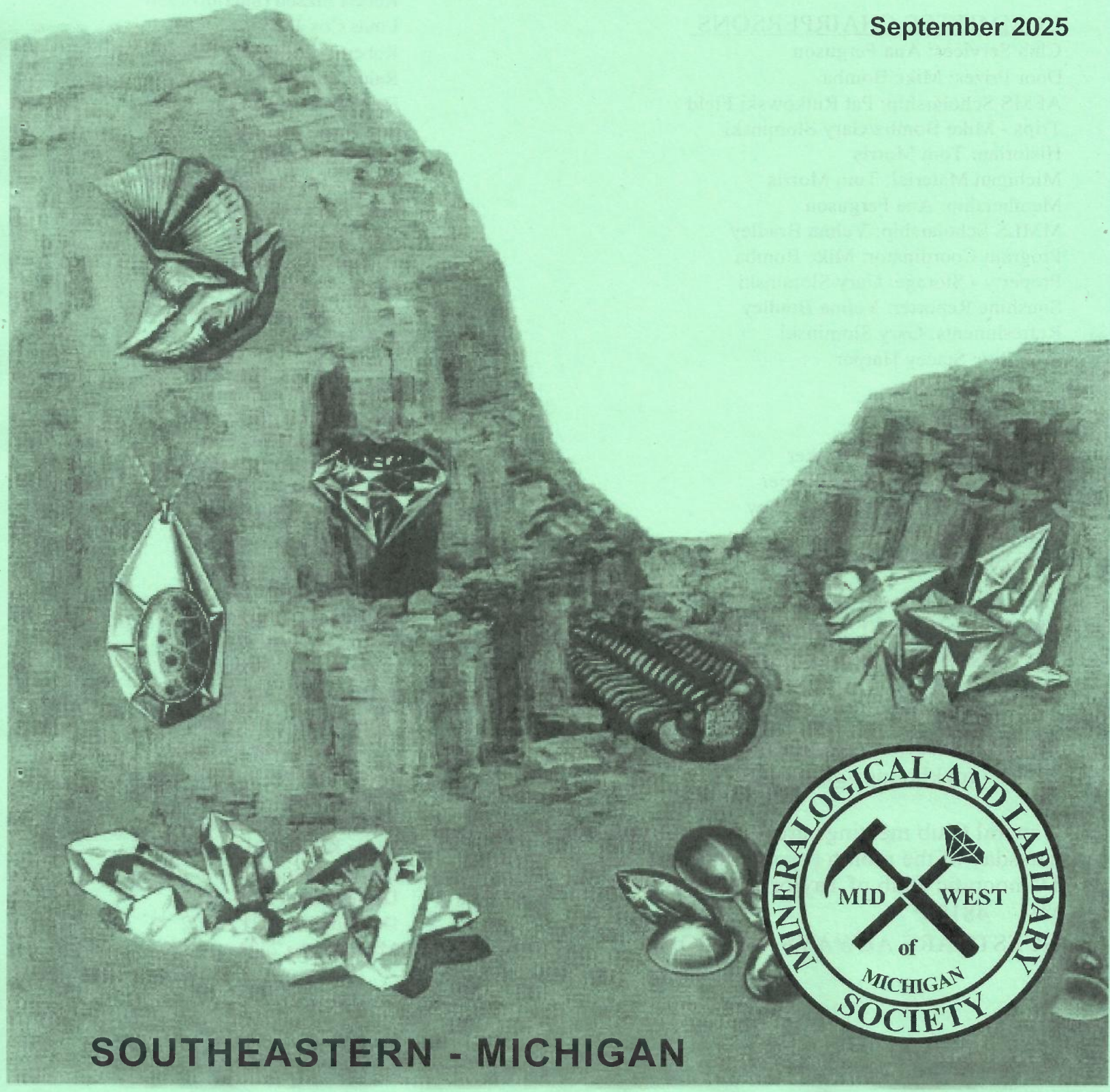
THE ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

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

September 2025



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2025 OFFICERS

President: Mike Bomba (313) 381-8455
Vice President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Recording Secretary: Andrea Rinker (734) 755-2570
Treasurer: Doris Snyder (313) 291-2133
Corresponding Secretary: Andrea Rinker (734) 755-2570
Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara (734) 675-5237

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Club Services: Ana Ferguson
Door Prizes: Mike Bomba
AFMS Scholarship: Pat Rutkowski Field
Trips - Mike Bomba/Gary Slominski
Historian: Tom Morris
Michigan Material: Tom Morris
Membership: Ana Ferguson
MMLS Scholarship: Velma Bradley
Program Coordinator: Mike Bomba
Property - Storage: Gary Slominski
Sunshine Reporter: Velma Bradley
Refreshments: Gary Slominski
Web Site: Stacey Harper

ACTIVITIES

2025 Banquet: Andrea Rinker
2025 Club Picnic: Stacey Harper
2025 Swap: Lou and Cindy Talley
2025 Super Swap: Bill Barr
2025 Auction: Dwayne Ferguson

The Rockpile Staff : Editor Peter Kuzara,
email: Kuzara1126@gmail.com 734-675-5237

MMLS website - www.mmls.us
Email - rockhounds@mmls.us

General Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on every third Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor, MI 48180
GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

STUDY GROUPS

Lapidary: Workshop at Frank Konieczki
Bead Study: Diane Kuzara
Mineralogy: Frank Konieczki

PAST PRESIDENTS

Robert Ellison (interim) 1956
Louis Cox 1957
Robert Heldenbrand 1958-59
Ralph Gamble 1959-60
Fred Miller 1960-61
Bert Smart 1961-62
Leo Nieman 1963
Nicholas Rothenthaler 1964-65
Robert Fedoruk 1966-6
John Good 1968-69
Cecilia Duluk 1970
Stanley Franczak 1971- 72
E. Donald Stinnett 1973-74
Ralph Goniea 1975-76
Norman Hanschu 1977- 78
Thomas Gibbs 1979-80
Harry Nagy 1981-82
Elspeth Gibbs 1983-84
Loretta Franczak 1985-86
Roland Snyder 1987-88
Jay Ross 1989-90
Tom Morris Jr. 1991-92
Diane Kuzara 1993-94
Bill Orban 1995-96
Glenn Swain 1997-98
Bill Peach 1999-2000
Diane Kuzara 2001-02
Cecilia Duluk 2003-04
Russ Ranker 2005-06
Dick DePodesta 2007-08
Rich Williams 2009-10
Leonard Swisher 2011-12
Mike Bomba 2013 - 14
Diane Kuzara 2015 - 16
Dan Gumina 2017 - 18
Diane Kuzara 2019 -2020
Dan Gumina 2021 - 2022
Mike Bomba 2023 -

THE ROCKPILE
September, 2025 Volume LXIX Issue 7

President Message: Welcome back from summer vacation. I hope everyone found some good rocks and minerals to show off at our September Brag Night. Autumn is one of my favorite times of year, especially with our activities coming up. If anyone would like a table at our SuperSwap , call Bill Barr and reserve one. Thanks Bill for taking care of us for the SuperSwap once again this year. With all these activities coming up, I hope to see everyone at the meeting in September . Hopefully we can get some people to help out with the activities and by the way, we are still looking for a new editor to replace Pete Kuzara. I love Our Club because it gives me a chance to escape all the problems that are going on in this world today . I hope you all feel the same.

Your President Mike Bomba !

SAVE THE DATE!

MMLS September Picnic
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH
11AM - 3PM
Enjoy delicious food, fun activities and quality time in the great outdoors.

RSVP and find out more information at
734-826-7253
15312 Elwell Road, VAn Buren Twp. MI

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

Ayla Sisco from Cental Michigan University
Gabriella Kupper from University of Michigan
Andrew Chiles from Wayne State

September Program: Brag Night

Members are asked to bring to the General Meeting some mineral they collected. It could be self collected or purchased. They can also bring in an item that they crafted.

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.

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

Sept 15th & 17th 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.

Sept 16th Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6:30 pm.

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

Sept. 18th Mineral Study Group will meet at the West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St., Ann Arbor at 7:30 PM. Contact for the group is Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218.

OCT 4 & 5 SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN GEM, MINERAL & ROCK

SUPERSWAP HOSTED BY THE MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY. CHECK THE FLYER ON PAGE 6.

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

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

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

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

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

Sister Club Events

Sept. 5-7 GREENFIELD, INDIANA: Annual show; 500 Earth Sciences Club; Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple Street contact Brian Mercer, (317) 459-1572; Email: bkremercer@gmail.com; Website: 500earthsciencesclub.org

Sept 5-7—BOWLING GREEN, OHIO: Annual show; Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club; Wood County Fairgrounds, 13800 W Poe Rd. contact Jerri A Heer, (419) 344-9999; Email: jheerx6@aol.com

Sept 6 Kalamazoo Rock Club Annual Tailgate Sale St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7211 Oakland Dr, Portage, MI Notes Contact: Sheila Atherton, (269) 303-6853; Bruce Atherton, (269) 251-3858

Sept. 12, 13, &14 Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show Holland Township Community Center, 12343 James St., Holland, MI Contact: C.J. Proos, charlieohnproos@gmail.com www.tulipcity.org

Sept. 20 & 21 Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Rockhounds Dream Show. Hartland Educational Support Service Center on M59 9525 E. Highland Rd. For information Terri Ridenour 571-376-2190

Sept. 28 Flint Rock & Gem Club Annual Show 10:00am – 5:00pm
Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad, 6140 N Bray Rd, Flint, MI 48505, Contact: Bill Wendling, (810) 638-5796; flintrockandgem.org

OCT 4 & 5 SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN GEM, MINERAL & ROCK SUPERSWAP HOSTED BY THE MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY. WAYNE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 10871 QUIRK RD . BELLEVILLE, MI. FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CALL BILL BARR AT 505-803-4888 0R EMAIL bilbobarr49@gmail.com
CHECK OUT THE FLYER ON PAGE 6.

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

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

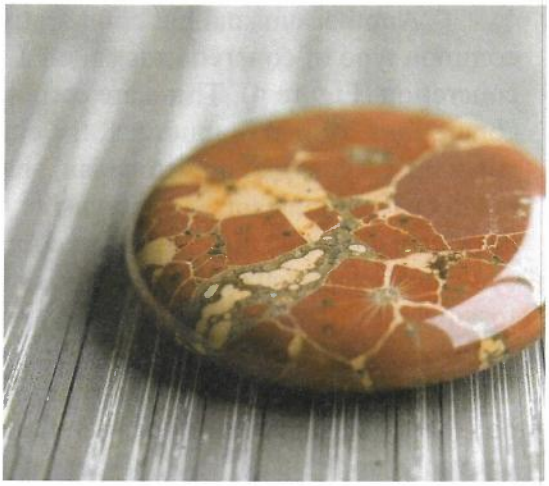
Oct.26 Summit Lapidary Club & Akron Mineral Society Gemboree Annual Show
Emidio & Sons Banquet Center, 48 E Bath Rd,

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223, USA
Contact: Cathy Milhoan, (330) 929-3798;
gemboreelead@gmail.com;
membershipchair@gmail.com;
summitlapidary@gmail.com;
www.summitlapidary.com

Michigan Minerals Beginning With the Letter T: Tenorite CuO

Tenorite, sometimes also called Black Copper, is a copper oxide mineral with the chemical formula CuO. The chemical name is Copper(II) oxide or cupric oxide.
Color: Steel gray, Iron gray, Black or Brown
Hardness: 3.5 to 4 on the mohs scale
Occurrence: Keweenaw and Ontonagon Counties
From the Internet Wikipedia

Jasper
Brecciated Jasper



What Is Brecciated Jasper?

This gemstone Brecciated Jasper is a kind of jasper, which is a form of the chalcedony, a mineral kind in the quartz family. The term Brecciated" comes from "breccia" – a geology term used to identify rock composed of the broken fragments cemented into a very fine grained matrix stone.
From the Internet Crystal Stones

The Alien Form of Concretions

By Claire Christensen, NSL&MC

Concretions are unusual formations of rock that capture the imagination, from believing they are ancient sea turtle fossils to crediting aliens with their creation. The reality is rather less fantastical, but still fascinating.

When loose sediment is buried and its water content lessens, a component mineral of that sediment can precipitate and solidify around a nucleus, typically organic material (plant matter, a shell, and so on). This is one way a concretion can form - concentric growth (layers upon layers) means the concretion will be roughly spherical, and barring erosion can grow with age. An example of concentrically formed concretions is Bowling Ball Beach in Mendocino County, California, so named for the large spherical concretions visible at low tide (Figure 1). They were formed in sandstone, one of the three most common hosts along with siltstone and shale.

Figure 1 Bowling Ball Beach concretions in Mendocino County Ca

Another instance of concentric growth are the Moqui marbles of Southern Utah-sandstone and iron oxide con-cretions (Figure 2). They formed when sand mixed with hematite, was subsequently buried, and groundwater flowed through, picking up the iron from the sand and turning it white. Eventually, the iron precipitated back out of the

groundwater and began solidifying around grains of sand. The Moqui marbles bear a striking resemblance to concretions found on Mars in 2004, which bolstered the theory that Mars once had water (Figure 3). Studying the marbles can shed light on Mars' geologic history as well as Utah's.

Figure2 Moqui marbles in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT

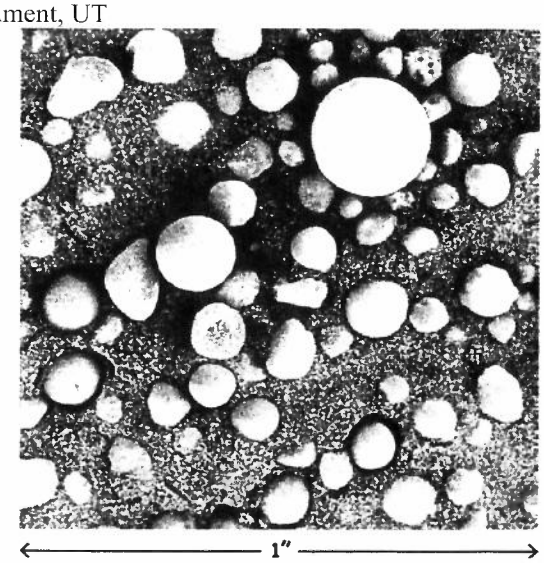


Figure 3: Martian "blueberries - this image is one inch across

Perhaps the most unique case of concentric growth con-cretions is found on the east coast of the UK: in a salt marsh in Lincolnshire, siderite concretions have grown around World War II-era shrapnel. Over a period of three years in the early '90s, roughly 80 samples were collected, and of the 35 that were sawed open, all of them either currently had an iron nucleus or texture to suggest they once did.

The other way that concretions can form is by pervasive growth, when pore space of the host sediment is filled all at once when a component mineral precipitates from groundwater. This method Of formation usually means the concretion will not grow with time.

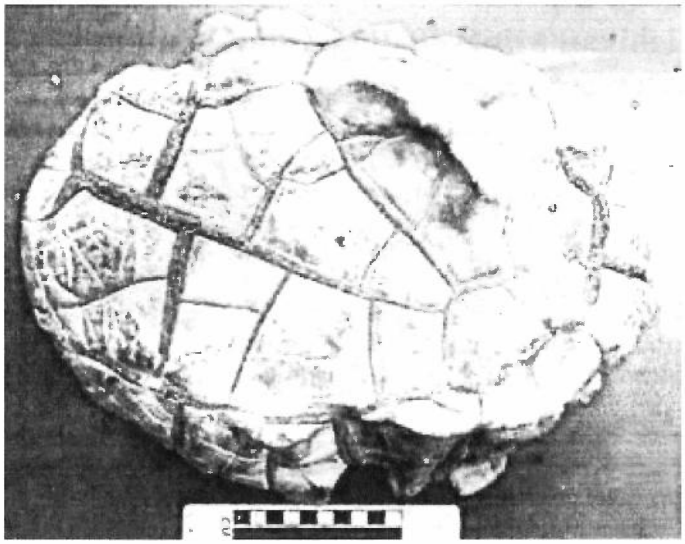


Figure 4 Septarian concretion in the collection of the Paleontological research Institute.

Another unusual but comparatively more common type of concretion is called a septarian concretion (Figure 4). These are carbonate-rich concretions formed in mudrock, the class containing siltstone, clay stone, mudstone and shale. These are not decisively concentric or pervasive, though some do have a clear nucleus. Septarian concretions are eye-catching, and are sometimes mistaken for fossilized turtle shells, because they contain many cracks that have been filled with (usually) calcite. The formation process is still not exactly known, but one theory suggests that the concretions dehydrated unevenly, so the outer shell hardens and the interior material shrinks and cracks. The Morekai Boulders in New Zealand are particularly large examples of septarian concretions, ranging from 1.5 feet all the way up to seven feet in diameter (Figure 5).

The easiest way to identify a concretion is to look for the rock that doesn't belong - they will often look like a strange, alien orb or conglomerate deliberately placed amongst the surrounding rock (Figure 6). And the easiest way to figure out if you've

found a concretion or a geode is to crack it open!

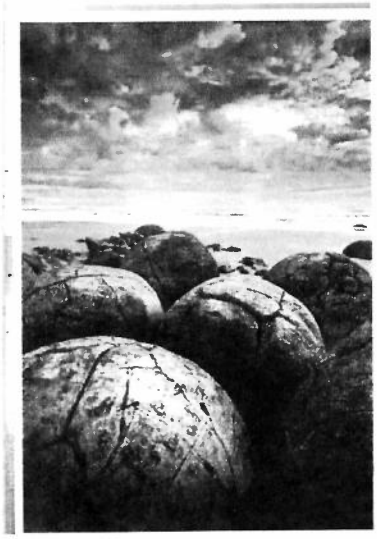


Figure 5: Morekai Boulders, New Zealand (photograph by Joerg Bonner)

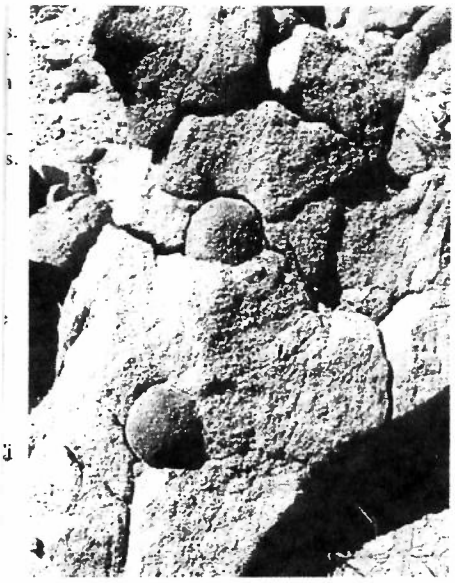
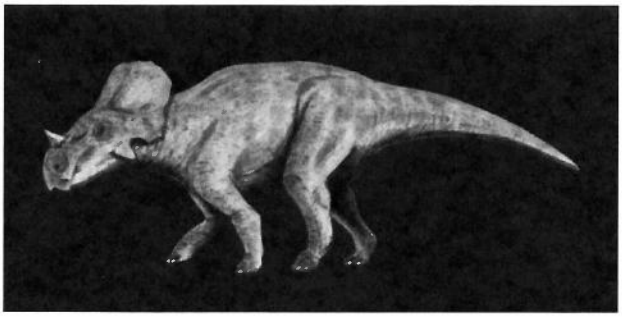


Figure 6: Concretions in sandstone in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, CA

Sources:
Complex cementation textures ... , M.R. Al-Agha et al.; https://shorturl.at/oDzCj
Concretions, Paleontological Research Institute; https://www .priweb.org/blog-post/concretions
Concretion, Kansas Geological Survey; httpsBowling Ball Beach, Ted Konigsmark; https://shorturl.at/Rpbma
Glad You Asked: What are Moqui marbles?, Utah Geological Survey;
https://shorturl.at/WNoZR

From Rocky Trails June 2025

Avaceratops



Avaceratops is a genus of small herbivorous ceratopsian dinosaurs which lived during the late Cretaceous 77 MYA.

The first remains of Avaceratops were found by Eddy Cole in the Judith River Formation of Montana, in 1981, on land of the Careless Creek Ranch, owned by rancher Arthur J. Lammers, scattered throughout the remains of a prehistoric stream bed.

The fossil was formally named and described by Dodson in 1986, as the type species Avaceratops lammersi. It was the first ceratopsid named since Pachyrhinosaurus in 1950. The genus was named after Ava Cole, Eddy's wife; the specific epithet honors the Lammers family.

Avaceratops was a herbivore. During the Cretaceous, flowering plants were "geographically limited on the landscape", so it is likely that this dinosaur fed on the predominant plants of the era: ferns, cycads and conifers. It would have used its sharp ceratopsian beak to bite off the leaves or needles. The habitat of Avaceratops was heavily forested and wet. Wikipedia From Rocky Trails 8/25

Fly Our Flag

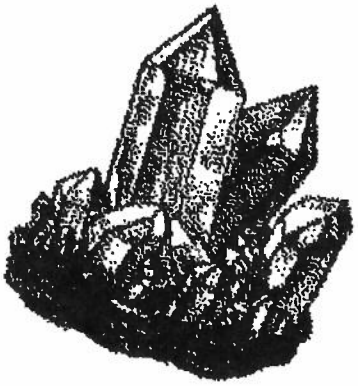
" I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory. I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's hall of justice. I fly majestically over institutions of learning. I stand guard with power in the world. Look up and see me. I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom" Author unknown taken from Grosse Ile Grand 7/16

⇨ 2025 ⇦ **Tenth Annual** ⇨ 2025 ⇦

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN GEM, MINERAL & ROCK SUPERSWAP!

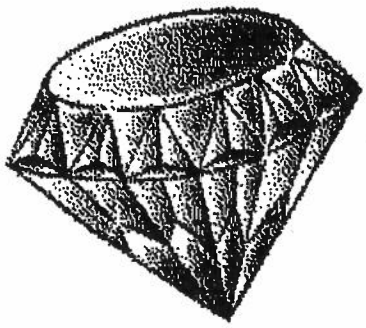
Hosted by the Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

Saturday Oct. 4 * 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday Oct. 5 * 10 am - 4 pm



Wayne County Fairgrounds

10871 Quirk Rd., Belleville, MI
I-94 to Exit 190, West on N. Service Drive,
North on Quirk to Fairgrounds on right



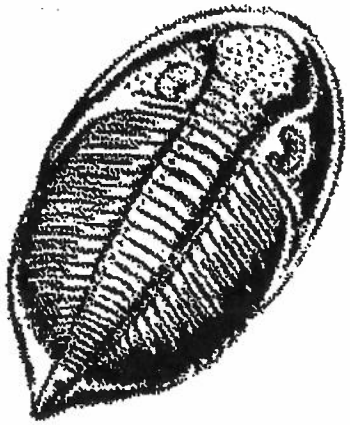
Minerals • Gems • Jewelry • Fossils • Lapidary Materials
Beads • Equipment • Supplies • Books • and more!

PUBLIC INVITED!

FREE Admission!
FREE Parking!

INDOOR EVENT - Rain or Shine!

Camping available - contact Fairgrounds Office at 734-697-7002



ACTIVITIES

including:
Mineral Kits for Kids
Craft Demonstrations
Rock & Mineral ID
Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Displays

Tables $35/2 days, $20/day (if available). For info about reservations, etc. call Bill Barr at 505-803-4888 or email bilbobarr49@gmail.com

THE MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY (MMLS) is an educational non-profit organization founded in 1956. The Society now has more than 100 members and is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Significantly, MMLS has been recognized numerous times by the Midwest and American Federations with first place (gold level) awards in the annual All American Club Awards Program.

PURPOSE: The purpose of The MMLS shall be (I) to promote interest in and increase knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, and paleontology, including lapidary and related arts; (2) to publish articles and information pertaining to these fields; (3) to encourage collections and to display specimens in these fields; and (4) to arrange field trips in support of the interests and activities specified.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTERNET WEB SITES OF INTEREST:
Midwest Federation:
www.amfed.org/mw1lindex.html American
Lands Access Association: http: //amlands.org

American Federation:
www.amfed.org

The Rockhound's 10 Commandments:

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

Midwest
Mineralogical and
Lapidary
Society of
Michigan

EDITOR
20281 THOMAS
BROWNSTOWN, MI
48183

Dated Material

The ROCKPILE

Bulletin Editor Contest Awards

■

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