

the

GLACIAL DROFTER

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Official Publication of

THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
1355 Hollywood N. E.
GRAND RAPIDS 5, MICHIGAN

Affiliated with

The Midwest Federation and the American Federation
of Mineral Societies

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MARCH MEETING

The regular meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, March 9th at 8:00 p.m. at the G. R. Public Museum. Dr. Richard Rose, co-chairman of the Program Committee, announces that a film on granite will be presented. This film shows quarrying, cutting, and polishing of granite and is being furnished by Donald J. Patten of Patten Monument Company.

Jerry Morris will give a talk on cutting and polishing Petoskey stone. Jerry will attempt to arouse the enthusiasm of all beginners to make an attempt to polish a Petoskey stone with simple, inexpensive equipment. For those with no sand paper or Petoskey stone Jerry will have available, after the meeting, kits containing 4 sheets of sand paper (220, 320, 440, and 600 grit), and a Petoskey stone or two. These will sell for 50¢, the money to go into the treasury. Behr-Manning Company gave the sandpaper and the stones are being furnished by Jerry.

JUNIORS

The Juniors will meet at 7:30, as they did last month. We hope to see a large group of you out for your meeting before the regular meeting at 8:00.

NEEDED!!!! A CLUB EMBLEM

At the February meeting President Joe Hanna announced that he has appointed Bob Rozema as chairman of the Emblem Committee, with Miss Virginia Franzen, Dr. Isla DePree, Mr. John Sexton, and Mrs. Helen Burgwald serving on the committee.

Any member of the club may submit as many designs for an emblem as he can dream up. As you know, this should be fairly simple and easy to reproduce either in color or black and white. Some clubs have pins, pocket patches, and car emblems made for their members use. If enough interest is shown, this may be done at a future date. A prize, to be announced later, will be given to the person submitting the winning design. Either send your entry to the chairman or one of the committee members, or bring it to the March meeting.

STUDY CLASS

Thirty-one members interested in learning about rocks and minerals turned out on Monday evening, February 22, for the first of five sessions in identification. The next meeting will be held at 8:00 at the Museum on TUESDAY, March 1st. And the next three meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 22, and 29th. Miss Mary Jane Dockeray is teaching this course. There is a small charge of \$1.00 per session. Anyone who is interested in learning more about rocks and minerals and how to know what you have in your collection is welcome to attend these meetings. Hope to see you there.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP A SUCCESS

We were fortunate to have had another field trip through the G. R. Plaster Mine on January 30th. All of those who have mentioned this trip to us said that it was a big thrill and they had come out with some nice specimens of pencil gypsum and also some of the massy material. Bob Rozema took pictures of this trip and showed the slides at the February meeting. Our sincere thanks to Messrs. Johnson and Johnston for their help and guidance on this trip.

Just prior to the trip a participant received the following letter;

THE MICHIGAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ROCKS (MSPCR)
AMERICAN SOCIETY TO PREVENT THE MOLESTING OF MINERALS (ASPMM)
WORLD SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE PLANET (WSPP)

January 14, 1960

Mrs. Jean Smith
X-Ray Department
Butterworth Hospital
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Having recently been informed of your forthcoming venture into the field, armed with pick-ax and burlap sack, we feel it our duty and responsibility to loudly protest this vile and vicious scheme. WHAT HAVE ROCKS EVER DONE TO YOU? How can you possibly, in good conscience, remove these poor, lovely, gentle bits of rock from their families and environment? The world is too full of cruelty now for you to compound it merely to satisfy your ridiculous whims. How would you like it if Rocks collected people?

STOP now before you lose all sense of justice. This may well lead to greater drimes against the world. STOP! STOP! BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

Very truly yours,

Rock Hudson, President
MSPCR
ASPMM
WSPP

MAY FIELD TRIP PLANNED

Gus Beuker advises that Leo Hoogerhyde has secured a field trip for us through the quarry at Rogers City for Saturday, May 21, 1960. Save this date. More about it later.

You will be happy to learn that Archie Billings is recovering from his operation and should be able to make our next meeting.

Bill Brimmer is back at work after a good case of the flu, but he isn't planning on any long field trips for a week or two.

FEBRUARY REVIEW

In spite of the weather over one hundred hardy rockhounds turned out for the February meeting and were well rewarded for their efforts, for the program was excellent. Mr. Ellis Courter of the Michigan Mineralogical Society showed the film presentation which the committee he heads has prepared called "Michigan - A Gem of Many Facets".

Bill Brimmer, our Door Prize chairman, was laid up with the flu and so we had a switch in prizes. A new member, Mrs. Nellie Mead, was the lucky winner of a hand polished Petoskey stone pendant, set in sterling which our good member, Mrs. Sylvia Pritchard so generously donated for a door prize. The baroque pearl earrings which were to have been the prize in February will be given at the March meeting.

The opal which we announced would be available at the February meeting as a donation prize will be on display at the March 9th meeting. Get your tickets from the Brimmers before the meeting.

ROCK SALE AND SWAP TABLE NEWS

Things were humming around the two rock tables at the last meeting, and lots of material changed hands.

Our good friends, Sue and Bill Hiser of Ann Arbor have donated several mineral specimens which Henry will have for sale in March. Henry Tchozeski is in need of more material to sell at the rock table. Please go over your collection, and if you have one or more "extras" which you can bear to part with I know you will make some rockhound happy and you will be helping our treasury.

ROCKRAMA TO BE IN JACKSON

Notice has been received from the Michigan Gem and Mineral Society of Jackson that they are holding a Rockrama on May 14 and 15. This is the first year that this type of show has been offered in the Midwest Federation. Mrs. F. A. Fisher, president of the Jackson club and all of her committees are working hard to put on a good show. Your liaison representative, Bob Rozema, has received a number of "Invitations to Participate". There will be no entry fee for Clubs, but a \$2.00 rental fee for individuals will be charged per exhibit unless they furnish their own cases. This is a NON COMPETITIVE show and is open to all clubs and club members in the Eastern Division of the Midwest Federation. Entry blanks must be returned by April 1, 1960 to assure entrants of cases. We would like to have at least one entry from the Grand Rapids Mineral Society as a club and if any individual wishes to show, entry blanks may be obtained from Bob Rozema. Let's see what we can do.

APRIL FIELD TRIPS PLANNED

Les Pearl announces that he has two field trips lined up for April, one to the southern part of the state for Saturday, April 16th, and the other, a local trip, for Saturday, April 30th. Keep these dates in mind. Further announcements and final arrangements will be given in the April DRIFTER.

HE'S LOYAL TO MICHIGAN

Gerry Morris, Petoskey Stone Man

By: Mabel T. Palmer

Some rockhounds cut jade, others favor agate; some collect specimen, but Gerry Morris is a Petoskey Stone man. While many rockhounds travel far afield or send to distant countries for slabbing material, Gerry has discovered that his "acre of diamonds" is in Michigan - as near as the 28th street gravel pit or the town of Cascade with jaunts now and then to the Grand Traverse Bay region.

Many club members know Gerry as the swap table man (he works with Leo Hoogerhyde), but many more will remember him after the meeting set for March 9 when he will talk to rockhounds and pebble pups on Petoskey stones and how to polish them without much in the way of equipment.

Gerry's basement, where he "hibernates" almost every night, is, of course, part of his comfortable home at 1315 Griggs st. S. E. His wife, admittedly not a rockhound at heart, does admire her husband's polished pieces. And if you could see his planters and sculpture you'd probably envy her. Their two sons are Bill, 14, deep in electronics, and Bob, 12, a stamp collector. Enthusiasm such as Gerry has for Petoskey stones probably will make the boys rockhounds at some later date.

There's probably a degree of similarity in rockhounds' basements, but Gerry's has an especially handcrafted look. Referring to his equipment of course. It's all home-made. There's a mud saw with a cutting wheel made from a piece of 12-gauge metal obtained from a kid across the street. The saw is enclosed in a 5-gallon can that once contained acid. A piece of old rubber from a long forgotten tire makes a splash guard. For mud he uses silicon carbide grits, plus water and potter's clay.

To slab identical cuts Gerry has constructed a runway of wood plus a couple short 2x4's and a metal plate with a screw. The whole thing is constructed from junk and runs well with an old washing machine motor.

He has a diamond saw, too. This was a discard, someone having eaten a chunk off one side. Nothing daunted, Gerry fixed it by silver soldering a piece of brass This saw, too, is enclosed in a house made from a 5-gallon can.

His polishing area includes wet sanders and cloth buffers. Both are covered with plastic dome discards and the wet unit also makes use of an old refrigerator pan and flattened out coffee cans.

For his drill press (I doubt he made this) he has invented a series of cavity gougers to dig out large Petoskey stones destined to become planters. He also has a drill point to make holes in the stones and many small grinding wheels and boxes of interesting odds and ends wonderful junk. Just the things an imaginative rockhound collects.

The fine pieces Gerry has to display at the Public Museum show in April are sure to draw interest. Not forgetting Chief Petoskey, he has cut an Indian head from a stone, using the coral markings

HE'S LOYAL TO MICHIGAN (CONTINUED)

as the design. The contour of another rock suggested to him "man's emergence from darkness" and is a Neanderthal type head. Another stone sculpture suggests the faces on Easter Island;

Although the heads may interest some, the fine workmanship in his planters will attract many more. Having designed a tool to cut cavities (his father was a dentist), was part of the job at its inception.

Gerry has made his share of buttons, pendants, and earrings, but what interests him most is to design a piece from a whole stone seeing in it something imaginative. He has one stone in his bin that he thinks will become a buffalo; another, a lizard. And when he has time he's going to carve a totem pole in six sections. Wonder what tale that will tell?

MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION

July 1, 2, 3, and 4 are the days when rockhounds from 13 states will congregate in Ishpeming to participate in the biggest rockhounding expedition ever attempted. The material on housing and camp sites had not been received at the time of going to press, but will be available at the March meeting. When you register you will be assigned to a group which you will stick with during your stay at the Convention. The registration fee is \$2.50 per person, which includes your ticket for the Big Bar-B-Que on Saturday evening. There will be a banquet on Sunday evening, cost \$3.50 per person and a Junior Banquet for the young people, cost \$1.50 per person.

Twenty field trips are planned for each group. Also, three bus trips to far away places are planned, one will cost \$6.00, another \$5.00, and the third \$4.00. These will have to be signed up for in advance of the registration for the Convention on the convention dates.

r o z e m a ' s		
o		
cc	New specimens and cutting	VALLEY LAPIDARY
k	material arriving every week	P.O. Box 440 2260 Traver Rd.
p		Ann Arbor, Mich
i	Special Rose Quartz 75¢ lb.	Cutting Material and Specimens
l		WHOLESALE
e	Frantom Lapidary Equipment	Your local rock shops are our
1355	Hollywood N. E. EM 1-6880	customers.
4:00	to 7:30 or by appointment	Exclusives Bill and Sue
		by Hiser, owners
		Valley Hi

WHO CAN CUT GEMS? Why, the answer is simple. YOU can. It makes no difference whether you are young or old - rich or poor - male or female, you can cut gems. You don't need to be endowed at birth with any especial artistry. All you do need, for a minimum, is to have the use of at least one hand and one eye. HOW TO CUT GEMS.

MUSEUM SHOW SHAPING UP

Mr. Frank Christy announces that the April Show which we are having at the Museum is shaping up. There is still room for your prize specimens, fossils, lapidary work, or hand-made jewelry, so let us know what you have so we can provide a place for it in one of the cases. We must know what will be available, or we cannot put on a good show. Let's all get behind this project and help make it a success. Please don't think that just because you can't fill a case you are not welcome to show one or two of your extra special pieces. If you have any doubts about how it will be received you can call or visit any of the officers of Board members and they will be happy to help you decide on your contemplated entry. Or mail the entry blank which was in the last DRIFTER to Mr. Christy.

LAPIDARY ENTHUSIASTS MEET IN HOLLAND

Fifteen of our members interested in learning more about equipment and its uses in cutting and polishing gems met at the home of Russ Girard on Saturday afternoon, February 27th. Russ has a large shop with lots of equipment, some of which he has made himself with suggestions from his father. Russ' father has made a tumbler out of some unusual items, with bearings of crab apple wood. It cost him practically nothing and does a good job.

NEW MEMBER, WELCOME!

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Sullivan of 121 Madison Ave. S. E. became members at the February meeting. We welcome them into our group.

"QUOTE"

What is a gemstone? A mineral hard enough to take a high degree of polish and durable enough to retain it. Nearly all gemstones are mineral, exceptions are jet and amber, which have been produced from living organisms - vegetation and tree sap, respectively. Pearl and coral are produced by animal organisms. - GEMCRAFT

Special Purchase!!!!!!! Golden Tigereye 75¢ per pound

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BOOK REVIEW

by X.L.S.

How to Cut Gems by Dan O'Brien - Published by Dan & Marie O'Brien

This excellent paper-back by Dan O'Brien comes very close to being a must for the beginner in the lapidary hobby. The text is well illustrated with photographs which describe the author's own method of cutting and polishing a cabochon cut stone in six well defined steps. Equipment is described and shown by photographs and the approximate cost is given in the opening chapter, since the book was written in 1953 the prices are 10 to 25% lower than current prices.

The chapters on faceting are especially valuable as the author is himself an ardent faceter and the designer and manufacturer of the well known O'Brien line of faceting equipment. Although I have never faceted a stone myself I feel sure after reading Mr. O'Brien's description of the process that any novice could turn out a well cut and polished gem with a few hours work on quite simple and inexpensive equipment. HOW TO CUT GEMS is included in the price of each cabochon outfit supplied by at least one manufacturer of lapidary equipment, and with its modest price of \$1.00 it should be among the first books acquired by the newcomer to rockhounding.

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The Rock Book by Carroll Lane Fenton - Published by Doubleday

Probably the most widely known book on rocks and minerals is this beautifully illustrated and simply written introduction to rockhounding for all ages. If you have entered the field of rockhounding by the fascinating hobby of the lapidary and suddenly realize the rocks and minerals you are working with are strangers to you, then by all means borrow a copy of the "Rock Book" from the public library or from one of your friends lucky enough to have a copy and read the story of its origin and the manner in which it came into your hands.

If you have picked up a few pretty stones and wish to build a collection of rocks and minerals but lack the knowledge of how to start and how to organize your finds, then the "Rock Book" will help you to make a good beginning.

If you are already a collector of some experience you have probably read this book but, if you haven't, you will be well repaid by a few evenings of good reading and the possible gain of some knowledge from this volume of wide general information. Priced at \$7.50, the "Rock Book" is a valuable addition to any library and an important guide to study and collecting for the beginner in rockhounding.

THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
1325 HOLLAND
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

MIDWEST FEDERATION'S LETTER - A - MONTH

Our letter of the month this time covers the most common questions which confront new club members and the manner in which they may best be answered.

The most common question the rockhound has is the identification of the assortment of rocks that he picks up during his vacation. The identification of minerals is really a job for the expert, but we do believe that Chicago Rocks and Minerals have found a good answer which not only helped the beginner but also formed an important part of their monthly programs. Each month one member is assigned to study one mineral on the Mohs scale of hardness and make a 10 or 15 minute report on it. If the member does a good job, he will have looked up all the important properties of the mineral including the physical properties, it's gem quality, commercial use and the most likely places it would be found. Samples for beginners also help. Suitable reference to English and Dana help other members to learn about the mineral if they have further interest. This program not only provides 10 subjects for discussion at monthly meetings but has proved most interesting and informative to the members. Further information on this type of program can be obtained by looking at recent issues of the Chicago Rocks and Minerals Pick and Dop Stick.

Perhaps the next question most frequently asked by the beginner is in regard to equipment, it's use, proper speed, care and maintenance. As most of you know, the amateur mechanic can get into endless difficulties, particularly if he has assembled or built the equipment himself. By the same token, this question is the most difficult to answer. There are several books that are available which will answer most of the questions. On the other hand, a general treatment of lapidary equipment could be assigned to one or more of your mechanically inclined members and could also serve as highly interesting programs.

In addition, the manufacturers of grinding wheels and abrasives have lectures or movie films which are available on the subject.

Whatever you do, don't forget M.W.F. Rockramas! They help your club! If you want help in organizing one, just ask Russ Kemp, your Division Chairman. There will be at least two of them this year.

Brilla Wilson
Central Regional Vice President
Midwest Federation

(The Rock or Mineral - A - Month idea could be extended also to your local rocks, to rocks and minerals of interest to your members to rocks likely to be found on coming rock hunts, to the rocks and minerals to be found at our next field trip conclave - this July at Ishpeming, etc. Editor)

THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
1355 HOLLYWOOD NE
GRAND RAPIDS 5, MICHIGAN
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



WILDEST FEDERATION'S LETTER - A - MONTH

Our letter of the month this time covers the most common questions which confront new club members and the manner in which they may best be answered.

The most common question the rockhound has is the identification of the assortment of rocks that he picks up during his vacation. The identification of minerals is really a job for the expert, but we do believe that Chicago has formed an important part of their monthly program. Members are assigned to study one mineral on the Mohs scale of hardness and make a 10 or 15 minute report on it. If the member does a good job, he will have looked up all the important properties of the mineral, including the physical properties, its gem quality, commercial use, and the most likely places it would be found. Samples for beginners also help. Suitable reference to English and Dana help other members to learn about the mineral if they have further interest. This program not only provides for discussion at monthly meetings but has proved most interesting and informative to the members. Further information on this type of program can be obtained by looking at recent issues of the Chicago Rocks and Minerals Pick and Drop Stick.

MRS. BERNICE WIENRANK REXIN
3934 NORTH SHERMAN BLVD.
MILWAUKEE 16, WISCONSIN

Perhaps the next question most frequently asked by the beginner is in regard to equipment, its use, proper speed, care and maintenance. As most of you know, the answer is that you can get into serious difficulties, particularly if he has assembled or built the equipment himself. By the same token, this question is the most difficult to answer. There are several books that are available which will answer most of the questions. On the other hand, a general treatment of laboratory equipment could be assigned to one or more of your mechanically inclined members and could also serve as highly interesting programs.

In addition, the manufacturers of grinding wheels and abrasives have lectures or movie films which are available on the subject.

Whatever you do, don't forget M.W.F. Rockrasmal! They help your club! If you want help in organizing one, just ask Russ Kemp, your Division Chairman. There will be at least two of them this year.

Willis Wilson
Central Regional Vice President
Wildest Federation

(The Rock or Mineral - A - Month idea could be extended also to your local rocks, to rocks and minerals of interest to your members to rocks likely to be found on coming rock hunts, to the rocks and minerals to be found at our next field trip; conserve - July at Ishpeming, etc. Editor)