

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 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
Elsbeth 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 now closing in on the Autumn of the year... At last "Rocktober" is here. This has been another challenging one for us... It does have a way of defining how resilient we become when we set our minds to it...though we may not have had

a chance to get out and do all the things we wanted.

We did the best we could under the varying circumstances..... Hope everyone had a chance to do some exploring or work on items to be ready for the SuperSwap and November auction.... We are planning to go ahead and enjoy these events... So check your schedules and the dates and watch for any announcements we may have regarding any club events. In the event there may be unforeseen circumstances we will let you know in advance.

Stay busy and stay safe Dan

October Program: Will be a video "Treasures Of The Earth".

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN GEM, MINERAL & ROCK SUPER SWAP

October 2nd from 10 am to 5pm.

October 3rd 10am to 4pm at the

Wayne County Fairgrounds

10871 Quirk Rd. Belleville,

Michigan. For more information

contact Bill Barr

wbarr@umich.edu

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

Dates to Remember!!

Oct. 4th & 18th & 20th Lapidary Work Shop 2009
W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi. 7pm. to 10 pm.
Space is limited so please call Frank Konieczki
734-323-2218 before attending.

Oct. 7th & 21st Bead Study group will meet at the
Kuzara's 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane
Kuzara 734-675-5237.

**Oct. 15th Board Meeting to be at the Kuzara's
house at 7:30pm.Rockpile Deadline.**

Oct. 19th General Meeting will be held at the
Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor
at 7:30 pm.

Oct. 21st Mineral Study group will meet at Dave
Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor, Mi.
At 7:30 pm.

**Nov. 6th MMLS 55th
Annual Auction see flyer
on page 6 for complete
information.**

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

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

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

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

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

Sister Club Events:

Oct. 2-3: TRAVERSE CITY, MI Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 10-5; Sun 11-4. Cherryland VFW Hall, 3400 Veterans Dr., Traverse City. Contact: Jared Bowen, (269) 303-5732; jaredjbowen@gmail.com

Oct. 8-10: WARREN, MI Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Show. Fri 9-6; Sat 10-7; Sun 11-5. Macomb Sports & Expo Center-Bldg P, 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd, Warren. Contact: John Peters, (313) 255-7774; joopett13@hotmail.com

Oct. 15-17: FORT WAYNE, IN Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Fri/Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5. Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Rd., Fort Wayne. Contact: Bev Jenkins, (260) 639-0727; cabsbybev@gmail.com

Oct. 16-17: CLIO, MI Flint Rockland Gem Club Annual Show. 10-5 both days. Carter Middle School, Rogers Lane Dr., Clio. Contact: Bill Wendling, (810) 638-5796; bwrockbarn@centurytel.net

Oct. 22-24: MASON, MI Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society Annual Show. Fri 6-9; Sat 10-6; Sun 11-4. Main Pavillion, Ingham County Fairgrounds, Ash Street, Mason. Contact: Robin Smith, (517) 290-4891; rsmith@redssmith.com

Oct. 24-25: CUYAHOGO FALLS, OH Summit Lapidary Club Annual Show. Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5. Expo Center, 48 East Bath Rd., Cuyahogo Falls. Contact: Becky Kosco, (330) 808-8134

Nov 8: BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI

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

For Sale**Beautiful Fluorite Specimen****3 to 4 Inches tall****Call Ardeana Roberts****Tel: 1-734-682-5420****BOOKS FOR SALE****SCHOLAR'S CORNER****"Index Fossils of North America"**

Shimer & Shrock

Copyright May 1944 first edition

"Minerals of the World"

Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Worlds Rocks and Minerals Rudolf & Lubos Rejl

Copyright in 1986

"Rocks and Minerals"Brian Simpson copyright in 1966 1st edition**"Pocket Guide to Minerals"**

Andrew Clark copyright 1979

"Minerals"

Rupert Hochleitner

Field guide to mineral deposits

"The Jeweler's Directory of Gemstones"

Judith Crowe copyright 2006

Call Ardeana Roberts 1-734-682-5420

From THE FACETIER MARCH 1971

Americans are getting stronger twenty years ago, it took two people to carry \$10 worth of groceries...

Today, a 5 year old does it.

*When I look back on all these worries, I remember the story of the old man who said on his death bed that he had had a lot of trouble in his life, most of which had never happened.
Winston Churchill*

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The Michigan Mineral Beginning with the Letter B: Beryl $Be_3Al_2Si_6O_{18}$

Beryl (/ˈberəl/ BERR-əl) is a mineral composed of beryllium aluminium cyclosilicate. Well-known varieties of beryl include emerald and aquamarine. Naturally occurring, hexagonal crystals of beryl can be up to several meters in size, but terminated crystals are relatively rare. Pure beryl is colorless, but it is frequently tinted by impurities; possible colors are green, blue, yellow, and red (the rarest). Beryl can also be black in color. It is an ore source of beryllium.



Color: Green, blue, yellow and red (the rarest)

Beryl can also be black

Hardness: 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale

Occurrence: Baraga, Dickinson, and Marquette Counties

From the internet Wikipedia

The Birthstone for October: Opal or Tourmaline

Opals

symbolize confidence, loyalty and are seen as representing hope, purity, happiness and faithfulness. Whether it's true or not, these are all good concepts that add an extra touch of meaning to the gemstone.



Meaning for tourmaline is: Healing, power, spiritual maturity, kindness, tolerance, balance.



From the internet

Opalized Wood

Excerpted from an article by Hobart M. King in Geology.com

Opalized wood is a type of petrified wood that is composed of opal rather than chalcedony or another mineral material. It almost always consists of common opal, without play-of-color, but rare instances of petrified wood composed of precious opal are known.



Cabochon made from opalized from Eastern Oregon

One of the most common and best geologic environments for the formation of petrified wood is a forest buried by a volcanic ash fall. In this situation the ash buries the plants and protects them from decay and insect attack. The ash also serves as an abundant source of easily dissolved silica, which will be carried into the wood by moving groundwater where it precipitates in cavities and replaces the solid woody materials. Large deposits of petrified wood in Arizona, Oregon, Wyoming, Indonesia, Russia, Mexico, Brazil, and other parts of the world have formed in this environment.

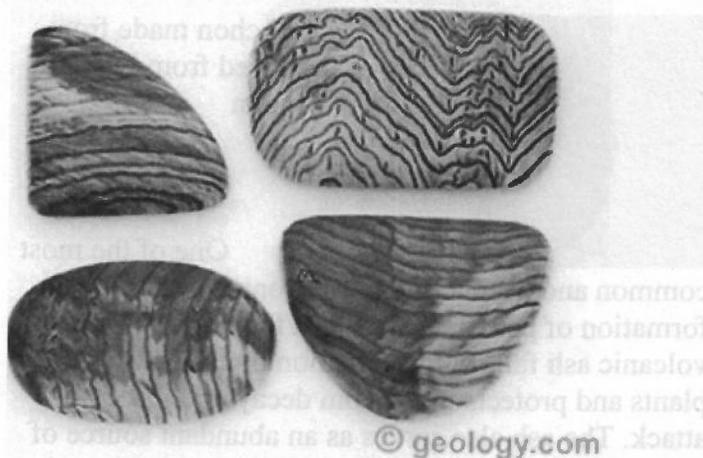
In most situations, the petrified wood found in these deposits today is composed of chalcedony, but in some situations the wood is composed of opal. Both of these varieties of petrified wood often occur

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in a single deposit. Because they are both formed from dissolved silica, they are often called "silicified wood".

Silicified woods composed of opal can easily be distinguished from those composed of chalcedony by three physical properties. In many instances, the less common opalized wood is not recognized because most people assume that it is chalcedony and testing is not done. Opal has a lower specific gravity, a lower hardness, and a lower refractive index. Any one of these can be used to separate opal from chalcedony.

Opalized wood can be just as beautiful as petrified wood composed of chalcedony. However, opalized wood has durability differences and is less suitable for some jewelry and lapidary projects. Opalized wood has a lower hardness and is more easily damaged by abrasion. Some people might hear the name "opalized" wood and assume that it is more valuable than other types of petrified wood. That would be definitely be true if the opal is "precious opal" and exhibits a fine play-of-color. Wood petrified by precious opal does exist, and fine specimens can sell for extremely high prices.



These cabochons were cut from an opalized wood known as Herring bone Sequoia. The rough was found in the Snake River / Hell's Canyon

However, most opalized wood is common opal, and the seller often does not know that it is opal (rather than chalcedony) because testing was not done. An argument can be made that opalized wood should sell for a lower price because of its potential durability issues.

As with most gems, color, pattern and beauty are typically what determines value. If an especially beautiful specimen of opalized wood is found and made into a pin, pendant or other item of jewelry where durability is less of a concern, it could justifiably be sold for the high price that its beauty deserves. Beautiful specimens of wood petrified by precious opal are known to sell for very high prices. They have both the beauty of precious opal, plus the interesting aspect of being an organic gem. Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society Lapidarian
From The Lapidarian 3/21

Dinosaur Horns Were for Making Love, Not War

Excerpted from an article by Dennis Gertenbach in the 8/2018 issue of the Flatiron Facets

Most of us have seen reconstructions of Triceratops and related dinosaurs with their elaborate horns and frills attacking Tyrannosaurus in a battle to the death. A new study casts doubts on this scenario, providing evidence that the frills and horns of Triceratops and other ceratopsians, or horned dinosaurs, were all about looking good,



as well as defensive. While common sense and even fossil evidence suggests that Triceratops' sharp horns were for protection, it does not explain the elaborate ornamentation of recently discovered species like *Regaliceratops peterhewsi*, the "Hellboy Dinosaur" or *Machai roceratops cronusi* the "Bent Sword Face" dinosaur. By comparing 350 traits of 46 ceratopsian species that evolved over a 15-million-year time span, researchers found that these ornaments generally evolved much faster than other traits. Growing and carrying around these ornate frills and horns is quite energy intensive, and the elaborate head gear is not needed

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for defense. So why evolve these elaborate horns and frills? Sexual selection demonstrating genetic fitness, similar to a peacock's feathers, is the best answer.

Artists life reconstruction of *Regaliceratops peterhewsi*.

From Lapidarian 3/21

Some Rare Diamonds Form Out of The Remains of Once-Living Creatures



Despite humanity's intense fascination with sparkly pieces of carbon, it seems there is still plenty to learn about how diamonds form deep within our planet.

The Earth's deepest diamonds are commonly made up of former living organisms that have effectively been recycled more than 400 kilometres below the surface, new Curtin research has discovered.

The research, published in Nature's Scientific Reports, found that both diamonds found in oceanic rocks and the so-called super-deep continental diamonds shared a common origin of recycled organic carbon deep within the Earth's mantle.

Lead author Dr Luc Doucet, from Curtin's Earth Dynamics Research Group within the School of Earth and Planetary Sciences, said the findings offered a fascinating insight into the world's most expensive gemstones.

"Bringing new meaning to the old trash to treasure adage, this research discovered that the Earth's engine actually turns organic carbon into diamonds many hundreds of kilometres below the surface," Dr Doucet said.

"Ballooning rocks from the Earth's deeper mantle, called mantle plumes, then carry the diamonds back up to the Earth's surface via volcanic eruptions for humans to enjoy as sought-after gemstones.

"While recycling is becoming a modern-day necessity for our sustainable survival, we were particularly surprised to learn, through this research, that Mother Nature has been showing us how to recycle with style for billions of years."

The three main types of natural diamonds include oceanic, super-deep continental and lithospheric diamonds, formed at different levels of the mantle with a varying mixture of organic and inorganic carbon.

Co-lead author John Curtin Distinguished Professor Zheng-Xiang Li, the Head of the Earth Dynamics Research Group, said the research provided a model that explains the formation and locations of all three major types of diamonds.

"This is the first time that all three major types of diamonds have been linked to mantle plumes, ballooning hot rocks driven by plate tectonics and the supercontinent cycle from deeper Earth," Professor Li said.

"This research not only helps to understand Earth's carbon cycle, but also has the potential to unlock more secrets of the Earth's dynamic history through tracking the past locations of mantle plumes and super plumes. This can be achieved by mapping out the distribution of both continental and oceanic diamonds."

However, Professor Li said it remained a mystery as to why diamonds formed in the so-called "mantle transition zone", 400 to 600 kilometres deep, utilised recycled organic carbon only.

From the internet Geologyin.com

*Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society
presents*

55th Annual Auction
Saturday, November 6, 2021
New Location

First Assembly of God Church
5650 S. Telegraph Road,
Dearborn Heights, MI

Doors open at 6:00 pm

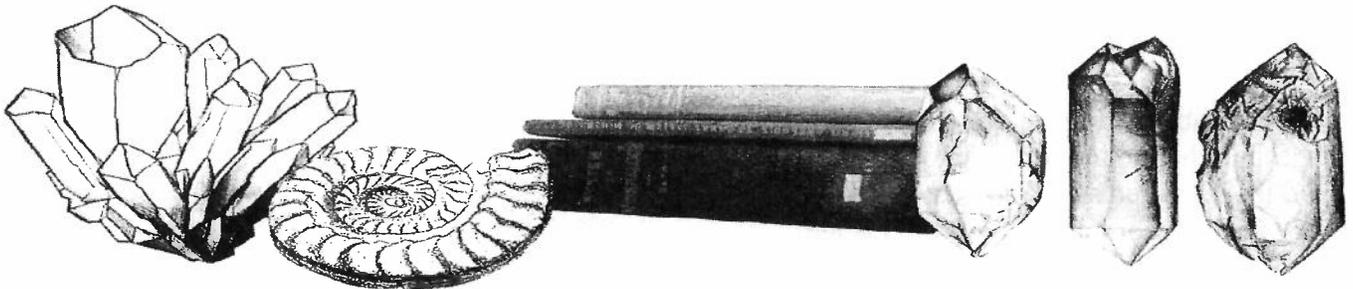
Sales tables open from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm and during intermission

Auction starts at 7:00 pm

Before planning to attend, please check the MMLS website

**At <https://www.mmls.us> for up to date status in case we are forced to cancel because of
pandemic concerns**

Wearing Masks is Highly Recommended



*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 contact 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 (1) to promote interest in and increase knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, and paleontology, including lapidary and related arts; (2) to publish articles and information pertaining to these fields; (3) to encourage collections and to display specimens in these fields; and (4) to arrange field trips in support of the interests and activities specified.

GENERAL MEETINGS: the third Tuesday of each month, September through June, 7:30 p.m. at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**

MEMBERSHIP: Applications for membership can be obtained at any general meeting or from any MMLS member. DUES: Entrance fee - \$3.00; annual dues - \$20.00 (adult), \$2.00 (junior) on a year basis. Membership expires each Dec. 31.

ANNUAL EVENTS:

March - Spring Rock Swap and Sale, Banquet Fall- 2 Day SuperSwap and Sale November Annual Auction
Yearly Picnic

STUDY GROUPS: Special-interest study groups meet monthly, September through June. Currently the following groups are active: Bead Study, Mineralogy, Wire Study is conducted on individual basis.

FIELD TRIPS: Several one day field trips and one longer (one to two weeks) field trips are conducted each year. Mostly, these field trips focus on the collecting of mineral and fossil specimens at quarries, mines, and other known collecting sites in the United States and Canada. Field trips are restricted to MMLS members.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND: MMLS has established a scholarship Endowment Fund which provides scholarships to qualified students enrolled in an accredited college or university in southeastern Michigan who have completed at least their junior year and have a major in geology, mineralogy, paleontology or lapidary and related arts.

SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM: MMLS has designated the A.E. SEAMAN Mineral Museum, Houghton, Michigan, as it's "adoptive" museum, pledging to support it with gifts to the museum's endowment fund and the donation of mineral specimens and services.

INTERNET WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

Midwest Federation:
www.amfed.org/mw1/index.html American
Lands Access Association: <http://amlands.org>

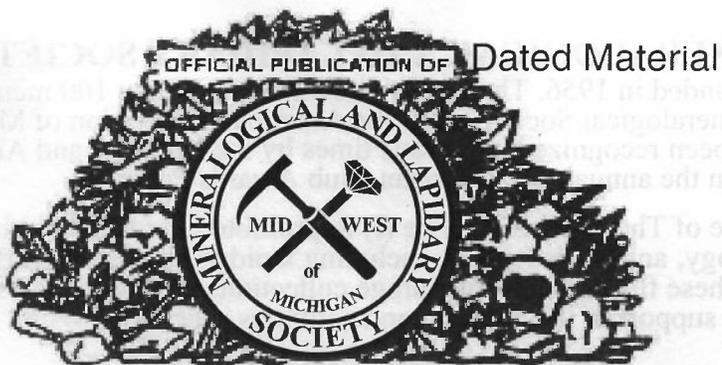
American Federation:
www.amfed.org

The Rockhound's 10 Commandments:

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

Midwest
Mineralogical and
Lapidary
Society of
Michigan

EDITOR
20281 THOMAS
BROWNSTOWN, MI
48183



The ROCKPILE

Bulletin Editor Contest Awards



- 1993 – 1st Place (Large Bulletin) AFMS
- 1991 – 1st Place (Large Bulletin) MWF
- 1990 – 1st Place (New Editor) AFMS
- 1990 – 1st Place (New Editor) MWF