



**INDIAN MOUNDS
ROCK & MINERAL CLUB
WYOMING, MICHIGAN
ARROWHEAD
NEWS**

APRIL'S PROGRAM: Dr. Spohn speaks on ancient copper miners.
Come early for our Spring Banquet! *(Punch bowl by Nick starting at 6:15 p.m.)*



Photo by Ed Benjamin

We just had to check out some of the "finds" that Don (center) and Lois brought back from their latest rockhounding trip!

See *YES, THERE ARE STILL ROCKS TO FIND!* on page 4 for details.

VOLUME 44 #4
APRIL 2007

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The Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club

is a nonprofit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan.

This club's objective is to develop and encourage interest in, and to further the study of minerals, gems, fossils, rocks, lapidary arts, and earth science.



AFFILIATED WITH THE MIDWEST AND AMERICAN FEDERATIONS OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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INDIAN MOUNDS ROCK & MINERAL CLUB
ARROWHEAD NEWS

Page 1 April 2007



Welcome to the **ARROWHEAD NEWS**, official publication of the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club of Wyoming, Michigan.



Visitors are welcome at all Meetings!

WHEN & WHERE

Club Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday, September through May, in the fellowship hall located in the basement of the Wesley Park United Methodist Church. The church is on the corner of Michael and 32nd Street, south of 28th Street.

At 6:30 p.m., on the 3rd Tuesday, June through August, our club has a **picnic** at Pinery Park in Wyoming, which is on DeHoop just north of 28th Street. Our usual spot is behind the north parking lot on the west side of DeHoop. Bring a dish to share, your own drinks, and table service.

Board Meetings are held right after the club meeting, or by special announcement, on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Severe Weather cancellation will occur if a tornado watch or severe weather warning is in effect for the greater Grand Rapids area within 1 hour prior to the start of a meeting or event.

Dues, which include 9 issues of the Arrowhead News, are \$15 per family, \$10 per single adult and \$5 per junior and are due by the 3rd Tuesday of September. If joining at our annual show or later in the year, dues are half-off.

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The subscription rate for the Arrowhead News is \$8.00 if mailing within the USA (outside is available by request.) Emailing in a .pdf format is free - just ask! Article submission is due to the Editor *before* the 1st of the month. The Arrowhead News is also available on our website. Send **exchange newsletters** via either snail mail or email to the Editor (see above.)

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club's **website**: www.rosereedgirls.com/mysite

TIPS 'N HINTS

Via The Rockpile 02/07

Soapstone: There is another way of finishing soapstone that we heard the Chinese used. Heat the finished article at 200°F for an hour. Remove from the oven and apply a coat of paste wax. A jade effect results.

Dryer Lint: Take lint from your clothes dryer's lint catcher and add it to the polishing compound for tumbling. It speeds up the polish and prevents chipping.

Liquid Detergent: Add a couple of tablespoons of liquid detergent to your cutting oil. If your saw has a plastic lid, this will be the first time ever that you will be able to see through the top after cutting your slab.

Algae and Lichen: Remove algae and lichen from your specimen by soaking it in ammonia and water.

"It is perhaps a more fortunate destiny to have a taste for collecting shells than to be born a millionaire."

~Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894)

FROM MY ROCK PILE

By Don Van Dyke, President



First, "Thank you Kreigh," for sharing your DVD on German Agates with us. What a great program. (I may be a bit biased since I'm an agate lover.)

What a great turnout for our March meeting, with a number of new faces. Did you introduce yourself to someone you did not recognize? Remember, each one of us is a club ambassador; let's make these folks feel at home, with a desire to attend regularly.

THE SHOW, THE SHOW! It may be the most important function that our club is involved in. Every member should be involved in some way. There is the set-up and take down, many hands make light the task. DISPLAY! You need not have a great deal of specimens, or even many of one variety, a mixed display can be interesting to the public. More help is always needed in the club area, helping the children with their egg cartons, helping with the magazine and specimen sales, demonstrating, or just representing our club, keeping an eye on the display cases. When someone appears interested, walk over, introduce yourself, and if they ask questions, help them. If you cannot help, call over another member from the club area. We've met some very nice people doing just that. Or join the demonstrators; share your talents with the general public. DON'T FORGET TO DONATE AN ITEM WITH A VALUE OF \$5 OR MORE FOR THE CLUB SALES AREA.

The summer field trip to the Copper Country is in the planning stage. Hopefully we will soon have most of the details we need; motels, camping facilities, field trip information etc. One item that is most helpful is a metal detector. We have found in the past that the fancy, expensive models are not needed, they are sometimes just too sensitive, and there is just too much small copper that can drive you to distraction.

Another reminder, there are still several committee positions that need to be filled. Please, for the future of the club, volunteer!

Several persons have asked if there was any information on the Petoskey Festival, I've heard nothing. If anyone has information let me know, so we can share it with the Club. *{Editor's note: Petoskey's Festival on the Bay is August 17 – 19 according to <http://www.petoskeyfestival.com/>}*

Another piece of good news, our Field Trip Chair has been in contact with the Holland club, and they indicated that our members are welcome to join their field trips. Thank you Roger for making that contact.

Don't forget our Spring Banquet, Tuesday April 17, at the church. Punch is at 6:15 and dinner at 6:30. See you there!

As I write this it is sunny and mild, it's time to get out and enjoy our hobby!

COLLECTING FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS

By Kreigh Tomaszewski via Rockhounds@drizzle.com

This trip was a little different from the usual collecting trip. Let me first give you some background details that led up to the trip. I think they are essential to the story.

For the past several years I have been coaching the Rocks and Minerals (or Fossils) Event for my daughter's school's Science Olympiad Team. It is like athletics for academics. This year I had four students training for the two Rocks and Minerals positions on the school's team of 15 that will compete in up to 38 events tomorrow (see <http://www.sonic.org/events/> for details) in our regional competition where about 100 schools will have a ten-hour event.

For the past few months, my team has been meeting regularly after school to learn as much as possible about the 93 rocks and minerals on this year's competition list, plus the three geological topics (specific gravity, the rock cycle, and Bowen's Reaction Series). I've brought hands-on specimens of each listed rock or mineral to every training session.

Yesterday we had our last training session. Each of the students got their parents to sign a permission slip. I took care of the paperwork to drive students to a school event, and we took a field trip to see my collection that was ten minutes away from the school.

On arrival at my home, each student was given a copy of the competition study list and a pencil. I quickly gave them an overview tour of my collection covering the main floor and basement, and challenged them to find and check off all the listed rocks and minerals in less than hour.

I was pleased that the students decided to work as a team and approach the task in a systematic order. I was sadly disappointed at some of the identification gaps, and had to give some hints. I was happy to be able to identify two students that excelled at both identification and participation, recommend them to the head coach, and find they both made the school's team.

It is a great field trip when you catch a kid's imagination and collect a future Rockhound.

When was the last time you showed off your collection?

"It is only in adventure that some people succeed in knowing themselves - in finding themselves."

~Andre Gide (1869 - 1951)

INDIAN MOUNDS ROCK & MINERAL CLUB EVENTS

April 5-7

**32ND ANNUAL SHOW**

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club
Rogers Plaza Town Center Mall, 28th St, Wyoming, MI
9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

April 17

SPRING BANQUET & IMRMC MEETING

Wesley Park United Methodist Church
 Tuesday **6:30** p.m. - **Meet early!**
 Program: Dr Spohn on Ancient Copper Miners

IMRMC BOARD MEETING following the Club Meeting

May 15

INDIAN MOUNDS ROCK & MINERAL CLUB MEETING (see page 1)

Wesley Park United Methodist Church
 Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
 Program: Best of the Year (*time to get your "best stuff" ready!*)

June 16

SUMMER ROCKS & MINERALS SUPER TAILGATE SALE & SILENT AUCTION

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club
 Wesley Park United Methodist Church
 Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon (rain or shine!)
Free admission and parking

OTHER THINGS TO DO

April 14

5TH ANNUAL ART BEAD SHOW

Fire & Ice Beadmaker Show/Sale
 715 E Front St, Traverse City, MI
 Maria Perez-Bastian 231-943-9346, queenoftides@mac.com
 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

April 14 – 15

2007 GEM, MINERAL AND JEWELRY SHOW & SALE

Midwest Faceters' Guild (www.midwestfacetersguild.org)
New location! - Marshall Activity Center, 14325 W Michigan, Marshall, MI
New time! - 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Adults \$3, ages 12-18 - \$1, under age 12 – free, 2 day pass - \$4

April 20 – 22

30TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW

Cool Stuff from the Ground
 Macomb County Gem & Lapidary Society
 Roseville Recreation Department,
 18185 Sycamore, Roseville, MI (E side of Gratiot just N of I 696)
 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Adults \$3, family \$6, students \$1, free parking

May 4 – 6

50TH ANNIVERSARY GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY SHOW

Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society (Kitty Starbuck 269-649-1991)
 Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street (Fairgrounds)
 4 – 8 p.m., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Donation \$3

May 18 – 20

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Dino Daze
 Michigan Mineralogical & Lapidary Society
 Southgate Arena, 14700 Reaume Pkwy, Southgate, MI

June 9 - 10

33RD ANNUAL ROCKHOUND SEMINAR

Michigan Geology & Gemcraft Society (Don Brown 734-421-8159)
 Frankfort High School, 534 11th Street, Frankfort, MI
 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
In advance (Bill Hapiuk 26099 Dover St, Redford, MI 48239 313-937-3228), adults \$15/ day \$25/2 days. At the door, adults \$18/day \$30/2 days. High school students \$5/day.

June 5 – 10

COMBINED RMFMS/AFMS CONVENTION & SHOW

Gems of Enchantment
 Roswell, NM (www.rmfmms.org / www.amfed.org/show2007.htm)

August 4

UPPER PENINSULA GEM/MINERAL SHOW (see page 9)

Ishpeming, MI

OTHER THINGS TO DO Continued on page 4

OTHER THINGS TO DO

Continued from page 3

- August 4 – 12 **COPPER COUNTRY MINERAL RETREAT** (see page 9)
Keweenaw of Michigan...Past & Present
(More information to follow)
- August 10 – 12 **MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION** (see page 9)
Houghton, MI (www.amfed.org/mwf) 906-337-2274
- August 10 – 12 **COPPER COUNTRY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB SHOW** (see page 9)
Houghton, MI

YES, THERE ARE STILL ROCKS TO FIND!

By Don Van Dyke

It's been a few years since the Van Dykes had the chance to head south and do a little rockhounding so with a very "generous" heart I gave Lois a nice Christmas present; a card promising a trip to Texas to hunt agates. The trip planning started with a web search for Woodward Ranch agates, that brought up their website with information designed to really whet the appetite. An email soon brought us the information we needed. Soon the trip was planned; a day or two in Arkansas, some time in Texas, and a week in Deming, and finally a stop in the Old Mines area of Missouri - 3 weeks with the focus on rockhounding.

Church related commitments required us to delay leaving until Thursday. Our travel plans provided several Wal-Mart "campgrounds" located strategically along our planned route, both going and returning. Saturday found us in Hot Springs. Lois wanted a big diamond, so Murfreesboro and the Crater of Diamonds State Park was destination #1. But a downpour and a weather forecast (including a tornado watch), canceled that early. The best we could do was a "rockshop hop." Now Murphy's Law came into play; the trailer refrigerator decided that 18 years was long enough to work without balking, it just didn't produce enough cold to keep things frozen or even cold. How about drinking your ice cream sundae?

Monday found us diligently hunting diamonds; the weather was perfect, sunny and bright. 5 diamonds were found. None had our name on it, oh well.

Wednesday noon: Woodward Ranch. It was sunny, windy, and cold, though the welcome was warm. By mid-afternoon we were "rocken & rollen" down a rutted two-track toward the first agate location suggested by Mr. Woodward; a gently rounded hill covered with sagebrush and cactus. He had told us to look for "biscuits" (agate nodules) if we hoped to find the famous Woodward plume agates. Agate was plentiful; the ground was littered with bits and pieces, but biscuits? They were very elusive. Two-and-a-half days of hard searching produced about 20 pounds of colorful agate & jasper chunks, large enough for slabbing, and a number of biscuits. Plenty of interesting material to work later at home.

Saturday: Destination Deming! While eating lunch in Las Cruces, we talked to our young waiter about rocks. He said that while rabbit hunting on a nearby mountain he had found a hollow rock with lots of bright amethyst crystals. He'd given it to his dad! We encouraged him to visit the museum in Deming to learn more about rocks & minerals.

Deming on Monday: Part of the day we visited Rockhound State Park, with very limited results, only some good photos. After lunch, we collected fluorite on Fluorite Ridge, enough to provide fluorite for a lot of egg cartons. It's such fun being out in God's great creation enjoying the sun and scratching out hidden minerals like fluorite.

Tuesday, Desert or Chalcedony Rose Day: The rockhound "caravan" left the RV park at 8:30 sharp. Destination Round Mountain, northwest of Lordsburg, in Arizona. Collecting was fantastic; the biggest problem was selecting the best material. It was hard not to take too much home.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: Field trips in conjunction with the Deming Rock & Mineral show. Big Diggings - the site looked like an oversize anthill with rockhounds swarming over the material deposited by the backhoe. Everything was dirt covered, here and there the corner of a rock revealed agate. It was hard to decide what to include in the 25 pounds and one piece limit imposed. The trip to Baker Ranch was similar, with one exception; someone didn't read the "small print" about 4 wheel drive vehicles. The brand new Cadillac sure looked scratched up as it sat next to a couple of deep ruts!

Afternoons were spent at the Deming show. There were many dealers, some directly from Mexico. There were some old friends and also some great deals.

Homeward bound: The "fridge" gave up any semblance of even being a cooler; that "green moss" should have been on a rock, not a melon!

Old Mines: It had been years since our last visit, and it was a disappointment. How things had changed, cabled off drives, posted properties, a sense that there was not a lot of hope for collecting. The proprietor of the convince store provided a name, however he was not home. Finally, down the road, permission was granted to "Look this time, but you can't hold me liable if you get hurt."

A few samples of barite, some druse quartz, and a big landscape rock with many quartz crystal pockets were found. At least it was worth the detour from the freeway.

Thursday evening: Home again, with a lot of material to clean and check out, we had a great trip. Now, what's for Christmas next year?

INDIAN MOUNDS ROCK & MINERAL CLUB
ARROWHEAD NEWS

Page 5 April 2007

MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2007

By Rhonda Leep, Secretary

Club Meeting Minutes: President Don Van Dyke called the meeting to order.

Consent Agenda: The club members present approved the club meeting minutes and the board meeting minutes as printed in the *Arrowhead News*.

Program: Sue Holecheck introduced Kreigh Tomaszewski as our guest speaker and he presented his DVD program on German Agates – what a field trip that would be!

Show Update: The mall will be pretty busy with the Easter Bunny, a carnival and US! John Kuipers is helping with dealers, and we still have room for a couple more; anyone may contact John Kuipers for information. Flyers are still available for the show. G.V.U. students may have a booth at our show this year. John Kuipers has the sign up sheet for the show - **Hosts and hostesses, demonstrators and people to help take care of the club sales are still needed.** Contact Gordon Spalenka for information on display cases.

Set up time for show-meet at 8:00 pm Wednesday, April 4 at Rogers' Plaza. Donated refreshments will be welcome. Take down will be Saturday night after 9:00 p.m.

New business: We will be combining the April meeting and banquet. We will start our meetings at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. beginning in September. We will also continue a snack at our meetings.

Sunshine: Eleanor is very busy spreading sunshine with several members, especially Joyce and Eldon Potter - Our thoughts and prayers to all.

Basement Field Trips: Look for a trip north of Grand Rapids in May.

Help wanted: Video assistant to bring, setup, and run equipment when needed – see Don Van Dyke

You can still turn in your survey to Don Van Dyke when you pick up your membership card.

Notices for unpaid dues will be sent out in April.

The meeting was adjourned.

Board Meeting Minutes: The Board Meeting was held at the church, directly after the regular club meeting and our featured presentation of Kreigh Tomaszewski's German Agates program. Present were Roger and Arlene King, John and Elsie Kuipers, Gordon and Nancy Spalenka, Don and Lois Van Dyke, Sue Holecheck, Dave Lehker, Eleanor and Harry Brummel, Jim Elliott, Nick and Brenda Van Dyke, and Rhonda Leep.

President Don Van Dyke called the meeting to order.

Secretary: Rhonda Leep read the board minutes from January. The board approved the minutes as read.

Treasurer: Dave Lehker presented a treasurer's report that was approved by the board.

Program: May is Best of the Year - Sue Holecheck would really appreciate some help and a copy of last year's bulletin to help set up the event.

Field Trip: Basement field trip may be May 18th. August has shows for the MWF in Houghton and the Copper Country Rock and Mineral club both the weekend of 10-12th.

Show Committee Report: SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING – 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27th at Don and Lois Van Dyke's. Needed for show: Extra bulletins printed up, receipt pad for membership dues, membership forms, grab bags etc. Gordon and Nancy will take care of the outside signs for the show.

Banquet Committee: Nancy Spalenka – table decorations and napkins; Nick Van Dyke – punch; Arlene King – meat and nut cups. May need a greeter or have nametags set out for guests. Don Van Dyke will be liaison for guests and host and hostesses.

Refreshments: May – Lois Van Dyke and Jim Splane

The meeting was adjourned.

PROGRAM/V.P. INFORMATION

By Sue Holecheck, V.P. & Program Chair

Dr. Don Spohn will give our April program at our annual spring banquet. He will be speaking about ancient copper miners. I'm sure you will all make him feel welcome, and enjoy the program as well!



Maul used by miners

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH

By Dave Lehker, Treasurer

Beginning Balance: \$2338.53	Income: Dues: \$30	Expenses: Mall use \$800
	Raffle: 22	Show advertising 214
	Refreshments: 25	Show mailing 34.16
	Sales: 56	Newsletter costs 160.28
	<u>Show dealer deposits 290</u>	<u>Cash box withdrawal \$111</u>
	Sub total: \$423	Sub total: \$1319.44

Monthly Net: (\$896.44)

Checkbook Balance: \$1442.09

2007 DIRECTORY

By Brenda Van Dyke, Editor

Many you have already picked up your 2007 Directory. Please let me know if you have changes that need to be made. On this note, please check out Jim Elliott's article found below. As you read the article, you will see that there will be some changes coming to the directory. Please keep this in mind and be ready to update your information to enhance our directory and make it a useful tool for our club!

IMRMC INTERESTS

By Jim Elliot

With so many varied interests that span the membership of the IMRMC, it was felt a brief description of these interests should be provided. This is in support of the update to the club directory that you will be asked to provide in the very near future. The following list is based on previous membership input; if you don't happen to see your specific interest listed, please feel free to add any new additions or interests that you feel should be included. Some of these categories are inter-related or require the use of other categories to complete a final project. This is where the assistance of a particular expert may be just what you're looking for. For example, wire-wrappers that need quality cabochons or gemstones for the creation of their piece.

Any of these items that are no longer of interest will be removed from the list, so your interest identification and selection is very important.

The directory revision also provides an opportunity for members to revise their existing interests identified in the club directory, since over time interests may have changed.

Another use of this compilation of interests is to identify subject matter experts and provide some metric of the skill level of that person. This would be used to provide a reference for someone interested in learning a particular skill and identifies that "go to" person or persons. It also identifies club members as expert resources and teachers for those interested. This differentiates between "interested-in" versus "practiced-in."

This could be accomplished by using a checkbox, for example interested in, beginner, student, expert, mentor, or some other system of identification next to each category for each member listed. This additionally provides bragging rights to those members who have attained significant skills in these areas.

What follows is a fairly limited description list of club member's interests:

- **Archeology** – The scientific study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts, inscriptions, monuments, and other such remains. Especially those that have been excavated.
- **Beading and Bead Making** – Stringing beads into a work of art or jewelry and creating your own beads. Materials include glass and gemstones with vastly different methods of creating glass or gemstone beads.
- **Carving** – Gemstone and mineral carving using flex-shaft rotary carving tools with diamond bits to create carvings from rough material.
- **Club Responsibilities** – As a club, we are always looking for people willing to volunteer their assistance and accept club responsibilities for various tasks. Look in the front of the club newsletter for a list of all of the functions and roles that need a name behind the job.
- **Collecting and Displaying** – Collecting covers several sub categories including rocks, minerals, gemstones, cut and polished stones, even lapidary equipment, etc. Club members seem to be extraordinary collectors of just about everything! Size of the collected rocks and minerals defines another sub-category and ranges from micro mounts to cabinet size pieces. Collecting can also encompass the act of going out and collecting the rocks from mines, quarries, or other designated areas.
- **Faceting** – The creation of cut gemstones by placing a series of geometric facets on the stone in a manner that enhances the shape of the gemstone and returns the reflected light back to the viewer. Faceting is what produces the sparkle in well-cut stones. The art of faceting or gemstone cutting uses a faceting machine and a lot of patience to get the desired results.
- **Field Trips** – Group trips to quarries, mines, museums, and even club member's basements to collect (please don't collect from basements!) or view new specimens. Field trips can and often do lead to collecting.
- **Fluorescence** – The study and collection of minerals that fluoresce under short- and/or long-wave ultraviolet (UV) light radiation. UV light can turn some of the most drab and homely rocks and minerals into awesome specimens of intense colorful beauty.
- **Fossils** – (collecting, cataloging, etc.) Fossils are the remains or imprint of an organism from a previous geologic time. A fossil can consist of the preserved tissues of an organism, as when encased in amber, ice, or pitch; or more commonly the hardened relic of such tissues, as when organic matter is replaced by dissolved minerals. Hardened fossils are often found in layers of sedimentary rock and along the beds of rivers that flow through them.
- **Gem Trees** – Fabrication of wonderful works of lapidary art using wire and gemstones.
- **Geology** – The scientific study of the origin, history, and structure of the earth. This may seem scholarly, but a good understanding of geology is instrumental in locating deposits of those hard-sought minerals and gemstones. This is invaluable knowledge when you're out on a field trip trying to locate a new prize for your saw or cabinet specimen.
- **Intarsia** – Intarsia is a method of bonding colorful pieces of inlaid gem material together and then finishing them like a cabochon.
- **Jewelry Making** – The creation of jewelry using silver, gold, and other metals and materials usually incorporating cabochons or gemstones into the final piece. Includes hand wrought and cast methods of metalworking or wire wrapping to create jewelry.
- **Lapidary** – Tumbling, capping, faceting, and carving gems and precious or semiprecious stones represents the most common forms of lapidary work. This is a fairly broad topic and includes aspects of cutting, grinding, polishing, slab making, cabochon (cab) making and often involves a fairly broad range of tools and different types of machinery including grinding and polishing wheels, arbors, vibrating laps, tumblers, saws, trim saws, slab saws, and cab machines. Cutting cabs is probably the most common form of gem cutting. Cabs are gems with a flat bottom and a curved or domed top.
- **Metal Detecting** – Very useful for collecting metal elements and minerals such as copper, silver, and gold. Requires the use of specialized metal detection equipment.

IMRMC INTERESTS

Continued from page 6

- **Metalsmithing** – The term, metal smith often refers to artisans and craft persons who practice their craft in many different metals, including gold, copper, and silver. Jewelers often refer to their craft as metalsmithing and many universities offer degree programs in metalsmithing and jewelry making.
- **Micro Mounts** – Collecting, mounting, viewing, and displaying of miniature mineral specimens (micro minerals). These are primarily viewed through a low powered microscope or binocular microscope.
- **Mineralogy** – The branch of geology that studies minerals: their structure and properties and the ways of distinguishing and identifying them.
- **Petoskey Stones** (And Other Michigan Mineralogical Wonders) - This seems to be a natural first collectable for Michiganders with such an abundance of material found in this state.
- **Photography** – Not only as a hobby to capture pictures of your prized specimens, but photos taken during club meetings, gatherings, and events are always welcome for consideration for inclusion in this newsletter.
- **Polishing** – See Lapidary above.
- **Tiffany Style Agate Lampshades** – Similar to leaded glasswork, but instead of colored glass, cut and polished agate slabs are formed into lampshades and soldered in place using copper foil method. Don Van Dyke is far-and-above the member "expert" at this fascinating aspect of our club.
- **Wire Wrapping** – Specialized form of jewelry making using wire pieces and stones to create a hand made work of art.
- **Club Responsibilities** – Did we mention Club Responsibilities? We are always looking for people willing to volunteer their assistance.

EXCHANGE EXCERPTS

By Brenda Van Dyke, Editor



Want to know more? Read the full text in the original exchange bulletin that is available at club meetings. If not available, contact me (see page 1) and I will do my best to get a copy to you.

Text in " " is quoted directly from the original article, ... indicates omitted text, and text in { } is from the Editor.

From the AFMS Newsletter – April 2007: http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm

What a Mystery! By Cathy Gaber, ACROY Chair – I have had many occasions to wonder about the mystery of low participation in the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year (ACROY) program...I have never known of a club that could survive without the efforts of the members. It is not a job a single person can do. Many people need to take responsibility for the meetings, speakers, field trips, refreshments, library, show and whatever activities are sponsored by the club. Some of these people are exceptional and should be recognized.

Each year, each club can and should submit a candidate for ACROY. The submitter can be ANY club member...Just send...your own federation representative the name of the person to be honored, the name of the club (and state), a few sentences about the honoree, your name and your title (if any)...

From the MWF Newsletter – March 2007: www.amfed.org/mwf

2007 MWF Convention & Show – "The Keweenaw of Michigan...Past & Present" hosted by the Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club...

4 Huge Events...9 Days

- Upper Peninsula Gem/Mineral Show – August 4 – Ishpeming, Michigan
- Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Show – August 10-12
- Midwest Federation Convention – August 10-12
- Copper Country Mineral Retreat – August 4-12

This year's convention includes an opportunity to participate in up to 20 collecting field trips, voice and silent auctions; two swap/tailgating events, several open house events, dynamic speakers, competitive exhibits, and two mineral shows! We encourage everyone to start making plans to travel to Michigan in August.

Additional information will be available... {at} the MWF Web site. You may also visit the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Web site at www.ccrmc.info for show details or the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum Web site at www.museum.mtu.edu for information about the Copper Country Mineral Retreat.

MWF 2007 Convention Contact: Pamela Hecht, 25393 Oak Street, Calumet, Michigan 49913
(906) 337-2274, E-mail: steverox@up.net

ROCK CANDY

Via <http://rockhoundingar.com/pebblepups/growcryst.html>

Dissolve 1 1/2 cups sugar in 1/2 cup boiling water. This is a thick, hot syrup. It will burn you and keep on burning your skin because it is sticky, so be *very* careful not to spill it on yourself! We put our solution in a 1 1/2" deep tray, and suspended crochet twine from chopsticks for the crystals to grow on to. These crystals grew for about two and a half weeks before we couldn't stand it any more and took them out.

Editor's note: If desired, you can add a few drops of flavoring or food coloring when dissolving the sugar. Use a natural string or thread for this, not nylon. One week is usually long enough, although the longer you wait, the larger the crystals will grow.



PEBBLE PUPS PAGE

MYSTERY MINERAL

By Don Van Dyke

This month our mystery mineral is found in the Lower Peninsula and was responsible for an industry that no longer operates in our area, but was very important at one time.

In Michigan, it was first discovered at almost the same time along the shore of Lake Huron in eastern Michigan and in our area. The first mine on the east side of the state was developed on land purchased at the cost of two dogs and \$10! In our area, one mine was discovered when the farmer plowed up several chunks of our mystery mineral. The location of another mine nearby was discovered when a large tree blew over and our mystery mineral was found in the hole. Both of these discoveries were made before the mid 1800's. In parts of Michigan, including our area, layers thicker than 10 feet are found, surrounded by other sedimentary rock.

It has a hardness of 2, and is often white colored and may have water clear crystals in rare pockets. In other areas of our country, it can be found as glassy looking sheets, often mixed with clay or shale. At times, it is found in pleasing light pastel colors. Sometimes the more solid material may be carved, and in the past, vases & jars were carved from it. It is mentioned in the Bible where it is called alabaster.

Almost every house in our area has the walls lined with a product made of this mineral.

What is it?

If you can tell Mr. Don Van Dyke the answer at our next meeting, he will give you a specimen of this element for your collection!



March's Mystery Mineral: Iron

~ ~ ~

WEBSITES FOR KIDS

By Patricia Hartman in the Lithosphere 01/07, via The Pegmatite 02/07

The San Diego Natural History Museum presents a double-header for kids. ...

First up is "Mineral Matters" at <http://www.sdnhm.org/kids/minerals/index.html>, where you will find How to Identify Minerals, Build a Collection, Mineral FAQs, Grow your Own Crystals and Mine Games. There are True-False and 10 question quizzes, and a word search.

Second up is "Dinosaur Dig" at <http://sdnhm.org/kids/dinosaur/index.html>, which has Finding Fossils, Dinosaur Bytes, Mystery of the Ankylosaur, Jurassic Jumbler, and Explore Fossil Mysteries. Educational as well as fun, it has games a slide show, and a word search.

INTERACTIVE FOSSILIZATION WEBSITE

Via the Rockfinder 03/07

Walking with Beasts - Games: <http://www.abc.net.au/beasts/playground/fossils.htm>

- Race against the clock to build a skeleton that fleshes out and walks off the game board. Can you get past the super challenge level?
- Bury dead animals in different locations and see what happens to their bodies. Can they ever become a fossil?
- Study fossil footprints to learn about an animal's behavior. Can you beat the predators in a footrace?

ROCK AND MINERAL MONTHLY REVIEW

By Brenda Van Dyke

Why not share your specimens of this month's feature at our next meeting!

Because of our April program with Dr. Spohn, I thought that copper would be a good choice as this month's mineral.

Copper has a metallic luster, a copper-red streak, a hardness of 2.5 – 3, a hackly fracture, and an isometric hexoctahedral crystal system. It is both ductile (meaning it can be drawn into wire) and malleable (it can be shaped.) Associated minerals include cuprite, azurite, malachite, chalcopyrite, and many others.

Copper has been used by man for 10,000 years. Early mining on the Greek island of Cyprus led to the name copper. Alloying copper with tin around 3500 B.C. led man into the Bronze Age. Copper and its alloys can be found everywhere in our daily lives.

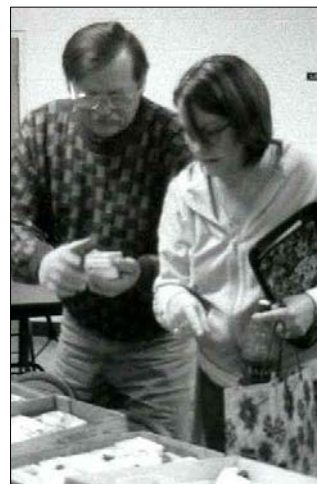
The majority of copper ore mined in the U.S. comes from Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. A large part of the U.S. consumption of copper comes from recycling scrap. Other nations mining copper include Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Mexico, Russia, Peru, and Indonesia. Just under 2 billion tons of copper is believed to be yet mined, not including deep-sea deposits.

Copper is also an important part of the human and animal diet, although only trace amounts are needed. Copper, together with iron makes up red blood cells. It works to keep our blood pressure and cholesterol in check and helps create the enzymes our body needs as antioxidants. Food sources for copper include liver, oysters, beans, nuts, cherries, cocoa, whole grains, peas, avocados, garlic, mushrooms, potatoes, tomatoes, bananas, prunes, and soy products.

Dendritic Copper



*Image courtesy of Glendale
Community College*



*Again, we had a great turnout at our March club meeting.
Kreigh's DVD about German Agates was a hit.
So were all the different rocks and minerals that were brought in to show
(and buy!)*

Photos by Ed Benjamin