



ARROWHEAD NEWS

Wyoming, Michigan



**Don Van Dyke shows his geodes to Harry and Eleanor Brummel.
December 21st, 2010 is our annual Christmas Party.
Punch bowl starts at 6:15 p.m., dinner at 6:30!!!**

Photos by Bryan Brewer

**December 2010
Volume 47 #9**

www.IndianMoundsRockClub.com



Arrowhead News

Visitors are welcome at all Meetings! When & Where

Club Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday, September through May, and take place 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, in Wyoming.

At 6:30 PM, on the third Tuesday, June through August, our club has a **picnic** at Pinery Park in Wyoming, which is on DeHoop just north of 28th St. 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 fourth Tuesday of the month.

Club Membership dues are \$15 per family, \$10 per individual and \$5 per junior. Payment is due by the third Tuesday of September and is for the following January – December. **New** members that join at or after the annual show, pay only one-half of the yearly dues for the current year. Membership includes 9 issues of the Arrowhead News.

Who's Who

Our Executive Committee

President

Jim Elliott
7475 Parsonage
Saranac MI 48881
616-642-0442
jimboell@iserv.net

Vice President/Program

Nancy Spalenka
2119 Waldron St SW
Wyoming MI 49519
616-249-0513
gnsपालका@sbcglobal.net

Secretary/ Membership

Rhonda Leep
11199 Gun Lake Rd
Middleville MI 49333
269-795-7629
rsleep@chartermi.net

Treasurer

Dave Lehker
1716 Lotus SE
Grand Rapids MI 49506
616-243-1257
lehkerd@gvsu.edu

Board Member

Orville(Skip) Schipper
269-795-9121
goschipper@sbcglobal.net

Web

Brenda Van Dyke
1531 Whitmore Ave NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
616-735-1235
brenick@gmail.com

Board Member

Bob Beauvais
616-534-3871
rebeau@juno.com

Sunshine/Kitchen

Eleanor Brummel
616-453-1658
Show Chair
John Kuipers
616-534-9298

Field Trip

Kreigh Tomaszewski
kreigh@tomaszewski.net
Nancy Wolff, assist.
269-983-4900
nancyswolff@hotmail.com

Dealer Chairs

Kris Quint
269-926-7610
rkquint@cpuinc.net
Nancy Wolff
269-983-4900
nancyswolff@hotmail.com

Board Member

Bryan Brewer
Sales
Ed Krzeminski
3838 Crowfoot SW
Grandville MI 49418
616-530-9571
edkrzeminski@juno.com

Liaison

Don Van Dyke
4296 Oakview
Hudsonville MI 49426
616-669-6932
donvandyke@tm.net

Editor/Publisher

Donna L Griseto
2275 Radcliffe Circle SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546
810-444-5611
dlgriseto@hotmail.com

Send exchange
newsletters here

...or here

Library

**Anne & Rance
Westover**
rance_anne.yahoo.com
616-754-7093

The **subscription rate** for the **Arrowhead News** is just \$8.00 per year.
Article submission is due to the Editor **before** the 25st of the month.
Recent back issues of the Arrowhead News are available on our website.
<http://www.indianmoundsrockclub.com/Arrowhead%20News.htm>

Arrowhead News



Corrections:

Donna, I just read the November Arrowhead News 'on-line' and noticed that you made a couple of 'editorial changes' in my articles. One change in the Quartz article could be a real problem. I quoted WWW. Mineralminers.com several times with their written permission provided that I added that it was used by permission. You deleted the last sentence in the article that carried that information. Also in the "A few days in the Copper Country", you changed the spelling of the Minesota Mine to Minnesota Mine. The correct spelling of the name of the mine is MINESOTA. Will you please note the changes/corrections in the next issue? Thank you.

Anne and Rance Westover's trip

Regardless of the time of year when the rockhounding fever strikes, it's time to pack the bags. We started early October 9, 2010 and arrived in Asheville NC by dark. The next day we picked up Sapphires at the Old Pressley mine west of Asheville. Monday morning we arrived in Spruce Pine NC.

We always look forward to returning to Gem Mountain and the Rio Doce Mine. Both of these accounts sell salted buckets of gems, but in our opinion, are the best in the country. The bucket we purchased from Gem Mountain contained, Ruby's, Aquamarine, Moonstone, Topaz, Garnets, Emeralds, Quartz, etc. Several of these items are now being faceted for the Christmas season according to Anne. From the Rio Doce a faceted Prasiolite Stone (also known as Green Amethyst) has been received. We also checked out (2) Gold Panning mines. The Lucky Strike Gold Mine looks very interesting. Camping sites, food and area of gold panning devises are available to rent with loads of dirt. Check out the article on the Lucky Strike mine in the Rock and Gem January 2008.

Our next stop was Charleston, South Carolina. We took a walking tour of the Old Business District and Farm Market Area. Touring the Hayward - Washington House was very educational. Our favorite tour was the Boon Hall Plantation, where the movie "North & South" was filmed. After Screening for sharks teeth and picking up sea shells we moved on to Savannah, Georgia.

The highlight for Anne was having her picture taken in front of The Lady and Sons Restaurant. Shelling on beaches at Jekyll Island and Amelia Island, Florida were next on the list. The beach combing for shells is always a relaxing adventure. Many varieties were found for making into pedants between Melbourne and Vero Beach, Florida. The metal detecting for old Spanish coins around Sebastian Beach was enjoyable but unfulfilling monetary value. Why would anyone bury a beer can four feet down in the sand? After crossing the state we stayed in Fort Myers Florida for the night. The shelling on Sanibel Island was fun but very expensive. You are charged a fee when you arrive at the island and also by the hour to be on the beach.



I finally got this picture in!!!

	Vice President Nancy Spalenka welcomed members and visitors to club and had everyone introduce themselves at the meeting.
Secretary	There were no minutes from October's meeting to approve from Silent Auction Night.
Treasurer	Dave gave a report of sales from Silent Auction.
Program	DVD presentation regarding Lake Superior Agates was very interesting and several members shared stories of agate hunting and displayed some of their 'lakers'. Nancy wondered if anyone had ideas for the April banquet program....
Editor/ Publisher	Donna would like people to send articles to her for the newsletter and encourages everyone who can to receive the email version of newsletter to keep publishing costs down.
Web	Brenda will continue to support our website- let her know what you would like to post or link.
Field Trip	Kreigh reported on recent and future trips. Please contact Kreigh or Nancy Wolf for specific field trips.
Show Committee	We will have a contest to name our 'pet croc' for the spring show. Ballot box will be at Christmas potluck.
Publicity	We still need someone to manage our basic notices for meetings. Please contact Nancy Spalenka for if you are interested.
Sunshine	Eleanor has sign-up sheet for next year and reminds us to contact her if someone in the club needs some sunshine.
Librarians	Rance and Anne Westover brought our Michigan and Lake Superior rock books to the meeting and most people picked up their orders. They will be placing an order before the end of the month- so contact them to pick up your books or to order additional copies.
Historian	No report
Sales	Ed K. reported that the summer sale date is June 11, 2011 and will have sale flyers available next year.
Correspondence	No report.
Membership	We have 24 new memberships for the 2009/2010 year and 15 new memberships for the 2010/2011 year already! Membership dues are due - plan on paying ASAP - Please mail to Rhonda Leep Membership chair. You can pay for more than one year at a time if it would be convenient.
Old Business	Nancy polled club members for interest in patches, vests or club t-shirts and we had plenty of interest. Club patches will be ordered and we will need samples and prices for t-shirts with club emblems for club members to purchase in the future.
New Business	Elections- Nancy and Don Van Dyke conducted the elections as follows: President- Jim Elliot Vice President- Nancy Spalenka Treasurer- Dave Lehker [last year?] Field Trip Chairman - Kreigh Tomaszewski Librarians- Rance and Anne Westover

	Board Member- Bob Beauvais
	Board Member- Skip Schipper
	Board Member- Bryan Brewer
	Nancy asked for interest and volunteers specifically for Junior Member Activities and Nancy Wolf, Terri House and LaDonna Siebelink will work together on this activity.
Mineral Study	Check Newsletter or contact Kreigh for schedule and location of meetings.
Adjourned	
Rhonda Leep	Secretary 2010



- Jim Splane discussed how he gets that perfect shine on his geodes to Ed Krzeminski. Rhonda Leep is in the background thinking which one she would like to go home with her. Just kidding.

- **Report: Denver Show, and more** by Kreigh Tomaszewski

My wife and I went to Denver last week to spend some time with our oldest daughter (who is again fighting brain cancer after a nine year relapse) and her husband, to take a trip together near our 35th wedding anniversary, and to visit the Denver Show for the first time. We carved out a few days from work, left out the youngest kids (high school) at home with the middle daughter (college), and flew to Denver. This is what you might call a complex vacation.

Arrowhead News



Good flight out Thursday morning, direct. Got met at the airport and went to my daughter's apartment in downtown Denver. They live a block from her work (her husband commutes out of downtown for his job) so she doesn't have to commute and be exposed to germs while her immune system is down from the chemo (that has a 94% effective rate statistically). They are on the 16th floor and have a great view of the mountains; we got the second bedroom. She is handling the treatments well so far, has a great attitude, and incredible support from her husband. It was so good to be back together with family; I wish they still lived an hour away.

Thursday afternoon we went off to the State Capital and took a tour. The Capital Building in Colorado, Michigan (my home state), and Texas, were designed by the same architect, and have essentially the same floor plan. I think Colorado had the best mineral resources, so it was a really cool building to tour; Michigan's glass floors and workmanship put it in second place. All three capital buildings exhibit outstanding stone work and are worth visiting.

It was really fun to stand on the front steps to the building. One of them is labeled as being one mile above sea level, carved into the granite step. A later measurement moved the mark up a couple steps and added a brass survey mark. An even later measurement moved it down a few steps and added a second brass survey mark. Denver is known as the 'Mile High City', and I got to stand at all three survey marks on the Capitol Steps to prove it.

Friday we tried to do the Denver Mineral Show. There are seven venues. We knew it was not possible to do it in one day. We started early and gave up.

First stop was the main show at the Merchandise Mart. You walk in, pay your entrance fee, and enter this huge auditorium full of club displays and dealers. Then you realize there are halls off all three sides containing at least as many dealers, and another whole building that is wholesale only. We figured out a path that would take us past every booth and started off.

I had several goals. This was my first trip to the Denver Show and I wanted to meet many of the vendors I have purchased from over the internet. I wanted to meet a few members of this list that I expected to be at the show (and reconnect to a couple I have met previously). I wanted to shake hands with a couple local dealers in an unexpected locality. And I wanted to see what I could find to purchase for my systematic collection without blowing by budget (I've been saving up for a while since my wife first suggested the trip).

Mission accomplished! I regret that Pete Modreski and I were unable to reconnect and have dinner together. I took great pleasure from

Arrowhead News



surprising Jim Below and Walt Kellogg. I'm pleased Rob Lavinsky, Dan Weinrich, and several others, were able to spend some time with me. I found several new vendors and purchased species. The fossil exhibit was amazing.

After a late lunch we went off to the Holiday Inn. I met several other vendors, but my day was made when I discovered John Cornish. Finding a list member for the first time, who has contributed so much to the list, was too much fun. I wish we could have spent more time together, but the family dragged me away.

I also found several other vendors, including my friend Gunner, from Germany, and purchased a variety of type locality specimens that added to my species collection. I even found a local dealer, and a couple mine dealers I have collected at.

And then it was off to the Colosseum. We finally burned out (after a few more great dealers) and went back home. Dinner was grilled on the patio. Life was good, but we were exhausted.

Saturday found us in Georgetown, a little over a half hour from Denver. We took the 'Loop' railroad, behind a steam engine, up the mountain. On the way back down we took a tour of the Lebanon Mine. This silver mine tour took us over 500 feet into the mountain. Walter ("Wally") was our guide; he was an old miner who started at the age of 8, working for his grandfather, and was the current mine safety officer.

Wally took me back more than a hundred years from his personal experience (I'm guessing he was a very fit 80). I learned new miner lore. As we turned around to leave the mine Wally asked if I was also a miner. I shared some of my access to our local gypsum mine. We checked the oxygen levels with his meter. Wally gave me a rich silver ore specimen from the mine out of his locker when we reached the surface (I had asked if there were tailings I could collect at).

I was humbled to be recognized as an equal (rockhound) by a real miner. I've never met people more in touch with their dream job than the folks running the steam railroad (other than the miner). Riding behind the narrow gage #12 steam engine is worth the cost of joining the local historical society for a year (and cheaper than the public tickets).

Sunday morning found us at the Denver Cathedral for Mass to give thanks to our Lord. Brunch. Then we visited the Denver Museum of natural history and science, a great science museum with a wonderful mineral exhibit. Can you spell 'Sweet Home'? I wish we had more time (didn't help that my wife had been there before).

Our flight home was delayed Sunday evening (can you spell 'airlines', and we got home way too early Monday morning.

I'm ready to go back to Denver, and my daughter is not the only reason. Maybe I'll get to meet some of you at a future show.



Mineral Study Group by Kreigh Tomaszewski

Ores are minerals, or aggregates of minerals, usually mixed with waste, that can be mined and processed at a profit. On the second Tuesday of November the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group met to learn about and identify by hand the ores of Iron. Both the Indian Mounds and Tulip City clubs were represented at this regional meeting.

There are over 1,100 minerals that contain Iron as an essential ingredient, with content ranging from 0.29% to native Iron at 100%. However, only ten iron bearing minerals are mined at a profit; the major ores are Magnetite, Hematite, Goethite, Siderite, Pyrite, and Chamosite, and the minor ores are Maghemite, Lepidocrocite, Pyrrhotite, and Ilmenite. Most of these ores have a metal content between 45 and 70%.

You learn hand identification of minerals by holding and studying a lot of identified specimens, which is why we ask everyone attending to try to bring one or more specimens of the mineral being studied. We had a rich collection of specimens for study this month, missing only Chamosite. Michigan is an iron producing state so many of us have had the opportunity to collect iron ores.

Hematite is not magnetic and has a reddish streak. Magnetite is magnetic and has a blackish streak. We discovered several specimens labeled specular hematite were really specular magnetite. Magnetite concentrates are used to make the well known Taconite pellets from the Mesabi Iron Range

Arrowhead News



in Minnesota. If magnetite has polarity it is known as lodestone.

Huge quantities of Banded Iron Formations (BIF) were deposited worldwide between 3.8 to 1.8 billion years ago as algae introduced oxygen into our Earth's atmosphere. Iron is still essential to plant and animal life; as a component of hemoglobin in your blood it transports oxygen and carbon dioxide between your lungs and cells. A 150 pound person has about 3.5 grams of iron in their body.

China is the largest producer and consumer of iron, followed by Brazil, Australia, and the United States. World reserves are estimated at around 800 billion tons of ore, and annual production is a little over 900 million tons. To produce one ton of iron you need 1.7 tons of ore (at around 65%), .6 tons of coke to burn for heat, .25 ton of limestone for flux, 1.9 tons of air (for oxygen), and 13 pounds of fluorite. Smelting iron in small quantities is something you can do in your own backyard.

Pure iron is very ductile. Trace impurities have a big effect on its properties. As little as 0.03% sulfur will make it brittle at high heats; 0.25% phosphorus will make it brittle when cold. Steel must have less than 2% carbon. Traces of other metals make unique properties. Iron oxide is used as a polishing powder. Iron is still fundamental to our economy. BTW, the ores of copper include native copper, chalcocite, bornite, chalcopyrite, covellite, cubanite, enargite, tetrahedrite, cuprite, tenorite, azurite, malachite, brochantite, and chrysocolla; minor ores include djureliute, mly. digenite, atacamite, krhnkite, chalcantite, and antlerite. We're going to ignore the other 545 minerals that contain copper because they are not commercially viable ores.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Jan 11, 2011 from 7pm to 9pm at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We will be studying the ores of Copper. We like to start (and end) on time, but please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early. All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about the topic minerals, and hopefully bring along at least one specimen to let others look at (the more, the merrier). We hope you can join us for this learning opportunity.

SHOW BIZ by John Kuipers

Following are a few things to keep in mind regarding our annual show at Rogers Plaza on April 7, 8 & 9, 2011:

First, please save your empty Styrofoam egg cartons (one- dozen-egg size) for use at the show. Bring them to the Club meetings and someone will take them from you. As you probably know, these are sold to children of all ages who participate in our popular "egg carton/mineral kit" feature.

Also, we need the following material to put into egg cartons and grab bags for show use: kona dolomite, apatite, copper, barite, Apache tears, barite roses, and quartz. We have an adequate supply of, and do **not** need: hematite, soapstone, chrysocolla, fluorite, milky quartz, iron garnets, and taconite ore. If you have other material but aren't sure if it is needed, please check with Diane Harvey, 616-874-3205.

Arrowhead News



Show Biz continued...

Finally, don't forget that each Club member is entitled to suggest one name for the "Pet Croc" to be displayed at the show. The ballots and ballot box will be back at the December meeting, so please vote then if you haven't already done so!

STIFFENING EARRING POSTS by Brad Smith (from the web)

Soldering an earring post will always soften the wire a bit. Easiest way to harden it is to grip the end of the post with your flat-jaw pliers and twist it a couple half turns. This work-hardens the wire and at the same time tests your soldered joint.

USE A SPRAY BOTTLE

Those little spray bottles you can find at the drug store are great for firescale preventors and debubbling solutions. A quick firescale preventor is liquid flux, and a homemade debubbling solution is a little Dawn liquid in rubbing alcohol.

BROKEN DRILLS

Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, you can usually dissolve the steel in a solution of alum. Alum is typically available from a food store or a drug store. Use about a teaspoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up so that bubbles can float free.

Acknowledgement to be included with each publication:

More [BenchTips](#) by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

Rock and Gem Shows for December

3-5--INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA: Show and sale; GemStreet USA; The Indiana State Fairgrounds, The Pioneer, Our Land Bldg., 1202 E. 38th St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; fine gems, jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-4367; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

10-12--SHARONVILLE, OHIO: Show and sale; GemStreet USA; The Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; fine gems, jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-4367; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

PROGRAM REVIEW AND PREVIEW

Following the DVD, "The Lake Superior Agate" with Scott Wolter, at our November meeting, members Don Van Dyke, Jim Splane, Gordon Spalenka, showed some of their Lakers and told of their experiences hunting them. There was a good exchange as others also added to the discussion. 56 adults and youth were signed in the attendance book.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

PUNCH BOWL AT 6:15 – BANQUET AT 6:30

Our December meeting is a time for fellowship and fun at our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. Members are asked to bring a "hot dish" and a salad or dessert and their own table service. The meat and beverages will be provided by the club. La Donna Siebelink will prepare the punch bowl and Gladys and Skip Shipper will do the table decorations. Roger Hovarter will prepare the meat.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a hobby-related, homemade or store-bought gift with a value of approximately \$8. The gift should be something you would like to receive. Men, bring a gift for a man and mark "**Man**" on the outside of the package. Ladies, bring a gift for a lady and write "**Woman**" on the outside of the package. Indicate who it is from on the inside. In order to receive a gift, you must bring a gift.

Following the dinner we will again have a "cracker barrel" sharing time to hear about some of your rock hounding experiences so bring an interesting story to tell. This will give us an opportunity to learn a little more about one another. The gift exchange will be held after that.

Put this date on your calendar. We'll be looking for you all at 6:15 PM on December 21, 2010!

Arrowhead News



Crocodile Teeth

Source: Wikipedia *Julia*

Crocodile teeth will begin to be lost while young. New ones appear immediately because their teeth are hollow. Thus the new tooth grows into the space and is ready when the predecessor falls out. This may happen once a month. Older crocodiles may cycle teeth once every 2 years. When this process is over, they may have produced over 3,000 teeth!

Treasurer's report for October:

Beginning Balance: \$6,387.21

Expenses: Newsletter: \$157.24

Advertising: \$106.73

Change: \$ 57.00

Sales 80% \$1084.00

Total expenses: \$1,406.97

Income:

Memberships: \$270

Lunch: \$ 31.50

Total Income: \$301.50

Ending Balance: \$5,283.74

Silent Auction Results:

Total sales: \$1,789

Total number dealers 25

Total club sales: \$ 66

Total club income: \$410.60

Thanks! Dave

Library Talk from the Westovers

We have been getting a lot of new members in the club and would like you to know our library a little bit better. We have quite a few books, videos, and DVD's on various subjects such as Gems, Stones, Fossils and where and how to find them, as well as Jewelry making, Faceting and making Cabochons. It is contained in a three-drawer filing cabinet that we wheel in to the meeting room every month

It works very much like a regular library. You can browse through it, select a book or video bring it to either Rance or me (Anne). You then sign and date the card then give the card to us and take your selection home for a month. If selections are not brought back in a month we will list the selection and the person who signed it out in the next newsletter as a gentle reminder.

In the future we hope to review or give you some titles that we have that may go along with the subject of a program we just had.

Arrowhead News



Nancy Spalenka welcomed all board members and members to meeting.

- Secretary** October Board Meeting minutes were not read and a motion to approve minutes as published in Arrowhead News was passed.

- Treasurer** Dave had items from the Silent Auction to be resolved and his proposals were approved by the board.

- Program** Christmas potluck and program for December. No Board Meeting for December is scheduled.

- Editor/Publisher** No additional items to report.

- Web** No Report

- Field Trips** Kreigh informed the board that the insurance coverage for club field trips has/will change to not cover 'sub surface trips' and the club should have a waiver for any of the not insured trips. Kreigh will review other clubs waivers and bring a waiver proposal to a meeting next year.

- Show Committee** Ballot box to name our 'pet croc' will be at banquet.
Save egg cartons for spring show and grab bags may also be needed.

- Publicity** We still need a publicity person contact a board member for information. Here is the description from the bylaws:
Publicity: The duty of the Publicity Committee shall be to distribute the Club's news regularly to the appropriate newspapers, radio and television stations, and periodicals.

- Sunshine** Report given in Club Meeting.

- Librarian** Most of the books were picked up at club meeting and an additional order will go out November 29th – so contact the Westover's if you want to place an order.

- Historian** No new discussions

- Membership** **2011 Club dues are due. Please mail to Rhonda Leep asap– we need an accurate count for insurance purposes before the end of the year and you may not be listed in 2011 Directory in January.**

- Sales** Ed will have available flyers for Summer Sale in January or February.

- Old Business** Skip made a proposal regarding a future scholarship for the club and we will review and present to the membership in a future meeting.
There is interest in club vests, patches and t-shirts – patches can be ordered and we now need examples of t-shirts and prices to proceed. Julie will work on t-shirt samples and prices.

- New Business** An indemnity clause was reviewed at the board meeting and suggestions that we should add one to our by-laws was brought up. Dave Lehker will review our options and bring a proposal to the board next year.

Adjourned

Rhonda Leep 2010

Board Members Present

President	Jim Elliot	Publicity	Need
Vice President	X Nancy Spalenka	Historian	X Nancy Spalenka
Secretary	X Rhonda Leep (membership)	Librarians	X Rance Westover
Treasurer	X Dave Lehker		X Anne Westover
Liaison	X Don VanDyke (past President)	Field Trip	X Kreigh Tomaszewski
Sales	X Ed Krzeminski		Nancy Wolff
Editor/Publisher	X Donna Griseto	Show Chair	X John Kuipers
Sunshine	X Eleanor Brummel		X John Donker
	Ruth Allen	Board Member	X Bob Beauvais
Dealer Chair	Kris Quint	Board Member	Bryan Brewer
	Nancy Wolff	Board Member	X Skip Schipper

This month's contributors: Don Van Dyke, Kreigh Tomaszewski, Rance and Ann Westover, Bryan Brewer, Nancy Spalenka, John Kuipers, Brad Smith, Dave Lehker, and Julia Donker!!!

Each month is getting a little better; still learning how to paste, cut, and putting pictures in. I spent over 4 hours trying to get all the mailing labels correct. Kreigh Tomaszewski is now in charge of e-mailing the newsletter. One great thing about signing up for e-mail edition means that you get it the same day I send it to Staples. Plus, the pictures are in color. Wishing everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season!!!

When we do something well and are acknowledged, we're stimulated to do even better the next time. Sincere praise brings out the best: greet people, praise them for their achievements, and constantly encourage them to do their best. – Hal Urban Until next month...

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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ARROWHEADNEWS

Donna L. Griseto Editor
2275 Radcliffe Circle SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-7725