

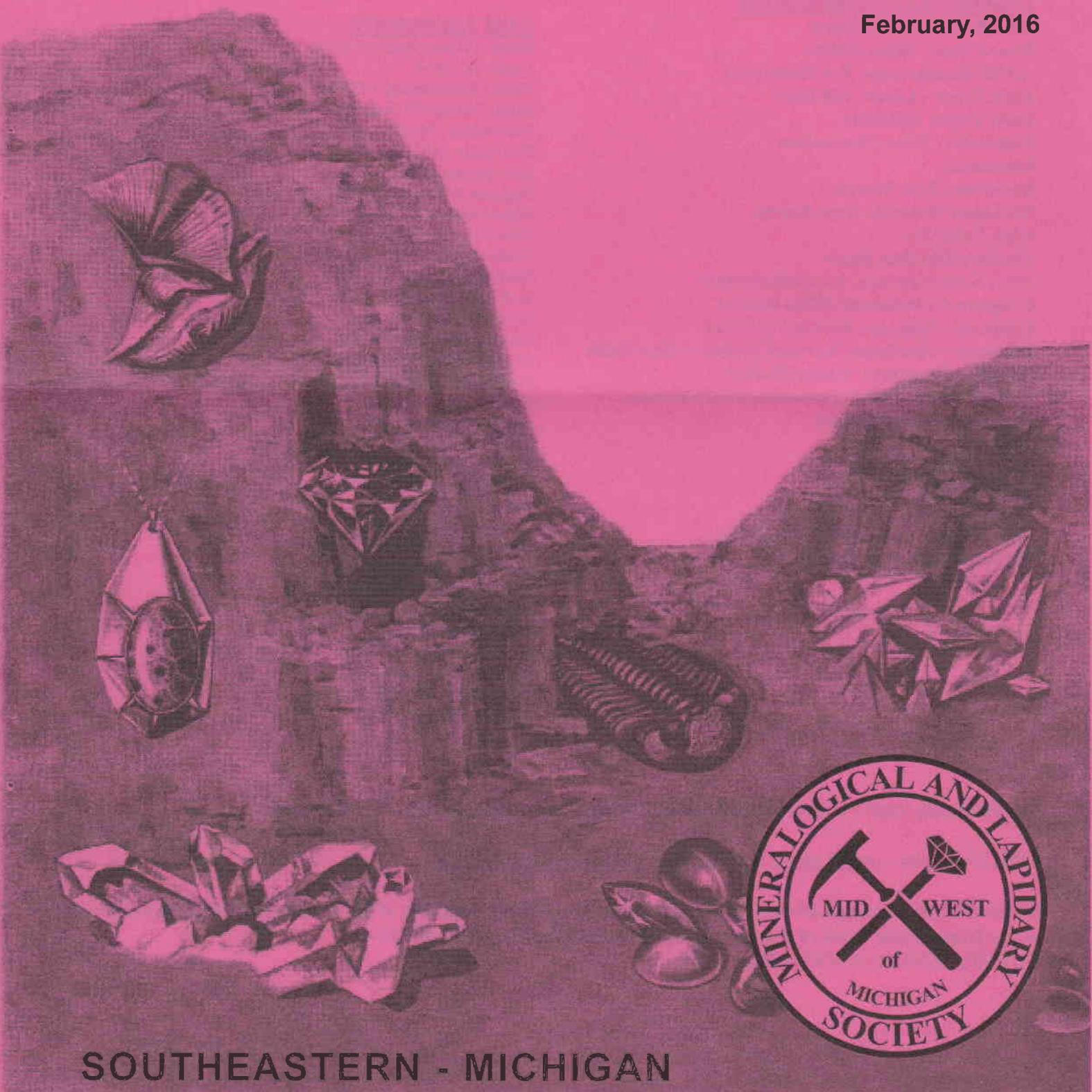
THE

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, 2016



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2016 OFFICERS

President: Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237
Vice President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Recording Secretary: Julie Knechtges (734) 444-9151
Treasurer: Doris Snyder (313) 291-2133
Corresponding Secretary: Julie Knechtges
(734) 444-9151
Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara (734) 675-5237

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Club Services: Don Baker
Door Prizes: Mike Bomba
AFMS Scholarship: Pat Rutkowski
Field Trips – Local: Bill Barr
Field Trips: Bill Barr
Education: Dave Hendershot
Insurance:
Historian: Tom Morris
Michigan Material: Tom Morris
Club Publicity:
Membership: Don Baker
MMLS Scholarship: Leonard Swisher
Program Coordinator: Mike Bomba
Property – Storage: Leonard Swisher
Property – Meetings: Leonard Swisher / Ken Slack
Sunshine Reporter: Velma Bradley
Refreshments: Janet Slominski / Kim Osborne
Web Site: Stacey Harper

ACTIVITIES

2016 Banquet:
2016 Swap: Lou and Cindy Talley
2016 Auction: Dan Gumina

STUDY GROUPS

Advance Lapidary:
Basic Lapidary:
Bead Study: Diane Kuzara
Faceting:
Mineralogy: Dave Esch
Paleontology:
Wire Study: John Lindsay
Silversmithing: Don Brown

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

The Rockpile Staff : Editor Peter Kuzara, dpkuzara@peoplepc.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

The President's Corner

President's Message: February

Did you remember to circle March 19th on your new 2016 calendar? I sure hope everyone did. If not, do it right now before you forget. That's the date for our next up coming event, our 44th annual METRO ROCK SWAP. It's a great way to get into the swing of things for the new year. Don't forget to contact Lou Talley for reserving a table or two for the day. Pete is putting a flyer in this issue with all the information, check it out. Come and join all your rockhound friends, swap stories and make some new friends too. We hope to have information there also about a new event, coming this October! Come out and check the bargains as well. See all our members there.

I am still looking for someone to put together a banquet or a club picnic this year. If you can take on this job, see me, call me, or email me. We can get some helpers but someone has to take care of the organizing. Please consider taking on one of these jobs-we need you!!

Remember, there will be a sign-up sheet if you plan on making a gem tree with our member, Lori Ackerman in March at the January and February general meetings. You can also call Lori, she's in the directory. Space is limited. Hurry up Spring - Diane

The Minutes of the Board Meeting

Board Meeting Summary December 11, 2015
Minutes of the November 13, 2015 meeting approved as printed. Meeting called to order at 7:37 PM. Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Program Director/ Door Prizes Mike Bomba reported tonight is the annual Christmas Party and a good time was had by all. The program for January is a fossil movie "Teeth, Jaws, and Claws." Mike is planning February, but will not be able to attend. A display cabinet is available for purchase. The Rockpile editor Pete Kuzara is looking to send out fewer Rockpile hardcopies to duplicate non-

members, to reduce costs.

Summarized by Julie Knechtges, Recording Secretary

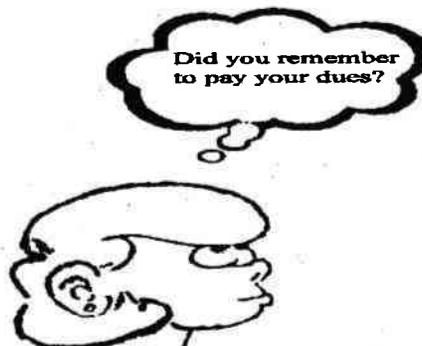
The Minutes of the General Meeting

General Meeting Summary December 15, 2015
Minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting with changes was approved.

The Treasurer's report For November 30, 2015 was approved. Mike Bomba reported the program for January is a fossil movie "Teeth, Jaws, and Claws." Mike is planning February, but will not be able to attend. Tonight was the annual Christmas Party and a good time was had by all. Pat Rutkowski sent the check to AFMS Scholarship fund from this year's auction. March 19th swap at St John's Lutheran Church, tables are \$15.00. Flyers are available for distribution. Dues are being collected for 2016. The club has a display case available for sale. Summarized by Julie Knechtges, Recording Secretary

February Program:

Will be a DVD on the Greatest Wulfenite locality, the Red Cloud Mine by Les Presmyk



Joe Slovak's Rocktoon

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon .
Then it's time for my nap. Bob Hope

Money can't buy you happiness. But it does bring
you a more pleasant form of misery.

Spike Milligan

Telephone update:

George Balogh
Tel: (269) 320-6085

Dates to Remember

Contacts for study groups

Bead study, Diane Kuzara, 734-675-5237
Mineral study, David Esch, 734-665-5574
Wirewrap, John Lindsay, 734-604-8561
Lapidary work shop, Frank Konieczki
734-323-2218

Sliversmithing study group meeting is cancelled until further notice

February 1, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.
Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

February 3, 2016 Wire Wrap Class, Call John Lindsay for details

February 4, 2016 Bead study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm Mi. at 7:30pm.

February 12, 2016 Board Meeting and Rockpile Deadline. At the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7:30pm.

February 15, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.
Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

February 16, 2016 General meeting will be held at the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400 WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

February 17, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.
Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

February 18, 2016 Bead study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm.

February 18, 2016 Mineral Study Group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor,

March 2, 2016 Wire Wrap Class, Call John Lindsay for details

March 3, 2016 Bead study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm Mi. at 7:30pm.

March 11, 2016 Board Meeting and Rockpile Deadline. TBA .

March 7, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.
Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

March 15, 2016 General meeting will be held at the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400 WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

March 16, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.
Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

March 17, 2016 Bead study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm Mi. at 7:30pm.

March 17, 2016 Mineral Study Group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor,

March 19, 2016 MMLS 44th ANNUAL METRO ROCK SWAP at St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI. 10am to 5pm. For table reservations and information call Lou Talley at 734-837-8920.

March 21, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.
Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

Other Club Events

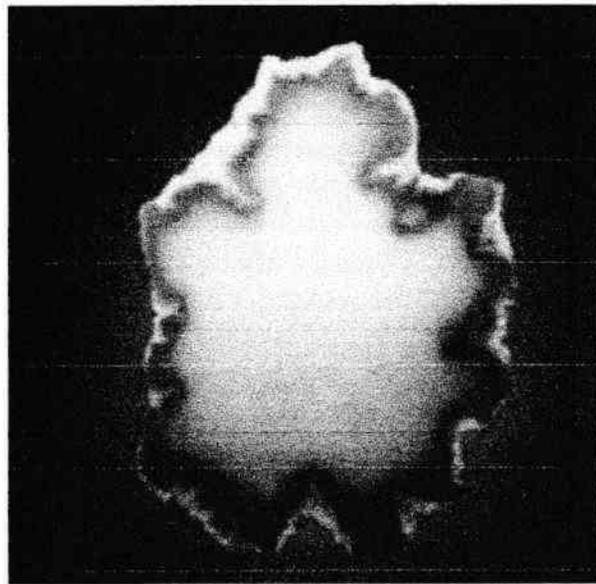
March 5th & 6th The Roamin Club annual auction
Sat 11am to 6pm, Sun 12 noon to 6pm. Schoolcraft
Community College, 18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia,
Mi. Contact: Todd Gall (248) 348-5093

March 18th, 19th and 20th Jackson, Michigan
Michigan Gem and Mineral Society, annual show
Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganson St.
Contact Sally Hoskings at 517-522-3396

Little bit of News!**World-class Datolite Donated**

by Chris Stefano, Associate Curator

If you recently visited the museum, you probably noticed the highlight case in the Michigan Copper gallery exhibiting three large datolite specimens from Isle Royale National Park. The largest of these is a single polished section that has been on loan from Roland and Doris Snyder for multiple years. The museum is pleased to announce their generous donation of this world-class datolite to the museum.



Datolite, Isle Royale, Lake Superior
30 by 20 cm

Gift of Roland and Doris Snyder

This datolite was collected about 1980 from an

underwater area discovered by a park ranger and prior to restrictions on such collecting. The piece is 30 cm by 20 cm and is a pale cream that fades to reddish pink on its rim. It is one of the finest and largest nodules of datolite in existence. The museum thanks Doris for entrusting the museum with their legacy. Now you and the many visitors to the museum can continue to marvel at one of nature's masterpieces. Taken from A.E. Seaman Newsletter 12/2015

Liaison Officer (Pete) passing information that was emailed me from the ALAA.

Wilderness Proposed for Indian Creek Allotment, a Historic Fairburn Agate Area

Reported by Jan Baumeister (SD rep for ALAA, AFMS and the Rocky Mt. Federation)

The Forest Service Buffalo Gap National Grassland rangers in Wall, SD, held two meetings in June with the rancher/permittees of the Indian Creek

Allotment, giving them only two days' notice. They were told: "Indian Creek is going into wilderness."

The only notice of this meeting was put in the Wall newspaper and not the *Rapid City Journal*! It seems they don't want all other "users" protesting! This is one of our major areas to hunt Fairburn agates and the rare black agates, plus other specimens. It is the most scenic beautiful area of the grasslands, with badland buttes of golden yellow or a light brick red, topped with a layer of white, with cedar trees, and the creek snaking through the valleys.

Awhile back they finally put a nice graded trail in there, but now they want it closed down in the future to a total wilderness, where one can only hike in or ride in on horseback! There are six big wilderness clubs in the Black Hills-Badlands areas, and they have the backing of 60 other wilderness clubs and the Nature Conservancy. The main reason behind this wilderness designation is that many people, including one rancher who runs buffalo in Indian Creek during the winter, want this land to be turned back to "wild land." . . . In 2010 the wilderness clubs couldn't get a wilderness bill for

Indian Creek Allotment passed by Senator Johnson with the PAC money of 60 wilderness clubs. . . . It's a different situation now. (From the July-Sept. 2015 *ALAA Newsletter*) ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rock hounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

Do you remember the article about the 93 pound Petoskey boulder fished out of Lake Michigan? Petoskey boulder is confiscated

State wildlife officials have confiscated a 93 pound Petoskey boulder from a man who pulled it out of Lake Michigan. The Grand Rapids Press reports Department of Natural Resources officer went to Tim O'Brien's home in the Manistee County community of Copemish on Wednesday. They collected the large rock he found in September near Northport, lugged to shore and took home. Michigan law prohibits removing more than 25 pounds of rocks or minerals annually from state owned lands, including Great Lakes bottomlands. O'Brien says he wasn't aware of the ordinance and only planned to display it on his lawn. DNR spokesman Ed Golder says O'Brien cooperated during the investigation. From the Detroit Free Press 12/12 2015

I wonder who has this rock in their collection now?

From the Editor: My two cents.

Today is January 16 and I am finishing up putting the Rockpile together. This past Wednesday was not a great day for the president and editor. It started out ok, I went for a checkup at the doctor's and he said everything was good. Then we went to a new pizza place for lunch. If you like pizza on a cracker you will this place, we don't. Then we went downtown and visited a couple casinos and left a couple bucks at each. Then that evening the had the Mega Million Lottery drawing, we had a couple of tickets, neither had a number that came up. Need I say more. Getting back to our hobby I wonder what our club members do in the hobby. Myself I do a little of

several things, I cut cabs, I slate carve, I even try to carve in the round. Right now I went back to faceting. I haven't done that in about three years. Quite a while back club members brought in projects they were working to brag a little and talk about them, maybe we can get that going again. It would be nice if our members would set up a little display at the general meeting and do a little bragging.

Douglas Houghton: A look back through history at how Houghton's esteemed gem and mineral collection came home to the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum

Douglas Houghton's legacy is far from small. There's the residence hall. And the town. And the waterfall. And a whole lot more.

Houghton's name can be seen in a lot of places, both in the Keweenaw and other parts of Michigan. But the New York born physician has left more of a legacy at Michigan Tech than just signs and plaques. The Copper Country's icon's personal mineral collection recently moved to the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, bringing the work of Michigan's first State Geologist full circle. Houghton's mineral collection was a side note of his serious work studying the geology and geography of Michigan. His annual reports detailed the stark differences between Michigan's peninsulas, as well as the changes seen in the Western UP. In addition to his expertise, botany and zoology specialists joined these expeditions to begin cataloging the bounty of the state.

During these trips, his business and real estate interests still spoke for him, representing a man considered to be honest, transparent, and thorough in his work. That's not to say that he was thrilled with the voters of Detroit when he heard the election results.

Douglas Houghton was the second faculty member at the University of Michigan, and he

began construction on a large home there for when he took up his position. He held back, however, from committing himself to his professorship. "Although I do not propose to remove to Ann Arbor for the present (he said) I shall spend some little time there before the winter sets in, in arranging a portion of the collections. This collection of specimens, which is exceedingly choice, has now been a long time in boxes, and our people are desirous to have a portion at least so arranged as to permit examination".

That collection was indeed eventually curated, becoming part of the mineral collection of the University of Michigan-the very same collection that moved to the Seaman Mineral Museum this year.

But the life of Michigan's most renowned renaissance man was not to last much longer. In 1843, overriding the objections of his crew, he commanded two canoes out of Eagle Harbor heading west in a building October storm. They navigated a stretch of scenery familiar to anyone who has lived in the Keweenaw.

It would be the last time Houghton ever set foot on solid ground. His body was found the following spring on the beach what is now Eagle River, his life and work cut tragically short, but with an enduring legacy that will never be forgotten.

Excerpts taken from the 2015 Michigan Tech Magazine and compiled by Diane Kuzara, MMLS President. Thanks to Pat Rutkowski for the article submission.

Shadow Agates

Shadow agates exhibit an optical effect of movement across the bands. Depth is perceived from light penetrating and bouncing between alternating clear and opaque layers.

When you move these agates back and forth, shadows can be seen racing across the surface. Many factors contribute to the shadow phenomenon including the regularity, contrast, distance, and depth of the bands. When the right conditions exist, light disappears into the clear chalcedony bands and is not reflected

back out to the eye. When little or no light is returned to the line of sight, we interpret this as a dark region, or shadow.

From Rocky Trail 10/2015

<http://www.agatelady.com/>

[photo-gallery-mineral-of-the-month-april-2008.html](http://www.agatelady.com/photo-gallery-mineral-of-the-month-april-2008.html)

WHAT IS IT?

Is it a Cubic Zirconia or a diamond? If the stone is loose, turn it upside down on its table and slide it over a thin black line printed on a piece of paper. When looking straight down through a CZ, you will see a circle in the center of the stone. A diamond won't do this.

Is it citrine or topaz? Clean the stone then, using a toothpick, put a drop of water on the table of the stone. The water will form a high bubble on real topaz. On quartz the water flattens out.

To clean non-plastic metal costume jewelry immerse it in rubbing alcohol for five minutes. Rinse in warm water and dry with a lint-free cloth. To prevent metal costume jewelry from tarnishing, store it with a piece of white chalk.

From Breccia 2/02 and Petoskey Stone via Rockhound News 9/02

How Much Gold Is There?

A block of gold 18 yards on each side, represents not just the gold of America, but all the gold mankind owns. It is your watch, your ring, your necklace as well as the gold in the government reserves. It is all the gold in churches, the solid gold museum artifacts, the dental fillings and even the gold plating on dime store do-dads. It is all! An 18 yard high cube is the gold of 6,000 years. No wonder it is precious. No wonder man seeks more of it.

from Choo-Choo Chatter. 4/97 via Lapidary Chatter. 6/97 and Gem Cutters News 5/00 via The Backbenders Gazette 7/00

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying. Rodney Dangerfield

44TH ANNUAL METRO ROCK SWAP

HOSTED BY
THE MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016
10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

AT

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



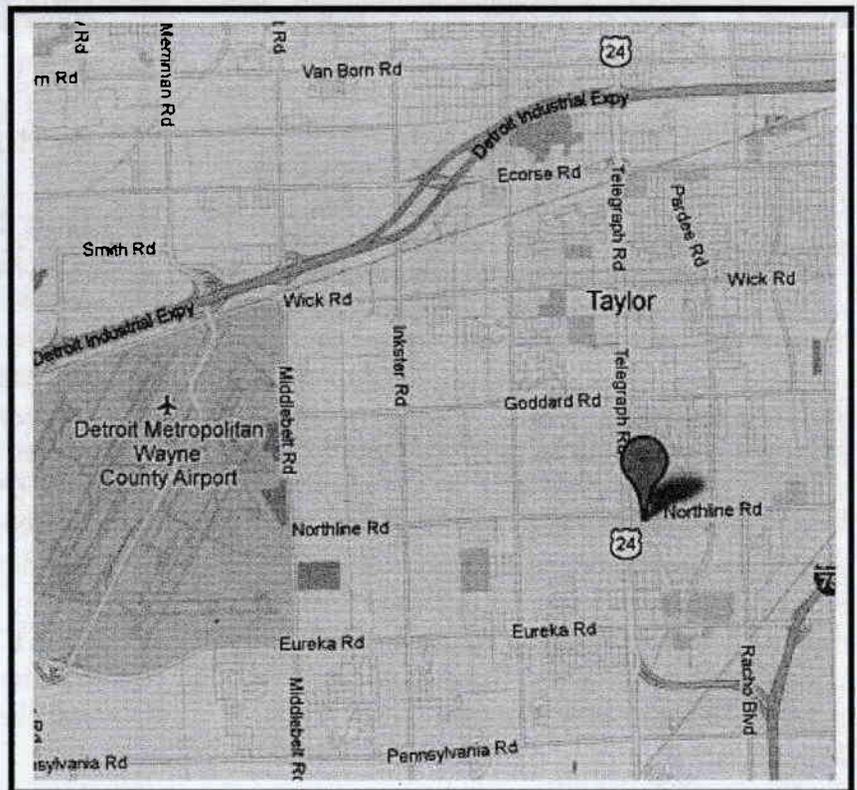
FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS
AND INFORMATION CALL:
734-837-8920

\$15.00 PER 8-FOOT TABLE

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

SWAP - SELL - BUY

- MINERALS
- FOSSILS
- JEWELRY
- BEADS
- CRYSTALS
- SLABS
- LAPIDARY ITEMS
- 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 - \$15.00 (adult), \$1.00 (junior) on a year basis. Membership expires each Dec. 31.

ANNUAL EVENTS:

March – Rock Swap and Sale November – Auction Coming is October 2016 our second Rock Swap and Sale!!

STUDY GROUPS: Special-interest study groups meet monthly, September through June. No additional fees are involved. Currently the following groups are active:

Basic Lapidary Advanced Lapidary Wire Study Bead Study Mineralogy Silversmithing (Silversmithing is now on hold until further notice.)

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 collection 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 at Michigan Technological University, 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/mwf/index.html

American Federation: www.amfed.org

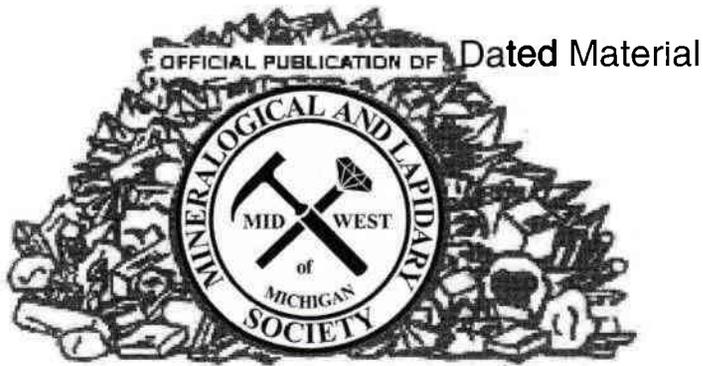
American Lands Access Association: <http://amlands.org>

The Rockhound's 10 Commandments:

1. Thou shall not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hands.
2. Thou shall not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing or biting.
3. Thou shall not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shall not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shall not collect at a neighbor's land unless unless thy neighbor knowst he's there.
6. Thou shall not argue names of minerals too violently; for sometimes thou couldst be wrong.
7. 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.
8. Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.
9. Thou shall not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggin's, lest thy neighbor's hammer be dropped upon thee.
10. Thou shall not break uncollectable specimens.

Midwest
Mineralogical and
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Society of
Michigan

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20281 THOMAS
BROWNSTOWN, MI
48183



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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

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