
email: manydreamz@msn.com by Thursday, September 14, 2023.***

⇒ 2023 ⇐

EIGHTH ANNUAL

⇒ 2023 ⇐

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN GEM, MINERAL & ROCK SUPERSWAP!

Hosted by the Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

Saturday, Oct. 7 • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 8 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

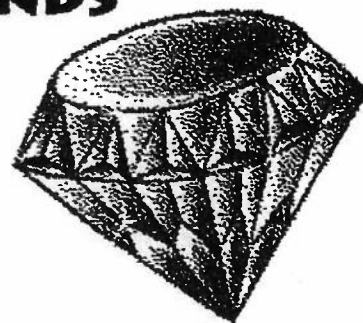
WAYNE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS



10871 Quirk Rd., Belleville, MI

I-94 to Exit 190, West on N. Service Drive

North on Quirk to Fairgrounds on Right



**Minerals • Gems • Jewelry • Fossils • Lapidary Materials
Beads • Equipment • Supplies • Books • and more!**

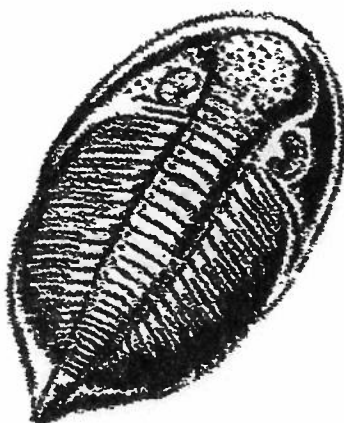
PUBLIC INVITED!

FREE Admission!

FREE Parking!

**INDOOR EVENT -
Rain or Shine!**

**Camping available -
contact Fairgrounds Office
at 734-697-7002**



ACTIVITIES

including:

**Mineral Kits for Kids
Craft Demonstrations
Rock & Mineral ID
Gem, Jewelry &
Mineral Displays**

Tables \$35/2 days, \$20/day (if available). For info about reservations, etc.
call Bill Barr at 505-803-4888 or email wbarr@umich.edu.

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>

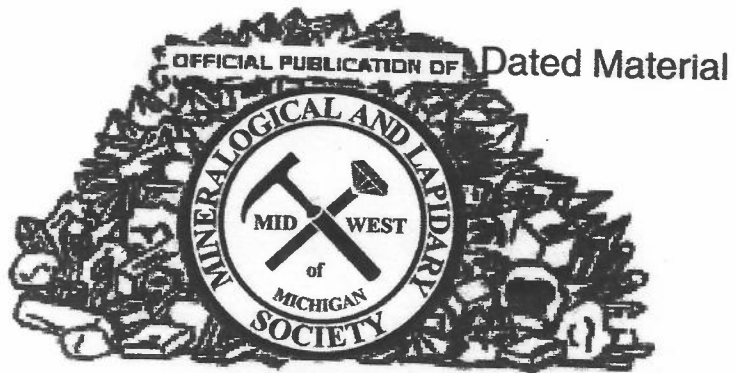
American Federation:
www.amfed.org

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 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