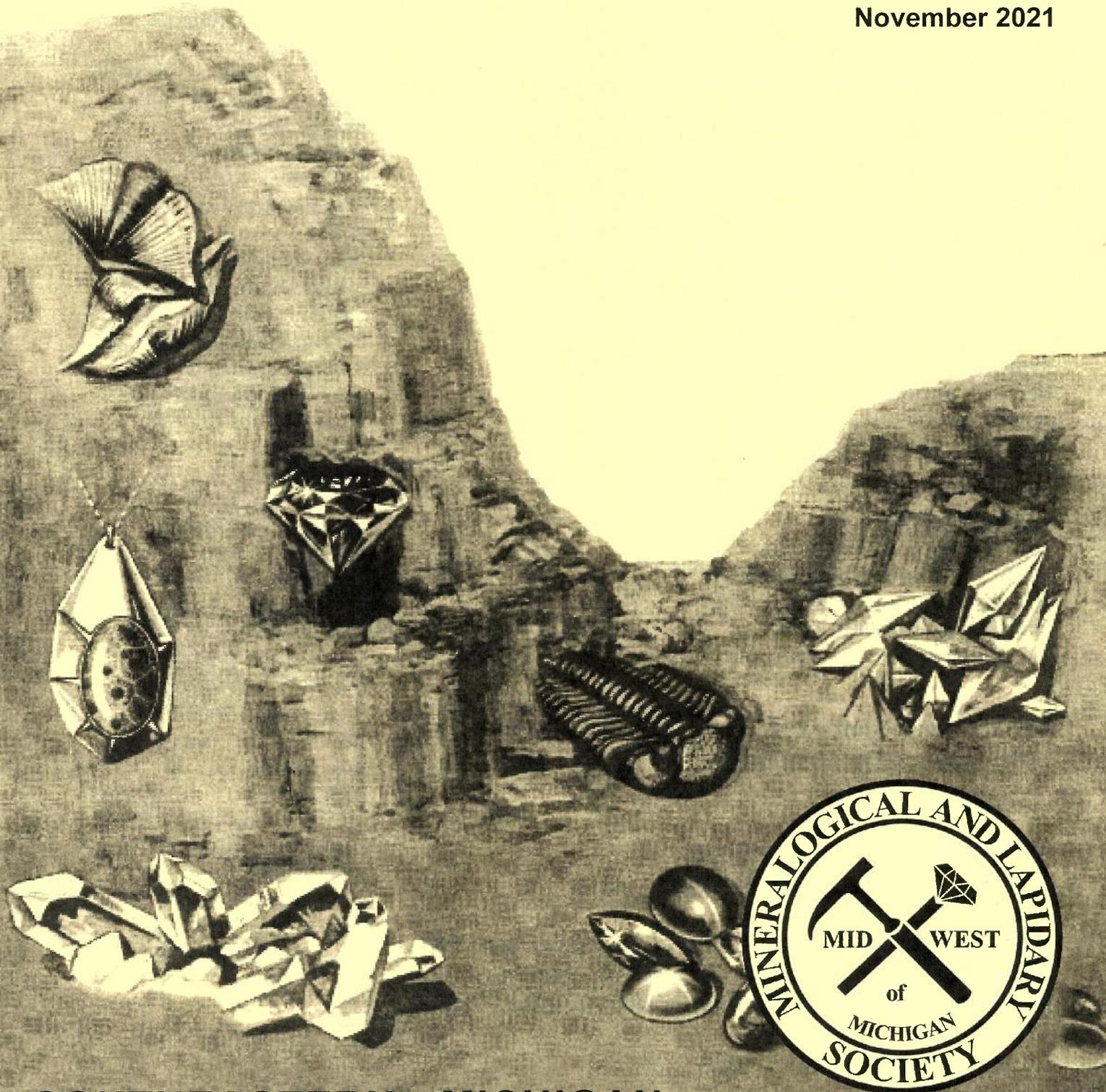


THE ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

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

November 2021



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2021 OFFICERS

President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Vice President: Mike Bomba (313) 381-8455
Recording Secretary: Lori Haam (313) 562-5097
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

2021 Banquet: Dan Gumina
2021 Club Picnic: Stacey Harper
2021 Swap: Lou and Cindy Talley
2021 Super Swap: Bill Barr
2021 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 Gonica 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



From The President's Desk:

Hello Rockhounds: Rocktober soon to be followed by Notemember. Old Laurel & Hardy movie clip!! So this is the 4th Meeting of this year ? Where did the time go?

The nominating committee has selected its slate of officers for the upcoming year. Selected Officers are as follows : President Dan Gumina, VP Mike Bomba, Secretary Diane Kuzara, Treasurer Doris Snyder, Liaison Pete Kuzara. Please review and make your decision to come to the November General Meeting and cast your vote.

A special thanks to all who participated in the success of this years Super Swap !!

The weather is changing. Continue to be safe and enjoy the clubs upcoming events. Our November Auction is Sat the 6th. See you soon.

Prez Dan.

2022 MMLS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2022 Nominating Committee, Tom Morris and Mike Bomba, will be presenting the following members as officers for next year:

- President Dan Gumina
- Vice President Mike Bomba
- Treasurer Doris Snyder
- Recording/Corresponding Secretary Diane Kuzara
- Liaison Officer Peter Kuzara

The election of officers will take place at the November 16 general meeting. Any additional nominations may be made at that time.

Tom Morris & Mike Bomba

November Program:

Will be the second half of the video "Treasures of the Earth".

Courtesy & Sickness Report:

Old time members will remember Kay and Walt Vogtmann. Kay passed away on September 10th.

Walt and Kay were members back in the 80's and 90's. Condolences to the Vogtmann Family.

Our Sunshine Chairman, Velma Bradley had surgery recently and is now home and on the mend. Get well soon, Velma!

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING A REFRESHMENT FOR OUR UPCOMING AUCTION!!! JUST BRING IT ON AUCTION NIGHT. (Cookies, cake, pop etc.)

REMEMBER BEFORE TRAVELING A GREAT DISTANCE CHECK THAT THE EVENT IS STILL GOING ON!!!!

Dates to Remember!!

Nov. 6th MMLS 55th Annual Auction Saturday
Nov. 6th New Location

First Assembly of God Church, 5650 S. Telegraph Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI
Doors open at 6pm. Sales tables open from 6pm to 7pm. Auction starts at 7pm.
Free admission, Free parking, Public invited

Nov. 1st & 15th & 17th Lapidary Work Shop 2009
W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi. 7pm. to 10 pm.
 Space is limited so please call Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218 before attending.

Nov. 4th & 18th Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara's 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

Nov. 12th Board Meeting location to be determined Rockpile Deadline.

Nov.16th General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

Nov. 18th Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor, Mi. At 7:30 pm.

Dec. 6th, 20th & 22nd Lapidary Work Shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi. 7pm. to 10 pm. Space is limited so please call Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218 before attending.

Dec. 2nd, & 16th Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara's 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

Dec. 16th Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor, Mi. At 7:30 pm.

Dec. 17th Board Meeting location to be determined Rockpile Deadline.

Dec. 21st General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

Sister Club Events:

Nov 8: BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI
Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Auction. 7 pm. Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills. Contact: Brad Zylman, (612) 600-9484; brad.zylman@mtm.com

The Michigan Mineral Beginning with the Letter C : Celestite SrSO₄

Celestine or celestite is a mineral consisting of strontium sulfate. The mineral is named for its occasional delicate blue color. Celestine and the carbonate mineral strontianite are the principal sources of the element strontium,



commonly used in fireworks and in various metal alloys.

Color: White, Pink, Pale green, Pale brown, Black, Pale blue, Reddish, Greyish; Colourless or lightly tinted in transmitted light.

Hardness: 3 to 3.5 mohs scale.

Occurrence: Chippewa, Eaton, Kent, Marquette, Monroe, Newaygo and Wayne Counties From internet Wikipedia

The Birthstone for November is Topaz

Those with November birthdays have two beautiful birthstones to choose from: topaz and citrine.

Topaz comes in a rainbow of colors; citrine is prized for its charming yellow and orange hues.



November's birthstone, the topaz, symbolizes **love and affection**. It is believed to

give the wearer increased strength and intellect.

Citrine birthstone meaning stems from the belief that the November stone contains all the powers of the sun. It is said to have the ability to **overcome negativity with positive energy, to protect against harm, to ease quarrels, and to bring healing**. If Citrine is your birthstone, it could be said that you hold the same properties. From the internet



TERROR AT THE IMPERFECT DOME: A HORROR STORY FOR LAPIDARISTS

By Daniel Hogan

From the September, 2021 Strata Data

Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)

It was a dark and stormy night. The whirring of the motor almost seemed soothing in the corner of the laboratory. Water delicately dripped in tiny droplets onto the spinning wheels as I worked feverishly to finish my creation. I kept an eye out for the local inhabitants. Many deemed my endeavors as dark and/ or unnatural, as someone who went against

the natural order of things. They wanted to leave things as they were. But NO! I must follow my passion! I must find the beauty in something so raw, so chaotic, so unrefined. I must form it and give this beautiful thing life!

I was in the final stages. It began to glow in my hands as I worked with such care to make sure that she was perfect. My eyes filled with delight as she took on that beautiful shine. She was going to be my masterpiece!

And as I was admiring this gorgeous luster, it suddenly appeared. Small, but it was right there for everyone to see. It was a scratch! My joy turned to horror as I witnessed this blemish on my work of purity! My mouth was agape. I tried to remove this blasphemy but it would not leave! It mocked me with every turn of the wheel! All my work was for naught! I tried even harder to remove the scourge! It eluded every attempt, laughing louder and louder with each failure! My mind was spinning into an abyss of despair! *What did I do to deserve this!!*

"Dummy! You left a flat spot."

The key to getting a great polish consistently is to make sure that you have a complete and perfect dome.

Doming is the most time consuming and patience-wearing part of forming any cabochon. This is where most people get caught in the process. Eagerness to move on will most generally lead to a lot of time backtracking and chasing down these problems. You think that you'll get it on the next wheel and by the time you notice that there are scratches, you are almost to your final polish. Then all that time is wasted because you have to go back and start over again

The grinding wheel will always leave some flat spots but, even then, that will not prevent you from developing a nice well shaped dome. Leaving a flat surface is going to make scratches that will not come out over the next polishing wheels. That will be the bane of your existence.

Thinking that the expansion wheels will do the job is going to come back and bite you like a werewolf on a full moon! Even though the surface of the wheel is flat, because it is a rubber wheel, it will flex as you apply any pressure to it. That will

therefore leave the tiniest of gaps. Just enough for your scratch to flourish and thrive like some alien predator. You think it's not there, but you would be wrong to dismiss it. It's hiding there, waiting for its next victim!

So how do we exorcise this demon from our midst? Do we call for a priest? Do we perform some archaic ritual involving speaking in languages no one has ever heard of? Do we call the Ghostbusters?

Nope. Just use a marker.

Take a marker and scribble on the face of the stone, making sure you cover where the scratches are. Now just go back to your grinding wheels and start doming the stone again. Do you see the marker? Yes? Then keep going. You have not expelled that demon yet! And no. We don't need holy water for this either. Tap water is just fine. Just keep shaping that dome until all of the marker is gone. Then you can get back to polishing.

Now we have a beautifully polished piece that shines with a heavenly brilliance. There is joy and laughter once again in the laboratory. It's alive! It's alive! It's alive!

Suddenly there is a pounding at the door! It's the villagers! I see torches! They demand entry! They're yelling my name!

The doors burst open! I am surrounded! There is nowhere to run!

Someone snatches up my masterpiece! **No!!!!**

"How much is this cab going for?"

These gem shows can be a real nightmare.

Taken from MWF News 10/21

'Flying Dragon' First-ever Remains of Prehistoric Winged Dinosaur



Fossils of the dinosaur were unearthed by a group of scientists in the Atacama Desert

November, 2021

The dinosaur fossil is preserved in a rare three-dimensional way, as the bones of pterosaurs generally get crushed due to their delicacy.

Scientists in Chile's Atacama Desert have unearthed the fossil remains of a so-called "flying dragon," a Jurassic-era dinosaur previously known only to the northern hemisphere.

The flying reptile belonged to a group of early pterosaurs that roamed the earth 160 million years ago. It had a long pointed tail, wings and sharp, outward pointing teeth.

The beast's fossil remains were discovered by Osvaldo Rojas, director of the Atacama Desert Museum of Natural History and Culture, and then further investigated by scientists at the University of Chile.

Details of the discovery, the first linking such creatures to the Southern Hemisphere, were published in the journal *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*.

"This shows the distribution of the animals in this group was wider than what was known up to now," said Jhonatan Alarcon, a University of Chile scientist who led the investigation.

The discovery points to close ties and possible migration between the northern and southern hemispheres at a time when most of the globe's southerly land masses were believed to be linked in a supercontinent called Gondwana.

"There are pterosaurs of this group also in Cuba, which apparently were coastal animals, so most likely they have migrated between the North and the South or maybe they came once and stayed, we don't know," Alarcon said.

Chile's vast Atacama Desert, once largely submerged beneath the Pacific Ocean, is now a moonscape of sand and stone.

The region, parts of which haven't seen rain for decades, is a hot spot for fossil discoveries, with many remains untouched in remote areas not far beneath the desert surface.

From the internet GeologyIn

November's Birthstones are Topaz and Citrine

Topaz is a gemstone available in a rich rainbow of colors. Prized for several thousand years in antiquity, all yellow gems in antiquity were called topaz. Often confused with citrine quartz (yellow) and smoky quartz (brown), quartz and topaz are separate and unrelated mineral species. The most prized color of topaz is called Imperial topaz after the Russian Czars of the 1800s and features a magnificent orange body color with pinkish undertones. Topaz also comes in yellow, pink, purple, orange, and the many popular blue tones.

Topaz Fun Facts

The Egyptians believed that topaz was colored with the golden glow of the sun god Ra.

In the 19th century, pink topaz was discovered in Russia. The gemstone was so coveted that only the Czar, his family, and those he gave it to were allowed ownership.

[http://www.gemsbrokers.org/gemstone/gems_and_gemology_topaz_myths.htm](http://www.gemsbrokers.org/gemstone/gems_and_gemology/topaz_myths.htm)

Topaz traces back to a small island in the red sea called Topazos. The Romans would collect golden stones here that they called Topazos, but the stones that were collected from this island actually weren't topaz at all, but rather modern day peridot! Today this island is called Zabargad which is Arabic for peridot. Another believed origin for the name topaz comes from the ancient Indian language, Sanskrit.

The Sanskrit word topas or tapaz translates to "fire

Famous Topaz Gemstones

The "El-Dorado Topaz" is the largest faceted gemstone in the world and weighs an enormous 31,000 carats (6.2 kg). It is an emerald-cut yellow topaz gemstone that was found in Minas Gerais, Brazil and then weighed 37 kg, uncut. The American Golden Topaz, which is another enormous gem, weighs an astounding 22,892.5 carats (4.6 kg). It is

November, 2021

on display in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. It is one of the largest faceted gems in the world, came from Minas Gerais in Brazil and two years were taken to cut its 172 facets.-Another famous topaz gemstone is the 1640 carat Braganza "Diamond", which is part of the Portuguese crown jewel collection. It was originally believed to be a diamond, probably because it was found in Minas Gerais, near where diamonds had been discovered, but was later found to be a white topaz crystal.

From The Pterodactyl 11/15

The largest meteor ever found in the United States

Excerpted from an article in GeologyIn.com

The Willamette Meteorite is an iron-nickel meteorite discovered in the U.S. state of Oregon. Weighing 15.5 tons, it is the largest meteorite found in North America and the sixth largest in the world. There was no impact crater at the discovery site; researchers believe the meteorite landed in what is now Canada or Montana,



The Willamette Meteorite in 1911, a few years after it was found

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 (2022) 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 2020 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!!!!!

Continued from page 5

and was transported as a glacial erratic to the Willamette Valley during the Missoula

Floods at the end of the last Ice Age (~13,000 years ago). The meteorite is currently on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, which acquired it in 1906. Having been seen by an estimated 40 million people over the years, and given its striking appearance, it is among the most famous meteorites known. The Willamette Meteorite is classified as a type III iron meteorite, being composed of over 91% iron and 7.62% nickel, with traces of cobalt and phosphorus. The approximate dimensions of the meteorite are 10 feet (3 m) tall by 6.5 feet (2 m) wide by 4.25 feet (1.3 m) deep. The Willamette Meteorite contains higher concentrations of various metals that are quite rare in Earth's crust. For example, Iridium, one of the least abundant elements in Earth's crust, is found in the Willamette Meteorite at a concentration of 4.7 ppm, thousands of times more than its crustal abundance.

From the Lapidarian 3/21



Happy Thanksgiving from the Rockpile Staff and
The turkey

“I find, these days, that most of my conversations start out with: Did I tell you this already? or What was I going to say?”



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/mw1/index.html American
Lands Access Association: <http://amlands.org>

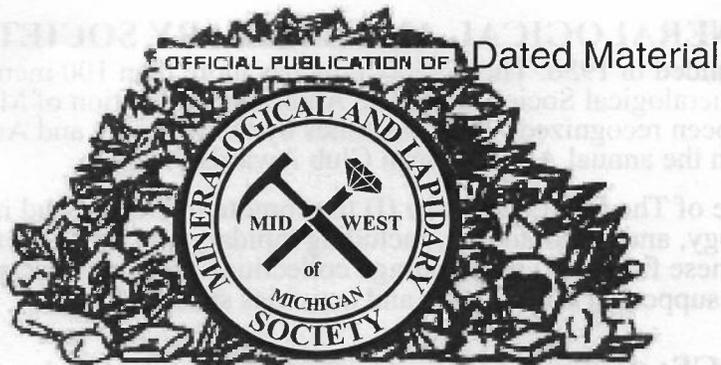
American Federation:
www.amfed.org

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