

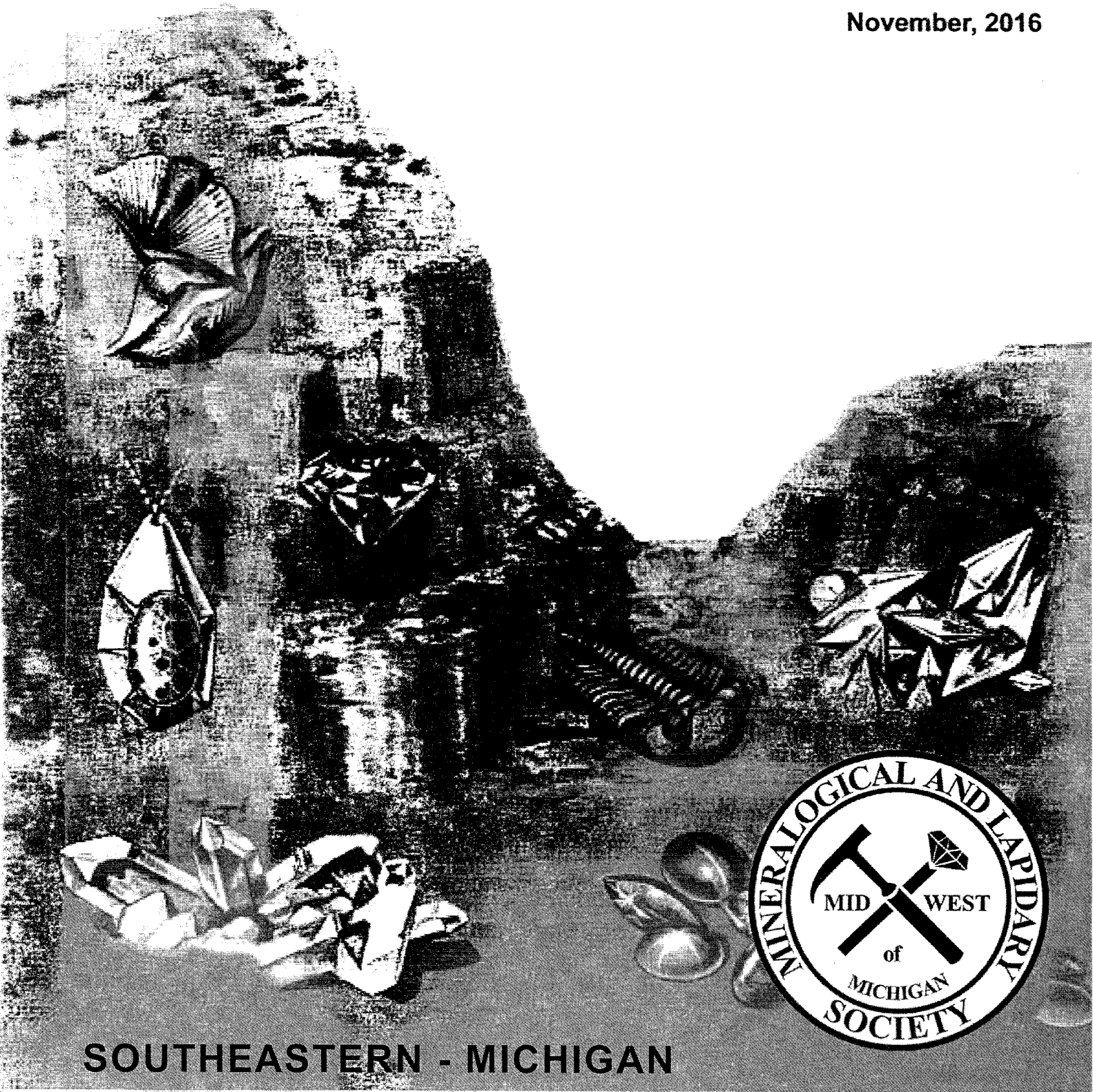
THE

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, 2016



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2016 OFFICERS

President: Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237
Vice President: Dan Gaminia (313) 766-8900
Recording Secretary: Julie Kocchiga (734) 644-4951
Treasurer: Doris Snyder (313) 298-2627
Corresponding Secretary: Julie Kocchiga (734) 644-4951
Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara (734) 675-5237

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Club Services: Ana Ferguson
Door Prizes: Mike Bomba
AFMS Scholarship: Pat Rutherford
Local Field Trips - Bob Shaw
Summer Field Trips - Bob Shaw
Education: Dave Mandarhut
Insurance:
Historian: Tom Morris
Michigan Material: Tom Morris
Club Publicity:
Membership: Ana Ferguson
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 Super Swap: Bill Barr / Tom Morris
2016 Auction: Dan Gaminia

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

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 President's Corner

President's Message - November

A few words about our last two events. First, the club picnic we held on Sunday, September 18th. The day was just perfect (till we were just about to leave when it started to rain), warm with a nice breeze blowing. Fifteen of our club members came out during the course of the afternoon to share the day with us. The park pavilion was a really nice place to hold it. Will we do this again next year? We'll see.

Secondly, the first annual SuperSwap was a success. It was well attended, Saturday a little better than Sunday. Everyone who was there had a "super" time and the contract has been signed for next year. Dates are Saturday, September 30th, 2017 and Sunday, October 1st, same time same place.

See everyone at our 51st annual auction on Saturday, November 5th. See the flyer in the October Rockpile for more information.

Diane

Nominations for club officers for 2017

The 2017 Nominating Committee Dan Gumina and Mike Bomba propose the following slate as MMLS Officers for the upcoming year.

President: Dan Gumina

Vice President: William Barr

Treasurer: Doris Snyder

Recording Secretary: Julie Knechtges

Corresponding Secretary: Julie Knechtges

Liaison Officer: Pete Kuzara

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Slominski family, Janet Slominski lost her mother on October 1st.

NOTICE TO STUDY GROUPS IF THERE IS CHANGE IN YOUR MEETINGS PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW!!!!!!

Notice to members, if you would rather get your Rockpile by way of Email let the editor know.

Board Meeting Summary for Sept 16, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:47 PM.

A motion was made to accept the June 17, 2016 meeting minutes carried. Treasurer's report June 1 to Aug 31, 2016 motion to accept was made and carried. "The Brilliance of Gems & Minerals" Oct 14 - 16, 2016 presented by the Michigan Mineralogical Society's Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral & Fossil show. It was discussed that funds from sale of Hanschu's equipment be placed in the scholarship account for direct donation designated for 2017 scholarship award, everyone agreed. A donation was received from Chuck & Marge Collins in memory of Linda Swisher for the Scholarship Fund. MMLS received a certificate of recognition from the Mid-West council in recognition of total scholarship funds provided to the council. Janet Slominski resigned as refreshment chairman. Kim Osborne agreed to take over and was given a budget. The Mid-West Federation ballot has been completed and mailed in. The 2017 Nominating Committee will have nominees confirmed for vote at the November General Meeting. It was agreed to add pages to the Rockpile when more room is needed for club information. American Federation and Code of Ethics wallet cards are available for anyone interested.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM

as Submitted by Julie Knechtges Secretary.

General Meeting Summary Sept 20, 2016

Minutes of the June 21, 2016 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report For May 1-31, 2016 was approved. October program is "The Mighty Mather". November program Geode find the "Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art." MMLS received a Certificate of Recognition for total scholarship donations. Two guests were in attendance. Field trips are being looked into. Velma Bradley will send out get well, condolence cards etc.; when information is received. Janet Slominski resigned from refreshments and Kim Osborne accepted appointment. SuperSwap plans progressing nicely, anyone interested in volunteering let Bill Barr or Tom Morris know. Velma Bradley volunteered as MMLS Scholarship committee chairman. Picnic had 15 attendees on Sunday. We ate, played a game, and received

prizes. a good time was had by all! Club officers will be contacted for 2017 election in November. Next Board Meeting October 14, 2016. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Summarized by Secretary Julie Knechtges.

November Program: Will be a short video on the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art.

Welcome New Member

Ed Devine

1482 Mariner Drive

Walled Lake, MI 48390

Tel. 248-703-2514

Email: eddevinehomes@gmail.com

Member Address Update:

Jay Ross

1700 Hebron Rd.

Lot 23

Heath Oh. 43056

Did You Know, the onion is Michigan's largest fresh-market vegetable crop.

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**

ATTENTION MEMBERS: The study groups with more than one night in the month, dates will be listed together.

FOR NOVEMBER:

November 2nd Wire Wrap Class, call John Lindsay for details.

November 3rd & 17th Bead study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown, Mi at 7pm.

ATTENTION: NOVEMBER 5TH MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL and LAPIDARY SOCIETY PRESENTS THE 51ST ANNUAL AUCTION AT 7:00 PM. SALES TABLES OPEN FROM 6PM TO 7PM AND DURING INTERMISSION AT THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400 WICK ROAD, TAYLOR, MICHIGAN

November 7th & 16th & 21st Lapidary work shop
2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm. Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

November 11th Board Meeting, The Rockpile
deadline at the Kuzara's at 7:30 pm.

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

November 17th Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor Mi., at 7:30pm.

November 5th MMLS Auction Sales tables open from 6pm to 7pm and during intermission. Auction starts at 7pm. At the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Road, Taylor, Michigan.

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

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

December 7th Wire Wrap Class, call John Lindsay for details.

December 15th Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor Mi., at 7:30pm.

December 16th Board Meeting, The Rockpile deadline at the Kuzara's at 7:30pm.

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

Other Club Events

November 14th 5th Michigan Mineralogical Society annual auction, Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, MI. At 7pm for info. beylman@twmi.rr.com, www.michmin.org.

IN THE NEWS

From the Detroit Free Press Sept. 1, 2016

IN GREENLAND

Scientists find 3.7 billion year old fossil.

Scientists have found what they think is the oldest fossil on Earth, a remnant of life from 3.7 billion years ago when the Earth's skies were orange and the oceans green.

In the newly melted part of Greenland, Australian scientists found the left over structure from a community of microbes that lived on an ancient seafloor, according to a study in Wednesday's journal Nature.

The discovery shows life may have formed quicker and easier than once thought, about a billion years after Earth formed. And that may also give hope for life forming elsewhere, such as Mars, said co-author Martin VanKranendonk of the University of New South Wales and director of the Australian Center for Astrobiology.

"It gives us an idea how our planet evolved and how life gained a foothold," VanKranendonk said.

Scientists had thought it would take at least a half a billion years for life to form after the molten Earth started to cool a bit, but this shows it could have happened quicker, he said. That's because the newly found fossil is far too complex to have

developed soon after the planet's first life forms, he said. Submitted by Gary Slominski

From the Editor: My two cents.

I must apologize for the four blunders in the October Rockpile. The first is not listing the wire wrap class and the second not listing the Mineral Study Group and not listing the last Bead Study Class and last leaving the September listings of Other Club Events. All other blunders I give credit to Windows 10.

Pete

Did you know?

Cinnabar (mercury sulfide) is the single most toxic mineral to handle on Earth. The name of the crystal means dragons blood, and it is the main ore of mercury. Forming near volcanoes and sulfur deposits, the bright red crystals signal danger of the worst kind. Cinnabar may release pure mercury if disturbed or heated, causing tremors, loss of sensation and death. In the Middle Ages and late 1700s, being sent to work in Spanish mines containing cinnabar formations was widely considered a death sentence. Cinnabar was widely used in Chinese history for ornamental food dishes, and intricate carvings were created from chunks of it, sometimes at the expense of the artisans. Even more incredibly, some ancient medical practitioners believed cinnabar held healing powers, and prescribed it for certain conditions.

From MMS Conglomerate 5/16 via listverse.com 3/7/13

OLD MICHIGAN FACTS:

The world's only marble light house is located on Belle Isle. (Livingston Light house)

The Stars and Striped first flew over Michigan soil on July 11th 1796.

Thanksgiving Poem

Author Unknown

Via The BackBenders Gazette 11/15 via Chippers' Chatter
11/14

T'was the night of Thanksgiving,
But I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards,
I tried counting sheep.

The leftovers beckoned,
The dark meat and white.
But I fought the temptation,
With all of my Might.

Tossing and turning,
With anticipation.
The thought of a snack
became infatuation.

So I raced to the kitchen,
Flung open the door,
And gazed at the fridge,
Full of goodies galore.

I gobbled up turkey,
And buttered potatoes,
Pickles and carrots,
Beans and tomatoes.

I felt myself swelling,
So plump and so round.
'til all of a sudden,
I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling,
Floating into the sky,
With a mouthful a pudding,
And a handful of pie.

But I managed to yell
As I soared past the trees
Happy eating to all,
Passed the cranberries, please!!

May your stuffing be tasty
May your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes and gravy
Have nary a lump.

May your yams be delicious,
May your pies take the prize
And May your Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off your thighs!

Breccia: is a rock composed of broken fragments of minerals or rock cemented together by a fine-grained matrix that can be similar to or different from the composition of the fragments. The word has its origins in the Italian language, in which it means either "loose gravel" or "stone made by cemented gravel". A breccia may have a variety of different origins, as indicated by the named types including sedimentary breccia, tectonic breccia, igneous breccia, impact breccia, and hydrothermal breccias.

Breccia forms where broken, angular fragments of rock or mineral debris accumulate. One possible location for breccia formation is at the base of an outcrop where mechanical weathering debris accumulates. Another would be in stream deposits near the outcrop such as an alluvial fan. Some breccias form as debris flow deposits. The angular particle shape reveals that they have not been transported very far (transport wears the sharp points and edges of angular particles into rounded shapes). After deposition the fragments are bound together by a mineral cement or by a matrix of smaller particles that fills the spaces between the fragments.

Breccia and conglomerate are very similar rocks. They are both elastic sedimentary rocks composed of particles larger than two millimeters in diameter. The difference is in the shape of the large particles. In breccia the large particles are angular in shape but in conglomerate the particles are rounded. This reveals a difference in how far the particles were transported. Near the outcrop where the fragments were produced by mechanical weathering the shape is angular. However, during transport by water away from the outcrop the sharp points and edges of those angular fragments are rounded. The rounded particles would form a conglomerate.

From MMS Conglomerate 5/16, The Quarry 4/16
via geology.com, article by Angela Brown

November's Birthstones is Topaz

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.

- See more at:

<http://www.americangemsociety.org/november-birthstones#sthash.fyzcu/F8.dpuf>

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

-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).

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 (2017) 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 2017 and continue to receive The Rockpile

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email address _____

Enclosed is my check payable MMLS for \$ ____

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

Would you like your Rockpile sent to you by email?

Yes No

DO IT TODAY BEFORE YOU FORGET!!!!

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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 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.

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-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.

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There are unbelievably enormous uncut yellow topaz crystals reaching a mass of 31 kg (the Lindsay Uncut Topaz) and 50 kg (the Freeman Uncut Topaz). These uncut gems are on display as part of the Smithsonian Museum's collection. The Chalmers Topaz is another huge cut topaz, and weighs 5,899.5 carats (1.17990 kg). It is white with a blue cast and is a brilliant-cut oval-shaped gem. It is displayed at the Field Museum of Natural History, USA. In 1964, some blocks of blue topaz, each weighing an amazing 100 kg were found in the Ukraine.

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From The Pterodactyl Nov. 2015

Happy Thanksgiving!!

From the Rockpile staff

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>

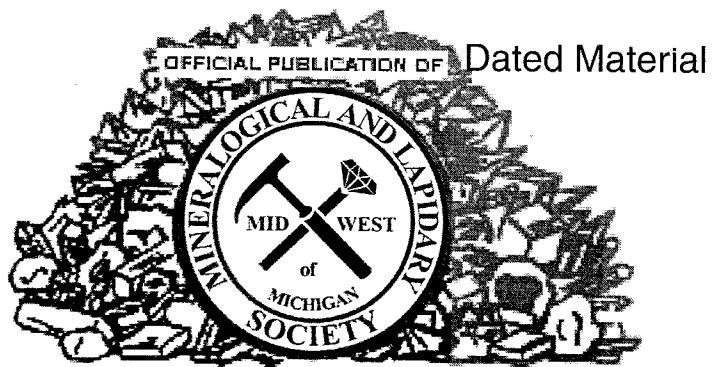
The Rockhound's 10 Commandments:

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
Lapidary
Society of
Michigan

EDITOR
20281 THOMAS
BROWNSTOWN, MI
48183

Address Service Requested



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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