

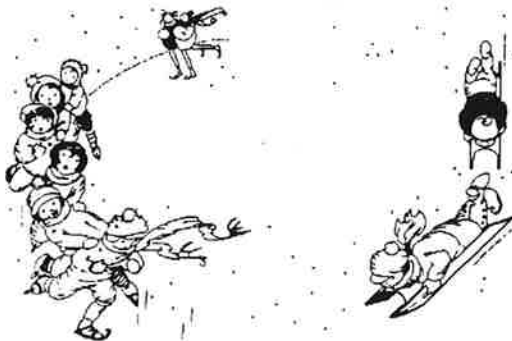


THE ROCKFINDER

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Larry Hess, Rockfinder Editor
 15358 Kerlin Drive
 Granger, IN 46530

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The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, a non-profit organization, and is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Time:	2:00 PM EST	Place:	Studebaker Museum
General Meeting	4th Sunday of each month		525 S. Main St.
June - Field Trip Meeting			Downtown South Bend
July - No meeting	August - Annual Club Picnic		December - Christmas Party

Board Mtgs: 2nd Wednesday, 7:00pm, South Bend (Main) Library, Basement Level.

ROCKFINDER STAFF: Editor Larry Hess 15358 Kerlin Dr, Granger IN 46530
 Co-Editor Margaret Heinek 7091 E East Park Ln, New Carlisle IN
 Staff Bob Heinek / Club Members

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the Editor by the 10th of each month.
 Call: (219 272-5431) Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER provided due recognition is given.

cut ----- cut

Membership Dues are: Please send your dues and this form to
Michiana Gem & Mineral Club
c/o Margaret Heinek
7091 E East Park Lane
New Carlisle IN 46552

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

Please make address corrections to the mailing label (reverse side) and/or fill in the optional information below.
 Check your SPECIAL INTERESTS: Family Members (spouse and children):

General Geology ___	Beads ___	Name _____	Birth Mo/Yr _____
Gems & Minerals ___	Silversmithing ___		will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___

Fossils ___	Artifacts ___	Name _____	Birth Mo/Yr _____
Cabochons ___	Rockhound ___		will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___

Faceting ___	Carving ___	Name _____	Birth Mo/Yr _____
Crystals ___	Micromounts ___		will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___

Other _____

Name _____ Address _____

City St Zip _____ Phone _____ Birth Mo/Yr _____

THE ROCKFINDER

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Number 1

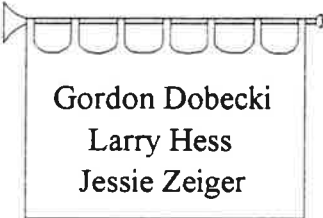
January 1995

Published by:
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Meeting: Meeting: Sunday Jan 22, 1995
Doors Open 1:30 PM
Meeting at 2:00 PM

Place: Studebaker Museum
525 S. Main St.
Downtown South Bend

Hosts:

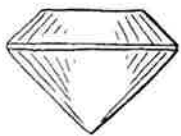


Gordon Dobecki
Larry Hess
Jessie Zeiger

----- JANUARY Program -----
FIMO demonstration by Bob Heinek.
If you are not familiar with FIMO, it's a neat
plastic clay material which hardens in an oven

January Happy Birthday & Anniversary:

9 Cindy & Larry Hess (Ann)
13 Lorraine Jordan
14 Gordon Dobecki
14 Clarence Orrell
14 Marion Klodzinski
26 Marilyn Meir
29 Carolyn Nelson



Your JANUARY

BIRTHSTONE.

GARNET

Garnet is a truly ancient gem, known thousands of years before the birth of Christ. In those early days of civilization garnet, along with other gems, was known as "carbuncle". Although this term is generally applied to any red gem, today only red cabochon-cut garnets are called carbuncles. Garnets were considered to have great curative powers, especially against fevers. The wearer of a garnet was supposed to be protected in travels and kept in good health.

Red garnet is said to foster romantic love, passion, sensuality, intimacy, positive serenity, meditation, creativity, purification and patience.

Garnet varies in size and color on where it is found. You may find ruby red, or brown to orange, or cinnamon colored glossularities. Garnet is widely used in industrial applications such as gears, instruments, and abrasives. Some ancients used garnets as bullets for sling bows.

MARGARET'S COLUMN

1995 IS UPON US! My wish for the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society members is that this will be a good year for all. Especially for the health of you and your families.

My thanks goes to all of our members, especially to the officers and board for their work in keeping the club active. We have had some disagreements, but I sincerely hope this is behind us and we are able to go forward for the good of the Society. Many excellent ideas were put forward, and will be discussed in the future months.

Our weekend trip to Corydon was the highlight of the year, and other trips are being discussed for 1995. Hopefully more members will participate, and we will have a bus full. More on this later when the trip committee reports. If any of you have ideas let us know.

Larry Hess has agreed to continue as the ROCKFINDER editor. Tom Noe will do the publicity, since Mag Auth has acquired a new sail boat, and likes to spend her time sailing. Sounds nice Meg, and we are sorry to lose you. Meg did such a nice job designing our 1994 Convention pin. (If you have not gotten one, we have some for sale).

Molly will continue as Sunshine Chairman, she has done such a nice job with this committee. Lorainne Jordan will continue as Hospitality Chairman, and will need help with the goodies each month. Let her know when you will take your turn with the refreshments. Paul Godollei will continue with our books, but when you take any out, please return promptly, so others may use them. It is too bad we do not have a place to store them available to the members, so Paul would not have to carry them to the meetings.

We are working on getting a program committee that will work with Ed Miller to get programs that will please our juniors as well as the adults. Jessie Zieger has agreed to work with Ed in obtaining program. If any of you have any ideas, PLEASE let them know. Our January program will be given by Bob Heinek on Fimo.

This will be a "hands-on" program, so come prepared to participate.

Pam Rubenstein will serve as club treasurer, but asks that the club members express their agreement. This will be one of the items to be decided at the Jan. meeting. I would like to thank Marge Collins for her excellent work in this job. Marge had implemented a form when asking for repayment of money spent for the club. I would suggest this might be continued if desired by the new treasurer.

Some members have expressed the desire of attending the monthly board meetings. The Board meetings will be held at the Main South Bend Library, down town on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7 pm to 9 pm. The room is on the basement level and arrangement have been made for the next 6 months. The Museum is really not open on Wed. eve, but they have let us meet there the last two months, which we have appreciated.

Now is the time to start working on the September show, thinking about your display and any committee you will work on; Kiddies Korner, Door Display chairman, Club booth, setup/take down a many other areas. Larry Hess will be the dealer chairman.

There are some items belonging to the Society that we would like to locate. If you know where they are, please let it be known.

1 - At least four (4) metal cash boxes, that were used at the shows for the booth money; the club booth, kiddies korner; silent auction and door. (Marge did not have them for the convention in Sept. 1994).

2 - The wooden carrying case that was made for the hostess' items. We could not store it at the Presbyterian Church, so we decided not to use it. We possibly could use it to store the items now. But at least we will know where it is if we need it.

3 - Our Bingo game and cards. We only use this at the Christmas party, but we should know where it is.

The club cases are stored in New Carlisle, along with the kiddies wheels, rocks, electrical items, history of the club etc. I have in my possession the copier, a package of CZs, the club pins and the name tags. Chuck Collins has the gold coin that will be given out at the September 1995 show. Since Chuck has a place to store it safely, I suggest he keep it and

present it at the drawing in September. The winner will be drawn from those that addressed post cards at the September 1994 Convention. They will be eligible for the drawing if they bring in their postcard when they come to the 1995 show. There will be others sent through the mail in August.

If you have not sent your dues for 1995, please do so SOON, as Larry will prepare the new roster and we want to include your name. Until Pam has been officially appointed/elected as treasurer, send the checks to me at 7091 E. East Park Lane, New Carlisle, IN 46552 and I will deposit them into the club account.

* * * * *

SAFETY TIP-

As you attend shows and swaps and any time you move heavy materials, please use proper lifting techniques. Avoid painful strains and pulls by bending your knees and using your legs to lift rather than your back. Avoid twisting while lifting and keep heavy objects close to the body. Ask a friend to help you lift that heavy box of samples out of the trunk of your car!

from Johnny Johnson- EFMLS News
Eastern Federation, Sept. 1994

* * * * *

BURIED TREASURE

Agatized coral, in many forms and colors, is found all over Florida. Sometimes these heads are solid; some, as around Tampa Bay, are hollow and properly called "geodes". Agatized Coral is scientifically identified as "Chalcedony Pseudomorph after Coral" because one mineral has been replaced with another.

Millions of years ago these "rocks" were colonies of little animals belonging to the phylum coelenterata. One of the anthozoos -- they grew as polyps. Coral is the name of the limey skeleton with which they encase themselves. This is also a fossil.

Diluvial action of some kind covered these colonies of animals. This water contained other minerals. Over a long period of time the carbonate

of lime skeleton was replaced by the mineral quartz. This form of quartz is called "Chalcedony" (cal-CED-O-ny). The geodes found in the Tampa Bay area may have centers colored red, blue or black or varying size quartz crystals. In the northern part of Florida solid heads of various shades of yellow, banded with blue or black have been found. Beautiful specimens have been found on the Caladesi Causeway. Other beautiful specimens have been located in the Perry area -- Econfinia and Buckeye. The crystal heads of northern Florida differ from the Tampa Bay heads. While heads have been found in all areas, no fingers have been found in the northern Suwanee basin. Many enhydros are found, sometimes in salt water but the water contained in them is always fresh.

Heads and fingers are highly prized as specimens. Smaller pieces are made into jewelry. They have come to be called "Ballast Point Diamonds" because they were first found in quantity at Ballast Point -- and to coral lovers their beauty rivels that of the diamond.

Author --the late Wilma D. Bonar

* * * * *

TROY WEIGHT,

a system of measurement mainly used for gold and silver, received its name from the great fairs of Troyes in France during the Middle Ages. Sellers and buyers came to the fairs from many parts of western Europe and the Middle East, and the arrangements for weighing and financing sales were known for their exactness.

From the National Observer, via Scribe & Glacial Drifter, March 1995.

* * * * *

LEMONADE DESSERT-

60 Ritz crackers, crushed- Mix together and pat into a 9x13 pan, reserving ½ cup for topping.

1 stick of margarine, melted

¼ cup powdered sugar

Mix together 1 - 8oz carton Cool Whip

1 can sweetened condensed milk

1 small can lemonade

Place on crust, sprinkle with crumbs- refrigerate
GOOD!

Arizona Copper, Part 3**"Rock Hunting the Morenci Mine"**

by Chet Smith

Lordsburg, New Mexico is a friendly little town located on I-10 about twenty miles from the New Mexico, Arizona state line. It is also the home of Rockamania, an annual gathering of dozens of rockhounds. Among the many activities planned at this event are a dozen or more field trips to various mines and quarries. Most popular of all trips is a day at the Morenci Copper Mine. It was early spring in 1993 when Gordon Boone and I headed for Morenci, Arizona some sixty miles northeast of Lordsburg. We had been dry camped for several days at Lordsburg's Rockamania and signed up for a field trip at the local rock shop.

We arrived at the mine headquarters at 8:30 a.m. and after checking in were given a short lecture on the mine and issued a safety helmet to wear in the mine. The mine tours are conducted five days a week throughout the year and a place can be reserved by calling (602)865-4521 extension 435.

We were loaded into Phelps Dodge vans and the tour began. Earlier we had been advised by friends to not spend much time high-grading specimens while on the tour. The time spent at hunting locations was only 15-20 minutes at each site and was much too short for us rockhounds.

The first hunting stop was at a place that had been recently blasted and was filled with turquoise, chrysocolla, malachite and azurite specimens. We hurried out with hammers, chisels and buckets. There was so much color it was hard to decide where to hunt. Then, just as we got a good start, our guide announced it was time to drive on to the next hunting site.

Between hunting spots our guide explained the various processes and operations required to get pure copper from the very low grade ore being mined. Finally we

came to our last hunting spot. In this spot several large loads of dirt had been dumped. Our guide explained that several hunts had taken place at this site but there was sure to be some good pieces of azurite left. We needed no further encouragement, and that van load of rockhounds covered that pile of dirt almost before the guide could jump out of the way. Soon several small pieces of azurite were uncovered and occasionally a larger piece half the size of a hand and three-fourths inches thick. The size of the piece and the yell that followed made everyone dig faster and faster. We were just getting warmed up when the guide announced it was time to go on to the next stop.

The three hour tour included 45-60 minutes of rockhounding and two hours of mine and smelter stops. Just enough to make us eager and make us think about going back to the Morenci Mine next year.

From: The Tulip City Conglomerate, 11/94.

Calendar of Events:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jan 14 - 16 | Texarkana Gem & Mineral Show
YMCA - Texarkana, TX |
| Jan 27-29 | Pacific Micromount Conference
San Bernardino Co Museum
Jessie Hardman (310)425-5638 |
| Feb 14 -
Mar 8 | Rockamania,
Lordsburg, NM |
| Aug 12-13 | MGAGS Rockhound Seminar
MTU Houghton Michigan
Cathy Hodgson 810-664-8985 |
| Oct 7-8 | Eddy Geology Center Arts Fair. |
| Oct 13-15 | M W F Convention & Show, Detroit |

Club Survival Guide for the '90s

by Pat LaRue.

The 1994 membership renewal numbers are nearly in for the seven regional federations and their member societies. Unfortunately, one of the things all of us may have in common is that those numbers may be lower than they were the previous year. If this trend should continue over the next few years, one may not have to worry about the future of the hobby organization .. there might not be any organized hobby to worry about!

Can we do something about this downward trend? Can we do something to hold our present numbers and hopefully add a few? Perhaps if one looks at what some of the larger or more active clubs are doing, we can find some suggestions.

The more actively growing clubs all have one thing in common. The membership rosters are not only expanding but they continue to renew a larger percentage of the existing membership. Let's examine some of the things these clubs do to attract and retain members.

They promote the hobby in general and their club in particular. These clubs are not afraid to change their old established ways of doing things and try new approaches to reach the general public. They do not hesitate to spend extra dollars on publicity and take advantage of every opportunity to make the name of their organization known in the community. Despite the growing challenges to do so, most actively growing clubs continue to sponsor a show.

They provide ongoing services to their members. A variety of activities which appeal to the majority such as quality programs and club sponsored outings. Some of the lapidary groups have a workshop building and provide equipment for the use of their club members. Other clubs have "workshop get togethers" at a member's home. A few clubs have claims or lease property on which their members can prospect and/or

collect material.

They recognize that whereas people might join a club to learn more about the hobby, more will continue their memberships if they develop a sense of belonging to the group. The most important committee in the club might be the one in charge of hospitality. Clubs must make those newcomers feel welcome!

They make every attempt to minimize conflict within the group. Those in leadership positions must make every effort to keep their personal differences private. A club can only prosper and grow when the energy flowing from its leadership is positive and nurturing. Negative energy may not only drive away existing members, but may actually discourage others from joining the group. We must remember at all times that we are hobby organizations with which people associate in order to have fun and learn new skills. Take away the fun and the sense of camaraderie and the membership could suffer.

These are just a few thoughts that might help stem the downward spiral in which our members seem to be caught. All of our creative energy needs to become focused on increasing our membership and keeping the majority of the members we already have.

P.S. What our club needs most, is for more members to get involved.

From AFMS Newsletter 5/94 via SCFMS Newsletter 11/94 and The Southwest Gem 12/94.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Please remember, I will be doing the Membership Roster soon and you need to be in it!

Dues are Due. Dues are Due.

Lorraine Jordan has put together a fine list of host/hostesses for the monthly meetings. She is still hoping for another volunteer for May and June. Please call her!

Seeing What's Really There

by Tom Noe, Michiana Gem & Mineral Soc.

Last summer, I spent about six days at the Fairburn agate beds just southeast of the Black Hills. Each day I dedicated the same amount of time to my search for Fairburns (except for one morning when it rained and it was impossible to get to the agate areas because the mud piled up around my shoes so fast -- but that's another story).

During the first tow days I didn't find a single Fairburn, though I looked long and hard. I did find lots of other things such as some petrified palm and various small geodes, but they were incidental. Finally, I found one Fairburn on the third day, four on the fourth day and raked in an astonishing eleven on the last day. Most of these were pretty small, but seven were good examples. Since I was covering the same territory day after day, I wondered why I had found more as I went along? You'd think the agates would be scattered randomly across the fields and I'd be able to find the same number per day.

It reminded me of the time I took a friend along a gully in Colorado so we could collect some petrified wood. In among the stream-tossed rocks were pieces of petrified wood. I didn't even have to bend down to see them -- I just dug them out of the dirt with my boot. My friend, however, craned his neck and got down on his hands and knees and still couldn't find any wood. I'd point out examples and he'd try to look for similar pieces, but he didn't have any success. He just could not see them!

Recently I read an article by a scientist who was visiting one on the ancient hominid sites in Africa. Folks were walking around through the brush, picking out hominid bones from several yards away. The scientist couldn't see them. Even when hominid bones were pointed out to him, he could not distinguish them from the rocks. Instead, he started finding fossil snails. Snails were his specialty and he saw them lying all over the place. None of the paleontologists on the

scene had ever noticed these snails before -- they hadn't seen them.

So, the point seems to be: sometimes you can be looking right at something and not really see it. Your brain fails to distinguish the gold from the glitz. The information is all there, but it takes time for your eyes and mind to process the information correctly.

I doubt there's any way to learn this except by doing it -- looking, looking, looking. Sure, you can always stumble across that lucky find, but consistent results, time after time, depend on the long hours of practice spent in looking. After a while, you can look at a field of agates (or whatever) and see what you're looking for (it was there all the time).

Some finds come through simple perseverance, you keep turning over tons of that black gritty stuff until you see the shine of a crystal. Other times, you're essentially sorting through material that may look quite similar to the prize you are looking for. Here is where perseverance is not enough. You also need to have trained your eyes and brain to recognize what you are seeing. Familiarize yourself with rough examples at rock shops and museums; study what they will look like as you encounter them in the field. Buy a few examples and look at them regularly.

Sometimes I hear about somebody returning from a site with the complaint, "I couldn't find anything there. It's all worked out".

I wonder!

Another specialty item came to my attention during December, on paleontology (The Bone Bug Journal) for \$28/yr:

FOSSIL NEWS and Amateur Paleontology
6803 Whitman St NW
Dash Point WA 98422

GRAPTOLITES by Paul Godollei, Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

The graptoloids were originally considered to be coelenterates by some authors, bryozoans by others, but after 1948 they were placed in the little known phylum called Hemichordata. They flourished in the lower Ordovician and Silurian seas and are still represented in modern seas by a few obscure genera.

The graptoloids were colonial animals with many minute living tubes (theca) and were grouped together in a colony called a rhapsodome. The rhapsodome frequently looks like a minute jigsaw blade, with single, two sided, forked, four-pronged, etc. When alive, the rhapsodome was suspended from a float by a slender thread called a nema.

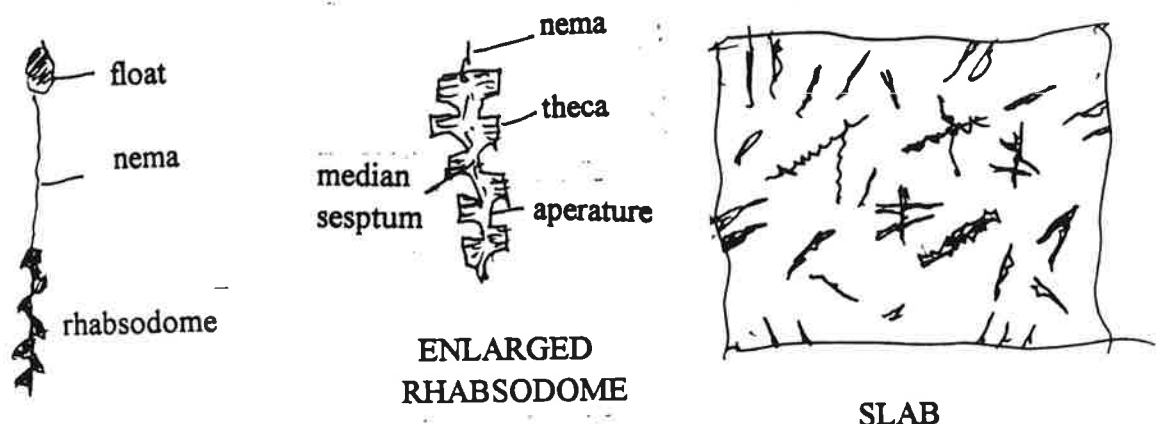
The walls of the rhapsodome were composed of tough, flexible chitin much like the composition of a beetle's wing. When found, the fossil colony is generally seen as a black, carbonaceous film on the surface of dark shale layers, and very rarely in limestone. Usually the colony is crushed flat, but occasionally specimens are found in their original "inflated" form the colony had in life. They have been found in the Cincinnati formations in both conditions.

Graptolites floated, and thus were widely distributed, and when they died were preserved in the bottom muds.

The ones I have found were all in shales about a half inch thick, located in the ditches a few miles south of Butler, Kentucky, across the bridge from Cincinnati, Ohio about 17 miles. The top of the shales contained the front "collars" of the lace collared trilobite *Criptolithus tessellatus*, but when turned over, the underside contained many small graptolites ranging from 1/4 inch to two inches in length, black and smashed flat.

They have been identified as *Climacograptus typicalis*, and show nearly square theca on each side of the rhapsodome, with a narrow, almost horizontal incision between, with a small mucronate point at the base of the theca. Some slabs have only a few small rhapsodomes in them, while others contained many specimens criss-crossed in the slab, in various lengths and positions.

References: Cincinnati Fossils: Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, R. A. Davis editor, page 30; pp 42,43 plate II, figs 1 & 2. Eden Formation. "Index Fossils of North America, Shimer & Shrock, p 73, Plate 21, fig. 34.



INDIVIDUAL
WHEN ALIVE

ENLARGED
RHAPSODOME
CLIMACOGRAPTUS

SLAB

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Lapeer, MI 48446
(810) 664-8985, 5-9 P.M.

♦ Illustrated
Lectures

Michigan Technological University is located in Houghton at the heart of the colorful Keweenaw Peninsula in Upper Michigan. The University is surrounded by thousands of acres of forests, rivers, and lakes; yet, it is not isolated. Houghton is part of the Houghton-Hancock twin-city center of approximately 12,000 people.

Situated on Lake Superior, the Keweenaw is an ideal place for a family vacation, having numerous interesting and exciting things to do and see within a short distance. There are many local parks and campsites, as well as local air and water transportation to Isle Royale National Park. You can enjoy fishing, boating, cycling, swimming, hiking, or almost any other form of outdoor recreation within walking distance of the campus. Michigan Tech owns an eighteen-hole golf course



HOSTED BY
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