

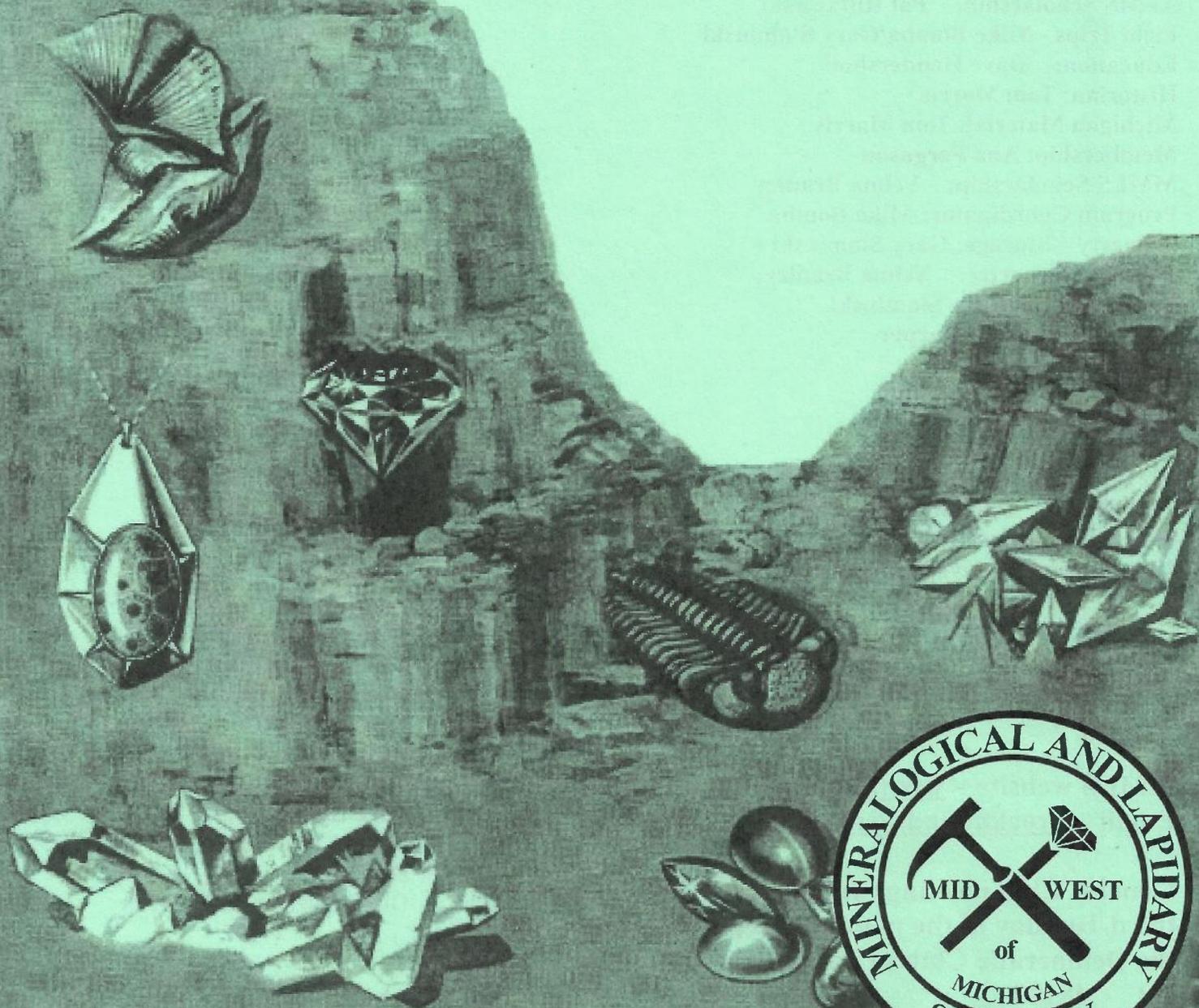
THE

ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

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

December 2021



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2021 OFFICERS

President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Vice President: Mike Bomba (313) 381-8455
Recording Secretary: Lori Haam (313) 562-5097
Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237
Treasurer: Doris Snyder (313) 291-2133
Corresponding Secretary: Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237
Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara (734) 675-5237

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

ACTIVITIES

2021 Banquet: Dan Gumina
2021 Club Picnic: Stacey Harper
2021 Swap: Lou and Cindy Talley
2021 Super Swap: Bill Barr
2021 Auction: Dwayne Ferguson

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

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

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

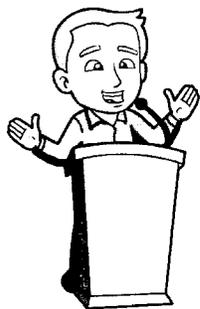
GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

STUDY GROUPS

Lapidary: Workshop at Frank Konieczki's
Bead Study: Diane Kuzara
Mineralogy: Bill Barr at David Esch's

PAST PRESIDENTS

Robert Ellison (interim) 1956
Louis Cox 1957
Robert Heldenbrand 1958-59
Ralph Gamble 1959-60
Fred Miller 1960-61
Bert Smart 1961-62
Leo Nieman 1963
Nicholas Rothenthaler 1964-65
Robert Fedoruk 1966-67
John Good 1968-69
Cecilia Duluk 1970
Stanley Franczak 1971-72
E. Donald Stinnett 1973-74
Ralph Goniea 1975-76
Norman Hanschu 1977-78
Thomas Gibbs 1979-80
Harry Nagy 1981-82
Elspeth Gibbs 1983-84
Loretta Franczak 1985-86
Roland Snyder 1987-88
Jay Ross 1989-90
Tom Morris Jr. 1991-92
Diane Kuzara 1993-94
Bill Orban 1995-96
Glenn Swain 1997-98
Bill Peach 1999-2000
Diane Kuzara 2001-02
Cecilia Duluk 2003-04
Russ Ranker 2005-06
Dick DePodesta 2007-08
Rich Williams 2009-10
Leonard Swisher 2011-12
Mike Bomba 2013 - 14
Diane Kuzara 2015 - 16
Dan Gumina 2017 - 18
Diane Kuzara 2019 -2020



From The President's Desk:

Hello Rockhounds :

This is my message for the closing year of 2021 December Rockpile. The annual club Auction closed with a fair turnout of satisfied buyers and their newly acquired club specimens. Thanks to Dwayne and Anna Ferguson, Auction Chairman, for

hosting the auction at our newest location, The First Assembly of God Church, Dearborn Heights. The church basement provided for an adequate space.

Thanks! to all who helped with the auction duties as well as those who attended! The December general meeting will be held at the Democratic Club in Taylor. We will have our Christmas meeting and social. Please attend and join us for some festive snacks and door prizes. The nominating committee will do a presentation and installation of the newly elected club officers for 2022. Hope to see you there, support your club. Be safe, enjoy our hobby. Seasons greetings! Check the December Program for more details.

President Dan.

MMLS ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2022

President: Dan Gumina

Vice President: Mike Bomba

Treasurer: Doris Snyder

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Diane Kuzara

Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara

December Program

Come one and come all to the MMLS December Meeting and Christmas Social:

On Tuesday, December 21st at 7:30pm at the Democratic Club. Come and win a door prize, visit with other MMLS members and bring along a can good or hat, scarf, or pair of socks to donate to the Salvation Army for the needy. A box will be provided for your donations. We will NOT be exchanging gifts with each other. We will be having refreshments after the meeting and you are welcome to bring something to share. We would love to see all our members again. See you then!

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

Dates to Remember!!

Dec. 6th, 20th & 22nd 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.

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

Dec. 16th Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor, Mi. At 7:30 pm.

Dec. 17th ROCKPILE DEADLINE

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

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

Jan. 3rd, 17th & 19, 2022 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.

Jan. 6th & 20, 2022 Bead Study group will meet at the Kuzara's 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm. Diane Kuzara 734-675-5237.

Jan. 14, 2022 ROCKPILE DEADLINE

Jan. 18, 2022 Board Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 6 pm.

December, 2021

Jan. 18, 2022 General Meeting will be held at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor at 7:30 pm.

Jan. 20, 2022 Mineral Study group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor, Mi. At 7:30 pm.

The Michigan Mineral Beginning with the Letter D: Diamond C

Diamond is a solid form of the element carbon with its atoms arranged in a crystal structure called diamond cubic. At room temperature and pressure, another solid form of carbon known as graphite is the chemically



stable form of carbon, but diamond almost never converts to it. Diamond has the highest hardness and thermal conductivity of any natural material, properties that are utilized in major industrial applications such as cutting and polishing tools. They are also the reason that diamond anvil cells can subject materials to pressures found deep in the Earth.

Hardness: 10 on the mohs scale

Color: Typically yellow, brown, or gray to colorless. Less often blue, green, black, translucent white, pink, violet, orange, purple, and red.

Occurrence: Cass, Ingham, Iron, and Kent Counties. From the internet Wikipedia

The Birthstone for December is:

There are three gemstones for December Tanzanite, Zircon and Turquoise.

Tanzanite is the exquisite blue-purple variety of the mineral zoisite that is only found in one part of the world. Named for its or in Tanzania, tanzanite has quickly risen to popularity since its relatively recent discovery.



Zircon is an underrated gemstone that's often confused with synthetic cubic zirconia due to similar names and shared use as diamond simulants. Few people realize that zircon is a spectacular natural gemstone available in a variety of colors.



Admired since ancient times, turquoise is known for its distinct color, which ranges from powdery blue to greenish robin's egg blue. It's one of few minerals to lend its name to anything that resembles its striking color.



From the internet American Gem Society

Did you know?

Well before dinosaurs roamed the earth, over 350 million years ago during the Devonian period, the land we know as Michigan was located near the equator. Covered by a warm, shallow, saltwater sea, the colonial coral hexagonaria percarinata thrived with other marine life in tropical reefs. The earth's plates moved and pushed Michigan north to the 45th parallel and above sea level, which created dry land formations. More recently, about two million years ago, glacial action scraped the earth and spread the fossils across the northern Lower Peninsula, depositing major concentrations in the Petoskey area. The prehistoric fossil, unique to the Traverse Group rock strata, is called the Petoskey Stone and it became Michigan's official state stone in 1965.

Pet-O-Sega, which means "Rays of the Rising Sun" in the Ottawa language, was the birth name given in 1787 to the son of a French fur trader and his Indian wife. Pet-O-Sega grew up in an area northwest of present-day Harbor Springs, became a respected landowner and businessman and, like his father, was recognized as an Ottawa Indian Chief. In 1873 the settlement on the Bear River was named Petoskey in his honor. Read more at:

<https://www.petoskeyarea.com/media/petoskey-stone/>

From MMS conglomerate 5/21

A Wealth of Difference

Gold Filled: A layer of gold backed with another metal such as chrome, nickel, copper or silver.

Gold Plated: The process of placing a base metal, such as copper, in a bath and sealing the two metals through electroplating.

Gold Leaf: A sheet of gold varying from four to five millionths of an inch in thickness used for gilding and other purposes.

Liquid Gold: Finely divided gold suspended in a vegetable oil and used for gilding ceramics.

Vermeil: 14-Karat gold overlaid on sterling silver.

Sterling Silver: Silver of a purity of 925 parts per 1,000. The content is 92.5 percent silver and 7.5 percent of another metal, usually copper.

Silver Plate: Silver that has been coated over a base metal such as copper, nickel-silver, or brass in a dipping process that included sealing the two metals through electroplating.

Source: *The CMS Tumbler*, 4/2021; via *West Seattle*

Petroglyphs, 3/08; via *Snoopy Gems*, 1/08; via *Hound's*

Howl, 12/07; from *The Mountain Gem*, 11/97.

From The MICHIGAN MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
CONGLOMERATE June 2021

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS – THE REAL STORY

-By Fran Sick (with apologies to CC Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, The rockhounds were dozing, both me and my spouse; The pebble pups were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of crystals danced in their heads. Then out on the lawn there arose such a racket, I sprang from my bed and grabbed up a hatchet. I threw open the door and ran out in the snow And slipped on the ice and down I did go. As I fell with a thump and felt a bone crack, I saw a fat little man lying flat on his back. Then what to my glazed-over eyes should appear,

But an overloaded sleigh and eight worn-out reindeer. As I watched in surprise the fat man in red limped to the sleight while holding his head. Then up to the house-top the scraggly bunch flew, With their sleigh full of rocks and some digging tools too. And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof. The stomping and scraping of all those darn hoofs. Soon down the chimney St. Nick came with a crash; With the weight in his bag, he fell flat in the ash. His filthy red suit from his head to his foot, was covered in ashes – on my white rug he stood. A bundle of stuff was thrown over his back, And he looked like a street person opening his pack. His eyes, how they frowned, his face what a scowl. When he tried to sit down, he let out a howl. His droll little mouth was drawn up in scorn. And the beard on his chin was ragged and torn. He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, and filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. With a shake of his head and a thumb of his nose, While rubbing his butt, up the chimney he rose. He crawled to his sleigh, to his team gave a hoot. As away they all dragged, they fell off the roof. And I heard him complain as they lumbered out of sight, “Can’t they live without rocks for even one night??!” -The Shin-Skinners News, Dec. 2004
From The Strata Data 12/20

How do Dessert Roses Form

A gypsum rosette is not a rose at all, it is a mineral which crystalizes in a unique rosette growth pattern.

Desert rose is the colloquial name given to rose-like formations of crystal clusters of gypsum or baryte which include abundant sand grains. The ‘petals’ are crystals flattened on the c crystallographic axis, fanning open in radiating flattened crystal clusters.

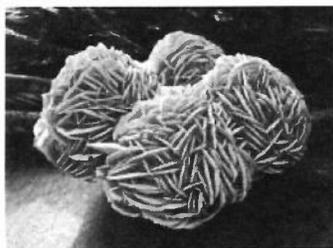
Gypsum is an evaporite, which means its crystals form during the evaporation of



December, 2021

water. The crystals are shaped like prisms or flat plates, and can grow up to 1 meter. Gypsum can appear as transparent crystals (selenite); fibrous, elongated crystals (satin spar); granular and compact masses (alabaster); and in rosette-shaped aggregates called desert roses. Some even form large clusters comprised of many small rosette crystals which are the color of sand and usually brown. In order for gypsum rosettes to form they must have an arid environment, a large source of CaSO₄ (calcium sulfate), and a seasonal fluctuation of water. In terms of geological time gypsum rosettes form very rapidly in that they form in tens to hundreds of years. This would explain their abundance across the world. The rosette crystal habit tends to occur when the crystals form in arid sandy conditions, such as the evaporation of a shallow salt basin. The crystals form a circular array of flat plates, giving the rock a shape similar to a rose blossom.

Gypsum roses usually have better defined, sharper edges than baryte roses.



Celestine and other bladed evaporite

minerals may also form rosette clusters. They can appear either as a single rose-like bloom or as clusters of blooms, with most sizes ranging from pea sized to 4 inches (10 cm) in diameter. There are two typical forms of rosettes found. In more shallow regions an amber colored compact ball of intergrown crystals with small, thin blades pointing out from the core seems to be the standard.. Sometimes large transparent amber blades protrude out of this core producing spectacular specimens. In deeper layers, the crystals in the rosette are larger, more distinct and blocky. The color in these specimens are typically yellow, but can also be colorless. Large blades protruding from these rosettes are also blocky. In both forms, some of the large blades may have clay or a rock included. All the crystals are fluorescent and

phosphorescent, glowing a pale white under ultraviolet light.

<http://www.geologyin.com/2017/06/how-do-desert-roses-form.htm>

Gold Nugget Turns Out To be Four-Billion-Year-Old Meteorite

Back in May 2015, an Australian prospector set off to scour the Maryborough Regional Park in search of his



fortune, but instead of striking gold, he came across something that was – unfortunately for him – priceless. Intrigued by the density and weight of a slightly odd-looking reddish rock, David Hole spent the next four years attempting to crack open this seemingly impenetrable specimen, only to eventually discover that it was in fact a 4.6-billion-year-old meteorite.

Mr Hole stumbled upon the find with the help of a metal detector while digging for gold near Melbourne, in a region that had become synonymous with the precious metal during the 19th-century gold-rush. Hoping to find a nugget inside the rock, he later attempted to access its interior using everything from acid to a sledgehammer, without success.

Scientists used a diamond saw to slice off a sliver of the ancient space rock, discovering that it was in fact an H chondrite. The most common type of meteorite, H chondrites contain a high percentage of iron and make up about 40 percent of all meteorites ever found.

December, 2021

Describing the rock, Melbourne Museum geologist Dermot Henry told the Sydney Morning Herald that “it had this sculpted, dimpled look to it,” which resulted from the outside of the meteorite melting as it plunged through Earth’s atmosphere. Baffled as to why the rock was so reluctant to reveal its inner secrets, he decided to take it to the Melbourne Museum, where it was identified as a meteorite.

The object’s extreme weight is attributed to some of the metals it contains, including dense forms of iron and nickel. It is also speckled with droplets of metals called chondrules, which formed during the early stages of the Solar System’s development before later becoming embedded in an asteroid.

The meteorite has been named Maryborough after the place where it was found, and carbon dating suggests it crash-landed between 100 and 1,000 years ago.

Describing the specimen in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, the team lists a number of recorded meteorite sightings from the annals of history that could possibly correlate to Maryborough. One such sighting was reported by a Harry E. Hallett in a letter to The Argus in June 1923. Addressing the editors, he describes how the “brilliant meteor... almost dazzled me, and horses out in the paddocks neighed such a neigh of fear that I will never forget it.”

Weighing 17 kilograms (37.5 pounds), the Maryborough meteor is the second largest ever to be found in the state of Victoria.

It's not even the first meteorite to take a few years to make it to a museum. In a particularly rock took 80 years, two owners, and a stint as a doorstop before making it to a museum.

Now is probably as good a time as any to check your backyard for particularly heavy and hard-to-break rocks - you might be sitting on a metaphorical gold mine.

From the internet GeologyIN

NOTICE DUES ARE DUE

Dear MMLS member:

It 's that time again when you are asked to renew your membership for the year (2022) in the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society. (Membership runs from January through December each year.)

May we ask your cooperation by renewing now. Doing so will ease our Treasurer's job, save the cost of an extra mailing and assure your receipt of The Rockpile without interruption.

Just use the handy Membership Renewal Form. Complete the form, enclose your check made payable to MMLS and mail to our treasurer:

Doris Snyder
9728 Pardee
Taylor, Mi 48180

It's that easy! If you would like your membership card mailed to you, please include a SASE.

Midwest Mineralogical Lapidary
Society Adult Dues: \$20.00
Juniors (under age 18) \$2.00
Yes I wish to renew my/our membership in MMLS
for 2020 and continue to receive The Rockpile

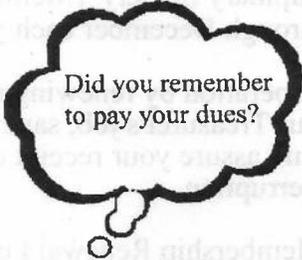
Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Email address _____

Dues paid after December 31st is subject to a \$3.00 reinstatement fee. Add to your check.

Enclosed is my check payable MMLS for \$ __

Would you like your Rockpile sent to you by email?
Yes _____ No _____
DO IT TODAY BEFORE YOU FORGET!!!!

Joe Slovak's **ROCKPIL** Book



Geology

Name the three types of rock.



- 1. Classic
- 2. Punk
- 3. Hard



From the BackBender Gazette 12/20

Prairie Agates

Designated as the Nebraska State rock by the 1967 State Legislature, the prairie agate is not a true agate. This rock grades into banded or layered chert rather than agate.

Prairie agates are found in northwest Nebraska, southwest South Dakota, and northeast Wyoming. Since these are the same areas where the much-sought-after Fairburn agates are found, many rockhounds mistake some of the banded prairie agates for Fairburns. These are referred to as "Nearburns" by the more knowledgeable.

Although ignored by many of the natives of the area where they are found, prairie agates lend themselves very well to lapidary. Because of the coloration of these nodules, which runs from bright yellows and reds to subdued pastel shades of pink, lavender, blue, tan and grey, many beautiful specimens can be cut and polished. The fascinating blend of colors also can be captured in cabochons to make attractive and novel jewelry pieces.

Using the same procedure as used when working true agate, the lapidary is rewarded with a brilliant polish on any piece of prairie agate he works with.

Via *AFMS Newsletter*, 9/20; from *The Glacial Drifter*, 1/91 & 2/20 via *The Tumbler*, May 2021

From *The Quarry* 5/21



Merry Christmas from the Rockpile Staff

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

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

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

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

ANNUAL EVENTS:

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

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

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

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

SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM: MMLS has designated the A.E. SEAMAN Mineral Museum, Houghton, Michigan, as 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
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