

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER
BULLETIN OF THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Volume 36

October 1993

No. 2

CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m. Our program will be another
another in the video series, "Earth Revealed."

This one: "Volcanoes" and "Intrusive Igneous Rocks"

Saturday, Oct. 23 6:30 p.m. 35th Anniversary Banquet,
anniversary with a banquet at Grandville-Jenison
Congregational Church, 3900 Henry St., Grandville

PLACES TO GO - THINGS TO DO IN 1993

- 10-2,3 Annual Geology Arts Fair, Eddy Center, 10730 Bush Rd.
Chelsea, MI. No charge but a State Park Motor Vehicle
Permit is required. Programs, Demonstrations,
Workshops, Swap & Sell, Geology Hikes. Sat. 10-5,
Sun. 10-4.
- 10/8-10 Show "On the Wings of Science..The Earth Connection;
Greater Detroit Gem & Mineral Show, Detroit Light
Guard Armory, 4400 East 8 Mile Rd. Fri. 9 to 7,
Sat. 10 to 9, Sun. 10 to 6
- 10/22-24 Show presented by Lake County Gem & Mineral Society
at Mundelein Holiday Inn, Hiways 45 & 63, Mundelein,
Illinois. Fri. 3-8; Sat. 10-8; Sun. 10-5.
- 10/29-31 Show Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society
"Nature's Sparklers" Marshall Street Armory,
Lansing, MI. Fri. 6-9; Sat. 10-8; Sun. 10-5.
- 10/29-30 Show by Midwest Facetor's Guild - Dearborn Civic Center
Mich. Ave. & Greenfield Rd., Dearborn, MI
- 11/12-14 Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural
History's Micromineral Symposium "Minerals of Franklin,
New Jersey. Call Joel Yancy for information (216) 283-5259

A SPECIAL OCCASION FOR YOU! On Saturday, Oct. 23, we are celebrating
our 35th anniversary with a banquet at the church named above. This
will be catered and there is no charge for members. However, we need
your reservation (call 534-3871) in order to know how many to plan
on. We have invited representatives from five area clubs to share
this occasion with us. Our speaker will be Dr. Bert DeVries of Calvin
College. His topic will be "An Archeaology of Early Christian
Communities."

CRYSTAL GAZING----The President's Page

This month marks the 35th year of existence for the Grand Rapids Mineral Society. They have been 35 years of enjoyment, education, and public service. We have taught ourselves how to identify rocks and minerals, how to clean and preserve them, and how to use them as an art form. In addition, arrangements were made With the Grand Rapids Junior College for non-credit evening classes in geology, petrology and topography. Some of us have constructed our own rock saws and polishing equipment in order to carve, shape, and polish the fruits of our collecting trips, as well as those rocks and minerals we have obtained by means of the "silver pick," and the swap tables. We have displayed our collections for the public's enjoyment at the Grand Rapids Public Museum for periods of from six or seven weeks duration to as short a period as two weeks, all without requiring an admission fee or "donation". Our shows at the Museum have included working demonstrations of sawing, grinding and polishing, silversmithing and jewelry making, and the beauties of microminerals. On weekends there were slide, movie or personal presentations for the public's pleasure and education. For a good number of years we were able to carry on a program for "pebble pups" which combined classes on rock and mineral identification with classes in the lapidary arts.

Unfortunately for us, a lot of our founding members have passed away or moved to other areas of the state and nation. Membership at one time was well over 200, and was drawn from a radius of 30 miles about the city. Attrition and the forming of other mineral clubs nearby has had an adverse effect on our numbers, but we are still hanging on. We do have to take a good, hard look at what the future appears to hold for us.

Now,--- about our anniversary party--- we will need help in setting up tables and chairs in the church dining room, and in clearing the area afterwards. Sunday School classes are held in the same room, and we'll have to clear away our mess for them. Plan on sticking around and lending a hand in this.

Pay particular attention to the "PLACES TO GO - THINGS TO DO" section on Page 1, and get to as many as you can. The Dupreys and Beauvais' will be demonstrating their "thing" at the Lansing show the last week end of October. Come and see us there.

See you on the sixth!

Bob

Excerpted from Just Rockin' by John Gholson in Quarry Quips 11/92

A chunk of quartz was bouncing along in a stream when it came upon a chunk of calcite. "Git outa my way, I'm going places." said the quartz. The calcite obeyed, and the quartz went bounding along its way. Years later, the quartz came upon the calcite again, near the ocean. "How'd you git here ahead of me?" the quartz asked. "Oh, it was easy." said the calcite. "I just went into solution."

"It is better to follow the long route of education of the public to the needs of scientists who study fossils than to attempt the quick fix of enacting Federal legislation punishing people with fines and imprisonment."

-Dr. John Pojeta, Jr., Chief, Paleontology and Stratigraphy Branch, U.S. Geological Survey

HOUSE BILL PROMOTES FOSSIL COLLECTING ON PUBLIC LANDS Follows National Academy of Science Recommendations

This is A brief synopsis of the benefits of the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 1993 (hereinafter referred to as the House Bill) as well as some points of difference between the Act and the Baucus Bill introduced in the Senate in 1992.

SUMMARY Fossils are abundant. Fossils are a "non-renewable: resource only in that an individual fossil once lost to the elements is gone forever. This unique nature of the paleontological resource demands that fossils be collected to be preserved. The same forces of weathering which expose fossils to our eyes will inevitably destroy them if they are left uncollected. In fact, most fossils once exposed are lost in this way. The science of paleontology is also unique in that the average person can, and often does, make valuable contributions by discovering fossil specimens and sites. Historically some 80% of all scientifically significant specimens have been discovered by amateurs.

Consequently, a policy of open access for the collection of this resource is necessary if fossils are to be preserved. This is contrary to most Land Management practices which restrict access to resources in order to preserve them. Currently a maze of conflicting bureaucratic rules and policies are being misapplied that restrict access to fossil collecting on public lands. The House Bill establishes clear guidelines to the Land Management Agencies to open access for fossil collecting. It also provides for the special treatment of the occasional rare fossil by placing ownership of significant specimens with the United States government.

-MWF Newsletter via AFMS Newsletter 10/93

As mineral club members, and as members of the AFMS, we are asked to write personal letters to their congresspersons and state why the bill should be passed and ask them to support their constituents. Club members can sign petitions without using the club name and send to their Congressman or senator. Efforts are being made to get Senate sponsors quickly. There appears to be some interest from Pete Domenici (R-NM), Conrad Burns (R-MT), Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), John Glenn (D-OH) and Howard Metzenbaum (D-OH). It is suggested you write them concerning this and send a copy to your senators. In writing, you may want to mention you support the AFMS with a membership of 52,000. This organization offers 24 scholarships each year (totalling \$60,000) for graduate study in paleontology and other earth sciences. Many members and societies volunteer at museums and universities. They also speak to grade school children to create an interest in geology and paleontology and give specimens.

-Condensed from MWF Newsletter 10/93 via AFMS Newsletter 8/93

PAY DIRT: BRITON UNEARTHS ANCIENT HOARD OF RICHES

In England, a retired gardener looking for a lost hammer with a metal detector unearthed an ancient hoard of gold and silver that one report said could be worth \$15 million.

Archeologist Judith Plouviez said the hoard found by Eric Lawes, 70, in a field near the village of Hoxne in Suffolk County "is an incredibly exciting and amazing find."

She said it was impossible to say how much the recently unearthed hoard was worth until experts examined it. But the London tabloid, The Sun, which made the find its main front-page report, said it could be worth \$15 million. Plouviez said it was believed to have been hidden by a rich family about 1,600 years ago during the Roman occupation of Britain, which began in A.D. 43 and lasted about 400 years.

Plouviez, who works for the Suffolk County Council, said: "It is one of the finest known from Roman Britain. It is priceless in terms of the knowledge it will give us. It includes a solid silver model of a panther, gold chains, hundreds of gold and silver coins, spoons, ornaments, gem-studded jewelry and a gold pendant encrusted with rubies, weighing more than a pound."

The hoard was unearthed on land owned by the council and will be subject to an inquest to decide legal ownership. If, as seems likely, the hoard is ruled treasure-trove--items found buried in the ground with no known owner--it automatically becomes government property. In such cases, the finder normally receives a large reward, then the items are put on permanent exhibition. The hoard has been sent to the British Museum in London to be cleaned and studied.

-The Trilobite 4/93 via The Milwaukee Journal (undated)

Ed. note: I found this particularly interesting as my father was born in Hoxne, Suffolk, England. Regretfully, I don't think we can claim any of this Roman treasure.

* * * * *

EARLY DINOSAUR'S SKELETON ASSEMBLED....Researchers have assembled an almost complete skeleton of a 230 million year old ancestor of the meat eating dinosaurs. The herrerasaurus was first discovered and identified about 30 years ago from a few scattered bones. In 1988 five skeletons were found in a valley of the Argentine foothills of the Andes. The almost complete skeleton was assembled from these fossil remains.

Studies show that herrerasaurus ran on its long hind legs and had short forearms ending in hands with three pointed fingers equipped with slashing claws well suited for grasping. It had inward curving teeth and a flexible lower jaw that could bend around and hold a prey. An adult herrerasaurus was 10-20 feet long and weighed 300-400 pounds.

-from an AP article in Monterey Peninsula Herald (11/13/92)

via Benitoite 11/92 & The Rock Rattler 4/93

"The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest possible amount of feathers with the smallest possible amount of hissing."

-Jean Baptiste Colbert, circa 1665 via The Rockfinder 9/93

A SIXTY POUND NUGGET FOUND IN CALIFORNIA

The talk in Jamestown these days is the discovery by Sonora Mining Corporation of a 60 pound gold nugget. The nugget, one of the largest ever found in California, is presently locked in a Tuolumne County bank vault. Mine officials are declining to comment about the discovery, but Jamestown residents are swapping information, misinformation and speculation.

The discovery was made Sunday, December 27, when one of the mine's huge shovels working at the Crystalline Pit scooped up a chunk from less than 100 feet below the surface and sent it through the mine's "jaw crusher." It then went into a conveyer which would take it to another crusher. On the conveyer a metal detector sounded an alarm, signalling there was metal in the ore.

Two mine employees gave this account of the event. One employee saw the big chunk and several other pieces on the conveyer belt and thought they were brass pieces of machinery that had come loose. The second worker said he got to pick up the largest piece. "When all the rock was taken off it, it was 60 pounds of pure gold."

The two differ on whether the 60 pound piece was originally by itself or the largest piece left after the trip through the first crusher. They do agree it was 2 and 3 inches thick, and accompanied by several other pieces of nearly solid gold. The second largest piece is about the size of a large head of lettuce and weighs 20 pounds.

According to one worker, about 300 pounds of gold came through that one scoop, and if it hadn't gone through the first crusher, it would have been in one piece.

The Sonora Mining Corporation has just recently started working the Crystalline Pit. This find is far more valuable than anything previously found in the mine's five years of operation. Mine officials are doing some calculations. The nugget, because of its size, is a rarity and could be worth two or three times its weight in gold, or somewhere around \$1,000,000.

Technically speaking, the chunk is not a nugget, but a pocket. Only gold that has been pounded by rocks and water--placer gold--is called a nugget. But call it what you will, it is pure gold and a lot of it!

-by Ron Delacy in Modesto Bee

Via The Lithnics & Flint Rock & Gem Newsletter 9/93

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GOLD CORAL FROM HAWAII...We have all found white coral, seen the pink and red coral and marveled at the beautiful jewelry made of black coral. Now an exciting discovery off the coast of Hawaii gives us a gold colored coral. The Maui divers of Hawaii found the incredible discovery in the midnight landscape of the coral forest 1200 feet beneath the sea, so deep that a bathysphere or mini-sub must be used to "mine" this gold. No one knows what magic gave this coral its astonishing color and brilliant textures.

Via The Rock Rattler and The Trilobite 4/93

DON'T FORGET TO CALL IN YOUR RESERVATION FOR THE OCT. 23 BANQUET.

SAFETY GLASSES

Must be worn in this shop

The words in the title of this article should be painted on a sign in every workshop. Eye safety is so often ignored and the consequences are so lasting.

It also should be carried over from the shop to hardrock mining field trips. Other than the wire wheel on the grinder arbor, flying chips from a piece of rock being worked are probably the most potential source of eye injury. Short pieces of wire from the rapidly rotating wire wheel buffer will sometimes fly off and will stick in the clothing, skin, and if no protection is worn, in the eye. A chip of jasper, agate, or other rock will be traveling at even greater speed and can penetrate the clothing, draw blood, and in the case of the unprotected eye create havoc.

Safety glasses are expensive, especially with prescription lenses, but just think of the expense of an accident. NOTE: Safety glasses and glasses with impact-resistant lenses are not the same thing. Impact-resistant lenses meet Food and Drug Administration standards which are not as strict as the standards of the American Standard Institute for safety glasses. Safety goggles are effective, can be worn over prescription glasses, and are available at hardware stores for only a few dollars. To prevent scratching of these plastic lenses, we carry and store ours in an old sock.

Eye protection is not limited to grinding and breaking rocks, but is equally applicable when working with acid or any high speed equipment.

Eye injuries should be handled with great care. What appears as a minor injury may actually be a major problem. The first principle of treatment is "DO NO HARM." You should expect the worst, a penetrating injury. Although the urge is strong, do not rub the eye, as this could lead to further injury. Never try to remove anything that is actually imbedded in the eye. Loosely apply a light dressing to the injured eye and get the victim to the nearest emergency room or doctor for treatment. If the injury is very painful or appears serious, cover both eyes with a light bandage because both eyes track together. Sometimes it is even necessary to transport the patient on a stretcher, keeping the head as still as possible.

If you are certain the injury is minor or that a foreign body can be removed, proceed as follows: If the object is behind the lower lid, have the victim look upward, holding the lid back gently, and carefully remove the particle with a sterile "Q-tip" from your First-Aid Kit. If the particle is behind the upper lid, have the victim look down, and gently take the lashes between thumb and finger, pull out and away from the eye, and roll the lid over a pencil or other convenient object, and carefully remove the particle with a sterile "Q-tip."

Eye protection gear should be included on field trips just as much as it should be available for use in the shop.

-De & Mary Sharp, California Safety Chairmen

CFMS Newsletter 2/90 & AFMS Newsletter 4/90

via Earth Science News 5/92

EXPERIENCE IS SOMETHING YOU DON'T GET UNTIL JUST AFTER YOU NEED IT.

-Source unknown via Breccia 4/92

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Checking Account, Sept. 1, 1992		\$ 319.73
Income: Aleta's for Ads '92, '93	40.00	
Memberships	96.00	
Donation R. McDonald House	67.00	
Trans. from savings	400.00	
Total Income	603.00	
Expense: Bulletin postage	116.00	
" ink	37.44	
" paper & stencils	151.25	
mimeo screen	36.40	
Total bulletin exp.	341.09	
Programs	25.00	
MWF Dues	19.00	
Mich. Filing Fee	10.00	
Donation R. McDonald House	67.00	
Bank charges	7.40	
Postage - used stamps	2.49	
Total Expense	- 471.98	
		+131.02
Checking Account Aug. 31, 1993		450.75
Savings Account, Sept. 1, 1992	961.10	
Interest	+23.73	
		984.83
Expense: Trans. to checking		-400.00
Savings Account, Aug. 31, 1993		584.83
Scholarship Savings, Sept. 1, 1992	448.38	
Interest	+11.13	
Scholarship Savings, Aug. 31, 1993		459.51
Total of all accounts		\$ 1,495.09

-Ted Duprey, Treasurer

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COPPER FACTS: Crude copper is usually refined before it is marketed for two reasons: 1) it contains appreciable amounts of silver and gold 2) it is largely used for electrical conductors and a very small amount of impurities increases the electrical resistance.

Brass is the alloy of copper and zinc; while bronze contains copper and tin, it sometimes includes zinc. German silver contains copper, zinc and nickel. All United States coins contain some copper; the penny has as much as 95% copper. Both silver and gold coins contain copper to increase the hardness. Some silver and gold jewelry contains copper for the same reason.

-Exchange via Crystal Gazer 4/92

MINUTES OF THE MEETING - Sept. 1, 1993

The regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society was called to order by President Bob Beauvais at 7:30 p.m. at Grand Rapids Community College.

The May minutes were approved as printed in the June Drifter. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

The banquet on October 23, 1993, will be held at the Grandville-Jenison Congregational Church. The speaker will be Bert DeVries, he will speak on Archaeology of Christian Communities in Jordan. We will need people to set up tables at the church, we may also need dishwashers.....Roger King made a motion that the club pay for the catering. Rich VanBeek seconded the motion, motion passed.

Ruth Steele made a motion that two couples (or 4 people) from each of the following clubs be invited: Lansing, Indian Mounds, Kalamazoo, Holland and Muskegon. Ruth Beauvais seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Roger King made a motion that Mr. & Mrs. Karl Bruder, Mr. & Mrs. Bert DeVries and Mr. & Mrs. Greg Wilson be invited to the banquet. Ted Duprey seconded the motion, motion was passed.

Pete Boogaart made a motion that we donate \$25.00 to the church for use of their banquet room and kitchen. Rich VanBeek seconded the motion, motion was passed.

The future of the club was discussed; decided to table discussion until after the banquet. We will hold off collecting dues until a decision is made.

Meeting was adjourned to watch the video series, "Earth Revealed."

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene King, Secretary

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* ALETA'S ROCK SHOP *
* 1515 PLAINFIELD N.E. *
* GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49505 *
*
* Phone * Owner *
* 363-5394 * Rudy Jaw *
* Area 616 *
* Jewelry Supplies * Lapidary Supplies *
* Rough and Tumbled Stones * Tumbling and Cutting Materials *
* HOURS *
* Open Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. *
* Closed Sunday and Monday *
*

THE SPOTS in Montana Moss Agate were caused by seams and fissures in the softer parts of the rock being filled with metallic oxides when they were young. Red is iron oxide, black is manganese oxide, green is copper oxide, and blue is nickel oxide.

Via Exchangite & Crystal Gazer 4/92

GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Founded 1958

President	Robert Beauvais	534-3871
Vice-President	Val Katelnieks	874-6466
Secretary	Arlene King	532-6239
Treasurer	Ted Duprey	532-3841
Program Chairman	Rich Van Beek	459-3903
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 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 first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. No formal meetings are held in January, February or March but informal meetings may be scheduled and members so advised. We meet in the Geology Department of the Grand Rapids Junior College (usually in Room 247), 143 Bostwick NE, Grand Rapids. Summer meetings (June, July, August) are held at various parks or at members' homes and are usually picnics beginning at 6:30 p.m.

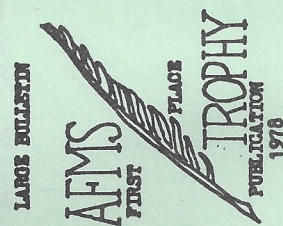
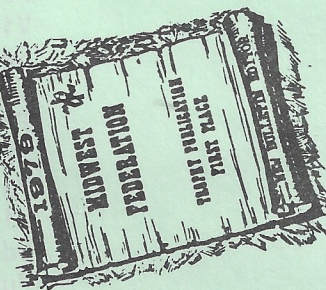
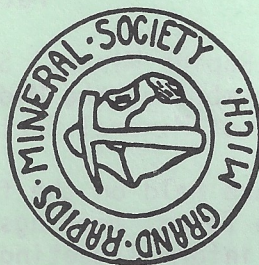
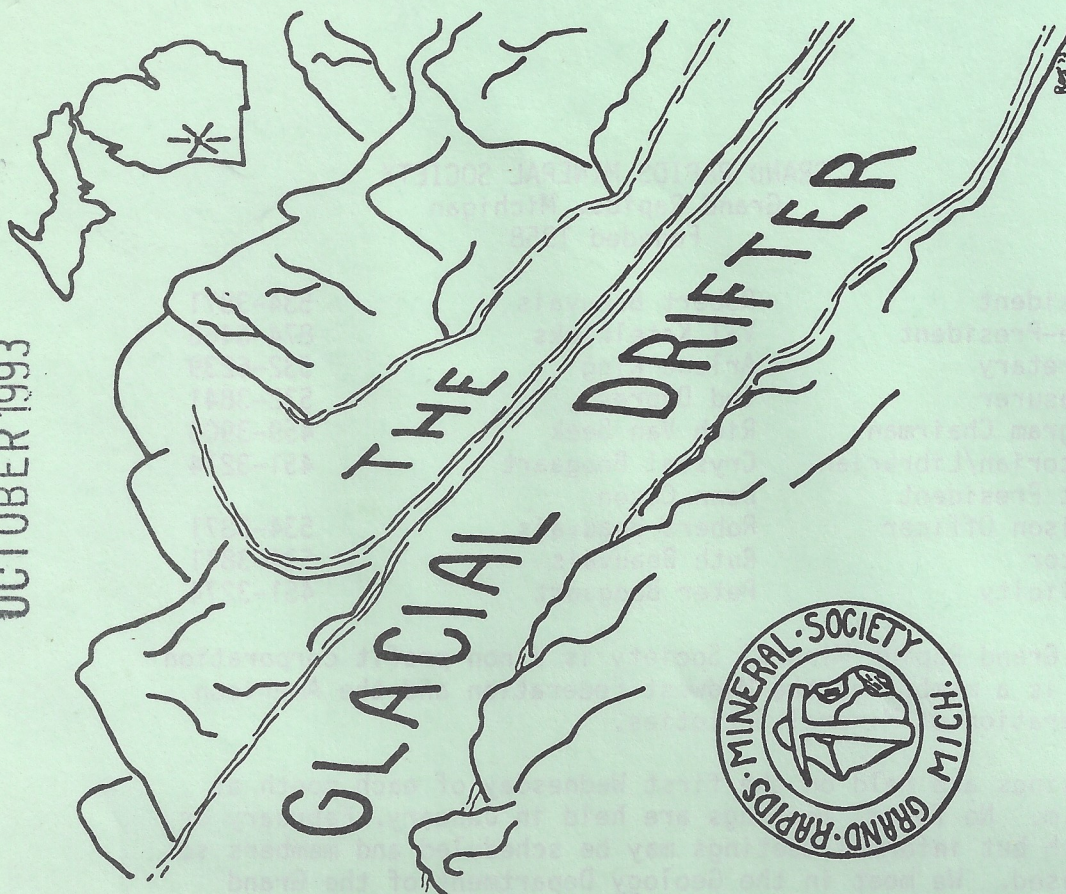
Membership dues are \$8 per year for a family; \$6 per year for an individual member and \$4 per year for a student under age 18. Dues are payable to the treasurer in September of each year. Those joining from March 1 thru July 31 shall pay one-half the annual dues. Unpaid memberships will be dropped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

All material for publication shall be in the hands of the editor no later than the third Wednesday of the preceding 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. Each member is entitled to one free ad per year.

Exchange bulletins should be mailed to the editor.

We extend a cordial welcome to visitors at all of our meetings and encourage them to join or return whenever possible.

OCTOBER 1993



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

FIRST CLASS

HERE'S YOUR GLACIAL DRIFTER!

BOB & RUTH BEAUVAIS
3308 WILSON S.W.
GRANDVILLE, MI 49418

