



Bend lear South Show 2000 Gem

> Friday April 7 - 2pm to 7pm Saturday April 8 - 10am to 6pm Sunday April 9 - 10 am to 4pm

MARCH, 2000

MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary 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. Regular exceptions include May (third Sunday), June (field trip), July (no meeting), August (club picnic) and December (Christmas party). Board meetings are held before the general meetings. The annual club show is Labor Day weekend.

7091 E. East Park Lane, New Carlisle, IN 46552

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-	All Members	
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Federation of	Federation of Mineralogical Societies and with the	
	deration of Mineralogical Societies.	
	Rockfinder is published monthly except	
	gust. Editor, Tom Noe, 305 Napoleon	
	Bend, IN 46617 (ph. 289-2028). Co-	
	Luckert, 221 Marquette Ave., South	
	6617 (ph. 282-1354). Reporters, Bob	
	Luckert, club members.	
Permi	ssion is hereby granted to reprint any	
original Rockfinder articles, as long as recognition is		
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PLEASE READ AND SIGN THIS SECTION:		
With my signature I hereby release the Michiana Gem and		
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Newsletter of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 40, Number 3

March, 2000

Meeting: Sunday, March 26, 2000

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 2:00 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

Place:

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

805 S. 29th St. (29th & Wall)

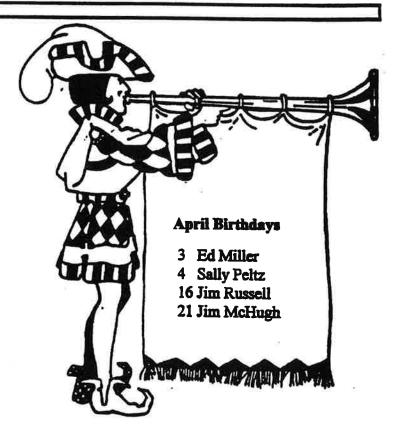
South Bend, IN

Program: Lou Ellen Brown will pre-

sent a hands-on demonstration of wire-wrapping and jewelry making.

Josts:

Don & Yvonne Church



UP AND COMING

April 1-2: Columbus Rock & Mineral Society, with Licking County Rock & Mineral Society show, Veteran's Memorial, 300 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH.

April 7-9: South Bend gem & mineral show, Century Center, South Bend, IN.

April 7-9: Mt. Clemens gem, mineral & jewelry show, Mt. Clemens Community Ctr., 300 N. Groesbeck, Mt. Clemens, MI.

April 12-15: Central Illinois fossil show, Days Inn, 1400 N. Hwy 67, Macomb, IL.

April 14-16: MAPS National Fossil Exposition --- (this show's theme is teeth), Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL.

May 13-14: Cincinnati Mineral Society show, Cincinnati Convention Center.

April 5-8: Indian Mounds club show, Eastbrook Mall, Grand Rapids, Mi. 25th annual show.

March 10-12: Eastern Indiana society show, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Richmond, IN.

March 17-19: Michigan Gem & Mineral Society show, Masonic

Lodge, 355 Napoleon Road, Michigan Center, MI.

April 1-2: Blossom Land Gem & Mineral Society show, Cook Nuclear Information Center, Bridgman, MI. (10-5 both days)

June 17-18: Rockhound Seminar, hands-on workshops and in-

struction in lapidary crafts, Roscommon, MI. Call 517-275-4235. May 5-7: Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society show,

County Fairgrounds. Information at 616-649-1991.

MARGARET'S COLUMN



After such beautiful weather we are now back to "winter". Oh well, it won't be long until we will be able to rock hunt again.

I feel we had a very good meeting last month, due to Tom Noe's expert information on the South Dakota's fossils and rocks. Thank you Tom. We were glad to see so many attending the meeting.

Please make the following changes in the club roster; Add new member, Fred Eckler, 2440 Ivy Ct., Niles, MI 49120; Diane Quint, 17680 Hansom Ct. South Bend, IN 46635; Al Mitterling, 5245 Country Club Rd., Warsaw, IN 46580 e-mail ALMITT@kconline.com; Clayton & Gloria Merrill, 148 Parker Ave., Elkhart, IN 46516; Margaret & John Hawkins' new address: 29279 Ellensberg Rd., Gold Beach, Oregon 97444; Sister Georgia Costin, Bertrand Hall, St Mary's, Notre Dame, IN 46556; and delete Connie Schruck.

We are invited to the South Bend School Earth Science program on March 23 at 3p.m. To see what the system has added to their curriculum. Wendy Folk will be the demonstrator for our group, and I believe you will enjoy hearing and seeing what is being taught to the youngsters. I am sure, with this program, the youngsters will know more than what some of us knew when we got into the Earth Science hobby. Brown School is at 737 Beale St. Beale is off of Riverside Drive (west of the river), the 4th street north of Angela. The large building on the right of Brown School is the building we will meet in, and the parking lot is across the street. The entrance door is on the east side of the treed lot, Brown School is on the west of this lot. If you need an elevator, there is one there, if not we will take the stairs on the left of the entrance.

Our program at the regular meeting this month will be interesting. We are privileged to have Lou Ellen Brown from

Niles give a program on wire wrapping. If you know anyone that might be interested, have them attend this meeting. I, for one, will be very interested in this program. Lou has been a demonstrator at several of the Society's shows.

Our April meeting will be early as Easter is the 4th Sunday, so we are meeting at Notre Dame for a tour of their museum on the 16th. Sam has made the arrangements for our tour, and will have a graduate student will lead us. Sam assured us that we could park free. The society went through the museum several years ago, and it was very interesting. Ask anyone that you know that might be interested in this trip to join us.

If you are interested in having a display at the April show, it would be welcome. We are fortunate to have a new fossil dealer from Eden Prairie, MN. He has fossils and Egyptian Antiquities in his booth. We are also having a crystal dealer from Foreman, Ark. Tom Noe will need help in the Silent Auction area, so see Tom for times he will need someone to help.

Our members, Elma and Leo are back from the west. I talked to Elma this week, but did not ask if they had luck in their hunt for petrified wood.

I asked if anyone had rocks we could send to Margaret Hawkins for her science class. She called me and asked if we could send her about 5 fist-sized pieces of each of the following: Calcite, limestone, marble, and dolomite. We have a piece of marble to send, some limestone and Tom Noe had the calcite. Kathy Miller said she had dolomite that we can give Margaret. Margaret is Kathy and Pat's sister. Make sure you note her new address.

Looking forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

Fossil Preservation:

After proper cleaning, fossils can be preserved by painting with 1/2 water and 1/2 Elmer's glue. It dries fast and makes the fossil look sharp and clean. It can be washed off, if necessary, with no trouble.

Mountain Gem & Snoopy Gems via Backbenders Gazette 11/99

.... NUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27 MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Margaret Heinek at 2:00 p.m. Present were 21 adult members, 2 junior members and 1 guest, John Greenlee.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in *The Rockfinder*, and the motion passed. Margaret noted that a correction of some of the information in her February column will be printed in this issue of *The Rockfinder*.

Pat Baker and Tim Maust provided refreshments for the meeting.

Margaret announced that the new 2000 rosters of club members are available. Those who were at the meeting received theirs at that time. The other rosters will be mailed with the March Rockfinder. She also mentioned that Irene Ungurait has moved to Madison, Tennessee, and we will miss seeing her.

Margaret read a letter from a student in Arkansas who is seeking rocks for a school collection (to be printed in the March issue). The suggestion was made to collect some extra specimens whenever we're on field trips to respond to requests like this one from schools. Don Church made a motion to arrange specific containers for collecting materials for such donations and Emily Johnson seconded it. It passed unanimously.

Member Margaret Hawkins in Oregon State has also requested rocks for a school project-specifically, some calcite, dolomite, limestone and marble, about five chunks of each. If you can help with this, please call Margaret. We don't have to pay for postage to send the rocks, but we still need some dolomite and marble. There's plenty of limestone available already.

Margaret read a letter which the Bruesekes received from Joe Marak of the Karl E. Limper Geology Museum at Miami University, thanking us for the donation of the "excellent Exogyra ponde-

a specimen" which was provided by the Luckerts. The fossil will be displayed in the pelecypod case at the museum, and Mr. Marak said we would be able to see it the next time we have a field trip down in that area.

Vice-President Don Church reported on the feasibility of a field trip to the Grand Rapids area to collect in an underground mine for specimens of selenite, calcite spar, gypsum (for carving or for specimens), etc. We can collect in a two-and-ahalf-hour slot on Saturday mornings, and this is an area where new crystals are growing constantly, so there should be some nice examples. Because we would only be able to collect for such a short time, he also described several other attractions in the area, including gardens and museums. The tentative date would be the weekend of September 16. Because Grand Rapids is so close, we may be able to leave very early on Saturday morning, rather than leaving Friday and having an extra overnight motel stay. Don called for a show of hands of the people who would be interested and there were quite a few. so Kathy Miller, the field trip chair, will look into this. Keep this weekend open, and more details will be coming soon.

Margaret reported on a very exciting program in the public schools to educate students about rocks and minerals. Members of the club are invited to go to Brown School at 3 p.m. on March 23 to learn more about this program. Margaret said that the students will really learn some geology if they pay attention in this program. Contact Margaret for more details if you would like to go on March 23.

Sam Shapiro has organized a trip to the University of Notre Dame geology exhibits on April 30. He handed out maps of campus, showing where we should park and describing the route to the Engineering Building, where the exhibits are displayed. Gather at the regular meeting time of 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. at the parking lot (directions in next month's Rockfinder), and we'll walk from there. Stops will include the largest stone mural in the world, on the facade of the Hesburgh Library, the geology exhibits and perhaps a trip to the nearby cemetery to observe the effects of weathering on stone. The tour should take about 2 hours. This trip *will take the place of the April meeting.

Under new business, Margaret noted that Tom Noe will again be organizing a silent auction at the gem show at Century Center in April, and will be needing some help, so please call him (289-2028) to volunteer. As you know, proceeds from the silent auction are one of the big ways we pay for

transportation for our field trips.

Door prizes were won by Sr. Jeanne and Tim Maust and by juniors Adam Maust and brokenarmed Bill Nelson, Jr.

Displays included some Honduras opal that was brought in by Bill Nelson, Jr.

After refreshments, Bob and Margaret spoke about fossil ammonites and other cephalopods, showing some great examples from their collection, and Tom Noe also added to the presentation with comments on the ammonites he's collected from the Pierre shale in South Dakota. Guest John Greenlee also brought in some ammonites and shark teeth from a site in Texas.

Submitted by Gladys Pacholke, Secretary

THANKS FROM SCIENCE ALIVE

The club has received a letter of thanks from Rebecca Bahu, co-chair of Science Alive, for our participation in the program at the downtown library on February 4 and 5. She said that approximately 6,000 children and adults attended the event, and she offered "sincere thanks to all of you for making this outstanding community event possible."

The club presented displays of fossils and minerals, along with the challenge to identify a selection of minerals in order to win a prize: either a polished stone or a fossil limestone rock. She said that she hoped we would also be able to participate in next year's event, scheduled for February 10, 2001.

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Krystale Curtis, am a student at Ahlf Junior High School in Searcy, Arkansas. My science class is trying to collect rocks, minerals, gems and fossils from states and countries all over the world. This collection will remain part of the school and enrich the future students at Ahlf Junior High School.

I would appreciate your sending me those samples at your convenience. We will, of course, be happy to reciprocate upon your requests.

Sincerely,

Krystale Curtis

7th-Grade Science Student

CORRECTION TO FEBRUARY COLUMN

This new information replaces information contained in Margaret's column from last month.

Bob and I gave a short talk to a few teachers in the South Bend school system on the earth sciences which pertain to rocks and fossils. It appears that they have adopted a program on this topic and that they are asking various experts in their fields to explain their knowledge to the teachers. I understand that someone in the Parks Department will send someone to speak on animals, and there have been other speakers on the topic of water. We saw many, many boxes which are used at the various grade levels in the presentations at school: boxes of rock, sand, gravel, sifters that are used to sift the gravel, booklets on identifying minerals in rocks and many other items used in the teaching of earth science. It was a very interesting building that we went to; I understand it had been a school and is now used as a resource center. We spoke to several teachers and to three Notre Dame students. They were interested in knowing whether our group ever goes to classrooms to give programs on rocks and minerals. So, we may be asked to visit some of the South Bend schools later this year or next year. If any of you members would be willing to give a talk to schoolchildren, please let me know. Then if we are contacted we will have someone to send. I also asked the contact person if she could find out what happened to the displays that Michiana Gem and Mineral Society donated to the school system some years ago. There were several large displays which could be taken around to schools for the study of minerals. She said she would try to locate them.

EXHIBIT FORMS FOR THE MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION IN ST. LOUIS

Margaret has received the forms and information for those who would like to exhibit at this year's Midwest Federation Convention, August 18, 19 and 20. If you are attending the convention and would like to bring a display, check with her for more information.

Gem substitutes



Often, one gemstone is substituted for another of similar appearance because of price or availability. Such gem substitutes may be natural or manmade. Manmade gem materials may have nearly identical natural counterparts, in which case they are referred to as synthetic stones, or they may have no similar naturally occurring counterpart. Here are some materials made by man that are commonly used as substitutes for natural stones. Some are quite easy to identify; some are quite difficult. Buyer beware! While the major producers of synthetic gems actively support the full disclosure of their stones' laboratory origin, and the jewelry industry officially insists on such full disclosure, there are still too many jewelers and gem dealers who are not so forthcoming with this information. Federal Trade Commission rules and the policies of jewelry industry organizations are actively demanding full disclosure of origin and treatments. When you buy gemstones, you should specifically ask about the origin of the stones and whether they have been treated in any way other than cutting and polishing.

Synthetic <u>corundum</u>, in the form of synthetic <u>ruby</u>, was the first gemstone reproduced by artificial techniques. Auguste Victor Louis Verneuil invented the flame-fusion technique (now know as the Verneuil method) of melting aluminum oxide and allowing it to recrystallize in a cone-shaped *boule*, the color of which can be controlled by the addition of chemical additives. This material is abundantly and inexpensively created and used routinely in class rings, birthstone rings, etc. Such material is rather easy to distinguish from natural material by the presence of curved growth striations and spherical gas bubbles or by the Plato method, in which repeated twinning lines appear when the material is immersed in high R.I. (refractive index) liquid and examined under magnification between crossed polarized filters.

Other methods of growing synthetic corundum, such as flux-grown, Czochralski pulled, and hydrothermal methods, produce more realistic imitations, which are primarily identified by characteristic inclusions. They are much more expensive than the Verneuil synthetics but considerably cheaper than the rubies and sapphires that they imitate.

Synthetic <u>spinel</u> is produced by the Verneuil method and is used most often to imitate stones other than spinel, such as blue sapphire or aquamarine. It is easily identified by its R.I., spherical gas bubbles, and characteristic strain lines seen between polarizing filters. It is quite inexpensive.

Synthetic <u>diamond</u> is produced under high pressure and temperature and, to date, has not be produced in gem-size pieces or at low enough costs to be used as a natural diamond substitute. Recently, however, there are indications that we may begin to see gem quality synthetic diamonds within the next few years. Synthetic diamond is used very extensively (two-thirds of the world production) for industrial purposes as abrasive diamond grit.

Synthetic <u>emerald</u> is produced in some abundance by flux-growth, hydrothermal, and Lechleitner overgrowth methods and sold under trade names such as Gilson and Chatham. It can sometimes be difficult to distinguish from its natural counterpart, but the presence of characteristic inclusions is usually the giveaway.

Synthetic <u>opal</u>, <u>coral</u>, <u>lapis lazuli</u>, <u>jade</u>, <u>turquoise</u>, and <u>quartz</u> have only in the past few years appeared on the market in fairly good imitation of the natural material. Microscopic examination usually reveals their identity. Recently, synthetic <u>amethyst</u> has become very abundant, mixed into parcels of natural stones; it can usually be detected by the absence of twinning, but recent improvements in synthesis are making it more difficult to detect, and the relatively low cost of both natural and synthetic amethyst makes it prohibitively expensive to do routine testing of large quantities of amethyst.

Synthetic <u>alexandrite</u> has come into the market in greater abundance in recent years and is produced by the Czochralski or "pulled" method and by the "floating zone" or "floating point" method. It is more realistic and more expensive than the cheap color changing Verneuil corundum that has usually been used as a substitute for alexandrite.

Glass, by virtue of its wide range of color and low cost, has been used for centuries to imitate natural gemstones. It

is easy to identify by its R.I., spherical gas bubbles, swirled growth pattens, and characteristic strain lines seen between crossed polarizing filters.

Cubic zirconia (CZ) is the best currently available diamond imitation and is produced very inexpensively. It has no close natural counterpart Thermal "diamond probes" provide quick separation from diamond, however. CZ is now produced in a wide variety of colors.

Moissanite is not yet a familiar name outside of a few gemologists, but in late 1997 it is likely to begin making a huge splash in the gem world as the latest and greatest diamond simulant. This synthetic silicon carbide crystal was discovered by a materials scientist at North Carolina State University and is being developed by C3 and Cree Research. Its natural counterpart has been found only in meteorites and is deep green, but the synthetic moissanite is colorless and will probably fool quite a few jewelers and jewelry buyers before it becomes better known. Its high refractive index and extreme hardness (second only to diamond) make it an extremely effective diamond simulant, and the popular diamond probes that test electrical conductivity fail to distinguish it from diamond. Keep your eyes out for this one!

Manmade garnets such as YAG (yttrium aluminum garnet) and GGG (gallium gadolinium garnet) and other materials such as synthetic rutile and strontium titanate preceded cubic zirconia as diamond simulants but were never very convincing in that role. With the advent of CZ, their role in the market has declined considerably.

PRODIGY ® Web Browser, Gem Substitutes (http://www.etips.com/~rayic/gems/substit.html)

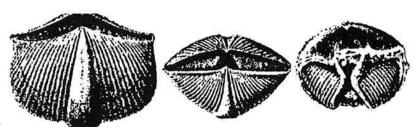
ROAD CLOSINGS IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

By Dean Stone, Chair, Environment and Legislation Committee

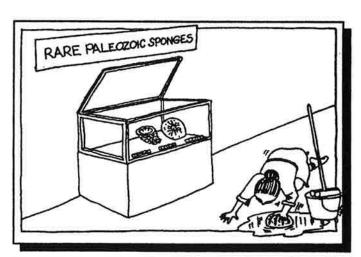
The issue of road closings on government property has been a heated issue throughout the western United States. Now it is an issue here in Illinois.

In the Shawnee National Forest, throughout southern Illinois, there have been confrontations between U.S. Forest Service personnel and local citizens regarding road use. In fact, one state's attorney has issued a notice to U.S. government officials that he will take legal action to determine the propriety of federal action in closing certain roads....There exists a strong disagreement between those green groups that believe in completely stopping public access and those ATV-ers who believe they should be entitled to go anywhere they wish. I personally believe that the solution lies somewhere in the middle, namely, that already established roads and vehicle trails should remain open....I shall try to keep Midwest Federation members aware of current events.

MWF Newsletter (Feb., 2000)



Orthospirifer fornacula (Hall)



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A.L.A.A. NEWSLETTER, On Line Edition, January 20, 2000

MURDERERS RELAX....ROCK HUNTERS BEWARE!!

As a Wyoming native with strong roots in the big Horn Basin, I was raised appreciating our great Wyoming beauty. We grew up camping and fishing and rock hunting in the Big Horn Mountains. My parents purchased a cabin near Tyrell ranger station above Deer haven, and my Grandparents are native ranchers in Ten Sleep; their mountain range is also close-by in the big Horns. We were raised to respect the land. Never litter. Make sure the campfire is out, without a doubt. Only leave footprints. If it says no motorized vehicles, or no trespassing, turn around. If you're going to fish, bring your license. My parents were raised the same way, and my children, although young, already understand the importance of these things.

I want to warn other rock-hunters, like ourselves, that we are the new breed of criminal, here in our great state. Believe me, when I say we were treated like common criminals during an incident this past summer. My father often hikes into canyons to go fishing, and during one of those trips he had noticed pretty rocks in the bottom of one particular canyon. One sunny afternoon, we decided to hike several steep miles down to the area he remembered. Boy, do we wish we hadn't! Ultimately, there were three forest ranger vehicles so they would be sure to surround us. We were marched back to our vehicle. Our rocks were confiscated, and there we waited for the "specialist" to come and have a look at our stash. No folks, not our stash of drugs, or a dead body - ROCKS!

Did you know you need a permit to go rock hunting? That is what these particular Forest Service rangers told us. After some checking, we learned the cost is \$15 per person, per year. Only good for that particular National forest, and only good for "boulder, or gravel size" rocks. Purchasing one was also a little easier said than done. I would recommend not bothering! After "ing about 6 different government offices, I finally had an in-depth conversation with the

acologist covering this area. I was ultimately told "there is probably no place on the Big Horns that is not some sort of an archaeological site, and that is not under some sort of protection". Just to make sure that I understood what he was saying, I asked him if he was telling me there is NO PLACE that the public can go to look for pretty rocks on the Big Horns? I had understood him loud and clear.

The whole conversation was quite interesting, actually. After requesting information as to how one might obtain a map of the archaeological area in question, or any others located in the Big Horns, I learned that those maps are "sensitive material". CONFIDENTIAL! We don't make those maps available to the public!" When I asked him why there aren't signs posted on several entrances to this area, I was told that the Forest Service does not legally have to "SIGN" anything. "In fact, most archaeological areas DONT have a sign". That makes it a little difficult for the public to know where these areas are, now doesn't it?

We wonder why the ranger couldn't have hiked down to where we were rock hunting that day, and kindly said "you know, you probably aren't aware that you are in the process of criminal activity, but why don't you discard your rocks, and please leave the vicinity." We feel that a warning would have been appropriate for first-time offenders. Quite to the contrary of receiving a warning, 3 weeks later we received our papers in the mail telling us we had been charged, and ordered to appear in court. Punishable by up to 2 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. In addition to extensive attorney fees, we ended up paying a large fine.

My grandmother wonders how she could have lived in Washakie County for 80 years as an avid rock hunter, and has never heard a word about needing a permit to hunt rocks. Since the Forest Service has failed to educate the public, I want to give my fellow "CRIMINALS" out there fair warning. On any other day, my mother and grandmother and little girls would have been with us, and the ranger could have really had a hey-day writing citations!

alone, as there seem to be many others who have experienced the joys of meeting the Forest Rangers on the Big Horn Mountains. We believe that our parks are for PEOPLE, and it appears the authorities monitoring the Big Horns have forgotten that. They need to move to Chicago, or L.A., where they might have REAL criminals to worry about. Until then, rock hunters beware!

What is this world coming to?!?! Since our ordeal, we have heard tell that we are not







Year South Bend 2000 (Y2K) Gem Show

Friday April 7 - 2pm to 7pm Saturday April 8 - 10am to 6pm Sunday April 9 - 10 am to 4pm

Century Center

120 S St Joseph St South Bend, Indiana

Quality Pealers

Adults \$2.50 daily 6 to 16 \$1 daily Under 6 Free Jewelry-Fossils
Beads-Gernstones
Crystals-Minerals
Repairs
Stone Setting
Decorator Decor
Collector Specimens
and More!



EVERYBODY, COME! AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS...

TOURMALINES STOLEN FROM COLBY COLLEGE, MAINE

At some time during the night on March 7-8, 2000, a person or persons disknown broke into a hallway display case in the Department of Geology at Colby and stole four (4) large, gern-quality dark green tournalines, historical specimens from the Berry-Havey mine in Maine that have been in the Departmental collections for over a century. Also taken were a large dark purple Maine amethyst, and a disc of watermelon tournaline approximately 3 cm in diameter and 1.5-2.0 cm thick, pink on one end and green on the other, and polished on both ends.

Anyone who is approached by someone wishing to sell four gem Maine tourmaline resembling those in the photo, and/or a watermelon tourmaline fitting the above description, is asked to please call Colby College Security (207-872-3345) or the Detective Division of the Waterville, Maine, Police Department (207-877-7515).

You can see these tourmalines at http://www.colby.edu/geology/>

From: cweinber@bcpl.net (Carolyn & Steve Weinberger)
To: gmeditors@ces.clemson.edu (Gem Editors)

ATTENTION, MEMBERS!

The club will sponsor a silent auction at the Century Center for the South Bend Gem Show. Contact Tom Noe (289-2028) if you can help out during the weekend, or if you want to consign items or donate items. All rock-related materials are fine--especially equipment.

Snails



Bembexia sulcomarginata (Conrad)



Platyceras species



Loxonema hydraulica Hall



Acanthonema leda (Hall)