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

October 2025

SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2025 OFFICERS

President: Mike Bomba (313) 381-8455
Vice President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Recording Secretary: Andrea Rinker (734) 755-2570
Treasurer: Doris Snyder (313) 291-2133
Corresponding Secretary: Andrea Rinker (734) 755-2570
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
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

2025 Banquet: Andrea Rinker
2025 Club Picnic: Stacey Harper
2025 Swap: Lou and Cindy Talley
2025 Super Swap: Bill Barr
2025 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
Bead Study: Diane Kuzara
Mineralogy: Frank Konieczki

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 1966-6
John Good 1968-69
Cecilia Duluk 1970
Stanley Franczak 1971- 72
E. Donald Stinnett 1973-74
Ralph Goniea 1975-76
Norman Hanschu 1977- 78
Thomas Gibbs 1979-80
Harry Nagy 1981-82
Elspeth Gibbs 1983-84
Loretta Franczak 1985-86
Roland Snyder 1987-88
Jay Ross 1989-90
Tom Morris Jr. 1991-92
Diane Kuzara 1993-94
Bill Orban 1995-96
Glenn Swain 1997-98
Bill Peach 1999-2000
Diane Kuzara 2001-02
Cecilia Duluk 2003-04
Russ Ranker 2005-06
Dick DePodesta 2007-08
Rich Williams 2009-10
Leonard Swisher 2011-12
Mike Bomba 2013 - 14
Diane Kuzara 2015 - 16
Dan Gumina 2017 - 18
Diane Kuzara 2019 -2020
Dan Gumina 2021 - 2022
Mike Bomba 2023 -

THE ROCKPILE
October, 2025 Volume LXIX Issue 8

President Message: Excitement is in the air,

colors of autumn leaves falling , the smell of sugar, donuts baking, and apple cider brings a melancholy feeling and joy to my heart. I hope everyone has a good time at the Super Swap and find some good deals to take home. A special thank you to Stacey and Mike Harper for hosting another great fall picnic. Now we're on to our 59th annual auction on November first. And our field trip to the Sylvania quarry in Rockwood on October the 11th. Please come to the General meeting and get involved with the club activities . Bring a friend. And bring the kids for a free door prize ! President Mike

October Program: October program will be a video by the BBC called Planet Earth, Deserts . Narrated by David Attenborough.

STILL LOOKING FOR A NEW EDITOR! Editor Pete

Looking for a new Program Chairman.
If interested and want to help check with Mike Bomba he will inform you what is required.

Dates to Remember!

Before traveling a great distance call to make sure the meeting is still going on! If it gets very cold I know the lapidary work shop meeting is canceled because of insufficient heating.

OCT 4 & 5 SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN GEM, MINERAL & ROCK SUPERSWAP HOSTED BY THE MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY. WAYNE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 10871 QUIRK RD . BELLEVILLE, MI. FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CALL BILL BARR AT 505-803-4888 0R EMAIL bilbobarr49@gmail.com

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

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

Oct. 16th Mineral Study Group will meet at the West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St., Ann Arbor at 7:30 PM. Contact for the group is Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218.

Oct. 21st Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm

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

Nov. 1st MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL & LAPIDARY 59TH ANNUAL AUCTION. CHECK FLYER ON LAST PAGE.

Nov. 3rd, 17th& 20th Lapidary Work Shop 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi. 7pm. To 10pm.Space is limited so please call Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218 before attending.

Nov. 6th & 20th Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

Nov. 18th Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm.

Nov. 18thGeneral Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

Nov. 20th Mineral Study Group will meet at the West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St., Ann Arbor at 7:30 PM. Contact for the group is Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218.

Sister Club Events

Oct. 11 Michigan Mineralogical Society Rock Swap Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, USA
Contact: David Lurie, (248) 224-0752; dlurie2001@comcast.net; www.michmin.org
Michigan Mineralogical Society Rock Swap

Oct. 17-19 MASON, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society; Ingham County Fair Grounds, 700 E Ash Street; mineral and jewelry show at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. www.facebook.com/MasonRockShow/; contact Robin Smith, (517) 290-4891; Email: rsmith@radssmith.com; Website: www.Michrocks.org

Oct. 17 - 19 Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Allen County Fairgrounds / Allen County Fair, 2726 Carroll Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46818, Contact: Bev Jenkins, (260) 639-0727; 3riversshow@gmail.com

Oct.26 Summit Lapidary Club & Akron Mineral Society Gemboree Annual Show
Emidio & Sons Banquet Center, 48 E Bath Rd, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223, USA
Contact: Cathy Milhoan, (330) 929-3798; gemboreelead@gmail.com; membershipchair@gmail.com; summitlapidary@gmail.com; www.summitlapidary.com

Nov. 1 & 2 Mid Michigan Rock Club Annual Show Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S Badour Rd, Midland, MI 48640, USA
Contact: Laura Foster, (989) 513-7254; pop345corn@sbcglobal.net

Nov.10 8:30 - 9:30 Pm.Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Auction Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1 Institute Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, USA
Contact: David Lurie, (248) 224-0752; dlurie2001@comcast.net; www.michmin.org

Nov. 22 & 23 Northwest Ohio Rockhound Club Annual Show. St James Lutheran Church, 4727 W Sylvania Ave, Toledo, OH 43623, USA
Contact: Suzanne Shimatzki, (419) 376-2650; sshimatzki@gmail.com

Michigan Minerals Beginning With the Letter V: Violarite FeNi2S4

Violarite (Fe Ni2 S4) is a supergene sulfide mineral associated with the weathering and oxidation of primary pentlandite nickel sulfide ore minerals. Violarite crystallises in the isometric system, with a hardness of 4.5 to 5.5 and a specific gravity of about 4, is dark violet grey to copper-red, often with verdigris and patina

Color: Dark violet grey to copper-red
Hardness: 4.5 to 5.5 on mohs scale
Occurrence: Marquette County
From the internet Wikipedia

Kambaba Jasper

Kambaba jasper is not just any ordinary stone. It is a rare and unique volcanic stone found in the west-central Bongolava region of Madagascar. The deep green hue of the stone combined with the striking black orbs creates a mesmerizing pattern.

From the internet crystones.com and Wikipedia

10 Interesting Facts About Emeralds First Class Watches UK

Pure beryl is colorless. This mineral is the base for many different gemstones, such as aquamarine, morganite, and heliodor. Emerald forms when beryl comes into contact with trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium. It is these elements that give emeralds their iconic green color.

They were first mined by the Ancient Egyptians.

The oldest emeralds are around 2.97 billion years old, but the first known emeralds were mined in Egypt in about 1500 BC. The gemstones were famously favored by Cleopatra and featured in many of her royal adornments. Mummies were often buried with emeralds, although some of these stones have been analysed in recent years and were found to be examples of peridot. Emeralds from Ancient Egyptian times are a duller green that those from other parts of the world. They are considered to be of a lower quality by todays standard.

The name 'Emerald' comes from the Greek 'smaragdus'

The history of the name 'emerald' is not straight forward. 'Emerald' comes from the old French word 'esmeraude' and vulgar Latin 'esmaralda' or 'esmaraldus'. These words are a variant of the Latin word 'smaragdus', which originates from the Greek 'smaragdus', which means 'green gem'.

More than 50% of the world's emeralds come from Colombia.

Colombia is famous for its emerald mining. The gemstone can be found all over the planet, yet 50% of emerald production takes place in Colombia. The Gachala Emerald, one of the most valuable and famous emeralds in the world, was mined
in 1967 in the Vega de San Juan mine in Gachala, Colombia. It currently resides in the Smithsonian Institution.

Emeralds have associations with clairvoyance.

For generations, emeralds are thought to have enhanced the clairvoyance of their owner. It is believed that placing one under the tongue can aid with seeing the future. Some think that the gemstone can act as a kind of truth potion and assist the owner in extracting the truth from others. Emeralds are also thought to guard against memory loss and enhance intuition.

The first synthhetic emerald was created in1935

Whilst other precious gemstones were replicated in a laboratory setting decades earlier, it took longer for scientists to perfect the synthetic emerald. The first example of a synthetic emerald was created by American chemist, Carroll Chatham in 1935. He created the I-carat Chatham Emerald that is currently on display at the Smithsonian Institution.
Although these emeralds have many of the same characteristics as natural emerald, they are not valued nearlyas highly.

The Duke of Devonshire emerald is one of the largest uncut examples of this gemstone.

There are larger carved examples of natural emerald, but the Duke of Devonshire emerald remains one of the largest uncut examples of the gemstone. It weighs an incredible 1383.93 carats and is currently kept in "The Vault" in London's Natural History Museum. The stone was mined in Colombia during the 19th Century and was acquired by William Cavendish, Sixth Duke of Devonshire. It is believed that it was either gifted by or purchased from Emperor Don Pedro I of Brazil around 1831. There's much debate about whether the stone on display in the museum is the genuine article or not.

Eiizabeth Taylor;s Emeralds

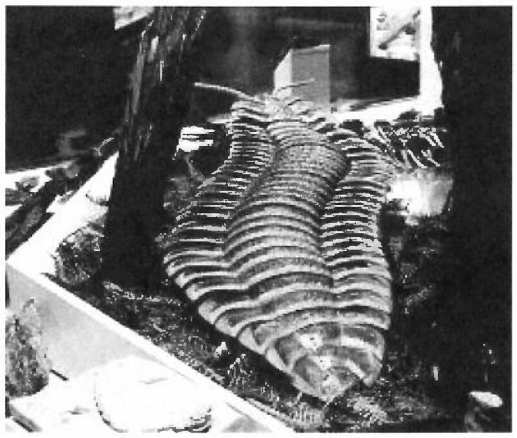
In 2011, Elizabeth Taylor's emerald pendant sold for $6,578,500, wIn 2011, Elizabeth Taylor's emerald pendant hich was a per-carat record of $280,000.

Cutting an Emerald

In addition to the risks of damage, cutters must consider how they can maximize the stone's hue, tone, and saturation. For example, if the proportions aren't cut just right, the emerald may appear lighter. Many emeralds are cut into rectangular step cuts called "emerald shapes."

From the Michigan Gem News 5/24

Arthroplera by Kat Koch



Picture from internet

An artist rendering of a millipede the length of a car crawling through ancient forests, and you'll have a good picture of an Arthropleura. This giant arthropod terrorized the Carboniferous period, spanning from 345 to 292 million years ago,combining features of both centipedes and millipedes and growing up to 8 feet in length.

First discovered in 1849 during the construction of a railway near Friedrichsthal, Germany, Arthropleura has consistently attracted considerable artistic and scientific attention, yet has historically been known from mostly fragmentary remains.

Recent CT scans of fossilized specimens have revealed stalked eyes, suggesting it spent time both on land and in water. Complete exoskeleton fossils found across Europe and North America confirm this wasn't just a one-off freak of nature, but a successful predator that dominated its ecosystem for millions of years.
Source: The CMS Tumbler, August 2025
From MMS CONGLOMERATE 9/25.

Weathering and Erosion

By John Peters
From the Kids Corner of the MMS Conglomerate 9/25

For as long as the Earth has existed, nature has helped shape the landscape. Weathering is the process of wearing away rocks and soil. Water is often the main cause of weathering, either as rain or ice. Rainwater can easily enter cracks in rocks or sidewalks. If this happens during cold months, the water may freeze and expand in the crack. Working as a wedge, the ice splits the rock. Many times, road crews have to patch up potholes
caused by weathering from ice. Wind can also cause weathering. Over long periods of time, wind can wear away rock. This can create amazing landscapes, such as rocks that look like mushrooms. Sometimes living things can cause weathering. Plant roots can wedge their way in between small cracks in rocks. As the plant grows, the roots increase the size of the crack little by little. Eventually, pieces of the rocks break off.For as long as the Earth has existed, nature has helped shape the landscape. Weathering is the process of wearing away rocks and soil. Water is often the main cause of weathering, either as rain or ice. Rainwater can easily enter cracks in rocks or sidewalks. If this happens during cold months, the water may freeze and expand in the crack. Working as a wedge, the ice splits the rock. Many times, road crews have to patch up potholes caused by weathering from ice. Wind can also cause weathering. Over long periods of time, wind can wear

away rock. This can create amazing landscapes, such as rocks that look like mushrooms. Sometimes living things can cause weathering. Plant roots can wedge their way in between small cracks in rocks. As the plant grows, the roots increase the size of the crack little by little. Eventually, pieces of the rocks break off.

As pieces of the Earth are broken down by weathering, they are carried away in a process called erosion. Water is a common way that pieces of the Earth are moved to a new location. Wind also contributes to erosion by blowing the particles away. Glaciers can pick up pieces of the Earth and drag them to new locations. They are slow, but powerful. Although erosion has helped shape some of the most amazing features on Earth, it can be harmful to the environment. When soil is washed away from one place to another, it can carry harmful materials like chemical fertilizers or pesticides. These dangerous chemicals can pollute our water supply.

It is important to remember that when weathering happens, tiny pieces of the Earth do not disappear. They are moved through erosion and deposited somewhere else- called deposition. It could be very close, only a few feet away, or it can be many miles away such as when the tiny pieces were washed into a river. The deposited materials can also create new landforms. For example, in Hawaii, black sand from eroded lava is deposited on several beaches.

We see the effects of weathering and erosion every day. Splits in roads or sidewalks are caused by the expansion of ice, or the daily heating and cooling of the ground. Sand on the beach is created from ocean waves pounding on rocks and eventually creating sand. Sometimes erosion can happen very quickly like with mudslides. Mudslides are caused by moving water and gravity, and happen in only minutes. Most weathering, however, is a slow process that happens over thousands or millions of years. The speed at which weathering and erosion take place depends on the type of material that is being worn away. Some hard rock, like granite, wears away slowly, while softer rock like limestone, wears away much more quickly.

Source:
https://www.generationgenius.com/videolessons/weathering-and-erosion-video-for-kids/

Moonstone

It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multirayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue,peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Mayanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.
From CMS Tumbler, April 2025
From The Quarry 5/25

REMEMBER OUR SUPER SWAP

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

REMEMEBER OUR AUCTION CHECK FLYER ON LAST PAGE.

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

Presents

59th Annual Auction

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Democratic Club of Taylor

23400 Wick Rd, Taylor, MI 48180

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Sales tables open from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm and during intermission

Auction starts at 7:00 pm

Auction items may include: Minerals, Lapidary material, Jewelry items, Fossils, Books related to the hobby, and much more!

FREE ADMISSION! PUBLIC INVITED!
FREE PARKING!

For more information call or text Dwayne Ferguson at 313-550-9809 or by email at shelby0671111@yahoo.com

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 (I) 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 though 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/mw1lindex.html American
Lands Access Association: http: //amlands.org

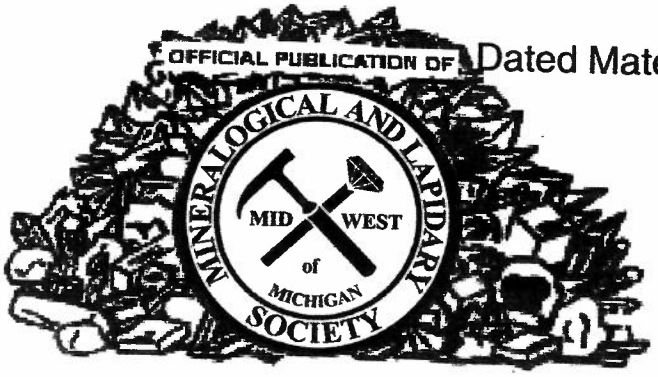
American Federation:
www.amfed.org

The Rockhound's 10 Commandments:

Thou shall not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hands.
Thou shall not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing or biting.
Thou shall not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
Thou shall not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
Thou shall not collect at a neighbor's land unless unless thy neighbor knowst he's there.
Thou shall not argue names of minerals too violently; for sometimes thou couldst be wrong.
Thou shall not climb above thy neighbor's head when on a field trip, lest thou art willing to spend the rest of the day digging him out.
Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.
Thou shall not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggin's, lest thy neighbor's hammer be dropped upon thee.
Thou shall not break uncollectable specimens.

Midwest
Mineralogical and
Lapidary
Society of
Michigan

EDITOR
20281 THOMAS
BROWNSTOWN, MI
48183



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