

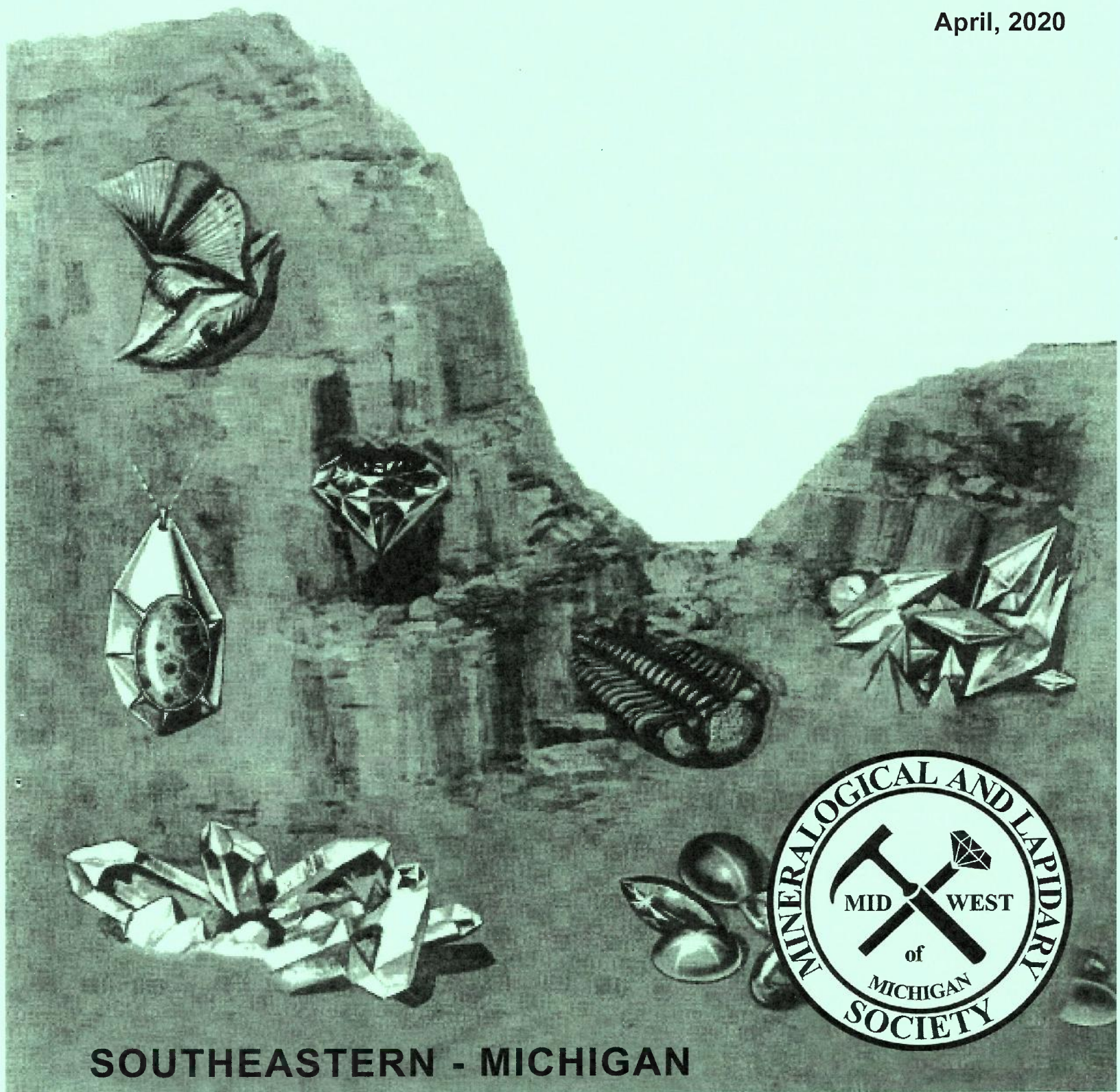
THE

ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

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

April, 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 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
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

MMLS SPRING SWAP 3/28/2020 CANCELLED

From The President's Desk: Happy Spring fellow rockhounds! It's time to sharpen up your hammers and chisels, polish your steel toe boots, clean your safety glasses and pack your lunch, the rockcollecting season is about to start! Our field trip chairman, Mike Bomba, is planning some great trips-lets all



get on board and join in the fun. Also, the gem & mineral shows are starting up, check out the "Our Sister Club Show Events" Pete lists in the Rockpile and make some plans to attend some-and remember to WEAR your MMLS name tag to all these events and to our meetings as well.

Watch for news of our upcoming Banquet-coming in May, we will get out the information on that as soon as final plans are completed.

Thank You to a Member Segment:

This month's special thank you goes out to Pat Rutkowski. Pat (and husband Bob) joined MMLS way back in December, 1962. Pat's recent job is Vice-President, and AFMS Scholarship Chairman but over the years she has served as Co-editor of the Rockpile with Joyce Hanchu, was involved with our show (held the "housekeeping" job) and of course, was an avid field tripper. Pat has hosted numerous board meetings in her home and has always been interested in fossils. She has always participated in our spring swaps and now participates in our SuperSwaps in the fall.

Thank You, Pat, for all you do!!!

Diane

Program: The April 21st program will be a video called "What's hot in Saint Marie 2017 European Mineral Show" focusing on Minerals from Hawaii. Mike Bomba

Summary of Board Meeting Minutes: For 2/14/2020

There was general discussion about leadership development, and also discussion about potential program topics, however, no motions were entertained.

Eight members have not yet renewed their dues, and since these members received mailed copies of the Rockpile, 8 fewer copies of the Rockpile will be printed.

Auction flyers are ready for distribution.

General Meeting Minutes Summary: For 2/18/2020

Doris Snyder presented Treasurer's report for the period 1/1/20 to 1/31/20.

The subject of the February Program will be Collectible Carbonates by Dr. Carl Francis of Harvard University. The March Program will be **Cornish Mineral Legacy: 4000 years of hard rock mining in Cornwall England** by Dr. Robert Bowell, from the 2018 Dallas Symposium.

Two upcoming field trips to quarries are being planned.

Status reports for the following events were received: Spring Swap will be held on March 28, 2020, at St. John's Lutheran Church on Telegraph Road in Taylor; the banquet will be held in May; fall Super-Swap will be held October 3-4, 2020, and the Auction will be held November 7, 2020 at the First Assembly of God Church, 5650 Telegraph Road. Donations for club tables at the swaps and for the auction will be appreciated.

The following activity reports were also received: Bead Study group meets on the first and third Thursday of the month, and continues to work on a multi strand necklace project; the Mineral Study Group which meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month will study Purple Stones in February.

Margaret Campbell is now in therapy after successful hip replacement surgery.

The next Board meeting will be held March 13, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. The next General Meeting will be held on March 17, 2020.

Submitted by Lori Haam, Recording Secretary



MMLS 2020 Banquet
Date: Saturday, May 16th
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: Baldo 's Italian
Restaurant
20051 Telegraph Rd.
(Between King and
Sibley)

Brownstown, MI 48183

Ticket Price: \$16. 00 per person

Deadline to purchase tickets: May 10th

Contact: Dan Gumina Banquet Chairman
313-766-8944

WIRE WRAP CLASS Anyone interested in a class for wire wrap please contact John Lindsay for dates, time and more information.

Our Club Activities

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

Apr. 6th, 20th, 22th **Lapidary Work Shop**
 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm. Fee is \$2.50 for each evening. Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218 **PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM TIME AND DATE.**

Apr. 16th **Mineral Study** group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor Mi. At 7:30pm. **David Esch, 734-665-5574.**

Apr. 17th **Board Meeting** 7:30pm. TBA
Rockpile Deadline.

Apr. 21st **General meeting** will be held at the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400 WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

May 4th, 18th, 20th **Lapidary Work Shop**
 2009 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm. Fee is \$2.50 for each evening. Frank Konieczki 734-323-2218 **PLEASE CALL AHEAD**

TO CONFIRM TIME AND DATE.

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

May 15th **Board Meeting TBA 7:30pm**
Rockpile Deadline.

May 19th **General meeting** will be held at the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400 WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

May 21st **Mineral Study** group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor Mi. At 7:30pm. **David Esch, 734-665-5574.**

Sister Club Events

April 4-5: COLUMBUS, OH Columbus Rock & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 5 pm. Northland Performing Arts Center, 4411 Tamarack Blvd, Columbus. Contact: Craig Kramer, (614) 436-4511;
show-info@columbusrockandmineralsociety.org;
www.columbusrockandmineralsociety.org

April 9-11: WYOMING, MI Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show.
CANCELLED

April 25-26: CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH Summit Lapidary Club & Akron Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 East Bath Rd., Cuyahoga Falls. Contact: Guy Kotch,
gemboreechairman@gmail.com

April 25-26: TROY, OH Miami County Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Miami County Fairgrounds Duke Lundgard Bldg, County Rd. 25-A, Troy, OH Contact: Dewey Buck, (937) 308-3012; dewey.buck@pcmg.com

April 25-26: BAY CITY, MI Tri-County Rocks & Minerals Society Rocks & Mineral Show. Sat 10

April 2020

am - 9 pm; Sun Noon - 6 pm. Bay City Town Center, 4101 E. Wilder Rd., Bay City. Contact: Renee Simmons (989) 751-5650; simmonsironman@yahoo.com; or Kim Sherwood, (989) 225-9140

May 1-3: KALAMAZOO, MI Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society Annual Show. Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo. Contact: Wrifton Graham, (269) 615-7073; www.kalamazoorockclub.org

May 2-3 SHARONVILLE, OH Cincinnati Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 5 pm. Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd., Sharonville. Contact: Terry Huizing, (513) 574-7142; tehuizing@fuse.net; www.geofair.com

May 16-17: ST JOSEPH, MI Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 6 pm; Sun Noon - 6 pm. Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School, 316 Washington Ave, St. Joseph, MI Contact: Nancy Wolff, (269) 983-4900; nancyswolff@hotmail.com; blossomlandrockclub@gmail.com

May 16-17: NORTH OLMSTED, OH Parma Lapidary Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted. Contact: Stephanie Shields, blueflameleather@gmail.com; www.parmalapidary.com

May 29-31: WAUSEON, OH State Line Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Fri Noon - 6 pm; Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 4 pm. Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junion Fair Building, 1814 SR 108, Wauseon, OH Contact: Sherman Kardatzke, (517) 673-5487; sakardatzke@gmail.com; www.statelinegms.com

Michigan Mineral Beginning with the Letter M: Magnetite Fe₃O₄

Picture from internet



Magnetite is a rock mineral and themain iron ores, with the chemical formula Fe₃O₄. It is one of the

oxides of iron, and is ferrimagnetic, it is attracted to a magnet and can be magnetized to become a permanent magnet itself.

Hardness: 5 - 6.5 on the Mohs scale

Color: Black to Silver Gray

Occurrence: Dickinson County, Gogebic County, Houghton County, Keweenaw County, Iron County and Marquette County

From Internet Geology.com and The Mineralogy of Michigan by E. Wm. Heinrich

North Dakota has no official state gemstone.

Ohio State Gemstone: Ohio flint

Was designated the official state gemstone of Ohio in

1965. Large quantities of this gemstone can be found in Ohio, especially in the eastern and central parts of the state.



Picture from internet

Flint



Picture from internet

The exact mode of formation of flint is not yet clear, but it is thought that it occurs as a result of chemical

changes in compressed sedimentary rock formations, during the process of diagenesis. One hypothesis is that a gelatinous material fills cavities in the sediment, such as holes bored by crustaceans or mollusks and that this becomes silicified. This hypothesis certainly explains the complex shapes of flint nodules that are found. The source of dissolved silica in the porous media could be the spicules of silicious sponges (demosponges). Certain types of flint, such as that from the south coast of England, contain trapped fossilized marine flora. Pieces of coral and vegetation have been found preserved inside the flint similar to insects and plant parts within amber. Thin slices of the stone often reveal this effect.

Flint sometimes occurs in large flint fields in Jurassic or Cretaceous beds, for example, in Europe. Puzzling giant flint formations known as paramoudra and flint circles are found around Europe but especially in Norfolk, England on the beaches at Beeston Bump and West Runton.

The "Ohio flint" is the official gemstone of Ohio state. It is formed from limey debris that was deposited at the bottom of inland Paleozoic seas hundreds of millions of years ago that hardened into limestone and later became infused with silica. The flint from Flint Ridge is found in many hues like red, green, pink, blue, white and gray, with the color variations caused by minute impurities of iron compounds.

Official State Gemstone of Ohio

Ohio flint was designated the official state gemstone of Ohio in 1965. Large quantities of this gemstone can be found in Ohio, especially in the eastern and central parts of the state. Used to make jewelry and highly prized by collectors, Ohio flint comes in a variety of color combinations that include red, pink, green, blue, yellow, gray, white, and black.

Flint is a type of quartz, a hard and durable mineral. Native Americans used flint to make a wide variety of tools, weapons, and ceremonial pieces such as knives, arrowheads, and pipes. Early European settlers of Ohio also used flint for objects like millstones and rifle flints.

Flint Ridge (in Licking and Muskingum Counties) was a major source of flint for Ohio's Native Americans, who traded flint with other tribes

across the continent. Archaeologists have discovered artifacts made from Flint Ridge flint as far west as the Rocky Mountains and south to the Gulf of Mexico.
<https://statesymbolsusa.org/symbol-official-item/ohio/state-gem-gemstone/ohio-flint>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint>
 From The Living Stones 3/2020

Pistachios and Minerals

How are they linked?

We are Pistachio Farmers. We have about 200 nut bearing trees that are around 20 years old. We take great joy in mining minerals to use in production of our pistachio harvest – We want to share with you what we do with the minerals and, most importantly, give you the chance to enjoy some of our harvest!

Pistachio trees are either male or female. You can graft the two together and have one hermaphroditic tree, as we have one of these in our grove, however, for the most part, they are separate and do different things.

The female tree has big broad leaves and branches that have lots of curves and style. The male tree has very thin leaves and sharp pointed branches that have sharp, straight, shoots. The female tree is the one that bears nuts, the male tree is responsible for the pollination. They are wind pollinated, so the timing has to be perfect every year during pollination.

The first mineral we mine and use is raw gypsum/selenite. Just a few miles away from our orchard, we have extensive deposits of raw gypsum, which we then water tumble in a giant 50 pound vibrating tumbler. The "waste" water is a large part of what we need for the grove. Every year we make a fertilizer for the tree including pistachio wood ash, steer manure, a rich compost and tea, plus, crushed gypsum, all watered down with our waste water from the gypsum tumbling.

Gypsum has a wonderful effect on soil, creating a path way for water to seep deeper into the ground. This is especially useful for this climate as the soil around the trees needs to soak in the water rapidly to the trees, rather than evaporating away from the top of the soil.

April 2020

The larger pieces of gypsum are then sold as tumbled stones by us at mineral shows and even on Amazon.com.

There are two important times in the pistachios tree's lives every year. In the beginning of spring, which is around March, the branches start to bud.

During this time, pollination is right around the corner, but first, they need a treatment of minerals to help them through the year. A mixture of Borax and Zinc are prepared and sprayed onto the tree's branches, in order to do two things. The Borax, which we mine in Searles' Lake every October, makes the hard shell form thinner, which allows the pistachio seed to break open the shell while on the tree, something we want to happen.

The Zinc allows the stems and seeds to hold fast onto the tree, which is very important because the winds in this part of the world can be devastating to a non zinc treated tree, dropping all the blooms and seeds onto the ground, resulting in a loss of pistachios.

At the end of October and beginning of November, the trees are harvested. Most orchards harvest with a tree shaker, we harvest ours by hand. It requires a lot of labor and time, but it is what we choose to do. It makes us appreciate these delicious tree seeds a bit more! We separate the nuts from the stems by rolling them around on a large tarp, where the stems start to float to the top of the pile, then, scoop up the pistachios, put them in an industrial peeler which removes the fleshy coating, then float the nuts in a vat of water. The empty nuts float to the top and the ones with nuts sink to the bottom. They are then air dried and roasted with pistachio wood to fuel our ash needs for the following year. We brine some of our nuts with pink salt that we collect every year in Trona, California. We separate only the finest crystals for this use!

The end result?

Lightly salted, lightly roasted, pistachio seeds in shell
– ready to be delivered to you!



Picture from internet

<http://wheretofindrocks.com/pistachios-and-minerals/>
From Rock Trails 3/2020

Ancient Armadillo The Size Of A Car Discovered By Farmer In Argentina



The fossils of four ancient armadillos the size of cars have been discovered by a farmer in Argentina. A farmer in Argentina has uncovered the preserved shells of four giant 'ancient armadillo' creatures called Glyptodonts that roamed the earth around 20,000 years ago.

The largest of the shells is about the size of a Volkswagen Beetle.

The shells were discovered in a dried-out riverbed near the Argentine capital of Buenos Aires and then investigated by the Institute of Archaeological and Palaeontological Investigations of the Pampa Quaternary. Catchy title, eh?

Scientists from the institute will now spend the next week digging out the shells to get a better look at them and find out as much as possible.

April 2020

Pablo Messineo, one of the archaeologists, said the strange discovery was made by Juan de Dios Sota, a farmer who was taking his cows out for a graze when he spotted the shapes of the shells.

He quickly established that they weren't any ordinary animal, and alerted the scientists, who arrived in short order. The fossils of four ancient armadillos the size of cars have been discovered by a farmer in Argentina.

Messineo explained: "We went there expecting to find two glyptodonts when the excavation started and then two more were found!

"It is the first time there have been four animals like this in the same site. Most of them were facing the same direction, like they were walking towards something."

These four appear to be a group comprising two adults and two young animals.

Tests will be performed to attempt to establish how old they are, what sex they were, and - potentially - how they died.

At this stage, it is believed they are roughly 20,000 years old.

They'll have to be extracted using a digger, because the shells are so heavy.

This isn't the first time in recent years that Glyptodont shells have been turned up unexpectedly in Argentina.

Another shell belonging to one of the long-extinct mammals was discovered in Argentina in October last year, as well as yet another four years ago.

Despite those recent discoveries, these shells remarkably rare. Near complete shells - or carapaces as they're known - are not found very often.

So, what exactly were Glyptodonts?

Well, they were like gigantic armadillos that were, at one stage, found all across Latin America, having developed about 20 million years ago.

Much like their descendants these days, they possessed a large, tough shell that protected them from all sorts of dangers.

The use of the word 'gigantic' in this case isn't an exaggeration.

Glyptodonts could grow to around the size of a car, reaching as much as 10 feet long.

Imagine a 10-foot-long armadillo. It's a damn shame they no longer exist, because they sound absolutely badass.

Fear not, though. The creatures were gentle giants, and were completely herbivorous.

Unfortunately, it is thought that they bit the dust at the start of the last ice age.

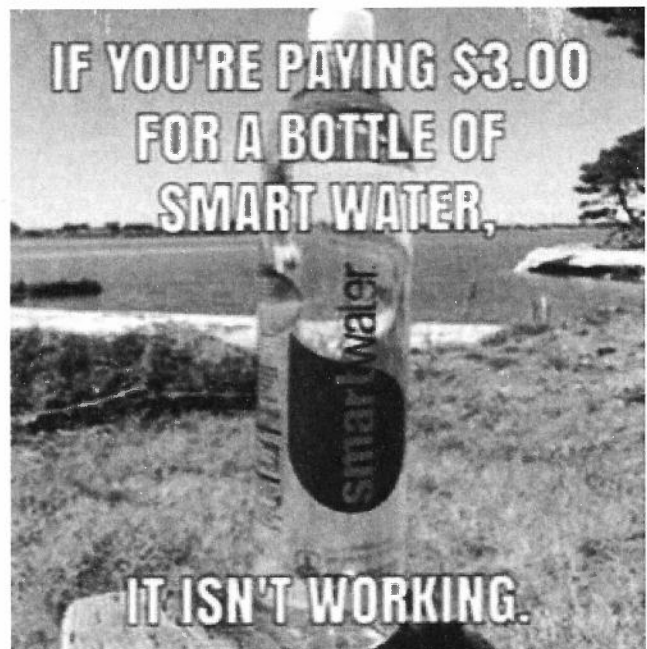
Their shells were made of bone and could weigh as much as 1,100lbs (500kg), which is about 20 percent of their overall body weight.

From the internet GeologyIn

*Coming on October 3rd &
4th, 2020*

*Southeastern Michigan
Gem, Mineral & Rock
SuperSwap*

For more information call 313-278-5063 or email:
wbarr@umich.edu



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/mw1index.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.

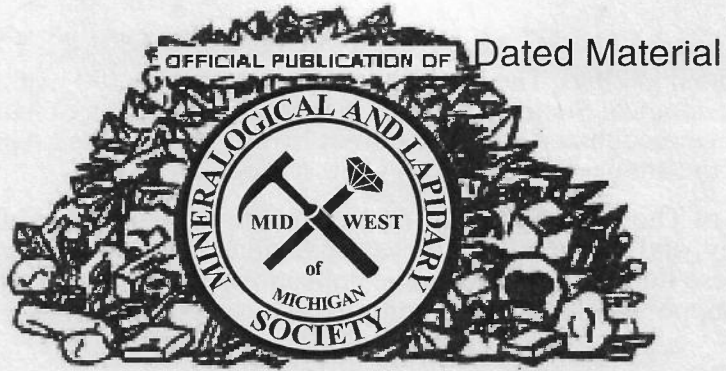
Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.

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
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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



STAMP

Dated Material

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