

## THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

Bulletin of The Grand Rapids Mineral Society  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

JUNE 1990

Volume 32

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Wednesday, June 20 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Picnic at Wedgewood Park, Grandville. The park is on Wilson Avenue, just three blocks south of Prairie (count the streets on the east side, there are none on the west side). Be sure to call if you need better directions. There is a covered pavilion there in the park. Bring a dish to pass and join us. (Table service, too, and your own beverage.

Saturday, June 16 Field trip to Duff Quarry, Huntsville, Ohio. See the president's message for what we hope to find there. Some of us plan to go on Friday and will be camping at the state park near there.

Sunday, June 10 2-5 pm. Reception for Mary Jane Dockeray who is retiring from the Grand Rapids Public Museum. She is a former member of GRMS and a very good friend of the club. See the invitation on another page.

Better read the above from bottom to top to get the dates in proper order! I don't do everything backwards, but I did this time!

### PLACES TO GO

June 22-24 Bloomington, Indiana Rock Swap (formerly the Bedford Swap) Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds.

June 23-24 MCAGS Bookhound Weekend, Northwestern Michigan College Traverse City, MI

July 19-22 MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION AND SHOW, Evansville, In. 50th Anniversary - Golden Jubilee, Green Convention Center, 17th and Walnut

July 5-7 Red Metal Retreat, Michigan Tech U., Houghton, MI

Sept. 7-9 Muskegon County Rock and Mineral Club Show

Sept. 14-15 Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club Show, Holland Civic Center, Holland, MI



## CRYSTAL GAZING

## the president's page

Did I say that summer was upon us in my last venture at CRYSTAL GAZING? Bite your tongue, Beauvais, after near frost conditions right after Memorial Day, and 40 degree temperatures June 2. My crystal must have been too foggy when I wrote that! Nevertheless, it is that time of the year when we think about picnics, and about collecting trips. Both of these things will occur this month. We have received permission from Duff's Quarry, Huntsville, Ohio, to collect there on Saturday, June 16. We should meet at the quarry office at 10 a.m. and find out what parts of the quarry to stay away from. The minerals that have been found there are pyrite, dolomite, calcite, fluorite and sphalerite. Figure on a 5½ to 6 hours travel time from Grand Rapids to the quarry. If you plan to go, let me know and I'll get directions to you.

Ruth and I are trying to figure a way to squeeze in a trip to the Ishpeming Swap the first weekend in August and then a few days in the copper country - are you interested in this?

If you are interested in learning, MGAGS Rockhound Weekend takes place the 23rd and 24th of June at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. That's a good place to go, with hands-on demonstrations and talks on various phases of our hobby being presented. Try it - you'll find that you like it! Rich Van Beek, Marguerite Petersen, Florence Hill and Henry Tchozeski are on the schedule.

On July 5th, 6th, and 7th, the Red Metal Retreat takes place at Michigan Tech in Houghton. That's a good chance to visit the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum - and there's usually a field trip involved.

Don't forget the Midwest Federation Golden Jubilee Show and Convention in Evansville, Indiana, July 19-22! It promises to be a good one - all air-conditioned.

I mentioned picnics, too, didn't I? Reserve June 20, July 18 (if you aren't going to the MWF Convention, that is), and August 15 for our summer meetings at Grandville's Wedgewood Park at the pavilion.

Please note the special invitation included in this issue for the reception on Sunday, June 10. If we don't see you on the 16th for the field trip, how about the 20th for the picnic?

Bob

When collecting in a quarry, federal law requires the wearing of a hard hat, protective eye shields or goggles and sturdy boots. Heavy gloves would also be desirable, but their use is a personal choice.

-The Rockpile (6/90)



*Nothing Is Accomplished Unless Somebody Cares*

You are cordially invited to an afternoon of tribute to  
MARY JANE DOCKERAY

Sunday, June 10, 1990 2-5 p.m.

Grand Valley State University L. V. Eberhard Center

301 West Fulton, Downtown Grand Rapids

(free parking at GVSU lots)

\* \* \*

2-3 P.M.---Social Hour of Music and Refreshments

\* \* \*

3 P.M.---Tribute Presentations

- Buck Matthews, Master of Ceremonies -
- Joan Wolfe, Founder of the West Michigan Environmental Action Council -
- Larry A. Fegel, Science Supervisor, Grand Rapids Public Schools -
- Huey Copeland II, Former student,  
Blandford Environmental Education Program -
- Nancy Clouse, Art Instructor,  
Grand Rapids Junior College and local artist -
- Don Naish, Director of Seven Ponds Nature Center -
- State and National Tributes -

We look forward to a wonderful celebration!

We could write and write about what Mary Jane has meant to our organization, from the time she joined the club and brought her knowledge of geology to help us in our attempt to learn about rocks and minerals and geology. About the many programs she presented at meetings and at our shows at the museum. And about her assistance when we moved the show to Blandford Nature Center for a few years. And about the classes she taught and the gravel pit field trips she led. This is our opportunity to let her know how much all this has been appreciated. The Mary Jane Dockeray Scholarship for Careers in Science has been established and at our next business meeting we hope to decide what we can do to help build this scholarship. We hope we see you on Sunday, June 10 at L. V. Eberhard Center.

**SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS FOR AFMS**

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Endowment has found an outlet for used stamps. The money received for the stamps goes to the AFMS Endowment Fund.

If you would like to help the fund, just save your used stamps, commemorative or others, trimmed or untrimmed. Send the stamps to: Irene and Leroy Penton

874 S. Belmont Dr.

Lafayette, CO 80026

...Or bring them to a meeting and we'll see that they are sent to the above address.



# MINUTES OF THE MEETING - May 16, 1990

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Bob Beauvais. The reading of the minutes was bypassed; the treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Bob Beauvais announced that there were several flyers on the table for the upcoming mineral shows; that he had four complimentary tickets for the Dearborn show. Doug and Deb took two, Bob has two tickets left, if anyone is interested.

Bob received an estate sale notice with some good equipment and materials listed for sale in Kentwood. Contact Bob for more information.

Summer meetings will be potlucks at Wedgewood Park, Grandville, on our usual third Wednesday of the month.

Reminder: The Midwest Federation Convention in Evansville is July 19-22. Still need a delegate for the convention.

Rich asked if club was still interested in making a program on the Grand Rapids Gypsum mines for the Midwest Federation Library. Project will be discussed at a later date.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arlene King, Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking account, May 14, 1990 (no activity last month)	\$ 978.65
Savings account, May 14, 1990 (no activity last month)	866.62
Scholarship Savings, April 14, 1990	378.92
Interest on Cert. of Deposit	<u>5.23</u>
	384.15
Certificate of Deposit	<u>800.00</u>
Total of all funds	\$ 3,029.42

- T. R. Duprey  
Treasurer

DID YOU KNOW... The seas are not alone in responding to the tidal pull of the sun and the moon. Land is affected as well. Twice daily, as the surface of the oceans rises and falls, the continents rise and fall too, sometimes by as much as six inches when the moon is directly overhead and exerts its greatest effect.

Reader's Digest Book of Facts



### THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ROCKS AND MINERALS

The term ROCK means any sizeable bulk material that makes up the earth's crust. A rock is made up of one or more minerals in varying numbers and percentages and states of impurity. Limestone, for example, is an impure massive form of the mineral calcite. Other rocks, such as granite, are composed of varying percentages of quartz, feldspar, micas, garnets and other associated minerals.

MINERALS, on the other hand, are combinations of elements such as oxygen and silicon in quartz with definite proportions of elements forming distinctive physical properties. Rocks can be identified only by identifying the minerals within them. Not all rocks are hard, as is commonly thought. For clay is an "unconsolidated" rock. Other rocks not usually considered such are sand, gravel and glacial ice.

To the mineral collector, the study of rock masses or Geology, is important in order that we may recognize likely areas to prospect for certain types of deposits and then be able to recognize the constituent minerals either by themselves or by their associations.

-Norm Frost

Via The Chippings and Crystal Gazer (6/90)

SOUTH AFRICA is the richest nation on earth as far as mineral wealth goes. Many of their minerals are almost exclusive except for the Soviet Union. The South Africans supply us with almost all our chromium, manganese and platinum. If we lost this supply entirely, our major industries would be forced to close down.

-Pegmatite 11/89 & The Rocky Reader (2/90)

BEWARE OF USING FLARES. A young member of the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Club helped to find some dropped keys recently. The only light available was a flare. No one knew or realized that he had been inhaling the fumes which are magnesium and are deadly. The young man became unconscious a little later. The brain damage that had occurred was so great that he never regained consciousness. So, be careful on the use of flares and do not use them for any other work.

-via Crystal Gazer (6/90)

### ALETA'S ROCK SHOP

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1515 Plainfield N.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Owner  
Rudy Jauw

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### TUMBLING AND CUTTING MATERIALS

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Closed Sunday and Monday



## - BITS AND PIECES -

### THE EDITOR'S PROBLEM...

One of the difficult decisions an editor makes every month at publishing time is just what information should be passed on to members via the bulletin. There is no problem about club news; that's what the bulletin is all about. But what other information will you be interested in? We have always tried to keep the material well balanced in respect to the aspects of our hobby, and in respect to the interests of our members as we know them. So we don't use all fossil articles, or all mineral articles, but try to keep a good balance. Whether this is satisfactory is also your problem...you have to let us know what you want and what you don't want. Otherwise your editor just goes her merry way doing as she pleases.

### A PRESENT DILEMMA....

Sometimes we are dubious about what we have used after it is put on a stencil (using a mimeograph is not as versatile, but more or less unchangeable than using a computer or a copier) and doubts begin to arise. This is true today of the short which appears on page 5 about using flares. We don't doubt that the information about the danger of inhaling magnesium, but wonder just when this accident occurred. We exchange bulletins with the Santa Clara Club and find it bulletin a fine one, but do not ever remember reading about their losing a member in this tragic manner and wonder just when it happened. How recent was it? However, the stencil for page 5 is already typed and will be left for your to read, but if anyone has more information of this tragedy, we would appreciate having it.

### AN INVITATION....

We have just received an invitation to join the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club for their picnics on June 19, July 17 and August 21 at Pinery Park in Wyoming - 6:30 p.m. We still plan to meet this month on (the) 20th in Grandville as noted on the first page, and can discuss other plans for the summer at that time.

### LAST MONTH'S MEETING. . .

Rich Van Beek presented a very interesting program explaining how he can correlate the biblical account of creation with the theory of evolution. Rich did a lot of research for this program and his ideas were well presented.

### KEEPING UP WITH OUR MEMBERS...

Deb Valentine had back surgery May 31 and is home and improving. I tried to check on Ruth Steele but got no answer - she had a date at the hospital in Ann Arbor in late May. Dorothy Waterman broke her knee cap while in California this winter and therefore is keeping very close to home.



## CANADIAN GEM AND MINERAL INFORMATION

The Geological Survey of Canada is a "Gold mine" of information for individuals or groups interested in rocks and minerals. Such information includes samples, pamphlets and maps. Let me quote from one of their pamphlets.

"The Geological Survey of Canada publishes guidebooks on geology and on mineral occurrences. Lists of mineral clubs, mineral dealers, books, magazines and mineral museums are published in 'Information for Collectors' available at no charge from the Geological Survey of Canada, 601 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E8. A collection of 36 commonly occurring minerals is available from the Geological Survey of Canada to residents in Canada. Details for ordering the mineral set (and a similar 36 piece rock set) and guidebooks are given in 'Introduction to Collectors.'"

I bought the two sets of samples from the local Survey office in Vancouver last spring. At that time they cost \$4. per set (a ridiculously low price for such a well prepared set). Also I got separate free pamphlets titled "Minerals," "Rocks," "Gemstones," "Meteorites," and "Fossils of the Burgess Shale." These are written in English on one side and in French on the other.

Also, I bought some huge coloured wall maps. One, at \$7.50, is particularly useful called "Principal Mineral Areas of Canada." (Map 900A, 1988) 32" high x 36" wide, or if you are into metric, 84cm x 92cm. Others available are different regions of Canada.

All these readily available items can be secured at nominal cost and will greatly add to your fund of knowledge about rocks and minerals of Canada.

-Tom Leedham

Richmond Gem & Mineral Club  
from Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada  
via AFMS Newsletter (5/90)

## ABOUT SHOWS AND CONVENTIONS

The Golden Jubilee Show and Convention to be held in Evansville, Indiana will be a 4-day show...the 50th anniversary of the Midwest Federation.

At its fall meeting (10/14/89) the Executive Committee of the MWF voted to encourage host clubs to hold a 3-day show. The 1991 show and convention in South Bend will be a 3-day show - Aug. 30,31, Sept. 1.

The 1992 show will be held July 23-26 hosted by the Brunswick High School Geology Club at the Brunswick High School, Cleveland, Ohio. As far as is known, this is the first time a convention has been hosted in the Cleveland area and the FIRST time one has been hosted by a Junior Club. We understand the facility is a good one and the club capable..

The above is condensed from a report by Marve Starbuck, Chairman, Shows and Conventions. We have a lot to look forward to.

-Condensed from MWF Newsletter (4-90)

VOLCANIC NECKS

When a volcano dies, lava hardens in its throat as a plug of massive rock. The cone surrounding it, being composed mainly of loose material, crumbles and wears away. Meanwhile the plug resists weathering. When the cone has dwindled to a formless hill, the plug remains, standing like a monument. Devil's Tower in north-eastern Wyoming is such a volcanic neck, marking a spot where a volcano, after its rage was spent, died, and crumbled away. The neck is made of igneous rock called basalt. While the melt was cooling and shrinking, vertical joints formed.

-Loup Scoop,

Flint Flashes (12/86) and  
SCRIBE (Spring '87)

A VACATION IS SOMETHING THAT BY THE TIME YOU FINISH PAYING FOR IT YOU NEED A.....



## THE IMAGE OF ROCKHOUNDS

by Alice V. Smith,  
President RMFMS

I have driven into collecting areas, and I'm sure you have also, when I was ashamed to admit I was a "rockhound." Deep, deep holes had been dug and left unfilled. Trees and bushes had been uprooted and left to die. The area looked like it had been "shelled" and all shell holes left as is. Trash was left behind to bio-grade, which it did not. Tin cans were left to rust, which they did not.

What can we in our local organizations do to improve the image of all "rockhounds?" We need to work together as clubs to accomplish this. We need to "clean up our act." We need positive action programs, so that we can get documentation in magazines and newspapers. We can work with our civic organizations, we can work with a state organization, with BLM or Forestry service, or we can make up our own project within our clubs.

-Rocky Mountain News (7/87)  
via SCRIBE (Winter '90)

"MINERAL MUSEUM OF MICHIGAN" is the new designation for the A. E. Seaman Museum at Michigan Tech University. A resolution to this effect was passed by the Michigan Legislature in April. A framed copy of the resolution was presented to Stanley Dyl, Museum Curator at a reception in his honor at the Dearborn Civic Center during the show of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society of Dearborn in April. A special committee of the club originated the resolution plan in collaboration with Steve Wilson of the Michigan Geological Survey Division stressing the museum's dedication to the preservation and display of a premier collection of Michigan minerals as well as the outstanding quality of its entire collection, 20,000 items of which are currently on display.

-Summarized from The Rockpile (6/90)

## CRYSTALS THAT CURL . . .

Crystals grow in many shapes, but did you ever see one that forms curls and looks like an Archimedes screw? Medicinal chemist, Tamine Braish, and his colleagues at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, could not believe their eyes when they saw such a crystal sitting in a test tube. Having used dissolved "compound 46" many times before in various experiments, this particular vial was set aside with others for future observation.

Two weeks later, the liquid had evaporated leaving behind a screw-like crystal. Numerous trials provided the same results with the same direction curl, that is, counter-clockwise. If this result were influenced by the Coriolis Force (which causes water in the Northern Hemisphere to go down the drain in a circular motion counter-clockwise), what would happen if the experiment were tried in the Southern Hemisphere where the circular motion is clockwise?

When the sample of "compound 46" was sent to the Australian National University in Canberra, the first three tries found smiling scientists as the twist went clockwise, but on the fourth try, it was Nature which had the last laugh, since "46" returned to its counter-clockwise twist as if it were still up North! Numerous opinions have come from well-known scientists, but, for the present, the curling crystals are still a mystery.

-The T-Town Rockhound & Breccia 4/90

Don't be shocked because you've received your Drifter early. We're working ahead so you will know about the reception for Dr. Dockeray and can plan to attend. And now you also know about our field trip which will come before the June 20 meeting.



## 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.

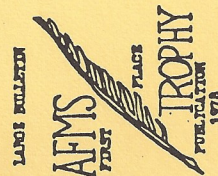
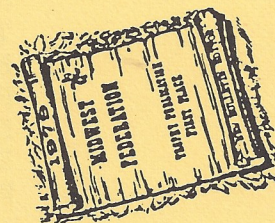
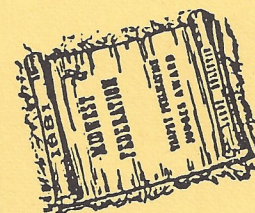
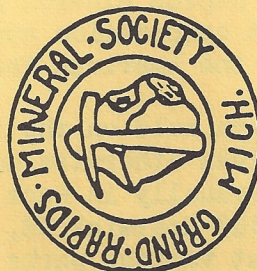
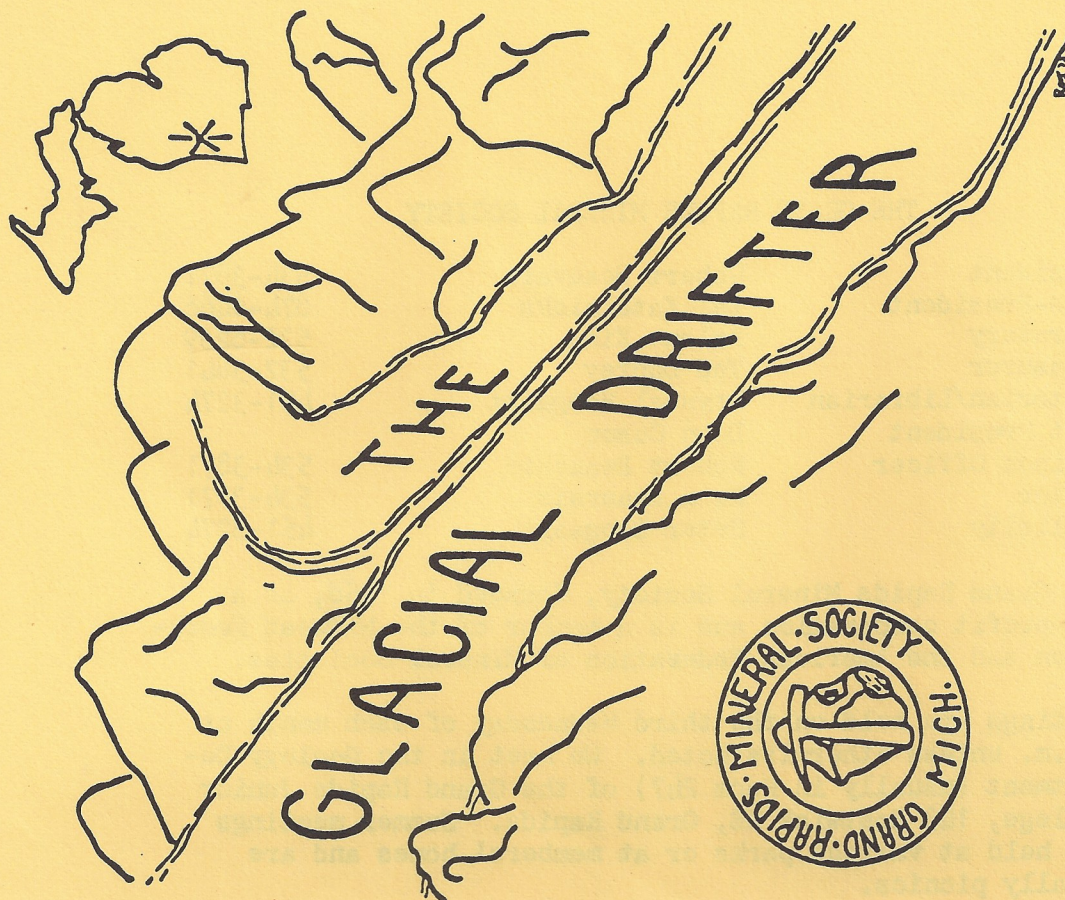
All material for publication shall be in the hands of the editor no later than the first Monday of the month. Permission to reprint articles appearing in THE GLACIAL DRIFTER is hereby given provided proper credit is given. Advertising in THE GLACIAL DRIFTER is limited to a uniform size of one-third page 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.



JUNE 1990



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

FIRST CLASS

HERE'S YOUR GLACIAL DRIFTER!

M/M Robert E. Beauvais  
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