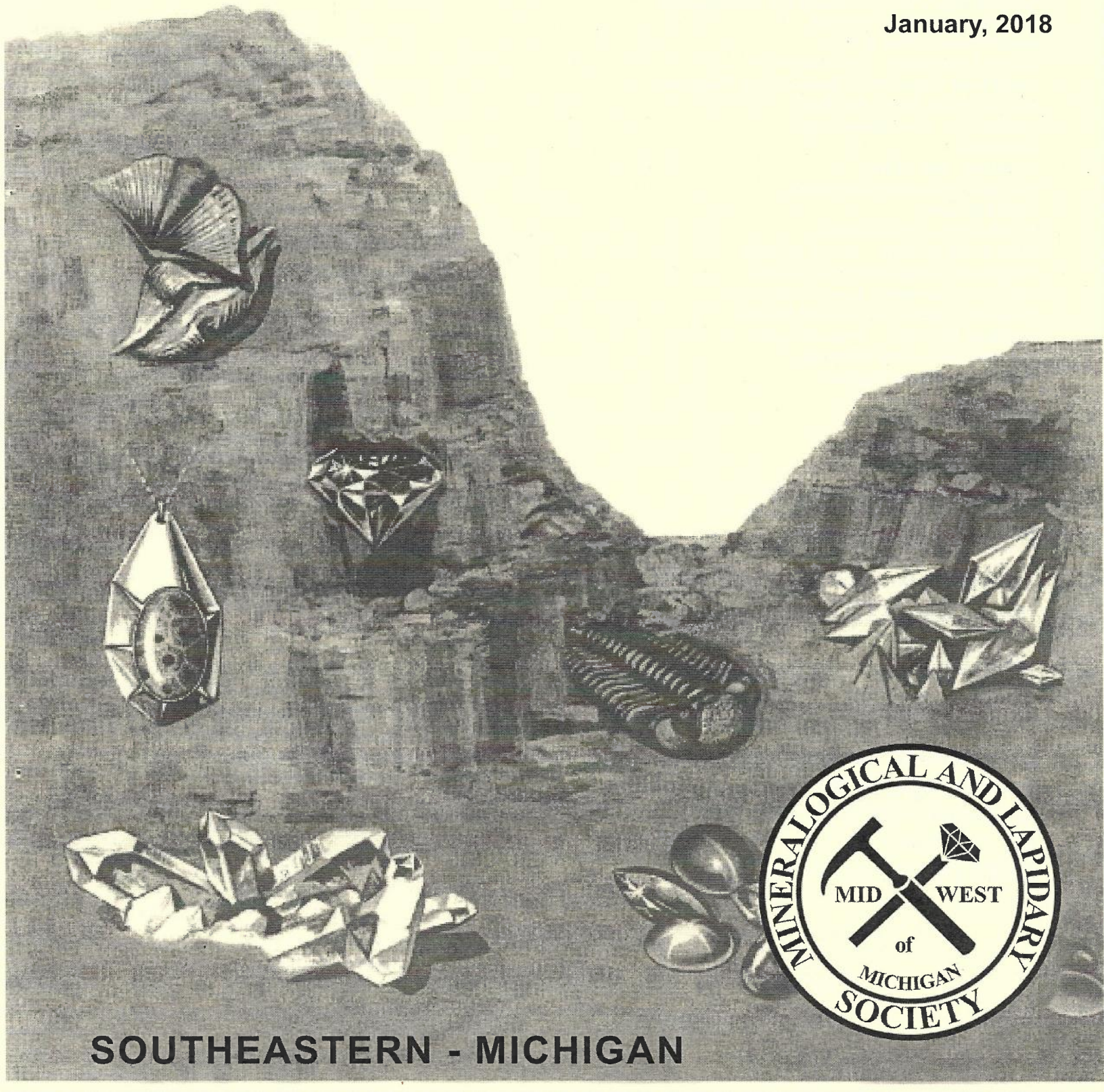
THE ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

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

January, 2018



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2018 OFFICERS

President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Vice President: Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237
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: Ana Ferguson
Door Prizes: Mike Bomba
AFMS Scholarship: Pat Rutkowski
Local Field Trips - Mike Bomba/Gary Slominski
Summer Field Trips - Bill Barr
Education: Dave Hendershot
Insurance:
Historian: Tom Morris
Michigan Material: Tom Morris
Club Publicity:
Membership: Ana Ferguson
MMLS Scholarship: Velma Bradley
Program Coordinator: Mike Bomba
Property – Storage: Leonard Swisher
Property – Meetings: Leonard Swisher
Sunshine Reporter: Velma Bradley
Refreshments: Gary Slominski
Web Site: Stacey Harper

ACTIVITIES

2018 Banquet:
2018 Swap: Lou and Cindy Talley
2018 Super Swap: Bill Barr / Tom Morris
2018 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

Advanced Lapidary:
Basic Lapidary:
Bead Study: Diane Kuzara
Faceting:
Mineralogy: Bill Barr
Paleontology:
Wire Study: John Lindsay
Silversmithing:

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

THE ROCKPILE
January 2018 Volume LXII Issue 1

The Prez Sez:

So it's now 2018, the best of this New Year to all of you! So with this year we have to follow through with routine procedures.... The first thing we have done is to secure our meeting place for the club at the Democratic Club in Taylor... Then our auction site .... As well secured. As we move through this winter we still call upon all of us to try to attend general meetings if at all possible safety being a factor We have a lot to accomplish in 2018. All of us are encouraged to suggest concrete and friendly ideas which will help this club to survive and persevere. So everyone welcome and good fortune and remember to keep plans for new membership growth in our club..... Dan

Board Meeting Summary

November 17, 2017
Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM. A motion was made and carried to accept Secretary's report for October 13, 2017. Treasurer's report October 1 - 31, 2017 motion to accept was made and carried. The December meeting is the Christmas party, bring a gift to swap. General Meeting this month is a program "Copper County." Russ Ranker donated copper specimens for this month's door prizes. Saturday, December 2, 2017 field trip to Cheney Quarry in Bellevue at 10 – 10:30 am. Next Board Meeting December 15 at 7:30 pm location to be announced. Meeting adjourned at 8:20. Submitted by Julie Knechtges Secretary.

General Meeting Summary

November 21, 2017
Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM. A motion was bypassed to accept Secretary's report for October 17, 2017. Treasurer's report October 1 - 31, 2017 motion to accept was made and carried. Saturday December 2, 2017 field trip to Cheney Quarry in Bellevue meet at 10 – 10:30 am gate/parking lot. A motion was made and carried to accept 2018 officers same as last year. A motion was made to adjourn meeting at 7:56 pm, motion carried. Summarized by Secretary Julie Knechtges.

January Program: The January program will be Bob Jones - The History of the Tucson Show ! This is another Dallas Symposium program from 2016.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Thomas Shipley
13169 Wesley
Southgate, MI 48195
TEL. 734-664-5422
Email: TomTomship@yahoo.com

WIRE WRAP CLASS Anyone interested in a study group for wire wrap please contact John Lindsay for dates, time and more information.

NOTICE TO STUDY GROUPS IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN YOUR MEETING TIME OR PLACE, PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW!!!!!

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

Our Club Activities

January 4th, 18th 2018 Bead study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm.

January 12th 2018 Board Meeting will be held at the Ferguson's, 15163 O'Commor, Allen Park MI at 7:30pm. ROCKPILE DEADLINE.

January 15th, 17th 2018 Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm. Fee is $2.50 for each evening.

January 16th 2018 General meeting will be held at the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400 WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

January 18th 2018 Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor Mi.

February 1st, 15th 2018 Bead study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm.

February 5th, 19th, 21st 2018 Lapidary work shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm. Fee is $2.50 for each evening.

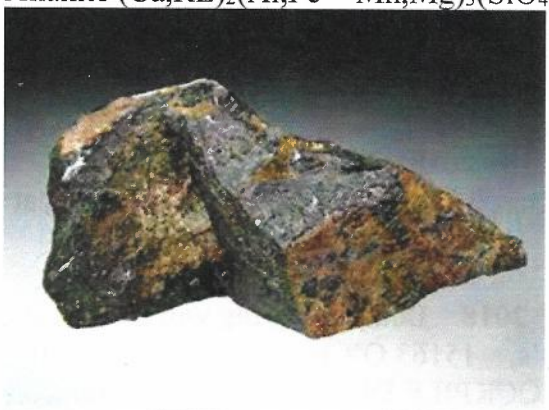
February 15th 2018 Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor Mi.

February 16th 2018 Board Meeting and Rockpile Deadline. TBA

February 20th 2018 General meeting will be held at the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400 WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

Michigan Minerals Beginning with the Letter A

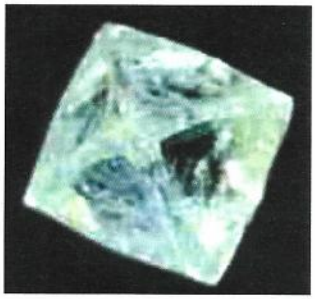
Allanite $(Ca,RE)_2(Al,Fe^{3+},Mn,Mg)_3(SiO_4)_3OH$



Picture from Internet

The rare earth-bearing member of the epodite group. It occurs in pegmatites and as a microscopic accessary in granitoids. It may become altered through metamictization.
Hardness is 5.5 on the Mohs Scale
Color is brown, reddish brown to black
Occurrences: Gogebic County: Marenisco; Accessory mineral in Presque Isle granite.
Iron County: Peavy Pond complex: Occurs as a microscopic accessory mineral in various rocks.
From Mineral Date and The Mineralogy of Michigan By E. Wm. Heinrich

Arkansas's State Gem stone is the Diamond

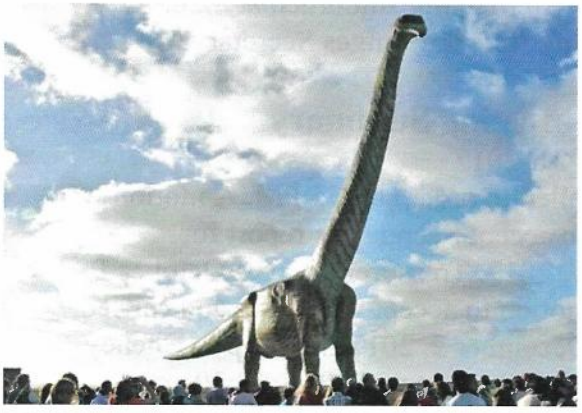


Arkansas designated diamond as the official state gem in 1967 (the same legislation, Act 128, recognizes quartz crystal as the state mineral and bauxite as the state rock). Arkansas is one of the few places in North America where diamonds are present and the only place where tourists may hunt for them.

From the internet

Patagotitan mayorum: New study describes the biggest dinosaur ever

August 9, 2017 by Seth Borenstein



Picture from internet

A study proclaims a newly named species the heavyweight champion of all dinosaurs, making the scary Tyrannosaurus rex look like a munchkin. At 76 tons (69 metric tons), the plant-eating behemoth was

as heavy as a space shuttle.

The dinosaur's fossils were found in southern Argentina in 2012. Researchers who examined and dated them said the long-necked creature was the biggest of a group of large dinosaurs called titanosaurs.

"There was one small part of the family that went crazy on size," said Diego Pol of the Egidio Feruglio paleontology museum in Argentina, co-author of the study published Tuesday in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

The researchers named the dinosaur Patagotitan mayorum after the Patagonia region where it was found and the Greek word titan, which means large. The second name honors a ranch family that hosted the researchers.

Six fossils of the species were studied and dated to about 100 million years ago, based on ash found around them, Pol said. The dinosaur averaged 122 feet long (37 meters) and was nearly 20 feet high (6 meters) at the shoulder.

A cast of the dinosaur's skeleton is already on display at the American Museum of Natural History. It's so big that the dinosaur's head sticks out into a hallway at the New York museum .

Legendary T. rex and other meat-eaters "look like dwarfs when you put them against one of these giant titanosaurs," Pol said. "It's like when you put an elephant by a lion."

Scientists have known titanosaurs for a while, but this is a new species and even a new genus, which is a larger grouping, Pol said. Another titanosaur called Argentinosaurus was previously thought to be the largest.

"I don't think they were scary at all," Pol said. "They were probably massive big slow-moving animals." "Getting up. Walking around. Trying to run. It's really challenging for large animals," he said.

The big question is how did these dinosaurs get so big, Pol said. Researchers are still studying it, but said it probably has to do with an explosion of flowering plants at the time. Along with a forest, it was like an all-you-can-eat buffet for these dinosaurs and they just got bigger.

"It's hard to argue this isn't a big deal when it concerns the (probable) largest land animal ever discovered," University of Maryland paleontologist Thomas Holtz, who wasn't part of the study, said in an email.

Kristi Curry Rodgers, a paleontologist at Macalester College who wasn't part of the study, praised the work as important. She said the fact that Patagotitan's bones show signs that they haven't completed their growth "means that there are even bigger dinosaurs out there to discover."

From Internet Phys. Org news 8/2017

TELLING LAPIS LAZULI FROM SODALITE

If you want to know whether you have sodalite, lapis or imitation lapis, look for pyrite inclusions. Lapis Lazuli will have pyrite inclusions. Sodalite does not have pyrite inclusions. In imitation Lapis the inclusions are golden flakes not pyrite crystals. Lapis Lazuli is a gemstone with a rich blue color. It has a hardness of 5-5- 1/2, is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with some sulphur. Most of the properties of lazurite are similar to those of sodalite, but the association of pyrite with lazurite determines the identification. Sodalite is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with chlorides. It is 5-1/2 to 6 on the hardness scale and the color is usually blue but may tend toward white, grey, yellow or red. It is associated with other feldspathoids, so called because they resemble feldspars but are of a slightly different compositing. When working Lapis to a polish it requires fine sanding to prevent pyrite inclusions from protruding. Leather may be used with chrome oxide for polishing. Sodalite, on the other hand polishes perfectly on felt with cerium oxide, after a fine job of sanding. A drop of Hydrochloric acid is good for testing lapis-lazuli. A drop of it on the blue stone creates an odor of hydrogen sulfide. On the white areas of the stone it usually effervesces because the white is usually calcite. This test will distinguish Lapis from Sodalite.
Lazurite courtesy of Wikipedia Lazurite, Ladjuar Medam (Lajur Madam: Lapis-Lazuli Mine). Sar-e-sang District, Koksha Valley (Kokscha: Kokcha). Badakhshan (Badakshan; Badahsan) Province, Afghanistan.Sodalite, Courtesy of Wikipedia From Lithnics, Jan. 2015 via Tulip City Conglomerate, April 2011.

Blood Lapis? by Jim Brace-Thompson

For those with a sensitive social conscience, "blood diamonds" became verboten many years ago. Also called "conflict diamonds," these are stones that were often mined by the equivalent of slave labor and sold into the market by warlords in Africa to support their nefarious causes. The international diamond trade came up with ways to supposedly identify and track diamonds mined from more legitimate sources to provide that bride-to-be with a certifiably "clean" diamond, and thus a clean conscience. Now, as reported June 7 by The Times of London, we have a whole new gemstone to create angst among those of us who are into lapidary arts. A corruption watchdog group called Global Witness reports that terrorist groups including the Taliban now earn as much as $20 million a year by illegally mining and selling lapis lazuli from the mountains of Afghanistan. This is supposedly providing them with their second biggest source of income after drugs! As a result, there's now a move to classify lapis as a "conflict mineral." Just when you thought it was safe to cut-and-polish again.

from *Rockhound Rambling*, 7/16 via *The Tumbler* April 2017
From The Quarry 7/17

Amazing Rock Trivia

from The Rock Prattle 09/2016

Tourmalines and Quartz will develop an electrical charge when heated, and tourmaline jewelry will attract dust when displayed under hot lights.

There is no such thing as "Jade" – green "jade" is one of two different minerals, Jadeite or nephrite. Jadeite is the more valuable of the two. The second most valuable color of jadeite is lavender.

You can dig and pan for colored gemstones such as emerald, aquamarine, moonstones, garnet, citrine, amethyst, ruby, and sapphire at Gem Mountain in Spruce Pine, NC.

There is a man made brilliant white stone called moissanite, which can fool a jewelry store diamond tester. (Depending on what type tester they have).

The big "ruby" in the royal crown of England is actually a red spinel

Ivory imitations are carved from corozo nuts, tagua nuts, and duom palm nuts.

If allowed to sit in moist or humid conditions too long, hematite jewelry has such a high iron content it will rust.

Jet, made popular for use in jewelry by Queen Victoria in the 19th century, is actually a type of fossilized coal formed 180 million years ago from trees.

It takes one to three years to grow a cultured pearl (or more).

Goldstone is not a stone—it is a glass containing copper powder that gives it aventurescence (quick bright flashes of light).

"Black Onyx" is actually orange and brown sardonyx that has been dyed black, and it should be cleaned carefully to avoid removing the dye and dulling this porous quartz.

Cultured pearls are made by inserting a small shell bead into an oyster or clam as an irritant, and waiting years for the shellfish to cover the bead with its luscious nacre.

Amethysts can fade if exposed to too much sun.

Historically, before science could tell minerals apart, all yellow stones were called "topaz."

Rubies were synthesized in the late 1800s and actually more was charged for the synthetics than for the natural rubies.

Pearls, by law, must be called "cultured pearls" unless they are completely natural, and most pearls sold today are cultured.

"Herkimer Diamonds" are actually double-terminated quartz.

"Smokey Topaz" is not topaz—it is actually brown quartz.

Radiation causes diamonds to turn green. Some diamonds are artificially (and safely) irradiated to achieve a green color—but early on, before the process was refined, some green diamonds were actually made radioactive. They are confiscated by the U.S. Government if found today.

A new process has recently been developed to achieve a green color in diamonds using just pressure and heat.

as heavy as a space shuttle.

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Lazurite courtesy of Wikipedia Lazurite, Ladjuar Medam (Lajur Madam: Lapis-Lazuli Mine). Sar-e-sang District, Koksha Valley (Kokscha: Kokcha). Badakhshan (Badakshan; Badahsan) Province, Afghanistan.Sodalite, Courtesy of Wikipedia From Lithnics, Jan. 2015 via Tulip City Conglomerate, April 2011.

In ancient times, the term "sapphire" meant all blue stones, but usually it referred to lapis lazuli—which was considered the most expensive stone in the world.

From the Backbenders Gazette 10/16

Is It Silver?

At the club we use sterling silver (925 or 92.5% silver) and fine silver (999 or 99.9% silver). Both of these silvers have a high percentage of silver (Ag). But not all "silver" contains silver. There are number of other alloys out there that use the name silver because they look like silver but have no silver or other precious metals in them.

"German Silver", "Nickel Silver", "Niccolite" or "White Brass" is an alloy of copper (Cu) Nickel (Ni) and Zinc (Zn) that contains no silver. It has a number of commercially made compositions. One combination used for jewelry contains Cu 60%, Ni 20% and Zn20%. It melts at around 1453 degrees centigrade, about 500 degree centigrade higher then fine silver. It is also harder than silver and does not keep a high polish but quickly oxidizes to matte finish.

This nickel alloy was extensively used for cutlery before stainless steel came into vogue. The hallmark E.P.N.S. represents Electro-Plated Nickel Silver and is used on "Silver" cutlery. Electroplated jewelry is often referred to as "silver filled" as the article is made from the nickel alloy and then electroplated to look like silver. The alloy is also used in jewelry and was popular with beginner silver smiths. It costs less then silver and can be worked and soldered. It is also harder than silver. Findings, belt buckles and other articles made from Nickel Alloy often use silver in their name. Many people are deceived by the name and know no better than to refer to the jewelry made from this alloy simply as "silver".

The copper and nickel in this alloy cause it to react with acidic foods (e.g. yogurt, curried egg) if cutlery made from it is left standing in the food too long. The toxic compounds that result have a bitter taste. This alloy also reacts with the human body. It is unsuitable for earring wires and studs for long term use. Continued on page 6

NOTICE: DUES ARE DUE

Dear MMLS member:
It 's that time again when you are asked to renew your membership for the year (2018) 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: $15.00
Juniors (under age 18) $1.00
Yes, I wish to renew my/our membership in MMLS for 2018 and continue to receive The Rockpile

Name(s)_____

Address_____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____)_____

Cell Phone (_____)_____

Email address _____

Dues paid after December 31st are subject to a $3.00 reinstatement fee. Add to your check.

Enclosed is my check payable MMLS for $

DO IT TODAY BEFORE YOU FORGET!!!!!

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Findings made from nickel alloy are most likely the reason why many people claim that they cannot wear silver earrings. Next time you see cheap "silver" jewelry ask yourself "is this really silver or an imposter?"
Via Rockbottom News 1/11 from WGMS Rockhounder Oct 2016 via *MLMS Ghost Sheet* May 2017
Via The Quarry 10/17

Some thing to try: DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chainmaking, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It's best not tumble for a long period with the pyramids because it will remove the polished finish from the wire. No tumbler, no problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.
By Brad Smith from Rock Trails 5/17

Just for Fun ... Watch That Ego

One night at sea, the ship's captain saw what looked like the lights of another ship heading toward him. He had his signalman blink to the other ship: " Change your course 10 degrees south." The reply "Change YOUR course 10 degrees north." The Captain answered "I am a CAPTAIN. Change YOUR course south." To which the reply came "Well, I'm a seaman first class. Change YOUR course north."
This infuriated the captain, so he signaled, "D— it, I say change YOUR course south. I'm on a battleship." To which the reply came, "And I say change YOUR course north. I'm in a lighthouse
from Wellness works, others via Glacial Drifter 11/93, Roadrunner 12/2015

Happy New Year!!!

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 though 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:

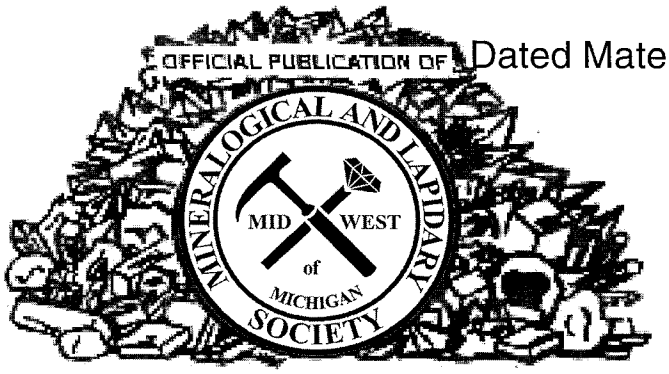
Midwest Federation: www.amfed.org/mwf/index.html American Federation: www.amfed.org
American Lands Access Association: http: //amlands.org

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
Lapidary
Society of
Michigan

EDITOR
20281 THOMAS
BROWNSTOWN, MI
48183



Dated Material

The ROCKPILE

Bulletin Editor Contest Awards

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1993 – 1st Place (Large Bulletin) AFMS
1991 – 1st Place (Large Bulletin) MWF
1990 – 1st Place (New Editor) AFMS
1990 – 1st Place (New Editor) MWF