

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 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 -



President Message: “Civilization existed by geological consent, subject to change without notice” Will Durant
This quote can’t be more true. On April 9th, a lava boulder shot through the air for 15 seconds, at Santa Maria volcano in Santiaguito, Guatemala and recently massive destruction in Myanmar, Thailand and in China an earthquake took place. I guess we don’t have it so bad here in Michigan.

Earth’s constant changes just promote more opportunities for us Rockhounds. I want to thank Lou Tally for another successful spring rock swap and a shout out to Gary Slominski for helping at the club table. Hopefully I will see everyone at our club banquet and at our field trip to the Sylvania Aggregate Quarry. Until then stay safe and be good to one another.

President Mike

May Program: The Viking Hoard gold and artifacts , will be played since we didn’t play it in March.

Welcome New Member:

Michael Brylinsky

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.

Come Join Us, Come Join Us!!!

Please join the club for our Annual Banquet,

Saturday, May 3, 2025 at the Hungarian Rhapsody Restaurant, 14315 Northline Rd., Southgate, MI 48195.

We held the Banquet here last year and it was most enjoyable, with authentic, home cooked food and plenty of desserts.

Anticipated cost is \$22.00 per person with the club paying for non-alcoholic beverages and the gratuity.

Doris Snyder, our treasurer, is taking reservations.

For more information, contact Banquet Chairman, Andrea Rinker, at foothealer@gmail.com.

We need at least 25 people to attend. Guests are welcome.

May 1st & 15th Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara’s, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

May 7th 21st & 23rd 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.

May 15th 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.

May 20th June Rockpile deadline.

May 20th Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm.

May 20th General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

June 2nd & 16th & 18th 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.

June 5th & 19th Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara’s, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

June 17th Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm.

June 17th General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

June 19th 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

May 2-4—KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN: Show and sale; Kalamazoo Geological Society; Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street; 45+ dealers, silent auction, kids activities, geode cracking, daily door prizes, something for everyone; contact Rick Berner; Email: (269)-217-6568; Website: kalamazoorockclub.org

May 3-4—TOLEDO, OHIO: Show and sale; Northwest Ohio Rockhounds; St James Lutheran Church, 4727 Sylvania Ave; ; Free Kid's Activities Rock Identification, Geode Cracking, Fossils, Minerals. Slabs, Rough, contact Suzanne Shimatzki, (419) 376-2650; Email: sshimatzki@gmail.com; Website: <https://www.facebook.com/NWORockhounds/>

May 10—KITCHENER, ONTARIO: Annual show; Kitchener Waterloo Gem and Mineral Show; Kitchener Auditorium, 400 East Avenue; Sat. 10-4; Adults \$2, children under 12 free; You will find rocks, minerals, fossils, meteorites, displays, beads and jewelry. Children's activities; contact Donna; Email: dhollander@rogers.com; Website: www.kwgm.com

May 30th to June 1st State Line Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show. Fulton County Fairgrounds, 8514 OH-108, Wauseon, OH 43567. Contact: Sherman Kardatzke, (517) 673-5487; skardatzke@gmail.com; statelinegms.com

May 31st SPRING POP UP The Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Rock & Jewelry Show Outdoor Event, Rain or Shine. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Christ Lutheran Church, 5987 William Lk. Rd, Waterford, MI 48329 Contact us lgms.mich@gmail.com TEXT 517-376-2190 Terri R.

June 7th & 8th Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club

Annual Show Fairhaven Hall, Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 N Home Rd, Mansfield, OH 44906, Contact: Tom Kottyan, (419) 561-3595; themineralhouse75@gmail.com; www.midohiomineralandfossilclub.com

June 14th Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Rock Swap Contact: Kreigh Tomszewski, (616) 243-5851; kreigh@gmail.com; www.indianmoundsrockclub.com

June 27 & 28 & 29 Lawrence County Rock Club Annual Show Lawrence County Fairgrounds, 11265 US-50, Bedford, IN 47421, USA Contact: Kathy Shaffer, (812) 929-536

Book your own fossil-hunting field trip

this summer with Ancient Odysseys

Did you know you can hunt for dinosaurs and other fossils in the US (and around the world)?

- At Triceratops Gulch in Wyoming, join a 4 day hunt for dinosaurs in the Morrison Formation.
- At Petrified Forest in Arizona, search for fossils of the earliest dinosaurs.
- For something "newer" head to South Dakota to excavate Ice Age Columbian and Woolly mammoths.
- Grab the kids and head to Stonerose in Republic, WA, to search for (and keep) Eocene plant and insect fossils. There is a fee to join these digs that covers costs for the research, science and tools. Check out AncientOdysseys.com for details on these and other digs. For any questions or to book a group, email Marisa at info@ancientodysseys.com.

Upcoming dino digs...

- Pioneer Trails Regional Museum: Bowman, North Dakota
- Petrified Forest Field Institute: Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona Triceratops Gulch Project: Glenrock, Wyoming
- Montana Learning Center Dino Camp (for teens): Ekalaka, Montana Non-dino...
- The Mammoth Site: Hot Springs, South Dakota From Rocky Trails 4/25

Michigan Minerals Beginning With the Letter R: Rhodochrosite $MnCO_3$

Rhodochrosite is a **manganese carbonate mineral**. It is typically rose-red in color, but can also be shades of pink to pale brown. It is found in a small number of locations worldwide where other manganese minerals are usually present. Rhodochrosite is sometimes used as an ore of manganese but is rarely found in economic quantities. The most notable deposits are in Argentina, Peru, and Colorado. Rhodochrosite is a popular stone that hosts many metaphysical healing properties and benefits.



Exhibit in La Plata Museum,
Argentina.

Color: Pink, rose, rose-red, red, cherry-red, yellow, yellowish-gray, grey, cinnamon-brown, white, may be banded, colorless to pale rose in transmitted light.
Hardness: 3.5 to 4 on the mohs scale.
Occurrence: Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw and Marquette Counties.
From the internet Wikipedia.

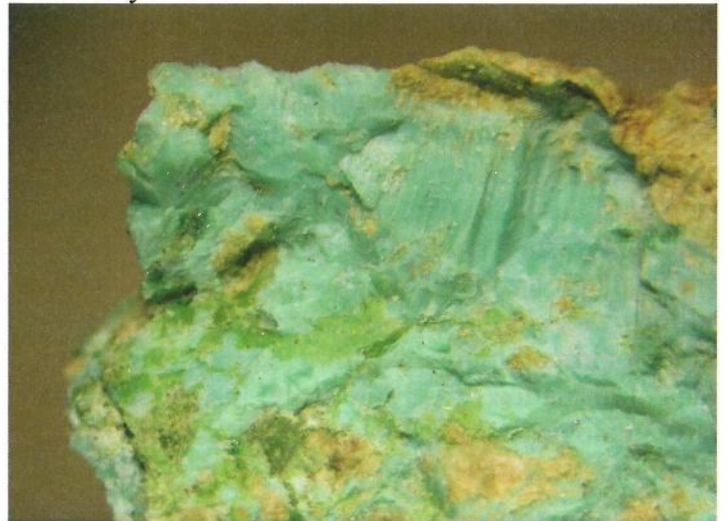
Jasper Picture Jasper



Popular collecting areas for picture jaspers are Oregon and Idaho

Moolooite

By Julia Allande TRMS



Sometimes we encounter a name or a specimen that is so totally Out-Of-The Ordinary that we cannot help but investigate further and then share what we have learned with others!

MOOLOOITE -- who has ever heard of it? Not many, I guarantee! No, it is not a misspelling of Mookaite, which is a jasper found in Western Australia. Moolooite is a copper oxalate, $Cu(C_2O_4) \cdot nH_2O$ from Mooloo Downs Station, Australia (of course!). The stuff is dull, waxy, translucent, turquoise-green or blue to green, of the orthorhombic system. Surprisingly, it leaves a blue-green streak. It is found as "micro-concretionary" crusts and powders in cracks and solution cavities.

The NEATEST thing about it, I think, is that it may be a bio-mineral formed by the action of certain lichens growing on cupriferous (copper-iron) rocks. These lichens act upon the bird guano and the weathering rocks beneath them, creating the resulting Moolooite.

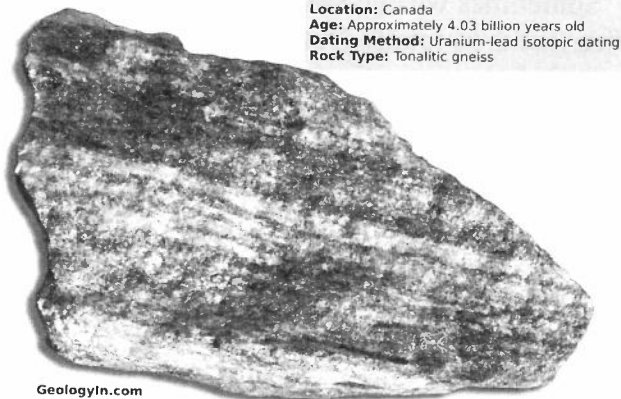
Don't bother to try to obtain any specimens, however; it is so scarce that the type material is held at the Government Chemical Laboratories in Perth, Australia.
From AFMS Newsletter 5/23 and the Internet Wikipedia

What are The Oldest Rocks on Earth

The oldest known rock on Earth is the Acasta

Gneiss, located in the Slave Craton of the Canadian Shield, near the Acasta River in the Northwest Territories of Canada. It has been dated to approximately 4.03 billion years old through uranium-lead isotopic dating of zircon minerals within the rock. This ancient formation offers significant insights into the early geological processes and environmental conditions of Earth. The oldest known rock on Earth is the Acasta Gneiss, located in the Slave Craton of the Canadian Shield, near the Acasta River in the Northwest Territories of Canada. It has been dated to approximately 4.03 billion years old through uranium-lead isotopic dating of zircon minerals within the rock. This ancient formation offers significant insights into the early geological processes and environmental conditions of Earth.

The oldest known rock on Earth is the Acasta Gneiss



Location: Canada
Age: Approximately 4.03 billion years old
Dating Method: Uranium-lead isotopic dating
Rock Type: Tonalitic gneiss

GeologyIn.com

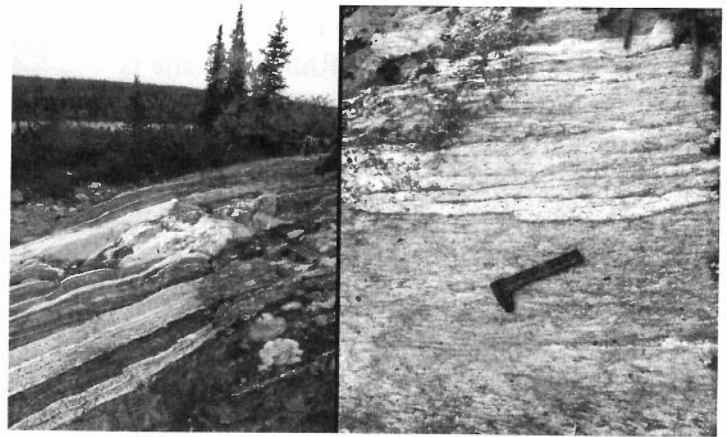
Characteristics of the Acasta Gneiss

Type of Rock: The Acasta Gneiss is classified as tonalitic gneiss, a high-grade metamorphic rock. Tonalites are igneous rocks that undergo transformation into gneiss due to intense heat and pressure, often associated with tectonic activity.

Formation: This ancient rock is believed to have originally crystallized as part of Earth's earliest continental crust. Over billions of years, it experienced substantial metamorphic changes, particularly during the Archean Eon (4.0 to 2.5 billion years ago).

Composition: The rock is primarily mineral composed of feldspar, quartz, and mica, typical of metamorphic rocks that have undergone high-grade transformation.

Discovery and Location



The Acasta Gneiss was first identified in the 1980s by geologists investigating remnants of Earth's ancient crust. It lies within the Slave Craton, a stable geological region in Canada's Northwest Territories. Since its discovery, the formation has been extensively studied for clues about the conditions and processes that shaped early Earth.

Significance of the Acasta Gneiss

Oldest Known Rock: The Acasta Gneiss holds the distinction of being the oldest intact rock formation yet discovered, providing direct insights into the early history of Earth's crust. Clues to Early Earth: This rock offers evidence of the planet's cooling, the emergence of continental crust, and the transition from the Hadean Eon (4.6–4.0 billion years ago) to the Archean Eon.

Tectonic Processes: Its study has advanced understanding of early tectonic activity and the dynamic nature of Earth's crust during its formative stages.

Dating Methodology Scientists determined the age of the Acasta Gneiss using uranium-lead dating on zircon minerals embedded within the rock. Zircons are highly resistant to weathering and metamorphism, making them reliable markers of geological time.

From the internet GeologyIn

Mammoths

By Jim Brace-Thompson VGMS

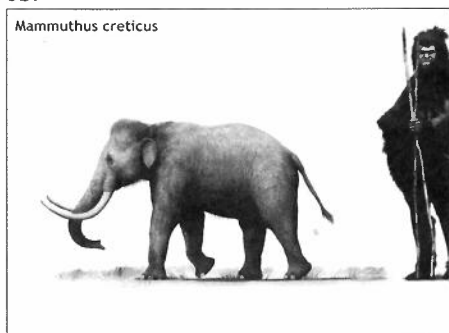
Other than dinosaurs and Megalodon sharks, few prehistoric critters hold attention so much as the

great beasts of the Ice Ages: cave bears, saber-tooth cats, ground sloths, and mammoths. Our own ancestors hunted them and painted their images in the



caves of Europe. Mammoths roamed the earth starting five million years ago. Examining cells from mammoths frozen in Arctic permafrost, scientists have determined they shared 98.5% of their genes with today's African elephants. It's believed elephants migrated out of Africa and evolved into two family trees. One led to today's Asian elephants; the other, to mammoths.

Mammoths tromped their way throughout the Northern Hemisphere. In some states, their bones are so common they've been named the state fossil, as in Alaska, Nebraska, and Washington. Their bones have been found in my state of California, including the locally famous Moorpark Mammoth (an example of the Southern Mammoth, *Mammuthus meridionalis*) and Columbian Mammoths (*Mammuthus columbi*) excavated from the tar pits of Rancho La Brea. On the Channel Islands, a unique group of pygmy mammoths, *Mammuthus exilis*, trumpeted just offshore from my hometown of Ventura. It's believed this population became stranded and underwent "dwarfism," or shrinking over the course of generations, as often happens to large animals that find themselves on small islands with limited resources.



Most mammoths went extinct 10,000 years ago. A remnant population on Wrangel Island in the East Siberian Sea held on until 3,500 years ago—or the time of the Egyptian pharaohs! What finally did them in? Did cavemen hunt them to extinction? Were they wiped out by some deadly variation of today's ebola virus? Or did they simply fail to adapt to changing climate? And is it possible that someday, using cells from mammoths frozen in the Siberian permafrost, we'll be able to clone and raise the mighty mammoth to walk and amaze us in a "Pleistocene Park"? The answers are yet to be written and invite you to join in the hunt.

Fun Facts About Rocks and Minerals

What facts about rocks do you know? Even though rocks and minerals are abundantly available, many people do not take an interest in them, yet there is a lot to learn about them. Moreover, they are one of the most utilized natural resources. Here goes!

The major construction material of the Pyramid of Giza in Egypt is limestone, a sedimentary rock.

Electronics such as radios and watches are made using quartz. Quartz maintains an accurate frequency standard, making it desirable for use in electronics.

Sand is one of the raw materials used in making glass. It is combined with other materials, heated at high temperatures, and forms glass when it cools.

Gold, one of the most precious metals in the world, is underexploited. It is estimated that 80% of gold has not been discovered.

Minerals are pure inorganic substances, and that makes pure metals to be minerals.

The most expensive mineral is Jadeite. One carat of the mineral can fetch up to \$3 million.

The Sandstone in the Southern Alps-Of New Zealand is the fastest eroding rock. It erodes at the rate of 2.5 millimetres per year

Painite is the rarest mineral on earth. It was discovered in 1951, and there only two dozen of the mineral.

Rocks can be used to estimate how old the earth is. Scientists have estimated that the earth could be 4.54 billion years old.

Pumice is the lightest rock on earth. Due to the rock's porous structure, it floats on water.

Shale is the most abundant sedimentary rock. It is about 70% of sedimentary rocks on earth.

Rocks form some breathtaking landmarks on earth. Some of the notable ones include Balancing Rock (Canada), Old Harry Rocks (Cyprus), Aphrodite's Rocks (England), Uluru aka Ayers Rock (Australia), and Horseshoe Bend (Arizona, USA)

The hardness of a mineral is measured using the Mohs mineral hardness scale. The device was invented by German mineralogist Friedrich Mohs.

Humans consider gemstones highly valuable due to their scarcity, beauty, and durability.

There are about 100 minerals from rocks are used to make some of the things you use at home. For instance, toothpaste, soap, battery, and some makeup are made from rock minerals.

A gemstone's weight is measured in carats. One carat is approximately 0.2 grams.

There are three types of rocks, sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous.

Rocks are made up of minerals, while minerals are made up of chemicals found in the earth.

Magma is molten rock below the earth's surface. It becomes lava when it comes to the earth's surface and when it cools, it forms rocks. Rocks are formed from volcanic activities, deposition of sediments, and subjection to mechanical force or heating.

From the Michigan Gem News 5/23

THE ROCK COLLECTOR

By D.B. Pickett, Member, Pacific Mineral Society

I think that there shall never be
An ignoramus just like me.

Who roams the hills throughout the day
To pick up rocks that do not pay.

For there's one thing that I've been told
I take the rocks and leave the gold.

O'er deserts wild or mountains blue
I search for rocks of varied hue.

I hundred pounds or more I pack
With blistered feet and aching back.

And after this is said and done
I cannot name a single one.

I pick up rocks where e'er I go,
The reason why I do not know,

For rocks are found by fools like me
Where God intended them to be.

-from Carney Hound 10/94
via Tulip City Conglomerate 1/96
From The Strata Data 4/25

**REMEMBER MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 26!**



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/mw11index.html American
Lands Access Association: <http://amlands.org>

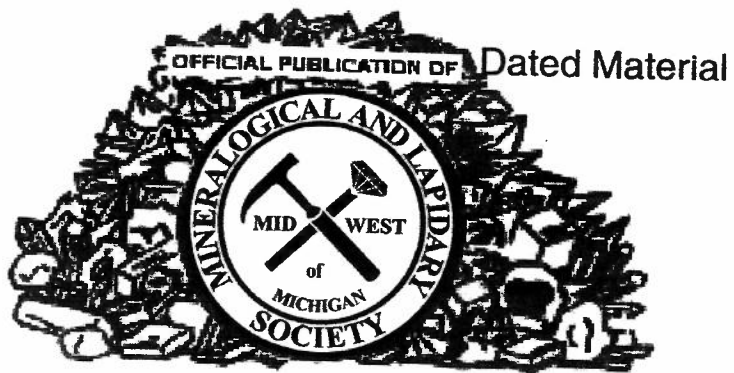
American Federation:
www.amfed.org

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 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



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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