

# 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, 2020



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

# **Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society**

## **2020 OFFICERS**

**President:** Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237  
**Vice President:** Pat Rutkowski (313) 291-5861  
**Recording Secretary:** Lori Haam (313) 562-5097  
**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  
**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**

**2020 Banquet:** Dan Gumina  
**2020 Club Picnic:** Stacey Harper  
**2020 Swap:** Lou and Cindy Talley  
**2020 Super Swap:** Bill Barr / Tom Morris  
**2020 Auction:** Dwayne Ferguson

**The Rockpile Staff :** Editor Peter Kuzara,  
email: [Kuzara1126@gmail.com](mailto:Kuzara1126@gmail.com) 734-675-5237

**MMLS website –** [www.mmls.us](http://www.mmls.us)  
**Email -** [rockhounds@mmls.us](mailto: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  
Wire Study: John Lindsay

## **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  
Dan Gumina 2017 - 18

**From The President's Desk: Very  
important information for  
MMLS Members..Please  
Read!**



How we are running our club election this year! VOTE DUE IN BY NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>.

\*All our members who have email:

1. Watch for my email in early November which will have the nominees listed in the “slate of 2021 club officers” section.
2. To vote hit your “reply” button and say- “I vote for the slate of officers for MMLS for 2021 and send the email back to me and I will record your vote. Add your name to the email. Please Vote for your club officers.

\*For members who do not have email:

You will get a paper ballot in your November Rockpile - cast your vote and either send it back to me: Diane Kuzara, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown, MI 48183 by snailmail or you can call me - 734-675-5237 and I will record your vote. Be sure to sign your name to your ballot.

\*The new officers will take over their offices in January. We will have the formal installation at the first General Meeting we can get together. I have been in touch with the Democratic Club regarding our General Meetings - due to the restrictions of the number of people we can have in the room, we still are not able to resume our meetings.

I will keep you all informed when we can meet again . Diane

**Officers nominated for 2021 by the Nominating Committee are the following.**

President: Dan Gmina

Vice President: Mike Bomba

Recording Secretary: Lori Haam / Diane Kuzara

Treasurer: Doris Snyder

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Kuzara

Liaison: Pete Kuzara

**Welcome New Member:**

Frank Konieczki

**FIELD TRIP REPORT**

It was a great day for a field trip to the Sylvania Quarry in Rockwood, Mi. on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. A beautiful sunny day, not to hot, not to cold outside! There were around 15 of us that showed up on time to collect! After reviewing all safety rules and signing a waiver we were off down into the lower level of the quarry! The members and guest that showed up to collect were Bill Barr, Frank Konieczki with some friends from Huron Hills, Lou Talley, Gary Slominski, Little Eddie and his grandson junior, Me, Tom Morris, Dan Gmina, Bill O'Brien and Tammy showed up to collect minerals and fossils. Everyone took home some nice celestine, calcite, quartz xls. And even some sulfur was found! Not a bad day of rock hunting! Special thanks to Bill Begley for making the field trip happen for us. Always be safe and Happy Rock Hunting.

Mike Bomba

**Sister Club Events**

**BECAUSE OF THE CORONA VIRUS PLEASE CHECK BEFORE ATTENDING THESE ACTIVITIES.**

**For Sale In Indiana**

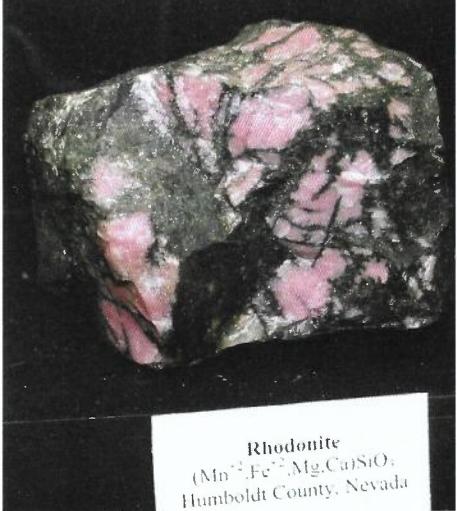
Ted Stout, a past president of a rock club who currently lives near Westpoint, IN (which is southwest of Lafayette) has some items for sale.

There is copper and other specimens from the UP of Michigan, and 300# of whole, uncut Brazillian agates and tons of slabs and rough rock crying to be cut, shaped and polished. He has one cabinet with several drawers full of jade. There is also some lapidary equipment that hasn't been used in years including an 18" and 24" saw, a vibralap and a faceting machine. If you are interested, he can be reached at 765- 491-2194. From the October Strata Data

November, 2020

## Michigan Mineral Beginning with the Letter: R Rhodonite ( $Mn,Fe,Ca)SiO_3$

Rhodonite is a manganese in osilicate,  $(Mn, Fe, Mg, Ca)SiO_3$  and member of the pyroxenoid group of minerals, crystallizing in the triclinic system. It commonly occurs as cleavable to compact masses with a rose-red color (the name comes from the Greek *pόδος rhodos*, rosy), often tending to brown because of surface oxidation.



Hardness: 5.5 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale.

Color: Pink, rose-pink to brownish red, red, gray and yellow

Occurrences: Iron County and Marquette County  
From the Internet Wikipedia

## Texas State Gemstone: Texas Blue Topaz

Topaz, ( $Al_2 [F/OH_2/SiO_4]$ ), is the Texas state gemstone as well as the birthstone for the month of

November. The Texas blue topaz became the official state gem when Governor Preston Ernest Smith signed House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 on March 26, 1969.

From the Internet.



A Blast From The Past Continued From

### Last Month

#### Crystal Trek

Log Date: Monday, Oct. 1, 1990

A great collecting day at Fiddler's Ridge Crystal Mines. The fee was \$10 per person for all the crystals you could collect -- and were there crystals? You bet! Small ones, medium ones, large ones, and gigantic ones. We had more fun collecting there than anywhere else so far on this trip. Everyone was delighted with their finds. The people at the Rock Shop were very nice, and the owner, Jim Fecho, even came and collected crystals with us. Planned for our famous "hobo pie" supper for the next evening!

Log Date: Tuesday, Oct. 2, 1990

A trip to the famous "Coleman's Crystal Diggings" began our day -- a fun day, too, like the previous day. Several larger crystals were found here -- ask Rol Snyder to show you his! Beautiful! The weather was cooler and less muggy, so collecting was easier. There were no large rocks to crawl on here like the day before, but we had as much fun collecting here as at Fiddler's Ridge. In the evening we had our "hobo pie" cookout. What fun teaching Bud and Gloria Schneider and Tom Morris how to make the pies because they had never made them before. Two surprise birthday cakes were presented at our supper: one for Georgia Graham whose birthday was the next day, the second for me since everyone felt sorry for me having to be back at work on my birthday, which was the following Monday. (Thanks, everyone, from Georgia and me.) A few of our people are heading home tomorrow. We'll surely miss them for the rest of the trip.

Log Date: Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1990

Wasn't it nice of the rain to hold off until we took our last trip together as a group? A small group it was, but off to Magnet Cove we went to look for smoky quartz, brookite and pyrite. We were successful, too. We all found some brookite loose in the dirt and in larger rocks also. It's been threatening rain here all day, so some of us hit the local rock shops for those last minute crystals that we've been wanting.

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Tomorrow, most of us will begin our travel -- towards home for some and to Alexandria, Missouri, for others, who will collect Keokuk geodes.

However, Pete and I are going to be stopping for geodes the day before the rest, because we have to start for home on Saturday morning, thus ending our two-week journey with the "greatest" bunch of rockhounds we know!

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Our finding a Don Rosenfield "look-alike" in our midst -- namely, John Mularoni ...

Loretta's hi-tailing it away from her collecting spot when she dug up a snake ...

Pete and George Judd giving our club a new "club song" while hiking back and forth through the corn fields -- "Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, it's off to work we go!" Then trying to remember the names of the seven dwarfs ...

Doris and Rol Snyder eating their fried coffee" at one of the local restaurants in Cave-In-Rock.

Seeing a large, lighted riverboat going up the Ohio River at night -- complete with a big, red paddle wheel ...

The Thorntons, George and Kathy, wondering who was shaking their cabin at 8:30 in the morning at Washington State Park only to find out they felt the earthquake that hit southern Illinois on Wednesday the 26th ...

Tommy Morris, Jr. trying to go to sleep at 9:30 p.m. like his cabin partner, John Mularoni. What! -- no girls, guys? ...

Bud and Gloria Schneider, Tom and Ruby Kizuka, and Tommy Morris get their first taste of "hobo pies" and enjoying them a lot! ...

Kathy Burt and Norm Hanschu being our "in house" photographers, Kathy with her small hand-held camera, and Norm with his video camera ...

Joyce Hanschu and Tommy Morris helping us identify those little "brookite" specimens at Magnet Cove ...

Bob and Margaret McGrath being totally surprised to get a cake and an anniversary card on their "special day" ...

Eleanor Littlepage finding a huge quartz specimen at Coleman's Mine and Rol Snyder making a "jaws" specimen out of it, while Bud Littlepage wondered where to put it to take it home ...

Walt Vogtmann getting "crystal fever" when he saw the specimens we brought back from Fiddler's Ridge Mine ...

Kay Vogtmann getting excited when she found her "keeper" crystal at Coleman's Mine, and glad to hear Walt tell her it was a "keeper" ...

Georgia Graham finding some great scenery to sketch while David went hunting with us ...

Kay and Walt both wearing "white" outfits to collect at Coleman's Mine to dig in that RED CLAY!! ...

Are the Northrops really hygrading those quartz specimens from Ocus Stanley for "Minerals for Minors" and grab bags, or what? ...

Don and Katy Brown joining us at our campfires and, hopefully, enjoying our company ...

Stan Franczak once again putting together a "great" summer field trip. You're tops in our book, Stan ... Getting the opportunity to write this field trip article for The ROCKPILE -- it was MY trip highlight.

Diane Kuzara  
MMLSD Member

## Arkansas Man Finds 9 Carat Diamond At Crater Of Diamond State Park



Kevin Kinard was visiting Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park when he discovered a 9.07 carat diamond.

A bank manager discovered a 9.07-carat diamond at a state park in southwestern Arkansas

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after thinking the precious gem was a piece of glass.

Kevin Kinard of Maumelle found the second-largest diamond in the 48-year history of Crater of Diamonds State Park on Labor Day, according to a news release from Arkansas State Parks.

Kinard said he and his friends hauled sifting equipment to the state park in Murfreesboro. Kinard noted that he's been visiting Crater of Diamonds regularly since he was a kid but had never stumbled upon a diamond until Sept. 7.

"I only wet sifted for about ten minutes before I started walking up and down the plowed rows," he said. "Anything that looked like a crystal, I picked it up and put it in my bag."

While searching in the southeast portion of the 37.5-acre diamond search area, Kinard scooped up a marble-sized crystal that had a rounded, dimpled shape.

"It kind of looked interesting and shiny, so I put it in my bag and kept searching," Kinard said. "I just thought it might've been glass."

Several hours later, Kinard said he and his comrades stopped by the park's Diamond Discovery Center, where park workers identify visitor findings and register diamonds.

"I almost didn't have them check my finds, because I didn't think I had found anything," Kinard said. "My friend had hers checked, though, so I went ahead and had them check mine, too."

"The stone is the second-largest diamond ever found at the park, which opened in 1972 and is one of the only public diamond fields in the world. Crater of Diamonds has registered over 240 diamonds this year, according to the news release, and sees an average of about one or two diamonds per day. Visitors often bring their own tools to search the 37-acre diamond field, but they aren't allowed to use

battery or motor-powered tools.

"A find like this is always thrilling for the park guest, as well as the park staff, who get to help identify the gem and share in the excitement," Stacy Hurst, secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, said in the release.

The previous record for the second-largest diamond found at the park since its 1972 opening was an 8.82 carat white diamond found in 1981. In 2019, a Texas woman found a 3.72-carat yellow diamond at the park. The largest diamond ever found there is a 16.37-carat white diamond named Amarillo Starlight, which was unearthed in 1975. Assistant Superintendent Dru Edmonds said in the release, "Mr. Kinard's diamond is very large, with a brandy brown color. It has a rounded, dewdrop shape and a metallic shine typical of all Crater diamonds."

Waymon Cox, park interpreter at Crater of Diamonds, told The Washington Post via email that the park employees "cannot determine a diamond's value at the park," but he noted that similarly sized finds have been estimated to be worth a fortune in the past. In 2015, for example, an 8.52-carat diamond found at the park was valued at around \$1,000,000 after it was cut into a 4.63-carat triollette.

Lucky visitors who do find diamonds are typically asked to name the stones, and Kinard named his in honor of friends who visited the park with him on Labor Day — the Kinard Friendship Diamond.

"We love to travel together and had such a great time out here," Kinard said of their trip to the park. "It was a very humbling experience."

## The Only Diamond Mine In the World Where You Can Be the Miner

*The above story is based on materials provided by Arkansas State Parks.*

*From The internet GeologyIn*

**November, 2020****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.

- See more at:

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

**Topaz Fun Facts**

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**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) Cont. 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 (2021) 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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!!!!!!

---

**November, 2020**

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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. 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 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 1 72 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.

Above Topaz articles are from The Pterodactyl 11/15

#### *Thoughts for 2020...*

Ed Wagner, President and Editor of the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (Illinois), came up with a quip that is, he

says, "the most popular thing I have said all year": "*If 2020 was a rock, it would be a leaverite.*"

~Source: MWF News, October 2020.

"Life is like a grinding wheel. Whether it grinds you down, or polishes you up is your decision". -Cavett Robert

-Source: The CMS Tumbler; via The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Newsletter, 7/20.

From the Conglomerate 10/20

**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  
Yearly Picnic

Fall- 2 Day SuperSwap and Sale

November Annual Auction

**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 its "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](http://www.amfed.org/mw1lindex.html) American  
Lands Access Association: <http://amlands.org>

American Federation:

[www.amfed.org](http://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.

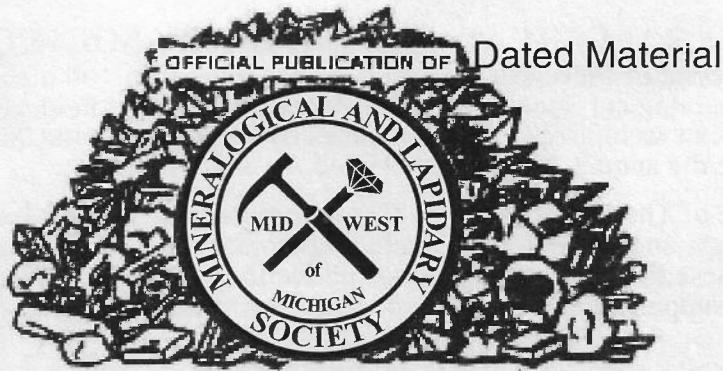
Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.

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  
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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