

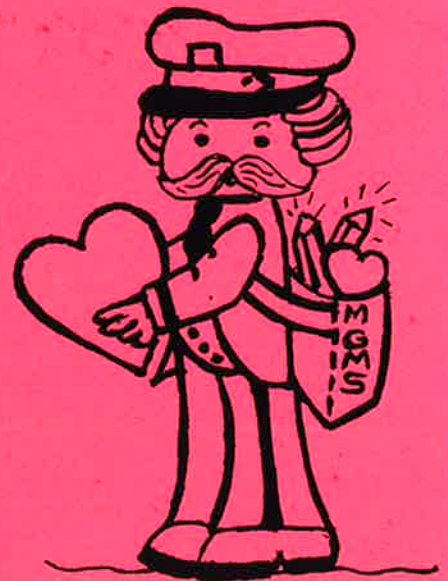
# THE ROCKFINDER



FEBRUARY 1993

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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The MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, a non-profit organization, is affiliated with the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES and with the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Time: 2:00 p.m. EST	Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of each month	1501 W. Cleveland Road
June - Field Trip Meeting	South Bend, IN
July - No meeting	West of the St. Joseph River
August - Annual Club Picnic	
December - Date to be announced	
Christmas Party	

DUES

Individual	\$ 6.50 per year
Family	10.00 per year
Junior	2.00 per year

ROCKFINDER STAFF

Editor.....Joyce Larson	144 Spruce Drive, Westville, IN 46391
Co-Editor.....Margaret Heinek	7091 E. East Park Ln., New Carlisle, IN 46552
Staff.....Bob Heinek/Club Members	

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the Editor (219-785-4382) by the 10th of each month.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER provided due recognition is given.

# THE ROCKFINDER

VOLUME 33  
ISSUE 2

PUBLISHED BY:  
MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

MEETING: February 28, 1993

TIME: 2:00 p.m. EST  
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1501 W. Cleveland Road  
South Bend, IN  
West of the St. Joseph River

PROGRAM: Slide Program  
Ivory and Ivory Substitutes  
-and-  
Scrimshaw  
(These 2 sets of slides are  
suggested to be shown together)

HOSTS: Pam Rubenstein  
Marge Collins  
Phyllis Smallwood

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## BIRTHSTONE for FEBRUARY - AMETHYST

## SPECIAL BIRTHDAY DATES AND "NO" ANNIVERSARIES?

A purple or violet variety of quartz used in jewelry. I've been told the deeper the color, the more valuable are the crystals. This gem stone is found in many locations throughout the United States - found in geodes ranging from very small to super sized 4'.

February  
5 - Sister Jeanne Finske  
8 - Marcelle Nagy  
18 - Al Nagy

..and for March...

6 - Gladys Pacholke  
7 - Barbara McHugh  
8 - Joyce Larson  
11 - Marie Crull  
15 - Jane Kile  
22 - Gloria Merrill  
22 - Jim Cytacki  
24 - Joe Kossack  
27 - Kevin Klodzinski  
30 - Margaret Heinek

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I printed the March dates also as it seems the publication is always a month late for these special people. This listing will now give us a chance to send greetings on the proper date.

Help me out here, Molly!

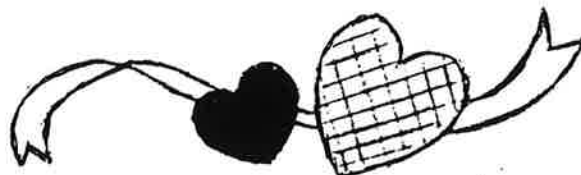
## UPCOMING SHOW DATES

3-13 & 14 The Roamin Club  
Waterman Campus Center Bldg.  
18600 Haggerty Rd.  
Livonia, MI

3-12 to 14 Eastern Indiana Gem &  
Geological Society, Inc.  
Wayne Cty. Fairgrounds  
Richmond, IN

3-13 & 14 Geodeland Earth Science Clubs  
Western Ill. Univ. Student  
Union Ballrood  
Macomb, IL

3-19 to 21 Michigan Gem & Min'l. Soc.  
302 5th St.  
Jackson, MI



MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 1993  
MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

President Heinek opened our regular meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the November minutes as printed in The Rockfinder and to dispense with the treasurer's report since Sister Jeanne could not be at the meeting.

Committee Reports:

By-Laws - Margaret is working on updating our bylaws.

Program - Larry Hess introduced today's program, a slide show on Keokuk geodes. Displays were brought in by Marge Collins, Jessie Zeiger, Kathy Miller, and Margaret and Bob Heinek.

Sunshine - Molly Elwell is our new sunshine person. Please let her know your special dates (birthdays, anniversaries). Also, call her if you hear of a member who is ill or in the hospital.

Welcome back to Mary Miller after her recent surgery. It was good to see you up and about, Mary!

On a sad note, former club president, Charles Stonecipher passed away Dec. 29th in Apache Junction, Arizona. Charles was a rock dealer and jeweler.

Historian - Please bring in any pictures you might have from club functions. Also, Bess Wise has resigned as club historian. If you are interested in a fun and not-too-difficult job, please contact Margaret.

Correspondence - Margaret rec'd. thank you's from the Center for the Homeless & the YWCA, for our recent contributions.

Education - Gordon will begin new classes in March.

Directory - Larry Hess is preparing our new directory.

Rockfinder - Joyce entered competition on behalf of the club as well as individuals who have contributed articles to the Rockfinder. Keep your fingers crossed!

Library - Books were shown that were purchased in memory of Jess Wise and Nelvin Chesnut.

Old Business - The American Federation now receives \$.25 per member and needs to raise that amount to \$1.00 per member. One way to help the American Federation is to take out a Visa card. The American Federation will receive \$1.00 for every card issued, and \$.25 each time a card is used. There is no charge for the card the first year; after that, there is charge. You may cancel the card after the first year to avoid the charge. If you'd like to apply for a card, Margaret has application forms.

New Business - It was moved, seconded, and passed to send a rose bowl to any member in the hospital. Non-members will receive get well cards. Please keep Molly informed of anyone who is ill.

The MWF field trip to Houghton, MI, Aug. 8-15 looks like a lot of fun. Further details will be available at future meetings.

Larry Hess proposed that we purchase a VCR-TV unit with cart for club use. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to give sufficient money to the MWF Endowment Fund to finish out our 800%.

29 members and 1 junior member were present. Door prizes went to Paul Stone, Pat McLaughlin, and Irene Ungerait.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Rubenstein

\* \* \* \* \*

DID YOU KNOW?

Gold jewelry will clean well if you use a solution of one teaspoon ammonia added to a cup of water.

Ants will go away for good if you sprinkle cinnamon where you see them.

(-via Breccia, Dusty Rocks & Magic Valley Gem News)

MARGARET'S COLUMN

It's that time again - Valentine's Day. The months have gone by so fast! Doesn't seem like Christmas was almost 2 months ago. You will get the ROCKFINDER after the 14th, but I send "Love" to all. As the TV ad says, we all need more "Hugs, Love and Kisses."

In 1992, Joyce had a quiz in the March ROCKFINDER. She wanted to give a Shamrock plant to the member who counted the correct number of shamrocks appearing in that bulletin. Bob guessed the correct number and won. The plant has survived and is now blooming! Thanks, Joyce.

Just before the last meeting, Jim Russell called to have me inform the club of the death of Charles Stonecipher in Arizona on December 28, 1992. He was known as "Stoney" and had served as president of the Society during a year or so in the 1970's. Stoney and his wife, Eleanor, were members during the early years of the club, and was show chairman of some of our early shows. Stoney and Eleanor had operated a rock shop on South 31 between South Bend and Lakeville before leaving for Arizona. He opened a rock shop in Apache Junction, and taught silversmithing at a college near Apache Junction. Eleanor passed away several years ago, and Stoney remarried. The shop was on the main street of Apache Junction and for several years was run by his son, daughter and her husband. Stoney was well liked and a very talented man, and did an excellent job with his silver work.

Bob and I would like to thank the Society and club members for their cards and calls we received on the death of Henry, Bob's brother. As most of you know he had been ill for about a year and it is a blessing that he did not have to suffer any longer. Henry passed away Thursday, January 28th at Miller's Merry Manor in Plymouth.

I am looking forward to seeing many of the members at the February meeting. We will meet in the smaller room; the Church asked if we could use it to try to keep their heating bills down. I agreed that we could, at least until winter is over.

Our program this month sounds interesting. We will have slides on Ivory and Ivory substitutes for use in Carving and Scrimshaw. So if you have ivory, ivory substitutes, carvings or scrimshaw that we may display at the meeting, please bring it so we can enjoy.

*Margaret*

\* \* \* \* \*

Speaking of rock shops, have any club members wandered into the Aquarian Light Center on U.S. 20 west - 3 miles west of the airport? It's the "lavendar" building on the south side of Hwy. 20. You can't miss it.

When I escape as I call it, from work, the housework that never ends, laundry, dishes, family - you all know what I mean - I have acquired this habit of getting in my car and just driving for a while. Several Saturdays ago, I ended up in this rock shop and was surprised at the large selection of material available.

You might want to take a break yourselves and make this a stop. Many, many specimens and books are available. Of course I never come home empty handed.

I believe one of our club members has a hand in this shop - Phyllis Smallwood.

And on another note, instant panic set in tonight as I spread my material out on the kitchen table in preparation of compiling the paper. I had hauled the typewriter home from work - it's not a light weight machine. Don't like spending more than 8 hours in the office. Was all ready to go when I discovered all the blank paper was sitting in a file on my desk - I had forgotten it. Talk about scronging for paper! I found a few sheets - 5 reams of it sitting elsewhere--oh well.

I am really glad that Molly Elwell has taken over as "Sunshine" person. Maybe with her help I can get current on those specials days for our members.

Joyce

YOUR CAR CAN BE A LIFESAVER: From the Safety Manual of the American Federation

Statisticians point to 38,000 highway fatalities in a year alone, but it is usually overlooked that the family car can save lives, too!

In emergencies, your car is a fortress. Beneath its hood and within its steel body can be found materials for family survival.

The average car's radiator holds 16 to 21 quarts of water. If it hasn't been contaminated by ANTIFREEZE, that is enough water to last a family of four for four days.

Hubcaps, cleaned with sand, pinch-hit for cups and for shovels.

Your horn can alert rescuers as far as a mile, downwind.

Under the hood are four gallons of oil. A quart of oil, burned in a hubcap in the still air of morning, spews a miniature atomic cloud high into the sky, a smoke signal visible for miles. Lube oil used as a salve against searing sun or frosty winds, can save your skin.

A hose from the motor will convert into a siphon for getting gasoline from your tank.

The windshield washer tubing becomes an effective tourniquet for stopping bleeding, when needed.

Door panels become ground blankets, insulating you from frozen, wet or scorching ground.

Dome light glass can be a sun-focusing fire starter.

The glove compartment door and sun visors double as shovels.

Slip covers, floor mats and rugs, make into blankets and clothing.

Many a hunter has warmed himself (and stayed alive) over a tire-fire.

A little siphoned gasoline ignites your tire-fire. Average tires burn three to four hours.

One family, their car broken down on a little-used fire trail, carefully removed a sealed-beam headlight and, leaving it still wired to the battery, directed its beam upward in wide, sweeping areas. A rescue team quickly spotted them.

"Drastic", you say, "to destroy your car". A California Highway Patrolman says, "Everything you need to stay alive, except food, is found in the average car, but not one motorist in a hundred, when he finds himself up against it, thinks of his car as a survival kit. His first inclination is to set out for help. Too often he is beyond help when we find him a couple of miles down the road, dead from exhaustion, heat or cold."

Don't get excited! Stay with your car! Use your imagination to make it a "life-saver."

(-via The Rocky Reader with a special note from the Editor - "I'm not an auto mechanic but I would guess most of our radiators have anti-freeze in them and the water would be contaminated".)

My comments - he is absolutely correct!

\* \* \* \* \*

The insurance company I work for has a monthly publication and I would like permission to send this article into "The Hoosier Times" for publication. I doubt if many of us think of our vehicles in this manner. I didn't.

And in anticipation of more "natural disasters" such as Hurricane Andrew that I had written about previously, I will be spending four days the first week of April in Tulsa, Oklahoma for more training. I don't know what Oklahoma roofs have that Indiana roofs don't, but I will find out. I couldn't keep myself from volunteering again for 1993.

Joyce

HOWLITE: ROCKHOUND MATERIAL (by Charles A. Stratton - The Glacial Drifter)

Having written about all the common gems and quite a few unusual ones, the author eventually faces the problem of what to write about. So, why not try howlite? It has a good rockhound sound (owoo!) Also, there will be a few howls from the editor and the printer, since there is not much to say about howlite.

Howlite is named after Henry How, a Nova Scotia chemist, geologist, and mineralogist, who found the material in that province of Canada. Since howlite is a boron-containing evaporite, it is surprising that it was found in eastern Canada. On the other hand, its abundance occurrence in California is to be expected. The most famous location is Tick Canyon, near Saugus, Los Angeles County.

Howlite is a calcium silico-borate. Three different references give three formulae which are not the same. The logical inference would be that the composition is somewhat variable. Its hardness is 3-1/2, its density is 2.58, and its mean refractive index is 1.59 (spot method). The color is milk-white, veined with black. The veining is considerably coarser than the veining of spider-web matrix turquoise. The mineral generally occurs as nodules of very fine monoclinic crystals. Some of the nodular masses may be of great size, weighing hundreds of pounds.

Howlite is usually found in conjunction with two other boron minerals: Colemanite, a hydrous calcium borate, hardness 4 to 4-1/2; and ulexite, a sodium calcium borate, hardness 2-1/2. Ulexite is the famous "TV stone" whose crystals have striking fiber optics properties.

The rockhound with an ultraviolet light can try it on howlite. Some howlite fluoresces brownish yellow with short wave ultraviolet. Other California material does not respond to short wave UV, but fluoresces deep orange in long wave UV.

Howlite is usually employed as a decorative stone, as for book-ends, clock faces, bowls, etc. However, in spite of its softness, it polishes to a very attractive cabochon. It also takes dyes very well. Dyed blue howlite serves very well as a substitute for turquoise. It need not be considered an "imitation". It is generally offered simply as dyed howlite. There are enough slight differences and simple tests that no turquoise buyer need be deceived.

(via Osage Hills Gems)

(Howlite can be etched, using a tool with a very fine point. When lightly stained it looks like ivory - Editor)

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IVORY SUBSTITUTE - Rock Rustler's News - January 1993

Use large beef bones for bone ivory. Don't cook the bones; clean them off as best you can. Use a large mug of 20 Mule Team Borax - dump it into a pan with just enough water to dissolve the borax. Heat to a warm temperature, not hot. Put bones in & soak for three weeks or so. Wash thoroughly and let dry for several days and then you can carve, shape, or drill and polish as you would for a cabochon, but much easier to work than stone.

Cut round leg bones into squares, drill holes in the sides, and you have links for a bracelet. You don't need expensive tools, household tools will do. Use files (round, flat, pointed, even fingernail files), a hacksaw and pocket knife for cutting. Sandpaper, and finish with fine steel wool.

Use a Dremel tool to carve flowers or animals, or anything you like. Soak in strong coffee, and you will have "Mastodon" ivory. The carved area turns darker than the rest and stands out beautifully. (-via The Rock Pile 5/91)

(Two interesting articles in keeping with our Slide Program - Ivory & Ivory Substitutes)

ROOSEVELT'S BEAR

Teddy bears - nursemaids to kings and queens, co-pilots for combat aircraft, mission specialists on spacecraft, front line personnel in the Persian Gulf. Yet few know the real story of their creation.

November 1902: President Theodore Roosevelt hunts bears in the wilderness of Smedes, Mississippi. His tracker, a black ex-Confederate scout and famous bear hunter named Hold Collier, captures a two hundred thirty-five pound black bear, ties it to a tree and sends for the President. Roosevelt arrives, but refuses to shoot the bear.

Clifford Berryman, the brilliant young cartoonist for the Washington Post, draws a series of satirical cartoons. The first shows Roosevelt's refusal to shoot the bear; later ones show the bear with the President in all sorts of humorous and official capacities. The cartoons are a hit, even Roosevelt calls them "Bully".

Enter Russian immigrants Morris and Rose Michtom, who own a candy store in New York. Rose makes a stuffed bear and places it in her store window to attract customers. It does, but not for candy - everyone wants a bear! The Michtoms quickly decide to go into the bear-making business, and call their new venture the "Ideal Novelty Company" (known later as Ideal Toys). According to tradition, Morris Michtom writes to the President and asks if he could call his new bear "Teddy Bear". Roosevelt supposedly approves, but adds that he couldn't see what good his name would do for the toy industry.

Meanwhile in Germany, Margarete Steiff, a polio victim who turned to making stuffed animals, and her nephew Richard, an artist, also create a stuffed bear for the Leipzig Toy Fair. Its trademark is a button in its ear. New York's FAO Schwartz Toy Store places a big order. The rest is history.

Today, Teddy bears champion social causes, influence children's literature, and are an institution (an American in 1989 paid a record \$86,350 for a 1920's Steiff at an auction at Sotheby's London).

The teddy bear will be ninety in 1993. It has eye trouble, it can see only good things. And its heart is unusual, it's invisible but fills its whole body. Theodore Roosevelt said it all in 1902 - "Bully".

(-via Stage Lines, Conejo Valley Historical Society, Rocky Review, Dinny's Doin's & The Glacial Drifter)

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THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

The most important thing to do in solving a problem is to begin.

A few people leave foot prints in the sands of time, but many others are mighty busy covering their tracks.

Be kind to birds. The dove brings peace; the robin brings spring and the stork brings tax exemptions.

- by Tom and Pat McLaughlin

WHAT AGE ARE YOU? by Grace E. Easley

Age cannot be counted by the years a person lives, but by the Hope within his heart, and all the love he gives.

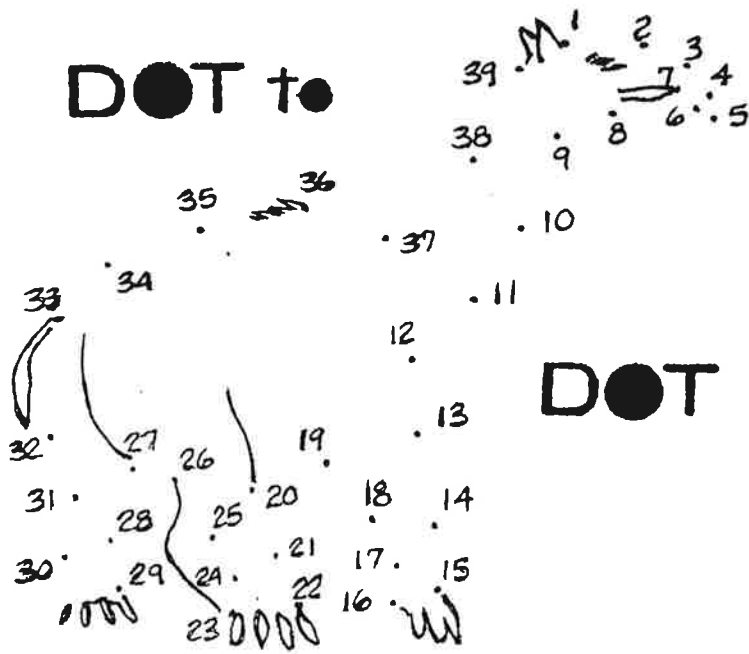
How young you are does not depend upon your date of birth, how old you are, not measured by your time upon this earth.

But if your heart is full of dreams, and if you are among, those with an eagerness for life....then you are truly young.

But if you see no beauty, in all that you behold, and care not for your fellowman ....then you are truly old!

(-via The Southwest Gem)





THE ROCK PILE

I'll tell you what I often do,  
 when I am tired of feeling blue.  
 I like to take a chair or box,  
 and sit beside my pile of rocks.

I get a thrill as I begin  
 to think of places I have been;  
 to gather these, my treasures here,  
 In various spots both far and near.

Although I've sat here oft before,  
 each time I find in this rock store,  
 some hidden gem I did not see,  
 which somehow hid itself from me.

You'd be surprised the peace of mind,  
 this simple act helps me find.  
 So I advise you, when you are blue,  
 to do this thing I often do.

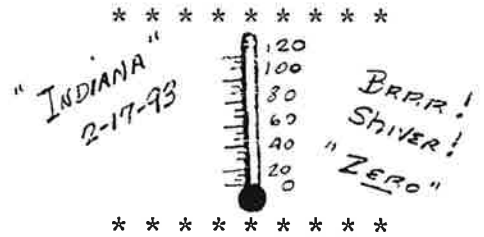
You'll find relief from toil and care,  
 You've left them at the rockpile there.

(-by Charles G. Schweitzer from  
 RockLicker, Northwest News and  
 The Rocky Reader)

Connect dots 1-39 to complete the picture of  
 Macraluchenia - (mack-raw-keen-ya). This  
 large mammal originated in South America. It  
 had a camel-like body, a long neck and a short  
 elephant-like trunk, probably used for eating  
 plants and tree branches. Until the late  
 Pliocene Epoch, South and North America were  
 separated, so this animal probably never  
 reached Florida.

(-via Dinny's Doin's, The Fossil Chronicles)

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GLOSSARY OF ROCKHOUND TERMS (-via The Pioneer and Flint Flashes)

- Geologist----- Person who learned about rocks in school.
- Rockhound----- Person who learned about rocks the hard way.
- Pebblepup----- Smart mouthed kid who knows more about rocks than you.
- Field Trip----- Impossible trek to inaccessible places for non-existent specimens.
- Geologist's Pick-- Handy gadget that you always have with you when you don't need it and always leave at home when you do.
- Field Polish----- Spit.
- Field Kit----- Paper bag to put specimens in.
- Rock Show----- Bunch of people displaying their best specimens and another bunch selling their worst.
- Swap----- Mutual swindle.
- Station Wagon----- Vehicle designed to accommodate colossal greed of rockhounds.
- Dop Stick----- Tinkertoy stick to mount gemstones on for cutting when your fingers are reduced to bloody stumps.
- Tumbler----- Piece of equipment costing at least \$25.00 which makes \$250.00 worth of stones saleable at 25¢.

(-via The Pioneer and Flint Flashes)

SPONGES: By Paul Godollei, Club Member

Sponges belong to the Phylum Porifera, and have existed in the seas since Precambrian times. They are simple animals that vary in size and shape. Early sponges were vase-like or spherical, while modern sponges have evolved into more massive and branching types.

Sponges have no true tissues, nerves, glands or muscles, and their internal skeleton is usually composed of needle-like, fibrous, horny substance of mineralized 'spicules'. Other types consist of spongin alone. The spicules in most cases are not joined, so that when the animal dies, the spicules are scattered, and the spongin decays. Only the sponges preserved as fossils are the ones where the spicules have been fused into a rigid framework.

The simplest sponges were vase-shaped, with small pores in the walls to allow water to pass through to the interior. The inside chambers were lined with cells bearing small whip-like flagella, or hairs. These hairs beat back and forth and strained out the food particles. The two layers of cells were separated by a jelly-like material. In advanced sponges, the vase walls were folded to create many chambers with collared cells. Sponges attached themselves to a firm object or anchored into the sand or mud. They varied in size from one inch to two feet across. Most living sponges belong to the Class Demospongia, with the skeleton of spongin alone, or with straight rod-like spicules or some with four diverging rays at 60 or 120 degrees. The walls are thick and folded.

Another type of sponges were the 'Cliona', a boring sponge that bored into the shells of brachiopods. They developed during the Devonian era and are alive today. They had an outer shell for protection.

Astylospongia were spherical in shape, about 2" in diameter, with a shallow depression at the top containing many large regularly arranged pores. Many irregular vertical grooves came from the upper edges and down three sides. They developed during the Ordovician and lived through the Silurian age. They are abundant in Tennessee, and are also found in New York, Ontario, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois and Iowa.

Glass sponges were tall, narrow and vase-like, 8 sided, with a lattice-like pattern of threads covering the surface. They have been found in the Upper Devonian and Mississippian in New York and Indiana.

Prismodictya was 3-3/4 inches tall and 1-5/8 inches wide.

The Calcareia were the most primitive sponges and examples may be found in New York, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Iowa and Indiana.

Astraeospongia was 2-1/2 inches in diameter and shaped like a shallow saucer. The spicules had 8 rays, with 6 in one plane and 2 perpendicular. They lived during the Silurian through the Devonian.

Bibliography: Shimer & Shrock - "Index Fossils of North America."

"The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Fossils" by Ida Thompson

Prismodictya



Glass  
Sponge

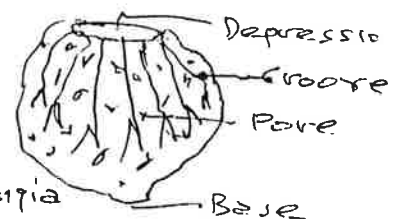


Spicule

Astraeospongia



Spicules

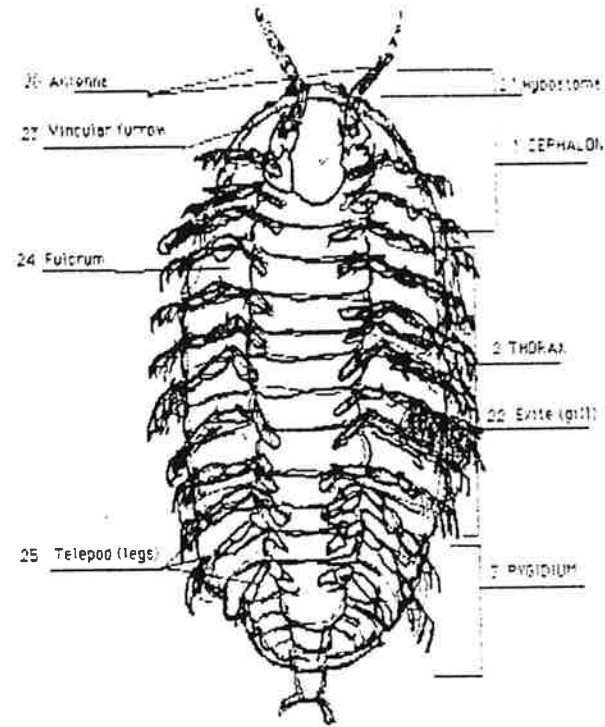


Astylospongia

FOSSIL CLASS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! - ?????????????

Anyone interested in learning more about fossil collecting, identification, cleaning and displaying, etc. should sign up for classes which will probably be held at my house twice a month on Saturday morning or afternoon, or whenever the majority prefers. The fee will be \$3.00 to help cover the cost of printing the class helps. Classes could start in April, and run for as long as people are interested. Field trips and visits to museums are in the plans. A copy of the excellent book, "The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Fossils" by Ida Thompson is available in most book stores for \$12.50 and will be one of the text books used for the course. I will be in Arizona in February, but will be at the March meeting to see how many people are interested. No age limit!

Paul B. Godollei  
 1910 Ribourde Drive  
 South Bend, IN 46628  
 Ph: 272-9705



ventral or bottom view of *Trilobites* showing soft parts (Middle Ordovician)  
 Each leg of the trilobite was equipped with a gill. Only one is shown here.

SIGN UP SHEET

NAME

PREFERRED MEETING DAY AND TIME

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WHAT'D HE SAY??

The policeman pulled over an elderly driver and said, "My gosh, man, didn't you realize your wife fell out of the car 3 miles back?" Thanks be to God", exclaimed the old gent, "I thought I'd gone deaf!" (-via M.M.S. Conglomerate)

HELPFUL HINT:

Geode cutters who can't decide which way to cut a neon spherical geode, try rolling it on a flat floor surface. Roll it several times and note which side stops up most frequently - then cut on a plane parallel to the floor. Crystal growth inside the geode is probably the most at the top and bottom of its rest position as stalagmites and stalagmite grow in caves. (-via Napa Gems and The Rock Rattler)

OLD AGE: Where everything wears out, falls out and spreads out. (-via Gem City Rock News)

