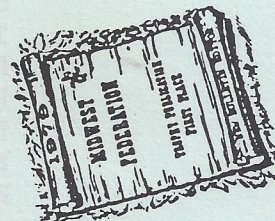
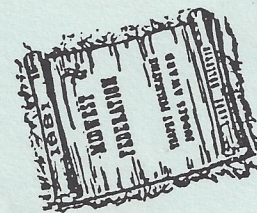
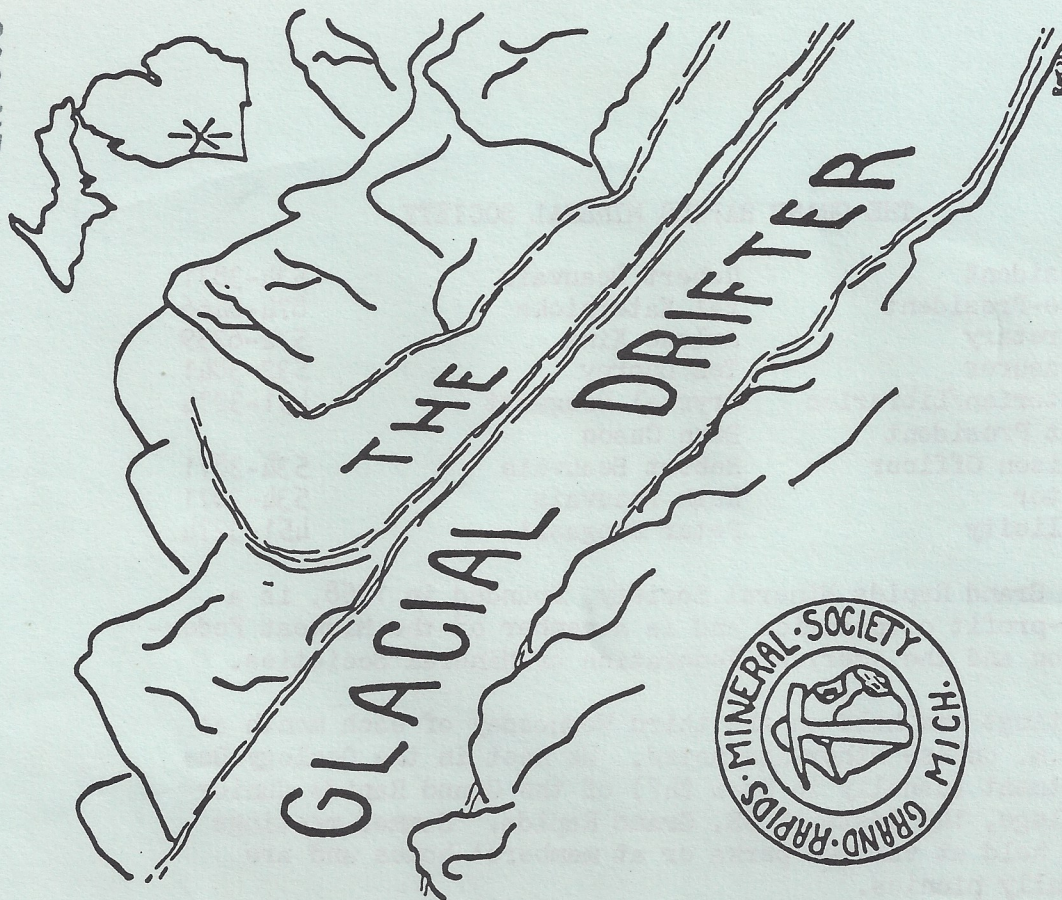


NOVEMBER 1989



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
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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

Bulletin of The Grand Rapids Mineral Society
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Volume 32
November 1989

Number 3

NOVEMBER MEETING

Room 247
Geology Dept.
Grand Rapids
Junior College

Wednesday, Nov. 15 - 7 p.m. Board Meeting
8 p.m. General Meeting

Our newest members, Doug and Deb Valentine, will take us on a collecting trip through Colorado: Boulder, Leadville, Creed, Silverton and Wheeler National Monument. Sounds like a big evening - be sure to come!

We can't tell you about coming shows, since the season is over for 1989 in our area. But why not start planning for the coming MWF Show and Convention to be held in Evansville, Indiana next June. Air-conditioning is promised and also a great show.

At our October meeting we had an interesting trip to a more interesting area - Big Bend National Park in Texas - via slides shown by Ted Duprey. The taped commentary explained the park, but Ted's personal remarks about the visits he and Marie have made there were especially enlightening. Thanks, Ted....now we all want to go!

THE ROCKHOUND DREAMS.....

of finding that "GREAT" specimen...
of finding "GOLD" in them thar hills...
of carving rocks into something "SPECIAL"...
of molding slabs into "CABS"...
of fashioning the "SILVER"...
of grinding the precious stones into "GEMS"...
of bringing out "HIDDEN" color of "FLUORESCENTS"...
of finding natural "HUMOR" in some...
of "SURPRISES" that come from the tumblers...
...Lucky is he who can say...

I DID IT ALL!

-Dorothy Nuttle
Tulip City Conglomerate (11/88)

CRYSTAL GAZING -- THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Now that we've all recovered from the visits of witches, warlocks, clowns, Martians and who knows what other creatures, we can pay more attention to rocks, minerals and fossils again.

Thanks to Ted and Marie Duprey, the display case at Grand Rapids JC has been filled. They have put in specimens from several of their collecting trips, as well as maps pointing out the sites they visited. We, along with students of JC, can enjoy seeing it when we get out of the elevator at the second floor.

The Dupreys and Beauvais' placed displays in the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society's show at MSU in East Lansing during the weekend of October 27-29. In addition, Marie and Ruth demonstrated gem tree making, Ted "supervised" and was general handyman, and I did my thing with microscope and micromounts. It was a good show, and we all enjoyed showing and telling about our hobby, especially to many of the more than 1300 children who kept arriving in school bus after school bus on Friday morning. Quite a few of them came back on Saturday and Sunday with their parents in tow. Weather-wise, too, it was a real nice weekend.

Don't miss our next meeting. New members Doug and Deb Valentine, are going to show us specimens and slides from collecting trips in Colorado.

Ruth and I will see you there!

Bob

A ROCKHOUND'S THANKSGIVING PRAYER

MY DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER,

THANK YOU

For these two eyes, as they see and marvel at your creations.

THANK YOU

For these two legs, as they walk in your pathway over your hills and through your valleys.

THANK YOU

For these two hands, touching, transforming, sharing.

THANK YOU

For this moment, to say simply,

THANK YOU!

- Betty McCreless

via Gem Time and The Rear Trunk (11/81)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING - October 18, 1989

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Bob Beauvais.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The display cases at G.R.J.C. will be ready next month for displaying. Marie Duprey volunteered for November, Roger King and Bette Baker volunteered to set up a display in January.

Public service projects were discussed. Several mentioned were talks at schools, retirement homes, Rotary meetings. Bob Beauvais said he would start this project.

Saturday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. there will be a lecture "Karst Features of Michigan." The lecture will be held in cabins A-B-C at Grand Valley State University in Kirkhof Center.

Bob read a letter about changes at Blandford Nature Center and we discussed petitions that are out to have Mary Jane Dockeray reinstated to her former position there.

Making a slide program on the Grand Rapids gypsum mine (Michigan Natural Storage Co.) was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene King

ALETA'S ROCK SHOP

Phone
363-5394
Area 616

1515 PLAINFIELD N.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49506

Owner
Rudy Jauw

JEWELRY SUPPLIESROUGH AND TUMBLING GEMSTONESLAPIDARY 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.

HOW SAFE ARE YOU?

by Ray McNeilly - AFMS Safety Chairman

From the time we are born until we die there are rules, laws, signs, directions (oral, written and printed) made to protect us. We are a society devoted to being safe, protective and hopefully productive.

When we walk we are comparatively safe until others come into the picture, running, working, driving, playing and just relaxing are activities affected in the same manner. Even when we are alone, there is danger of an accident if the rules, regulations, laws, etc., are not followed. It depends upon attention to detail and thinking about the task at hand.

The news media reports daily of accidents occurring in nearly all facets of our lives. It is hard to believe that a race of people smart enough to build the atom bomb and to utilize the micro chips the way we do would be dumb enough to get involved in accidents of any kind. One of the most common accidents involves cars and traffic. The speed limits are posted, the roads signed, the necessary signals in place, roads are marked, i.e., traffic lanes, turns, etc...all can be seen, but still we have accidents. Why? The answer is simple indeed, it is the operator or driver.

People don't like to be reminded that they are not always 100% right. As we breeze along in our cars our well trained active minds start wondering about other things besides driving. One's attention span is relatively short and we might know about the rules signs, etc., but we tend to forget what

we are doing until it is too late.

Using the automobile as an analogy is easy because there are so many of them, but remember any other activity is the same. The principles of accident prevention and safety remain the same regardless of the activity. Shops with or without machinery, meetings, field trips, camping, mining and other lapidary related activities of interest to us are included. The way we conduct ourselves sets an example for those who follow. We are constantly reminded by our peers of the accident potential and these are good as they are developed by experience (usually that means learning the hard way).

In Lapidary Clubs we are very fortunate as learning is easy. As, all one has to do is ask questions. There is a wealth of knowledge in all our clubs regarding the right way--which is the safe way--to find, clean out, polish and mount gemstones.

The acceleration of people and/or machinery is when the accident potential becomes of paramount importance.

As long as we concentrate on what we are doing we are comparatively safe. So - "How Safe Are You?" You are as safe as you want to be as long as you are alone. Just watch out for the other guy!

AFMST NEWSLETTER
9/89

TREASURER'S REPORT - Summarized

Checking Account Balance	\$ 153.13
Savings Account Balance	850.51
Scholarship Account	1,132.59
Total of all accounts 10/17/89	\$ 2,136.23

MICHIGAN KARST CONSERVANCY

"Karst Features of Michigan"

On Saturday afternoon, Nov. 4, Naida House, Rich Van Beek and I sat in on a public lecture presented at Grand Valley State University by the Michigan Karst Conservancy, a non-profit corporation dedicated to identifying and preserving some of the various karst features that can be found in our state. In case you don't know what a karst is, dictionaries define it this way:

Karst: A type of topography that is formed over limestone, dolomite or gypsum by dissolving or solution, and that is characterized by closed depressions or sinkholes."

Areas in Michigan include the southeastern Upper Peninsula, Alpena area and the Grand Rapids gypsum area.

The talk was presented by Dr. Rane L. Curl of the University of Michigan Chemistry Department. The Conservancy has purchased the Fiborn Quarry property near Trout Lake in the U.P. with the intent to keep the area from being overused and available for further study of its geology.

By means of slides and charts, Dr. Curl took us to the quarry with its stream that disappears into the side wall of the quarry and reappears several kilometers away where it joins the Hendrie River. We even went a short distance into the cave through which the stream flows, complete with a 10 foot waterfall. He also took us to the Alpena area where there are a number of sink holes, and the tallest waterfall in the Lower Peninsula - Oqueoc Falls. Although the stream falls about 90 feet, there is no mist seen and the sound of the falling water is muted because the brink of the falls is several feet below the ground.

An aerial photo of the Lake Huron shoreline and Misery Bay showed El Cajun Lake with very shallow beaches, and near the middle of the lake, several deep holes where springs formed from the underground rivers of the area make their entrance into the Great Lakes.

With just a very short touch on the gypsum mine area north of the Grand River and its sinkholes (which may be the result of cave-ins in the mine workings below), Dr. Curl then closed by mentioning the limestone quarries in Monroe County which also exhibit some karst features.

That evening, Ted and Marie Duprey, Rich, Val Katelniaks, Naida and Ruth and I went back to Grand Valley's Kirkhof Center to hear Dr. William Neal of the GRSU Geology Department talk about the gypsum formations underlying the Grand Rapids area. We learned about "chicken wire" gypsum, pencil rock, alabaster, dolomite, shale and coprolites.

-next page, please

MICHIGAN KARST AREAS (concluded)

The chicken wire gypsum is characterized by its similarity to a piece of chicken wire that has had irregularly rounded areas cut out of it. The formation is thought to be gypsum nodules which eventually grew large enough to touch each other, with thin lines of dark, impure gypsum outlining each nodule, producing the chicken wire appearance. Some nodules have an alabaster center and a pencil rock circumference. Others can have a pencil rock center and an alabaster circumference.

The pencil "gyp" is actually gypsum crystal twins so closely grown together that it is difficult to distinguish where one crystal ends and

another begins. Alabaster is a very fine-grained aggregate of crystals which appears to be a solid mass. Colors of the various types range from white through gray and various shades of pink, red and orange, depending on the amount of iron impurities present.

There are about eight layers of gypsum which are thick enough to be commercially utilized, and a good number of thinner layers between. Under the glacial till the sequence of deposition is (from top to bottom) dolomite, shale and gypsum layers to a depth of hundreds of feet. The shale deposits are intermixed with thin layers of gypsum only fractions of an inch thick in most places, comprised of vertically aligned needle-like crystal so closely grown that a broken cross section has the appearance of satinspar. The coprolites, probably shark dung, are mostly in the shale.

Pellerito Cave, a karst feature of our area was discovered a number of years ago in the Grand Rapids Gypsum Mine (Butterworth Avenue) in their first mine layer now abandoned for a lower layer of gypsum. It was formed by dissolution of gypsum by an underground stream as evidenced by its smooth walls. A roughly oval area about 25 to 30 feet across, 100 feet long, and 12 to 15 feet high was removed before the water ceased its work. Grand Rapids Gypsum Company closed down several years ago and the property was bought by the Domtar Corporation about four years ago. It is now back in production, working the lower level that had been opened by the former owners.

These lectures were well worth two trips to GVSU and certainly increased our knowledge and interest in our local gypsum mines and the other karst features of Michigan.

-Bob Beauvais

LEGISLATION

The BLM has awarded a contract to a Boulder, Co. firm to write the rules for collecting fossils on government owned lands. The guide for the rules will be the National Academy of Sciences report on Paleontological Collecting which was published in 1987. A committee will be formed of about 20 persons from BLM, professionals, dealers, amateurs, and other government agencies.

-John Boland, AFMS Chairman
Conservation & Legislation
AFMS Newsletter, Oct. 1989

KNOWING THE ROPES
BY Ruth Beauvais

Our first introduction to the Ropes gold mine came on our first rock hunting trip to the western Upper Peninsula in 1971 when we visited the site and found only some small waste piles and partially standing buildings. We were not expecting to find gold, but possibly arsenopyrite and other minerals. We didn't, and were quite happy to head farther down the road to the old verde antique quarry where the collecting was easy and the material plentiful.

Only a few years later we heard that a company was planning to reopen the mine and process the rock in a new method to extract the very, very fine gold. That year we attended the Ishpeming Rock Swap where the speaker at the Cracker Barrel session told us about the work in progress and displayed a model of the underground workings. We were also invited to visit the mine and again we had a talk on the site about the plans to mine. It was quite a surprise to arrive at the mine where we had once entered freely, and find it posted with sign after sign barring admittance. Of course the gate was opened for us and following the talk we were taken down the road to collect the verde antique, actually a form of serpentine. That's when we also learned the fascinating mineral name, serpentized peridotite - which is processed for the gold.

A year or two later we again were back at the Ropes, this time to hear a little more about the work in progress and to pick over certain designated piles for collecting. No one found gold, of course, which is so fine it cannot be seen, but some pyrite was collected.

Time passed, then we heard that gold was actually being mined, profitably, and that a jeweler in Marquette was selling jewelry made of Ropes gold. When I visited Wattsson and Wattsson's store I saw all these gold articles and purchased the only one I felt I could afford, a small gold heart.

Wattsson and Wattsson now have a new store in Marquette, with a simulated gold mine and viewing windows where you can watch craftsman at work. At the Detroit show this year the firm was there with an exhibit - also a simulated gold mine. All this information is to bring you up to date on what has happened to the mine - as the following taken from the bulletin of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society of Dearborn, The Rockpile, tells us in the November issue:

ROPES GOLD MINE CLOSES INDEFINITELY

Michigan's only active gold mine, the Ropes Gold Mine in Ishpeming, was closed indefinitely October 2 to conduct stability testing of the soil, according to a report in the Detroit Free Press October 5, 1989. Thirty-one employees of the Calahan Mining Corp., which operates the mine were laid off.

-continued-

ROPES MINE CLOSED (concluded)

The Ropes mine, the largest producing gold mine east of the Mississippi River was founded in 1882 by Julius Ropes, a druggist and part-time prospector, and operated until 1897. It was reopened in 1985 even though its gold ore produces at a ratio of only one ounce of gold ore for ten tons of rock. At that time gold prices were quite high, climbing as high as \$850 an ounce. Reportedly, the mine can operate profitably if gold prices do not go below \$310 an ounce. Recently, gold prices have been in the \$370 range.

Michigan gold as such will not soon fade from the scene, however, even if the Ropes mine does not soon reopen. Gold from the Ropes mine is still being crafted into jewelry and specimen pieces by Wattsson & Wattsson Jewelers, Inc., in Marquette, and according to their representative at the October Detroit Gem & Mineral Show, the Wattsson Co. has enough Ropes gold to last them for 10 years.

Wattsson employees at the Detroit show also said that the Ropes mine had recently found a much richer strata of gold ore that looked very promising. They also said that other gold prospecting companies were buying mineral rights in the Ishpeming area near the Ropes mine.

The Michigan Gold Rush of 1990?

-Walt Vogtmann, Editor
The Rockpile (11/89)

When most people think of the Madrid fault, they think of an area in the central part of the U.S. Wrong, this "fault" takes in all the area from Missouri eastward to the Atlantic coast! There is a new book on the market: The Next New Madrid Earthquake: A Survival Guide for the Midwest by William Atkinson. Southern Illinois University Press (1989), 210 P. \$16.95. Scientists predict that this region is due for a powerful tremor. This book explains the issue and shows how to prepare for earthquakes by discussing the region's past, present and future. And we thought California had a "corner" on earthquakes!

Another new book: "Alaska's Glaciers" a reprint by the Alaska Geographic Society, price \$19.95. This lavishly illustrated volume describes glaciers of Alaska. Geologic information provided in it can be applied to all of Alaska's glaciers.

-Gems (11/89)

Have you paid your dues for 1989-90? If not, this is the last issue of THE GLACIAL DRIFTER that you will receive. Mail them to Ted Duprey, 3326 Badger SW, Wyoming 49509 - or better yet, bring them to our November meeting.

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!