

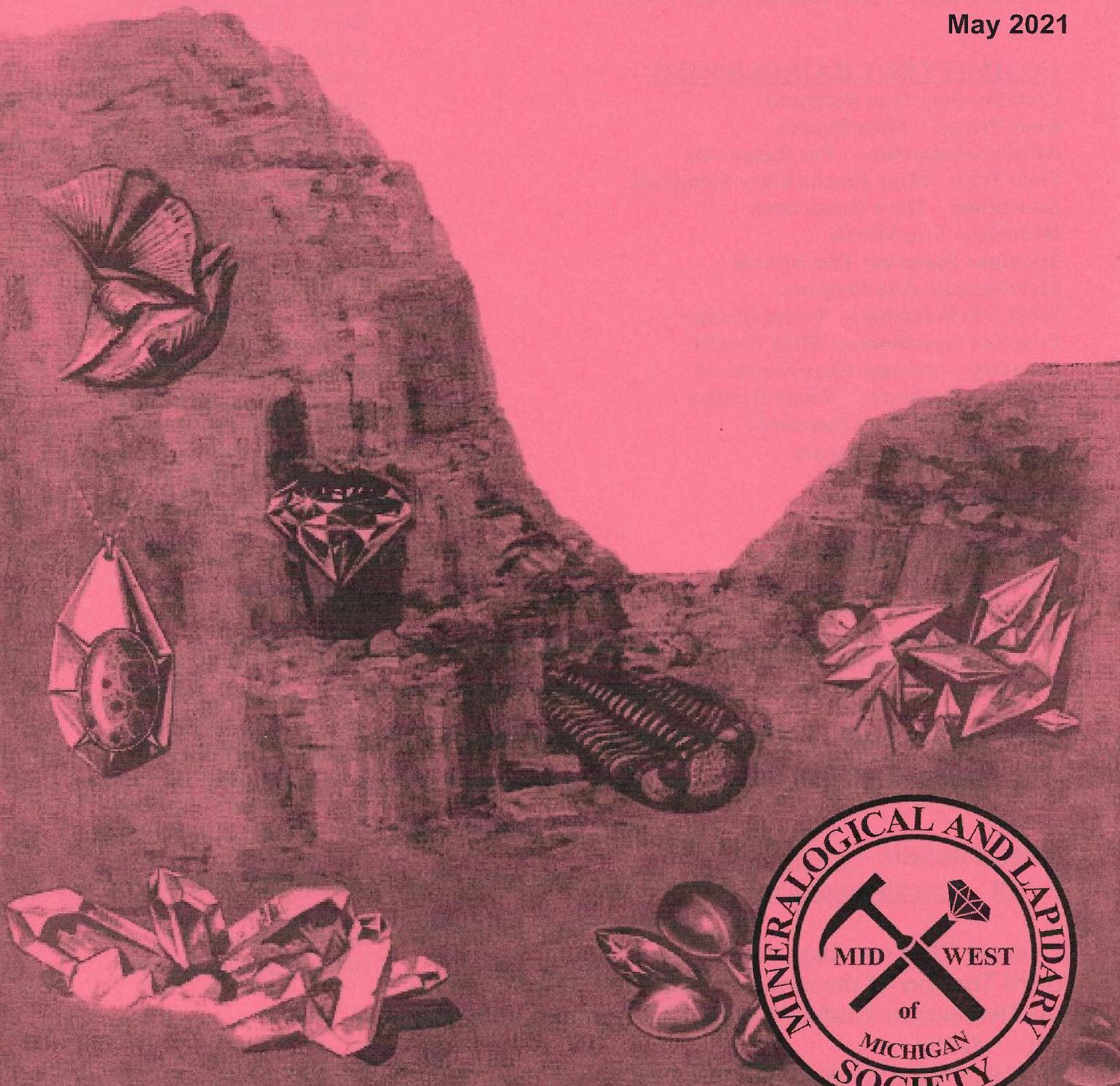
THE

ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

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

May 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 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



From The President's Desk:

Hello Rockhounds, well it's spring and April is leaning into May. Anyone getting anxious to meet again and enjoy the company and the hobby we have shared together the past years. Lets hear an amen!! So hopefully that will happen soon enough. Until then do the right things to stay protected and safe..... Love your family and friends. Keep the possibilities open.

Dan

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING:

April 16, 2021

President Dan is working with the Democratic Club to find out when we can resume our General Meetings. As soon as our size group can meet we will send out an email to inform you. Hopefully it will be in May or at the latest in June.

Diane, our ex-president, presented Pete Kuzara the President's Award for the years 2019/2020. She wished it could have been presented at our General Meeting but decided not to hold off the award any longer. CONGRATULATIONS TO PETE FROM ALL THE MMLS MEMBERS! (Pete is a "behind the scenes" worker and has been doing so for many years. He has done many things for our club in that capacity.) Diane feels this award has been a long time coming.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 14th 2021. Location to be determined.

LOCAL FIELD TRIP PLANNED for Saturday, May 29. For more information contact Mike Bomba.

More Sad news

Margaret Jane Campbell, 1959-2021

Margaret Campbell, a member of MMLS for 30 years and wife of Bill Barr, passed away on March 17. Her children Jesse Barr and Dorothy Keeney and grandson Will Carter were all junior members of the club. Margaret's familiar presence will be missed at

meetings, events and mineral study sessions, where she made everyone's day brighter with her friendly personality and cheerful, positive outlook.

Margaret and Bill went on many collecting journeys all over the US and Canada, beginning with their honeymoon trip around Lake Superior. They also belonged to the Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society and the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club. Margaret was a talented graphic artist and once had a successful horseshoeing practice in the Irish Hills. Memorial donations can be made to support art therapy at CS Mott Children's Hospital or to Starry Skies Equine Rescue and Sanctuary in Ann Arbor.

Our condolences to Doris Snyder who lost son-in-law, Charles Ajuziem in April.

We have been informed that Archy Ammerman a show dealer for many years has passed away in April.

Good News

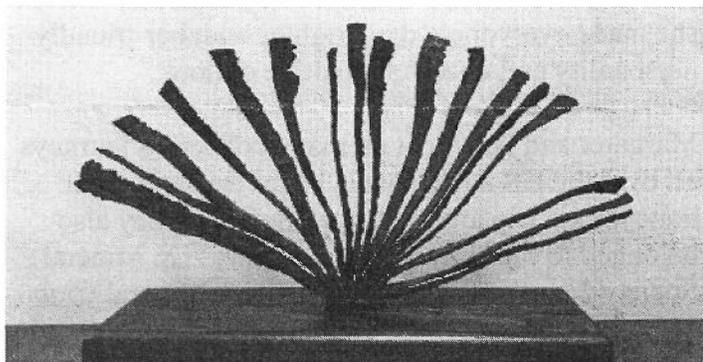
Mike Bomba's daughter Rachael has had surgery and the outcome was good, nice to hear, Mike.

WE GOT MAIL

**A.E. SEAMAN
MINERAL MUSEUM
OF MICHIGAN TECH
February 2, 2021**

Dear Society Members,
Thank you very much for your recent gift to the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum! Your generous support provides vital resources for the museum as it seeks to grow and share our world-class collection and educate people about the beauty, science, and importance of minerals. I am tremendously appreciative of the generosity of our supporters.

As we look forward with a sense of anticipation to the unfolding of the new year, the museum staff and I are working on a variety of projects in the galleries, gift shop, and behind the scenes to ever improve the museum experience for our visitors. We'll be reporting on some of these in the future as they develop.



I'd like to share a preview with you of something wonderful we plan to put on exhibit soon- an 18-blade, 15.5-inch wide copper chisel-chip fan. It was originally owned by Captain Wesley Chester Clark (1857-1922), it was retrieved by Captain Clark's teenage grandson William from the ashes of the Agent's House at Copper Falls after the house burned down in 1937. This magnificent fan, which still bears some of the scorch marks from the fire on several of its blades, was donated to the museum recently by the family of William H. Clark (1922-2010). We hope you'll be able to visit us again soon.

Sincerely,

John A. Jaszczak
Director and Curator

**BEFORE TRAVELING TO ATTEND
ANY UP COMING SHOW MAKE SURE
IT IS NOT CANCELED!!**

Sister Club Events

May 6-9: KALAMAZOO, MI Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society Annual Show. Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo. Contact: Wrifton Graham, (269) 615- 7073;

wrifton@greatlakesgeneralstore.com

June 4-6: WAUSEON, OH State Line Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Fri Noon-6; Sat

10-6; Sun 11-4. Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair Building, 8514 SR 108, Wauseon. Contact: Sherman Kaedatzke, (517) 673-5487; *sakardatzke@gmail.com*

June 12: GRAND RAPIDS, MI Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Rock Swap 9-noon. Woodland Drive-In Church, 2600 Breton SE, Grand Rapids. Contact: Kreigh Tomaszewski, (616) 243-5851; *kreigh@gmail.com*

June 12-13: MANSFIELD, OH Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club Rock Swap. Sat 10-6; Sun 11-5. Mansfield Fairgrounds, Fairhaven Hall, 750 Home Rd., Mansfield. Contact: Tom Kottyan, (419) 562-1152; *themineralhouse@netzero.net*

June 25-27: BEDFORD, IN Lawrence County Rock Club Annual Show. Fri 10-6:30; Sat 9-6:30; Sun 10-4. Lawrence County Fairgrounds, US Highway50, Bedford. Contact: Michael Tweedate, (573) 466-9093

The next ALAA Meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2021 during the AFMS/RMFMS Convention... In Big Piney, WY.

ALAA Live Auction June 19, 2021 during the AFMS/RMFMS Convention...

Sept. 10 - 12 2021 Midwest Federation Convention is at the Toledo, Ohio show.

**I think
senility is
going to be a
fairly smooth
transition for
me.**

THE Michigan Mineral Beginning with the Letter X: Xonotlite $Ca_6Si_6O_{17}(OH)_2$



Xonotlite is a mineral. It crystallizes in the monoclinic - prismatic crystal system with typically an acicular crystal form or habit.

Color: Colorless, gray, light gray, lemon white, or pink. It is transparent with a vitreous to silky luster.

Hardness: 6.5 on Mohs scale

Occurrence: Keweenaw County.

From the Internet

Wisconsin State Gemstone



Wisconsin has no official state gemstone.

Wisconsin designated red granite its state rock on March 9, 1971 after the

Kenosha Gem and Mineral Society proposed a mineral and rock be chosen to promote geological awareness. Red granite was chosen because of its abundance, uniqueness, economic value, and historical significance.

From the Internet

GET VACCINATED!!!!

New Mineral Discovered in United Kingdom: Kernowite



Kernowite is a new mineral that has been found only in an old specimen collected at a single location in Cornwall, UK. The only known specimen of kernowite, named after Kernow which is the Cornish word for Cornwall, was collected in the 1700s.

It became part of the Natural History Museum, London's geological collections in 1964.

"Considering how many geologists, prospectors and collectors have scoured the county over the centuries in search of mineral treasure it's amazing that in 2020 we are adding a new mineral," said Mike Rumsey, principal curator of minerals at the Natural History Museum, London. Kernowite is what is known as a secondary mineral due to the way it has been formed.

It is formed when other rocks, close to the surface of the Earth have had their chemical elements mobilized by circulating water. The elements now present within the fluid re-combine to create a new mineral from different elements of previously crystallized rock. It is not always possible to date the formation of a secondary mineral and many likely have a short 'life' due to being subject to erosion.

"To show we have a new species, we must carry out analyses which determine the chemical composition of the material, the positions of these atoms within 3D crystal structure," Rumsey said. "Broadly speaking, if either or both of these features are unique the mineral is new." "One part of its internal structure was dominated by iron instead of aluminum, so we found it worthy of a new name, kernowite."

"Although kernowite has no obvious direct application, all newly found minerals build upon our understanding of materials generally," he added.

May, 2021

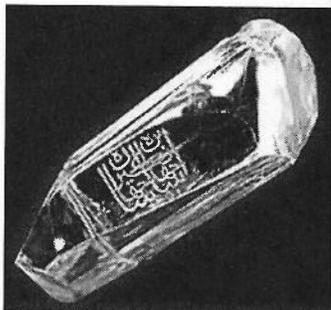
The description of kernowite will be published in the Mineralogical Magazine in 2021.

<http://www.sci-news.com/geology/kernowite-09187.html>
 From Rock Trails 4/21

THE SHAH DIAMOND'S INTERESTING HISTORY

By Emerald, a Geo Junior Member
 Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society

From the January, 2021 Pick & Dop Stick



The Shah Diamond after cutting. Photo Via Indianetzone.com.

We do not know who found the Shah Diamond. The Shah Diamond probably is a Golconda diamond, mined in India. [Editor's Note:

Golconda diamonds, mined in a specific area of India, are named after the diamond trading center in Golconda where many of them were originally sold.]

It was found before 1591, but we do not know the exact year.

People think it weighed 95 carats when it was found. It is now only 89 carats.

The shape of the Shah Diamond is a long octahedron. The diamond is polished on some sides and has 15 facets. Some of the facets are still natural. The cut is called a table cut. It is a yellow tinted stone, and does not have any clouds or flaws.

The Shah Diamond changed over time. Someone added a groove. The groove was to put it on a cord that the Shah could wear around his neck. It also has engravings in ancient Persian.

It is unique because the names of three shahs are engraved on it. A shah was an emperor in ancient Persia or India. The shahs' names that are engraved on it are: Burhan Nizam Shah II 1000, Son of Jehangir Shah; Shah Jahan 1051; and Kadja Fath Ali

Shah 1242. The years listed are from the Muslim calendar. In the modern calendar those years were 1591, 1641, and 1826.

Burhan Nizam Shah II was a Shah in Ahmendagar in India. Shah Jahan was a Mughal emperor who built the famous Taj Mahal in India.

After Shah Jahan had the diamond, Nadir Shah took it from the city of Delhi in 1739. Nadir Shah brought it to Persia, now called Iran.

Czar Nicholas I of Russia got the diamond in 1829, just a few years after the last engraving. Fath Ali Shah gave it to Czar Nicholas as a gift. Why would someone give away such a big, clear diamond? A mob of people in Tehran had killed the Russian ambassador. The Shah Diamond was a gift to calm down the Russian czar.

The Shah diamond is now in the State Diamond Fund of Russia. It is in a museum at the Kremlin in Moscow.

Bibliography:

Oldershaw, Cally. *Firefly Guide to Gems*, p. 35. Firefly Books, 2003.

Manutchehr-Danai, Mohsen. *Dictionary of Gems and Gemology*, p. 425. Springer, 2000.

Streeter, Edwin W. *The Great Diamonds of the World: Their History and Romance*, p. 232-236. G.

Bell & Sons, 1882.

Erlich, Edward and Hausel, W. Dan. *Diamond Deposits: Origin, Exploration, and History of Discovery*, p. 68, 2002.

From MWF News 4/21

47 Million-Year-Old Fly Found With A Full Belly

For The First Time, We've Examined The Stomach Contents of a 47-Million-Year-Old Fly.

Scientists have found a 47-million-year-old fossilized fly with a bloated belly absolutely full of pollen.

The discovery is the first direct evidence that some species of ancient tangle-veined flies once fed on the microspores of several different species of subtropical plant.

It was not the fly itself that caught the scientists' attention, but its bulging abdomen suggesting it was still full with the fly's last food intake. Surprisingly, analysis of the stomach content revealed it was full with pollen from different plants. The fossil pollen from the fly's stomach was used to reconstruct the ancient environment inhabited by the fly, the biotic interactions between plant and fly, and the fly's behaviour during feeding

Flies as pollinators

Today, bees, butterflies and bumblebees are the typical pollinators, which are also known to feed on pollen. That flies also play an important role in pollination is rarely addressed. "The rich pollen content we discovered in the fly's stomach suggests that flies were already feeding and transporting pollen 47 million years ago and shows it played an important role in the pollen dispersal of several plant taxa," says Fridgeir Grímsson from the Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research of the University of Vienna. "Flies were major pollinators in ancient (sub-)tropical equivalent ecosystems and might even have outshined the bees," the scientist concludes.



A 47-million-year old fossil belonging to a previously unknown species of fly was found at the Messel Pit in central Germany

Short-distance flights for food

The extracted pollen was dominated by grains of *Decodon* (waterwillow) and *Parthenocissus* (virgin ivy). Today, the waterwillow is a sub-shrub growing in wetlands and the shallows of lakes, suggesting open low canopy habitat. The co-dominance of virgin ivy also suggests that the fly fed on plants growing at the forest margin surrounding the ancient Messel lake. "It is likely that the fly avoided long-distance flights between food sources and sought pollen from closely associated plants," says Grímsson.

The above story is based on Materials provided by University of Vienna.

From The internet Geology IN

7 Billion-Year-Old Stardust Is Oldest Material Found on Earth

Excerpted from an article in Geologyin.com

Scientists recently identified the oldest material on Earth: stardust that's 7 billion years old, tucked away in a massive, rocky meteorite that struck our planet half a century ago.

Stars have life cycles. They're born when bits of dust and gas floating through space find each other and collapse in on each other and heat up. They burn for millions to billions of years, and then they die. When they die, they pitch the particles that formed in their winds out into space, and those bits of stardust eventually form new stars, along with new planets and moons and meteorites. And in a meteorite that fell fifty years ago in Australia, scientists have now discovered star dust that formed 5 to 7 billion years ago -- the oldest solid material ever found on Earth.

"This is one of the most exciting studies I've worked on," says Philipp Heck, a curator at the Field Museum, associate professor at the University of Chicago, and lead author of a paper describing the findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy

of Sciences. "These are the oldest solid materials ever found, and they tell us about how stars formed in our galaxy."

The materials Philipp Heck, an associate professor at the University of Chicago, examined are called presolar grains-minerals formed before the Sun was born. "They're solid samples of stars, real stardust," says Heck. These bits of stardust became trapped in meteorites where they remained unchanged for billions of years, making them time capsules of the time before the solar system. Presolar grains are found only in about five percent of meteorites that have fallen to Earth, but the Field Museum has the largest portion of the Murchison meteorite, a treasure trove of presolar grains that fell in Australia in 1969. Isolating the presolar grains starts with crushing fragments of the meteorite down into a powder which was then dissolved with acid, until only the presolar grains remained. "It's like burning down the haystack to find the needle," says Heck.

The researchers learned that some of the presolar grains in their sample were the oldest ever discovered-based on how many cosmic rays they'd soaked up, most of the grains had to be 4.6 to 4.9 billion years old, and some grains were even older than 5.5 billion years. For context, our Sun is 4.6 billion years old, and Earth is 4.5 billion.

But the age of the presolar grains wasn't the end of the discovery. Since presolar grains are formed when a star dies, they can tell us about the history of stars. And 7 billion years ago, there was apparently a bumper crop of new stars forming-a sort of astral baby boom.

Heck and his colleagues look forward to all of these discoveries furthering our knowledge of our galaxy. "With this study, we have directly determined the lifetimes of stardust. We hope this will be picked up and studied so that people can use this as input for

models of the whole galactic life cycle," he says.

For further info see:

<http://www.geologyin.com/2020/01/7-billion-year-old-stardust-is>



A piece of the Murchison meteorite containing the stardust

From the Lapidarian 3/20

A mother's happiness is like a beacon, lighting up the future but reflected also on the past in the guise of fond memories. Honore de Balzac



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 - \$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 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/mw11index.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.

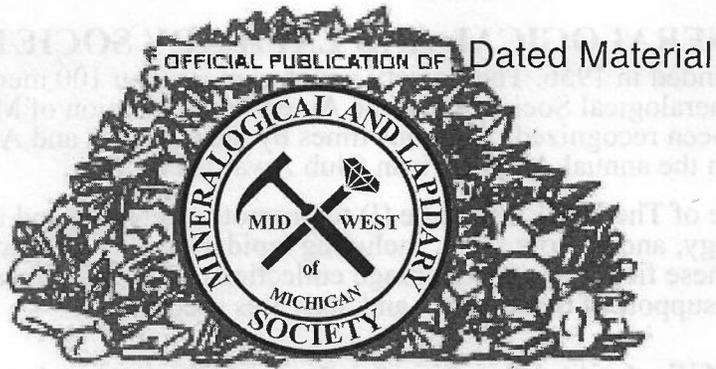
Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.

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



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