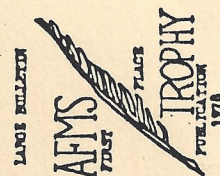
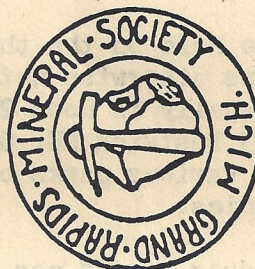
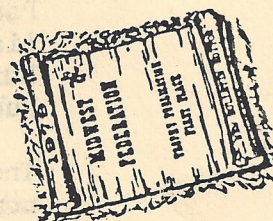
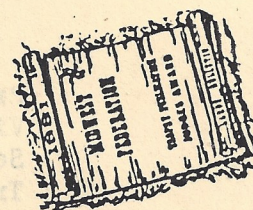


OCTOBER 1988

Oct/988



Grand Rapids Mineral Society
Ruth Beauvais, Editor
Robert E. Beauvais, Publisher
3308 Wilson SW
Grandville, MI 49418

FIRST CLASS

HERE'S YOUR GLACIAL DRIFTER!

M/M Robert E. Beauvais
3308 Wilson SW
Grandville, MI. 49418



THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY

President	Robert Beauvais	534-3871
Vice-President	Val Katelnicks	874-6466
Secretary	Arlene King	532-6239
Treasurer	Ted Duprey	532-3841
Historian/Librarian	Crystal Boogaart	451-3274
Past President	Donn Cuson	
Liaison Officer	Robert Beauvais	534-3871
Editor	Ruth Beauvais	534-3871
Publicity	Peter Boogaart	451-3274

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society, founded in 1958, is a non-profit corporation and is a member of the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineral Societies.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. We meet in the Geology Department (usually in Room 247) of the Grand Rapids Junior College, 143 Bostwick NE, Grand Rapids. Summer meetings are held at various parks or at members' homes and are usually picnics.

Membership dues are \$8 per year for a family; \$6 per year for an individual member and \$4 per year for a student under 18. Dues are payable to the treasurer in September of each year. Those joining from March 1 thru July 31 shall pay one-half the annual dues. Unpaid memberships will be dropped from the roll in December.

All material for publication shall be in the hands of the editor no later than the first Monday of the month. Permission to reprint articles appearing in THE GLACIAL DRIFTER is hereby given provided proper credit is given. Advertising in THE GLACIAL DRIFTER is limited to a uniform size of one-third page at the rate of \$3 per issue, September thru June. Each member is entitled to one free ad per year.

Exchange bulletins should be mailed to the editor.

We welcome visitors to all our meetings and encourage them to return whenever possible.



THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

VOLUME 31

OCTOBER 1988

NUMBER 2

G.R.M.S. CALENDAR

Wed., Oct. 19 7 p.m. Business Meeting for all members at Grand Rapids Junior College Geology Dept. - Room 247. This will be followed by a work session, doing whatever Karl Bruder has set up for us. We will probably be sorting and organizing specimen boxes of rocks. This means we need to be able to identify those - it will be a goor review, and a challenge - for all of us.

Sat., Oct. 29 "Gravel Pit Geology" at Blandford Nature Center - for those who have signed up (sponsored by Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club).

Wed., Nov. 16 - Regular Meeting

Sat., Nov. 19 6:30 p.m. 30th Anniversary Pot Luck, Party Room, Breton Village Green Apartments, 2305 Burton SE at Breton. This is where Bette Baker lives. She says there is plenty of parking nearby. Save that evening - more information in the November Drifter.

PLACES TO GO

The "show season" for this year is almost over but let us remind you of one last event: Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society Show, Military Sciences Building, Michigan State University, on Oct. 21-23.

Did you remember that the Kalamazoo Geological Society has volunteered to host the 1989 Midwest Federation Show and Convention? As a nearby club we need to help in any way we can. Rich Van Beek, Bob and Ruth Beauvais and Naida House (of Indian Mounds Club) will be planning the programs for the event. If you have any ideas for a program, please pass them on to this committee.

RAIN is caused by overnight camping expeditions, golf tournaments, Sunday School picnics, wedding on the terrace, washing windows and carefully planned trips.

TRY SHELLS are caused by newly-planted shrubs and lawns - and field trips cancelled by pessimistic weather forecasts and nervous rockhounds.

- adapted from Llanes Rock Hut News

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE. . . .

CRYSTAL



GAZIN'

Michigan's colorful fall season is well on its way - from Copper Harbor and Fort Wilkins, it has been gradually working its way southward. It has been painting the hillsides, woodlots, roadsides and fence lines with the red leaves of maples, the yellow of aspen and beech, and the brown of oak trees as it comes, leaving the green of evergreens to remind us of the look of spring and summer. Ruth and I had the pleasure of seeing some of the best color we have ever seen as we traveled home from a short stay on Mackinac Island the first weekend of October.

We took an unplanned side trip from US 131 west to US 31 by secondary roads across the northern end of Antrim County, through Pleasant Valley (and it was!) to Central Lake and Eastport (at the northern tip of Torch Lake) down to Traverse City. From T.C. we went through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to Frankfort over to M 37, and after a quick stop in Baldwin for some of Jones' famous ice cream, headed for home. By next weekend, Kent County ought to be in "living color" from border to border. If you haven't done so, take to the side roads and enjoy!

Our October meeting is planned to be a working bee in the Geology Department at GRJC - a start on "paying our room rent." Karl Bruder is setting up several things he would like us to do for him. Our business meeting will start at 7 p.m. All members are urged to come at that time. See you there!

Bob

EDITOR'S NOTE....This month marks the 30th anniversary of our organization. Although we no longer have any charter members with us, and we are a much smaller group, we can all rally around next month to celebrate our 30th year. Plans will be made at the meeting, but you can help by getting in touch with former members and encouraging them to join us for this occasion.

THE REAL WEATHER PICTURE? - Meteorologists make weather conditions seem more complicated than they actually are. They fuss with weather maps and go on and on about high pressure areas and slow moving fronts. In truth, weather is very easy to understand once you grasp a few fundamental facts, all of which are based solidly on the law of "cause and effect."

RAIN is caused by overnight camping expeditions, golf tournaments, Sunday School picnics, wedding on the terrace, washing windows and carefully planned field trips.

DRY SPELLS are caused by newly-planted shrubs and lawns - and field trips cancelled by pessimistic weather forecasts and nervous rockhounds.

- adapted from Itasca Rock Nut News

TWO ROCKHOUNDS RECOMMEND TWO SPECIAL PLACES - at Florissant and Denver

Roger and I just recently returned from a trip to the southwest. We visited a park and museum that I think would be of interest to the members of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society.

First the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Florissant, Colorado. Leaf and insect fossils are found in the park. The visitor's center has a beautiful display of the fossils found in the area. Fossil hunting is prohibited for the general public. The park also has many petrified redwood stumps and partial trunks. Hiking trails ranging from one-half mile to longer trails are there with many varieties of trees, wildflowers and wildlife visible from the trails.

Second, the Denver Museum of Natural History with its fantastic mineral collection. It is smaller but as fine as the Smithsonian. Everything is beautifully lighted and displayed. One highlight was a room of selenite crystals from Cave of the Swords in Mexico. A whole section of the cave was displayed intact, exactly as it was found in the cave. The gold display was outstanding.

The museum also has on loan from Russia a magnificent display of Vasily Konovalenko's gem sculptures which are made out of different gems and minerals to achieve the different colors for skin, clothing and accessories. Vasily Konovalenko portrays a lot of humor in his sculptures and his artistic talent is compared to Faberge.

If anyone is planning a trip to the southwest the park and museum are well worth a visit.

-Arlene King

G.R.M.S. Member

WHAT DO YOU CALL A ROCK which is over $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, but not over $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter? It is a cobble. Over $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter is a boulder and less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches is a pebble. A fragment is $\frac{1}{8}$ inch or less, and a particle is $\frac{1}{25}$ or less.

If a rock is said to be "coarse" in texture, its grains are $\frac{1}{5}$ inch or larger. "Fine-grained" rocks have a texture of grains below $\frac{1}{25}$ inch. If you cannot see the grain at all, the rock is said to be "Microcrystalline." For those who wish to remember to translate all this to millimeters, remember that a millimeter is about $\frac{3}{64}$ of an inch. Five millimeters is close to $\frac{3}{16}$ " and 25.4 millimeters equals one inch.

from SHOP HELPS

Lapidary Journal 10/86

via The Petoskey Stone 12/86

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Bob Beauvais. The meeting was held in Room 247 of Grand Rapids Junior College. Prior to this, Mr. Karl Bruder, Geology Head, took some members into the room where he has provided space for storage of our supplies: two cupboards and two overhead glass-front cases.

The secretary was absent so there were no minutes. Ruth Beauvais was appointed secretary pro-tem. The treasurer presented his annual report which will be published in the October bulletin.

An invitation has been extended to participate in a "Gravel Pit Geology Tour" at Blandford Nature Center by the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club. Date is Oct. 29 with the group limited to 30 persons. Charge is \$4, and our club may be asked to subsidize the event. Three members asked to be included.

Discussion followed about the video course offered by G.R. Junior College. More information is needed from Jack Van Aartsen of the college staff before we can decide.

Since the club voted to dispense with midwinter meetings because so many are away, we could not help Mr. Bruder much, but it is possible those who remain in town will meet once a month to assist him. It was decided the next meeting will be a work meeting and the president will so inform Mr. Bruder so he will have tasks ready for us.

It was decided we could have refreshments in the classroom.

October will be the 30th anniversary of the club. Bette Baker offered to arrange for a "party room" in her apartment complex and we can plan a pot luck celebration on Saturday, Nov. 19. Plans will be made this month.

There was some discussion about the decision of the Grand Rapids Public Museum voting to discontinue our show at Blandford Nature Center.

The program was presented by Bob Beauvais and consisted of slides and commentary on the field trip to Keokuk, Iowa, the MMF Convention at Macomb, Illinois, and a special event at Houghton, Michigan arranged by the university museum at Michigan Tech and the Red Metal Minerals in Hancock.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Beauvais

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 1987-88

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE, August 17, 1987 \$ 348.56

INCOME: Memberships 173.00
 Raffle 50.00
 Donation 2.00
 For Blandford Nature Center 59.00
 Advertising (Aleta's) 30.00
 Show (sale of rocks) 238.85

552.85
 901.41

EXPENSES: Midwest Dues 30.00
 MNF Endowment Fund 30.00
 Blandford Nature Center 59.00
 G.R. Museum - rent 60.00
 State of Mich. - Filing Fee 10.00
 Bank Service chgs. 6.30
 MNF Convention

Editors' Breakfast 9.00

(R. Beauvais)

Delegate 12.75

(R. Steele)

Programs

R. LeFebvre, R. Cederhold

J. Clark (\$25 each)

Bulletin Expense

Postage 116.00

Paper, printing 72.57

Dating stamp 2.60

Stencils, ink 18.70

Raffle specimens 209.87

24.65

526.57
 374.84

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE, August 15, 1988

SAVINGS ACCOUNT 8/17/87 754.14

Coffee 13.40

Interest 31.15

44.55

798.69

SCHOLARSHIP SAVINGS 8/17/87 253.07

Interest 21.33

C.D. Interest 52.02

326.42
 800.00

SCHOLARSHIP CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

TOTAL OF ALL ACCOUNTS, August 18, 1988 \$ 2,299.95

September: Savings Account Interest \$7.50

Scholarship Account Int. \$6.58

C. D. Interest 4.67

TOTAL OF ALL ACCOUNTS, Sept. 18, 1988 \$ 2,318.70

-Ted Duprey, Treasurer

ARE YOU READY FOR POSTERITY?

YOU CAN PRESERVE YOUR LAPIDARY TECHNIQUES, COLLECTING
KNOWLEDGE, FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCES FOR THE ROCKHOUNDS WHO WILL
FOLLOW AFTER US...

I overheard the complaint again, just recently, at a pretty good-sized show where a lot of lapidary arts demonstrating was going on. People just aren't getting the training to become good lapidary craftspersons. The speaker pointed out that those club members at tables showing the questioning public how the gemstones are polished, how the findings are designed and made, and how the rough stone is faceted were all "gray" heads. There was a time when the teaching of lapidary arts was a popular craft class offering in most adult education curriculums. Sadly, those classes have been disappearing due to cost-cutting programs and lack of funding where administrators believe the money is better spent elsewhere.

What has all this got to do with the 1989 AFMS Program Competitions? A great deal, my friend, a very great deal. The number one job of this committee is that of finding good program material for your various federation program libraries. We do that by encouraging people like YOU who have an art technique, knowledge and experience in collecting and collections, studies of individual mineral or fossil specimens, or a geology talk to share, to put those ideas into slide or video programs and participate in the annual competition. Competing is always exciting. The big thrill comes when your program is selected, not only as a winner, but to be duplicated and shared with all the rockhounds across the country. You have just preserved your techniques and ideas for posterity and future rockhounds.

We challenge all rockhounds to accept this opportunity. And if you are having a problem thinking of a subject, consider these: a program on the equipment it takes to get started in lapidary; how a beginner gets started in faceting; how you select a stone to polish or facet; what scrimshawing is all about; how to

clean a fossil; and some study programs on individual minerals or a species of ancient life. How about some archaeology study programs--one could do a whole program on potsherds alone. In the competition we just concluded, we had three fine how-to First Place winners -- CREEPY CRITTERS, SOAPSTONE CARVING, and BEGINNING LAPIDARY-CABACHONS. Take the opportunity to view them and see how simply they are made and yet what an impact these presentations make. And I'll bet you can do even better -- I'm counting on you. I'm looking forward to hearing from you on April 1, 1989, and seeing you in the winner's circle in Portland, Oregon, June 8-11.

Please read the instructions that appear in the September issue of the AFMS Newsletter. There is a complete set of rules. Then consult the special category you are interested in. If you have any questions, please direct them to me - Margaret M. Pearson, Chairperson, AFMS Program Competition Committee, 9034-24 West Lisbon Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53222. Telephone (414) 464-0781.

-MWF NEWSLETTER 10/88

SPEAKING OF OLD MEMBERS...There is a long-time member that few of us know, yet he still joins the club and keeps track of our activities. Joseph Martin is no longer able to get out..... but we recently received a note from him:

Grand Rapids Mineral Society - Robert E. Beauvais:

- Thanks for the Drifter. Reminds me of all the good times I had with "Rocks."

- Joe Martin

---Thank you, Joe, for your note!

His address is 854 Cambridge Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

ALETA'S ROCK SHOP

Phone
363-5394

1515 PLAINFIELD N.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49506

Owner
Rudy Jauw

JEWELRY SUPPLIESROUGH AND TUMBLER STONESLAPIDARY SUPPLIESTUMBLING AND CUTTING MATERIALSHOURS

Monday thru Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

I had an opportunity to spend a short time at the Detroit show this past week end. There was a lot of activity and a lot of people coming and going.

One of the features of the show was a case displaying the Mitchell-Hedges' crystal skull. According to the publicity, this is the first and only time it will be publicly displayed. The skull was found in the jungles of British Honduras by the daughter of an explorer, F. A. Mitchell-Hedges. He was there on an archeological search for a buried citadel which he called "Lubaatun." It was beautiful in an eerie sort of way - a clear crystal carved skull. No photographs were allowed of it - it is said the skull doesn't like to have its picture taken, and weird things happen to those do take its picture...?

The lovely large faceted topaz which was exhibited at McComb was there too and pictures could be taken of it. It was amusing to hear one "expert" who decided it wasn't really a topaz but simply faceted glass, expound on his theory to several people. Unfortunately, I am too shy and not knowledgeable enough to argue the point, but I hope someone set him right.

- Ruth Beauvais

PETRIFIED WOOD

Most authorities agree that petrified wood is formed by the replacement, cell by cell, by some mineral substance. In this petrification, practically all of the organic matter of the wood is removed, but the original wood structure may be finally preserved. Parts of the tree may be destroyed by rot or other means before petrification; this part would show no cells or wood fiber. It is generally assumed that petrification is a very slow process, running into thousands or even millions of years.

Let's say that like the petrified forests of Arizona, these trees were part of a living forest in the beginning of the Jurassic age, one hundred and sixty million years ago. At this time the petrified forest area was a broad flood plain a swampy region with many rivers. These rivers picked up trees during floods and carried them to the flood plain where they were buried in as much as four hundred feet of volcanic ash and silt. The process of petrification began when the inundated trees absorbed materials from the water that had seeped through the volcanic ash and silt. After much time passed, the area is thrust up and water is expelled from the cells, causing mineralization to occur. As soon as the sediment and trees solidify, petrification is complete and erosion begins its slow work of uncovering the trees.

-next page, please

PETRIFIED WOOD (concluded)

While we usually think of wood as being petrified or fossilized by some form of silica, such as agate, chalcedony, opal or jasper; there are other replacement minerals including calcite, pyrite, marcasite, dolomite, barite, chert and hematite.

One way to check to see if a specimen is wood is to look at it under a microscope. There you can see the original wood cells even more plainly than if the tree had just been cut. Because of the vividly colored mineral sediments the structure is revealed in startling clarity.

-by Harry Lovell

via The Crystal Gazer and Flint Chips

NEW COLOR IN CHALCEDONY

In 1980 a quail hunter found some unusual violet-colored stones in a remote area of Arizona. This stone is being called "Damsonite" after the damson plum, a plum native to America. In theory it is thought that the material may have been discovered by American Indians more than 200 years ago. It is also believed that the Indians would travel for miles to obtain pieces of this material to use in religious rites and for medicinal purposes. It is the crypto-crystalline form of quartz which we know as chalcedony. It is believed that this particular color of chalcedony has not been seen before.

-via MGAGS Newsletter, Fall '88)

and The Pyriter, & GI Nugget

"According to a geologist, the earth is made of six layers, like a cake, and the similarity is carried even further with nuts sprinkled on top."

from Fractured Agate

via The Trilobite (9/88)

IT'S OCTOBER - DUES ARE DUE - DUES ARE DUE - DUES ARE DUE - DUES ARE DUE!

MINERAL NEWS - from GEMS 10/88

Two recent articles in the current issue of the American Mineralogist shed some interesting light on two popular gemstones, tourmaline and beryl.

Mineralogists from California have studied irradiation and heating effects on clear and pink tourmaline. They find that heating a pink tourmaline crystal will cause it to become clear and irradiating with gamma rays will return the pink color. They also have studied the natural radiation levels in many southern California pegmatites and conclude that the naturally occurring pink tourmalines are caused by the background radiation's effect on manganese impurities in originally clear elbaite crystals.

Three Italian crystallographers have completed an extensive chemical and structural study on over 30 natural occurring and several synthetic beryl crystals. The gems had a vast range of colors including red, green, blue, yellow and even colorless varieties. A great number of trace elements such as iron, chrome, manganese and titanium were found in the beryls that accounted for the various colors. The authors also found that these substitutions tended to make a slight difference on the crystallographic shape of the specimens and seemed to indicate that natural beryls fall into three subgroups with slightly different dimensions.

The variety of substitutions found suggest that careful analysis of beryl may enable geologists to use the gem as geothermometers; that is, to indicate the temperature at which the host rock crystallized.

-The Gems editor credits this information to Dr. Grace