

The Rockfinder
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Tom Noe, Editor
305 Napoleon Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46617

MEMBERS, if the miner's hat
on your address label is RED,
this is your last issue of
the Rockfinder. The deadline
for 1996 dues was January 1.



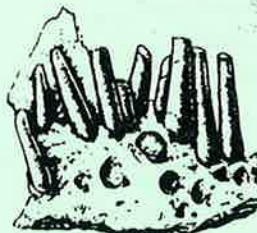
THE ROCKFINDER

Highlights of this issue —

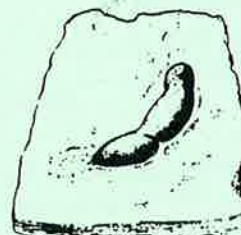
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Cordierite, Sunstone of the Vikings, p. 7



Bird Trackway



Pelecypod Borings



Crocodile Coprolite

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THE PURPOSE of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote interest in and study of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and the sharing of knowledge and techniques.

General meetings are held the fourth Sunday of each month, 2:00 pm EST, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 805 S. 29th St., South Bend, IN. Exceptions include field trip meetings, June (field trip), July (no meeting), August (club picnic) and December (Christmas Party).

Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm, St. Joseph County Public Library, basement level.

The annual club show is Labor Day Weekend.

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, a not-for-profit organization, is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Rockfinder staff:

Editor, Tom Noe, 305 Napoleon Blvd., South Bend, IN 46617
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Reporters, Bob Heinek, Herb Luckert, club members
 All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 10th of each month. Call (219) 289-2028 or (219) 654-3673. Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles, as long as due recognition is given along with the reprint.

cut _____

Yearly Membership Dues (Payable before January 1)	
Individual	\$ 6.50 per year
Family	\$10.00 per year
Junior	\$ 2.00 per year

Please send your dues and this form to
 Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
 c/o Margaret Heinek
 7091 E. East Park Lane, New Carlisle, IN 46552-9400

Please make address corrections to the mailing label (reverse side) and/or fill in the optional information below.

Check your SPECIAL INTERESTS:

List Family Members (spouse and children):

- General Geology _____ Beads _____
 Gems & Minerals _____ Silversmithing _____
 Fossils _____ Artifacts _____
 Cabochons _____ Rockhound _____
 Faceting _____ Crystals _____
 Carving _____ Micromounts _____
 Other _____

- Name _____ Birth Mo/Date _____
 will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___
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THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 36
Number 2

February, 1996

Published by:
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Meeting: Meeting: Sunday February 25
Doors Open 1:30 PM
Meeting at 2:00 PM

February's Program: New Law Proposed
for Fossil Collecting on Public Lands,
presented by Tom Noe

Place: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S 29th St. (29th & Wall)
South Bend, IN

Happy Birthday

3 Dahlquist, Catherine
5 Finske, Jeanne
8 Nagy, Al
8 Nagy, Marcelle
10 Knowles, Dave
22 Nelson, Bill Sr.
22 Nelson, Bill Jr.
24 Carson, Candace

Hosts:



UP AND COMING:

March 8, 9, 10: Gem and Mineral Show, Eastern
Indiana Gem & Geological Society, at the
Wayne County 4-H Fairgrounds, Richmond, IN.
Programs on fluorite, pyrite, geodes; dealers, etc.

March 23, 24: Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Cedar
Valley Rocks & Mineral Society, 5000 J St. SW,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Programs: Lake Superior agates
and coal mining; dealers, displays, etc.

April 12, 13, 14: South Bend Gem & Mineral Show,
Century Center downtown. Bring your friends. More
information next month.

April 21: Club field trip to Mazon Creek area, IL,
to look for fossils in concretions. See p. 4.

April 19, 20, 21: Gem & Mineral Show, Blackhawk
Rock Club, Alpine & Newburg Rd., Rockford, IL.
Demonstrations, flint-knapping, etc.

MARGARET'S COLUMN

What a month we have had! As the degrees dropped, all I could think about was the heat we had last summer. Just wish we had some of the heat that was "wasted" during July and August, 1995. But wasn't it nice not to have all of the snow we usually get here in northern Indiana. I hear Michigan, at least some of the counties, had more snow than we did. Heard a remark the other day, "It is nice to talk to so many people, but the conversation all ways starts with a the subject of weather."

Now we can look forward to good weather about five week from now; at least the groundhog tells us so. Let us hope we have gotten over the worst of the weather.

Herb Luckert sent to the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research for pamphlets on several subjects...*What is a Fossil?*, *What is An Ammonite?*, *What is a Trilobite?* and *What is a Crinoid?* The pamphlets were put out at the last meeting for the members to pick up. If you did not receive them, let me know, and we will see that you get them.

The Black Hills Institute, located in Hill City, South Dakota, was organized in 1973 as Black Hills Minerals: an Earth-science supply house handling rock, mineral and fossil specimens from the Black Hills region. Their primary activity is supplying professionally prepared fossil specimens for research, teaching and display. I get the idea that they are open to the public with a large display of fossils and minerals. This might be a place that you would want to visit if you are in the area.

I would like to stress that Tom Noe, the new editor, would like articles written by our members for the *Rockfinder*. If you can write an interesting article about something you have

seen on your vacation, do so. I am sure Tom will welcome it, and will be glad to help you in the preparation. So think about it and get the items to Tom before the 10th of the month for inclusion either that month or the next one.

I heard from Margaret (John Scott's helper the AAA Opal dealer) that John has been in the hospital and is not in good condition. I do not think he will be at the show this year. Margaret calls me quite often with reports. We wish him well.

The next show in the area will be in Richmond, Indiana on March 8, 9, 10 at the Kuhlman Center. Sponsored by the Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society.

See you at the next meeting on Feb. 25th. In the meantime (this is written before the Science Alive) we are going to take a display for the 4th time, to the downtown library. We have a display of crinoids that had belonged to Paul Godollei, which we will take, and as usual, Gordon Dobecki, will have his machine there for the youngsters to polish petosky stones.

See you at the next meeting on Feb. 25th.

Margaret

Michael Slattery, our V-P, would like members' input on the type of programs you would like to have at the meetings.

So please help Mike and offer your suggestions. If a person or program comes to your attention at a later date, please feel free to give him a call. Thanks for your cooperation and support. Michael Slattery 237-9532.

SIGNS YOU'RE A ROCKHOUND

"You think the primary function of road cuts is tourist attractions"

"You own more pieces of quartz than underwear"

"The rockpile in your garage is taller than you are"

"You fabricate a backpack for your dog"

The Calumet Gem, Feb '96

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28 MEETING

President Heinek opened the meeting at the Lutheran Church, and gave greetings to the members. She announced that 17 boxes of petrified wood, agate, etc. had been donated to the Society by Leo Heynssens and his wife Elma. Larry Hess was congratulated for the nice job done on the ROCKFINDER for the past year. It was pointed out that articles, poems, etc. are still needed for our contest entry.

The main program was prepared by Lewis Jordan jr., entitled "A Family Fossil-hunting Experience at Hueston Woods." Hospitality hosts were Pat & Tom McLaughlin. Sign ups for future hospitality hosts are needed.

Gordon Dobecki discussed our role at the "Science Alive" fair coming up Saturday, Feb. 10, 10 AM - 4 PM at the downtown branch of the St. Joseph Public Library. Volunteers are still needed for the Friday, Feb. 9 date.

Minutes of the January meeting, as published in the Rockfinder, were unanimously voted as accepted.

We received thank yous from the YWCA, and Center for the Homeless for the donations we sent. Donations had also sent been to the Center for Battered Women, Salvation Army, and Hope Rescue Mission.

Renewal for THE LAPIDARY JOURNAL for 1 year is \$28.00, 3 years is discounted to \$52.50.

Treasurer's report was given by Pam Rubenstein. Midwest Endowment's letter stated they received our check for the memorial to Catherine McHugh.

Margaret delivered Kathy Miller's report concerning a field trip to Mazon

Creek scheduled for Sunday, April 21. The "bus tour" field trip, to take place on Friday thru Sunday, Sept. 27-29, 1996, was also discussed as were accommodations for lodging. The bus can seat 47 riders, and 19 rooms are available. Please reserve soon.

Other business & Miscellaneous:

V.P. Mike Slattery presented an "idea sheet" on which members were asked to jot down program topics they would like to have presented at future meetings. Margaret mentioned that she had asked Kathy to give a travelogue presentation on Israel. We hope she will ! Donations for door prizes were also requested. Mr. Luckert had ordered and made available 5 flyers about the Black Hills fossil area, also the Richmond show in March. Tom Noe said that fossils donated by the family of Paul Godollei are being stored for use and distribution to the Society.

The upcoming April '96 show is to be April 12/13/14 at Century Center.

Several members gave assistance to one displayer who had received a bad check from a customer at last year's show. The merchandise purchased at the show was returned to the display owner who is very ill. Thank you to all who helped. For the silent auction at the show this year, the Society will furnish table rental fees. All money made from the auction will go to Michiana Gem & Mineral Society.

Other displays & talks featured were: Costa Rican rocks and shells by Tom McLaughlin; Samples from various travels by Alec Rubenstein; Fluorite specimens from S. Illinois by Emily Johnson. All those present got to choose a great doorprize this month !

Emily Johnson, interim secretary

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Kathy Miller, Field Tripper

Sunday April 21, 1996, MAZON CREEK, ILL

I have talked with Dr. Christopher Lediva, head of the Mazon Creek Project. He will confirm our date with the State of Illinois Dept. of Conservation. We have a 41-passenger bus reserved, as we are only allowed one vehicle. Mazon Creek is a nationally known collecting site. This would be a one-day trip.

Friday September 27, 1996, Saturday September 28 and Sunday September 29th, HUESTON WOODS State Park, Ohio. 47 passenger bus: Originally I tried to book reservations in the State Park lodge; they are completely booked and has been for some time. I then inquired on cabins. They had 14 or 15 available (we had 19 last fall). The price for each cabin was OVER \$100.00 and that did not include tax. I felt this was too expensive for one weekend.

I called the Oxford Chamber of Commerce, who sent me brochures. The town is 6 miles from the state park. There are 3 motels in the town, I called all 3. The Day's Inn is completely booked and has been for a while. The College View Motel would only block 10 rooms, and reservations would have to be made individually. I decided to reserve the OXFORD MOTEL, and block the entire place. They only have 19 rooms.

I am waiting for the owners' exact room prices before I start taking members' names. The prices will be very reasonable (\$35.00 to \$45.00 range) with hopefully a senior discount. They ONLY serve coffee in the AM in the lobby.

The entire area has good hunting for fossils. The Oxford Chamber of Commerce has offered to have a guide take us on a historical tour if we want it, like we had in Corydon.

Keep these field trip dates open—sign up should be in the next few months, and you won't want to miss out. Our bus trips fill up fast.

Your fellow member/field tripper
Kathy Miller

More on the Ohio trip— An area club has offered

to have some of their members join in the hunt, and also act as guides in finding some good hunting areas. Margaret's cousin is the secretary in the club.

A member of the Michiana Society is also a student at the college in Oxford and has offered to give us a tour of the college museum.

Looks GOOD!

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES, YOUR NAMES WILL NOT BE IN THE ROSTER.

Check your mailing label and if there is a red spot on it...this means your dues have not been paid, and this is the last ROCKFINDER you will receive. Also, if you are not a member, you are not eligible to go on the bus trip, unless you pay your share of the bus fare.

Also plan on helping with the Labor Day Weekend show. You must spend at least 3-4 hours in either helping in the set-up, or working in a booth at the show. Some of our members are unable to work at the show, but they plan on helping in the set-up on Friday.

AFMS NEWS

The next AFMS Convention will be held on August 9 - 10 - 11, 1996 in Riverside, California. CALIFORNIA FEDERATION/AFMS COMBINED is the host. Several of our members will attend. Margaret Heinek will be on the ballot for president of the AFMS. These conventions are really fun, and if at any time in the future, plan on going. The Midwest Federation will be the host in a couple of years.

The American Federation will be 50 years old in 1997, and will celebrate the Golden One in Jackson, Mississippi. Margaret will be the 51st president, if elected. There were 2 presidents in one of the former years, when the elected president died, and was replaced. More on this later.

MIDWEST FEDERATION NEWS

Speaking of conventions, the MWF will have their convention in McComb, Illinois, July 25 through 28th. Hosted by GEODELAND EARTH SCIENCE CLUBS, INC., Western Hall, West. Illinois University. More on this later! Mark your calendar. Bob Miller will be on the ballot for president, so let's go and give Bob our support.



FOSSIL HUNTING AT HUESTON WOODS STATE PARK, OHIO

Our junior members were in charge of the program at the January meeting. Louis Jordan IV gave a description of the site of the club's field trip next fall. Here are some excerpts.

The rocks found at Hueston Woods are from the Ordovician period (500-425 million years ago). Over 700 species from this period have been found in this region. The climate of Ohio at that time was like the present-day Bahama Islands. The most common types of fossils found are bryozoans, brachiopods, horn corals and crinoid stems.

Many of the fossils you will find will be in water and they will show at least some evidence of erosion. Some specimens will have very good detail and some will have almost none. Most of the fossils will be completely free of matrix.

The fossil collecting areas are not near the cabins or the lodge. Places are too far apart for hiking. You will have to be careful about the dangers of snakes at Hueston Woods. Watch out for copperheads near the creeks.

Our family found a lot of fossils when we went to Hueston Woods. We took our trip at the very end of March, before most fossil hunters or picknickers were in the park. Hopefully there will still be many fossils available at the end of the season when the club arrives.

We also took a side trip to Caesar Creek State Park where we searched for fossils in a dam spillway. I found a cephalopod impression there.

If you are interested in learning more about the fossils of Hueston Woods and the other fossil locations in southwestern Ohio, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources sells several good books. The club library has one of their best publications on Ohio fossils.

ROCKHOUNDS' RIDDLES

1. Name a likeable rock.
2. What mineral is always hungry?
3. How do geologists measure water?
4. What should all geologists know?
5. What mineral catches thieves?
6. What is an opening in a fence?
7. How do you keep a boat from drifting?
8. What vegetable is used for weighing gemstones?
9. Where does a skeleton sleep?
10. Name a citrus rock.
11. What is a teenage snake?
12. A through F paid. What about G?

Answers to riddles:

1. Gneiss. 2. Apatite. 3. With quartz. 4. Their faults. 5. Copper. 6. Agate. 7. Amethyst. 8. Carat. 9. In a boned. 10. Limestone. 11. Serpentine. 12. Geode.



STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ROCKS

On November 13, 1995, club member Dick Rosback was invited to his granddaughter's school to give a presentation on rocks. Lauren had told her teacher that her grandfather had lots of rocks and minerals and would bring them to show to the class. Lauren is in the eighth grade at Walter Reuther Middle School in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Dick and his wife, Joan, loaded up a variety of specimens and drive to Michigan. His presentation was very well received -- even the teacher was fascinated by Dick's collection. At the end of his talk, Dick allowed the students to choose from a selection of small polished rocks. Each student took a great deal of time deciding which rock was the perfect one to choose!

FOSSIL STRENGTHENS LINK BETWEEN DINOSAURS AND BIRDS

A site in central Mongolia's Gobi Desert that has turned out to be one of the richest lodes of reptile and mammal fossils from the end of the age of dinosaurs has yielded a spectacular fossil that links dinosaurs to birds. In 1993 scientists from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences unearthed a chunk of red sandstone containing fossils that turned out to be a 70- to 80-million-year-old, 9-foot-long dinosaur squatting over a nest filled with eggs.

The Oviraptor, a meat-eating dinosaur resembling a small wingless ostrich with a tail, is thought to have been brooding a clutch of 15 or more eggs when it was engulfed by a sandstorm, either before or shortly after it died. A quick burial deep in dry sand fossilized the animal's bones and eggs and preserved them exactly in place.

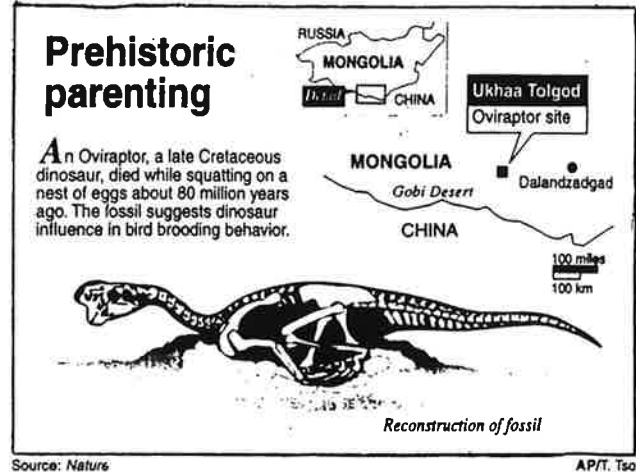
Its legs were tucked tightly behind its body in a manner corresponding to the posture of modern nesting birds such as chickens and pigeons. The arms were held back and somewhat to the side, circling the nest in a protective posture. The eggs, measuring 7 by 2.5 inches, were arranged in a circular pattern directly under the squatting animal, much like the eggs of modern birds.

Although the Oviraptor was excavated 2 years ago, the scientists did not discover the nature of their find for many months. Team leader, Dr. Mark A. Norell, a paleontologist at the American Museum, said, "You could just look at it, and it jumps out at you as an animal sitting on a nest." The team concluded, "This finding provided the strongest evidence yet that modern avian brooding behavior evolved long before the origin of modern birds" and occurred in some dinosaurs.

Noted dinosaur expert, Jack Horner, said he considers it "one of the two best specimens of dinosaur fossils ever found. We've had nests and

babies and all sorts of things, but we have never had the direct evidence of the parent with the eggs," he said. "By far this is the strongest evidence of some kind of parental attention."

From *M.A.P.S. Digest*, Jan. 1996



SCIENCE ALIVE

The fourth annual *Science Alive*, sponsored by the downtown public library, was held on Friday, February 9th and Saturday, February 10th. Margaret and Bob Heinek manned the booth on Friday for the fourth-grade youngsters who came by school buses. Saturday it was for all ages, and the attendance was reported to have been 7000 youngsters and adults that came through the displays in 6 hours. All 3 floors of the library were filled with displays, with every thing from "astronomy to zoology" and just about every letter in between, in 31 booths.

On Saturday, Gordon Dobecki brought in his polishing machine and 360 Petoskey stones for the youngsters to polish. Along with the Heineks, other club members there were, Jessie Zieger, Tom McLaughlin, Bill Nelson, Jr, Alec Rubenstein and Emily Johnson.

One display that was a big hit was the Crinoid display that had been assembled by Paul Godollei. This is the 4th time the Society had displayed, and as usual, was a success, due to Gordon's polishing machine.

CORDIERITE — SUNSTONE OF THE VIKINGS?

The mineral cordierite is thought to be the source of the famous sunstone of the Vikings, who in the ninth century were expert navigators. Without benefit of compass, Viking sailors managed to ply their watery routes of conquest and commerce, navigating by the stars at night and the sun during the day. No matter what the weather, according to ancient Scandinavian sagas, the sun could be located with the aid of the magical "Sun Stone." Summarizing sunstone lore in a recent article in the archaeology magazine *Skalk*, Danish archaeologist Thorkild Ramskau lamented that none of the sagas clearly describe the sun stone. "But there seems to be a possibility," he wrote, "that it was an instrument which in cloudy weather would show where the sun was." Now, with a clue supplied by a young archaeology enthusiast, Ramskau has discovered the secret of the sun-seeking stone of the ancients.

To the 10-year-old son of Jorgen Jensen, chief navigator of the Scandinavian Airline System, the instrument described in *Skalk* sounded like the twilight compass used by his father at higher latitudes, where the magnetic compass is unreliable. The twilight compass is equipped with a polarizing filter that enables a navigator to locate the sun--even when it is behind the clouds or below the horizon--by the light polarized by the atmosphere. Intrigued by his son's observation, Jensen passed it on to Ramskau, who immediately recognized its scientific implications. Enlisting the aid of Denmark's Royal Court jeweler, the archaeologist collected minerals found in Scandinavia whose molecules are aligned parallel to each other just as the crystals are in a polarizing filter. Ramskau found that one of these minerals, a transparent crystal called cordierite, turned gray to violet-blue whenever its natural molecular alignment was held at right angles to the plane of polarized light from the sun. Thus, he reasoned, a Viking could have located the sun by rotating a chunk of cordierite until it turned blue.

Putting cordierite to the test, Ramskau accompanied navigator Jensen on a flight to Greenland, keeping track of the sun with his stone while Jensen used the twilight compass. His observations were accurate within 2.5 degrees of the sun's true position, and he was able to track the sun until it dipped 7 degrees below the horizon.

"I now feel convinced," Ramskau concludes, "that the old Vikings, with the aid of their sun stones, could navigate with enormous accuracy."

From *Maplewood News*, (July, 1993)

**DAFFYNITIONS**

By Tom Noe

Kampsite -- any sharp gemstones you discover directly underneath your tent.

Millerlite -- mineral water infused with carbonates with organic inclusions (var. hops), usually found within a thin aluminum matrix.

Satellite -- a phosphorescent rock carried by cowboys when it is too dark to ride safely.

Uptite -- any rock which exudes moisture when it is subjected to pressure.

Iluvmytites -- any of a large group of minerals whose crystals take the form of Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Tinkerbellite -- a very hard-to-find mineral which can only be located by prolonged clapping out in the wild.

Owtasite -- common name for any impressive gem material found by a rockhound under the age of 21.

PAUL GODOLLEI'S GIFTS BENEFIT CLUB

By Tom Noe

Over the coming years, the club will benefit from the generous donation of numerous books, minerals and fossils from the collection of Paul Godollei. Before Paul passed away in November, he made a number of decisions about what to do with his large collection of fossils and other rockhounding materials. He donated some of the better fossils to the Indiana State Museum, especially some specimens which he had found in Indiana and southern Ohio. Family members received specific pieces or a general selection of his fossils. He set aside some pieces for his grandkids, to continue an interest in fossils and minerals which he had already stimulated in them. He also gave certain pieces to friends and members of the club.

After all those bequests had been taken care of, it left only about 8,000 fossils to distribute! Since Paul was too ill at the time to take care of this himself, he asked me to help him out. So, for a couple of months after Paul died, and with the assistance of his son David, I spent many evenings boxing and sorting and labelling.

Paul wanted the remainder of his collection to benefit club members and the club. Included are four boxes of various books, and about a dozen boxes of mineral specimens (including some from the Studebaker Collection) and fossils of many types from southern Indiana and surrounding regions.

Bob Miller, our current librarian, will decide which books to keep in the club library, and the rest will go to our silent auctions. Mineral specimens will also be showing up at the silent auctions, along with all the fossils. The proceeds from the sale of these will go to the club.

However, since it was also Paul's intention to benefit club members, it seems appropriate to invite members to come and make selections from the fossils for their own personal collections. They are all in my basement (pretty chilly) and any current

club member is more than welcome to browse through these boxes and make a reasonable selection for your personal use. Nearly all the fossils are labelled and sealed in plastic bags. Many of them are quite ordinary examples, but some are real beauties. They range through all the usual fossils of southern Indiana: bryozoans, cephalopods, brachiopods, trilobites (mostly parts), coral, etc. They are not sorted in any way, just all mixed together. If you are looking for something specific, you will have to go through them all. Most are identified according to species and location. I also still have Paul's extensive filing system, which will decipher any catalog numbers on the bags, but you will have to look through the files yourself to get this information, if you want it.

Please contact me at 289-2028 if you would like to set up a time to do this. These specimens will be available at no cost, but I reserve the right to hold on to particular specimens which ought to be sent to the auction. As Paul told me when we were discussing this, "If members are really interested in the fossils, let them have them."

The next silent auction will be at the April show, and after that the boxes will all be stored at the club storage shed.

We can't thank Paul personally anymore, but I know he was happy to be contributing to the enjoyment of his fellow club members and all those who will eventually possess the fossils he collected.

CUB SCOUT PRESENTATION

Junior member Bill Nelson, Jr. gave a presentation and showed some of his rock collection to Cub Scout Pack #316. Eleven boys and five adults were present. Four other boys also showed some of their rocks. Mrs. Nelson gave a short talk on metals.

"Everything of importance has already been seen by someone who did not discover it." Alfred North Whitehead