



ARROWHEAD NEWS

Wyoming, Michigan



**Get Ready, our 36th Rock & Gem Show!!!
April 7, 8, and 9th, 2011
Rogers Plaza, 28th Street
Wyoming, MI**

Photo by Bryan Brewer

March 2011
Volume#48 #4

www.IndianMoundsRockClub.com



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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

<p>President Jim Elliott 7475 Parsonage Saranac MI 48881 616-642-0442 jimboell@iserv.net</p>	<p>Vice President/Program Nancy Spalenka 2119 Waldron St SW Wyoming MI 49519 616-249-0513 gnsपालका@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Secretary/ Membership Rhonda Leep 11199 Gun Lake Rd Middleville MI 49333 269-795-7629 rsleep@chartermi.net</p>	<p>Treasurer Dave Lehker 1716 Lotus SE Grand Rapids MI 49506 616-243-1257 lehkerd@gvsu.edu</p>
<p>Board Member Orville(Skip) Schipper 269-795-9121 goschipper@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Web Brenda Van Dyke 1531 Whitmore Ave NW Grand Rapids MI 49504 616-735-1235 brenick@gmail.com</p>	<p>Board Member Bob Beauvais 616-534-3871 rebeau@juno.com</p>	<p>Sunshine/Kitchen Eleanor Brummel 616-453-1658</p>
<p>Field Trip Kreigh Tomaszewski kreigh@tomaszewski.net Nancy Wolff, assist. 269-983-4900 nancyswolff@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Dealer Chairs Kris Quint 269-926-7610 rkquint@cpuinc.net Nancy Wolff 269-983-4900 nancyswolff@hotmail.com change-newsletters.com</p>	<p>Show Chair John Kuipers 616-534-9298</p>	<p>Library Anne & Rance Westover</p>
<p>Editor/Publisher Donna L Griseto 2275 Radcliffe Circle SE Grand Rapids MI 49546 810-444-5611 dbrgriset@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Send here</p> <p>...or here</p>	<p>Liaison Don Van Dyke 4296 Oakview Hudsonville MI 49426 616-669-6932 donvandyke@tm.net</p>	<p>Sales Ed Krzeminski 3838 Crowfoot SW Grandville MI 49418 616-530-9571 edkrzeminski@juno.com</p>

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>

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President's message April 2011

April is here and once again it's time for a great show! What I'm talking about is our 36th Annual Mall Show at Rogers Plaza on April 7, 8 and 9.

A whole lot of effort, planning, arrangement, telephone calls and work has gone into getting this show ready and soon we'll be Rockin' at the Mall!

There's still time to add the finishing touches. Hang up flyers. Remind friends and neighbors. Show up and help. I would like to see all of you at our Annual Mall Show doing your part to help. Our club is growing in size so it stands to reason there should be more hands to help out and less work individually. Set up is Wednesday evening. We need your help each show day and Saturday evening taking it down.

You are the most important part of this club, and reading this newsletter because of your interest and knowledge in gems, minerals, rocks, fossils and lapidary skills. So let's share all of this with others. Let's encourage these interests and spread the word! Let's show off some of your skills, handiwork, knowledge and collections! Some of you became club members and heard about our club for the first time because of this very show, and you know firsthand what a huge impact it can make. So let's make this our best show ever, after all, it is your club! But most importantly let's have fun while we do!

Don't forget our next meeting is the Spring Banquet on April 19th. As usual there will be plenty of good food and a great program.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Mall Show and at the next meeting.

I also look very forward to warmer and sunnier weather.



Stay safe and have fun.

Best to All, Jim Elliott

PROGRAM REVIEW February- Nancy Spalenka

A record number of 60 adults and children were in attendance at our February meeting to hear Steve Crabbs' program on Thomsonite. Our many thanks to Steve for his interesting and informative presentation and to Don Van Dyke for donating Thomsonite to those children and adults who were able to find "Mickey Mouse" in one of the Thomsonite.

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PROGRAM REVIEW March- Nancy Spalenka

Many thanks to Bobbie and Terry House for the interesting and entertaining program on "Agates Around the World" that they presented for the March 15th club meeting. Their informative flip-chart was a nice way to emphasize the various points. We learned there are agates in all the countries of the world with Germany, Mexico and the USA having more agates than any other place. Some agates may have as many as 100,000 bands of color per inch, which makes them very beautiful. 61 adults, children and youth were in attendance. We were happy to see an increase in the number children and youth who attended the junior meeting following the program. We greatly appreciate their sharing all their beautiful agates with us.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thank you Julia Donker for taking notes while Rhonda Leep was away.

Attendance: Jim Elliott, Nancy and Gordon Spalenka, Bob Beauvais, Don and Lois Van Dyke, Ed Krzeminski, Dave Lehker, Bob Beauvais, Harry and Eleanor Brummel, Kreigh Tomaszewski, John and Julia Donker, Brian Brewer, Rance and Anne Westover

Treasurer: Question on donation to Church. Club is using some church supplies. Don Van Dyke made motion to give \$200 as last year plus \$25 toward supplies. 2nd by Ed Krzeminski, Motion passed.

Nancy Spalenka - will find person to audit the Treasurer's books.

Need volunteers for Banquet – will ask at Show. Nancy Richardson will take care of punch bowl at our Banquet.

Kreigh Tomaszewski – has the Schippers running the "Best of the Year" Contest. Motion: The contest will be the same as last years made by Kreigh, 2nd by Jim Elliot. Motion Passed.

Ed Krzeminski will take care of paper color and printing of flyers for the June Sale. This will be running rain or shine.

Kreigh Tomaszewski has listed several other club field trips offered for our members to attend.

Kreigh Tomaszewski and Don Van Dyke have given geology related presentations to school classes.

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April Show discussion:

1. Eleanor Brummel and Nancy Spalenka have done all the mailings and articles for Publicity. Julia Donker told about Grandville, Hudsonville and Wyoming Libraries having displays by Don and Lois Van Dyke, Roger and Arlene King, and John and Julia Donker. 8 libraries in Grand Rapids and Jenison have flyers for patrons to pickup.
2. A new vinyl exterior flyer is being made by Nancy Wolf for next to the entrance at Rogers Plaza.
3. Don Van Dyke will work with Dealers on the drawing like last year.
4. Harry Brummel will set up signs inside.
5. Gordon and Nancy Spalenka will set up yellow sign along 28th St.
6. Kreigh Tomaszewski will set up table for the center in the Club booth.
7. Julia Donker working on advertising with GR Press, etc and on line; while John Donker worked on the set up of tables and chairs.

Correspondence from Lazadro and MWF

Kreigh Tomaszewski- motion to adjourn, Jim Elliott, Dave Lehker, and John Donker 2nd motion. All moved chairs and tables into proper position.

Rock, Question, Laugh- LaDonna Siebelink

Do you remember playing "Rock, Paper, and Scissors?" My children play it often, pounding one fist onto the opposite hand, loudly chanting in unison, "Rock, paper, scissors." At the final pound one must choose rock (fist still closed), paper (flat hand), or scissors (two fingers extended as if cutting). Everyone playing has a chance to win, even if they don't completely understand what is going on. There is intensity, involvement and much laughter!

"Rock, Question, Laugh" would be an accurate game-name for what happens during the junior portion of the club meeting. Bobbie and Terry House bring rocks and fossils for the young rock hounds to look at and handle. The youngsters "Ooh!" "Aah!" and "Wow!" some of the specimens and information. Who knew rocks could be this interesting! The Houses are quickly peppered with questions. A joke or two usually surfaces (refer to the February newsletter photos), and laughter fills the room. Back to rocks and more questions.

In March ten eager young rock club members met for a short time to look at Bones the turtle and some large quartz crystals from Arkansas. A few members brought rocks in for

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help with identification. Thanks to Darcy for sharing some of her finds. The meeting was shortened so that members could return to the main area to fully appreciate the agates presented by Bobbie and Terry earlier. It is true that kids learn about rocks by touching rocks!

Members 17 years and younger are invited to join and help shape our new Junior Club. We meet down the hall from the main area during the business meeting. Just as in the childhood "Rock, Paper, Scissors" game, this rock game promises everyone will win, with intensity, involvement and much laughter.

THE CLUB DONATIONS SALE TABLE

The club will be again selling donated items furnished by our members at the Gem and Mineral Show. These should be quality items, something you would like to buy, and preferable donor-made, although other good quality items are also acceptable. The donor sets the selling price and all proceeds go to the club. Any unsold material is returned to the seller after the show.

A sales slip for each item will have an assigned number along with name of the donor, article description and price written on it. The item with the above information is also recorded by the assigned number in the *Journal of Sale Items*. When an item is sold, the initials of the seller and the price are recorded in the Journal. We started keeping this record some years ago, and a total of 856 items have been donated over those years.

Bring items for sale to the donor table in Rogers Plaza during the show set-up on Wednesday, April 6. Be sure to put a price on each item. It helps to have the items before the show starts as it takes time to record each one.

MEMORIAL CASE

The Memorial Case at the show is dedicated to the memory of deceased club members. Club member's loan varied quality mineral specimens, lapidary work, gem trees, faceted items, etc. for display. These items are returned at the close of the show. If you have a special item to display in this case, contact Nancy Spalenka, 249-0513.

Bench Tips- Brad Smith

If you're interested in filigree jewelry, take a look at some of the pieces students finished up in our last class in Santa Monica. Pictures are at <http://www.facebook.com/SMjewelry>

EMERY BOARDS: The sanding boards for doing your nails are one of my favorite finishing tools. I use the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to

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sand just the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface. Plus they're inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company or at your local drug store.

DENTAL FLOSS: When testing the fit of stone in a bezel, it's all too easy to get it stuck. Often the only way to free it is to drill a hole in the bottom and push it out with a needle. To avoid this, lay a piece of dental floss over the top before you press the stone in. Then just pull on the string to remove the stone.

Acknowledgement to be included with each publication:

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

or

[facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club Annual Banquet

Speaker, Christopher Noto, PhD.

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

PUNCH BOWL AT 6:15 PM –BANQUET STARTS AT 6:30 PM

Bring your own table service and a "hot dish", salad or dessert to pass. The meat and beverages will be provided by the club.

Invitations have been sent to other gem and mineral clubs. We hope many of our members will be on hand to greet these guests.

The speaker for our banquet will be Christopher Noto, PhD., Visiting Professor in the Biomedical Sciences Department at Grand Valley State University. The title of his talk will be, "Why Study Fossils". He will include some information on the 58 Million Year Old Sculptured Crocodile that we will have exhibited at the Gem & Mineral Show in Rogers Plaza April 7, 8, and 9.

Noto, a native of Rochester, NY, has been interested in dinosaurs and other prehistoric life ever since he was young. He attended the University of Chicago where he worked with paleontologist Paul Sereno as a fossil preparatory. While there he helped prepare specimens of the dinosaurs *Suchomimus*, *Jobaria*, and *Afrovenator* and the giant crocodylian *Sarcosuchus*. He also worked as a research assistant with geologist Fred Ziegler, where he had the opportunity to help revise a chapter for the second edition of *The Dinosaurian*. He earned a PhD. in Ecology and Evolution with advisor Catherine Forster at Stony Brook University, NY. He has also done field work in the Late

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Jurassic Morrison Formation of Wyoming. His research interests include paleoecology, functional morphology, taphonomy, and paleobiogeography. Chris has a web site at <http://chrisnoto.com> .

April Rock and Gem Shows

7-9—WYOMING, MICHIGAN: Show, "Unburied Ancient Treasures"; Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club; Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 28th St., 0.25 mile west of US 131; Thu. 9:30-9, Fri. 9:30-9, Sat. 9:30-8; free admission; Science Museum of Minnesota display, museum-quality exhibits, mineral and fossil identification, club sales, children's collectibles, demonstrations, dealers, micromounts, crystals, stone beads, carvings, meteorites, jewelry, specimens; contact Don Van Dyke, 4296 Oakview, Hudsonville, MI 49426, (616) 669-6932; e-mail: donvandyke@tm.net; Web site:

<http://indian?moundsrockclub.com/index.htm>

9-10—CANTON, ILLINOIS: 51st annual show; Fulton County Rockhounds; Wallac Park; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Steven Holley, (309) 231-8861; e-mail: ilfossil@hotmail.com; or Deb Coursey, (309) 368-8451; e-mail: courseyfarm@gmail.com

9-10—DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS: 46th annual show; Des Plaines Valley Geological Society; Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, seniors \$2, students \$1, children under 12 free; dealers, gems, jewelry, fossils, minerals, Kids' Room, demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes, raffles, silent auction; contact Frank Lavin, 9942 Montrose Ave., Schiller Park, IL 60176, (815) 298-9178; e-mail: nival42@hotmail.com; Web site: www.desplainesgeologyclub.org

9-10—MARION, ILLINOIS: Show; Southern Illinois Earth Science Club; Williamson County Pavilion, 1602 Sioux Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, ages 18 and under free; gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary, shells, silent auctions, door prizes, fluorescent demonstrations; contact Mike Chontofalsky, 1019 E. Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801, (618) 532-0455; e-mail: chontofalsky@att.net

9-10—ROSEVILLE, MINNESOTA: Show; Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club; Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, agates, collectibles; contact Martha Miss, 8445 Grange Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN 55016; e-mail: rockbiz@cs.com

9-10—WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN: 49th annual show; Kettle Moraine Geological Society; Waukesha County Expo Center, 1000 Northview Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2.50, children 50 cents; demonstrations, displays, sales; contact Richard Rosenberger, (262) 691-3130; e-mail: rosenber.w@sbcglobal.net

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15-17—ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Macomb/Mt Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society; Roseville Recreation Center, 18185 Sycamore; Fri. 9-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-4; adults \$3, students \$1, children free; dealers, lectures, display area, demonstrations, raffle, kids' area, raffle; contact Jacq Swain, 44314 Macomb Industrial Dr., Clinton Township, MI 48036, (313) 469-7868; e-mail: jacswain018@aol.com

16-17—BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN: Show and sale; Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society; Orchards Mall, 1800 Pipestone Rd.; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-4; free admission; special presentations on gem faceting and gold panning in Michigan; contact Nancy Wolff, 2816 Thayer Dr., St. Joseph, MI 49085, (269) 983-4900; nancyswolff@hotmail.com

16-17—COLUMBUS, OHIO: Show, "Many Facets of Quartz"; Columbus Rock & Mineral Society, Licking County Rock & Mineral Society; Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7 (2-day pass \$12), ages 6-16 \$3, under 6, Scouts in uniform, and 4-H free; 27 retail dealers, demonstrations, educational and display exhibits, ID booth, demonstrations, swap area, silent auction, speakers, children's games, free specimens for children, gold panning; contact Ken Harsh, (614) 433-9778 e-mail: Karmakenha@aol.com

16-17—EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN: 48th annual show; Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Eau Claire County Expo Center, Lorch Ave., corner of Hwy. 93 and I94; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; silent auction, minerals, fossils, crystals, gems, rocks, artifacts, jewelry, demonstrations, hands-on booth for kids; contact Mike Schoenfess, (715) 456-0664

22-24—DECATUR, ILLINOIS: 59th annual show; Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club; Macon County Fair Grounds, 3700 Westlawn Ave.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors (59+) \$2, children under 15 and Scouts or Armed Forces in uniform free; school groups and home schoolers admitted free Sat. 9-3; exhibitors, dealers, demonstrators, Running Water Sluice, door prizes, exhibits, silent auctions; contact Tony Kapta, (217) 233-1164; e-mail: cigmc@comcast.net; or Larry Albro, (217) 520-3394

23-24—CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO: Show and sale, "Gemboree: A Celebration of Spring"; Akron Mineral Society, Summit Lapidary Club; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; adults \$5, seniors and students \$4, children \$1; vendors, door prizes, silent auction, lapidary demonstrations, Gem Mine, make-and-take crafts for children, Easter Egg display; contact Evelyn Tryon, 2028 Tallmadge Rd., Kent, OH 44240, (330) 673-9664; e-mail: gemboree76@yahoo.com; Web site: www.lapidaryclubofohio.org

23-24—TROY, OHIO: Show; Brukner Center Gem & Mineral Club; Miami County Fairgrounds, North End Activity Bldg., County Road 25-A; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$1, children free; dealers, specimens, gems, jewelry, demonstrations, displays, silent auction, door prizes, free rock for children, mineral identification, children's activities; contact Gene Davis, (937) 667-4160

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30-1—MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN: 38th annual show; Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society; Marshfield High School Fieldhouse, 1401 Becker Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; displays, dealers, demonstrations, kids' activities, silent auctions; contact Cynthia Kelman, 1403 N. Broadway Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449, (715) 387-8782; e-mail: kelman@tznet.com; Web site: www.fromtherockroom.com

Mineral Study Group- Kreigh Tomaszewski

We've been having fun studying the various ore groups, and in March we turned our attention to the ores of Nickel. Remember, to be considered an ore, a mineral must be extractable and processed at a cost that allows the miner to make a profit. Currently the United States does not have any active Nickel mines, but the Deluth Complex in Minnesota has 3.6 billion tons of reserve ore that runs about 0.2% nickel (and 0.66% copper).

Canada has the largest reserves of Nickel ores, notably in the Sudbury District in Ottawa, the Thompson District in Manitoba, and Viosey Bay in Newfoundland. Australia and the island of New Caledonia are close behind. There are also significant deposits in Africa.

There are more than 160 minerals that contain Nickel as an essential component, but only pentlandite, millerite, nickeline, skudderudite, nepouite, vaesite, and bravoite are commercially viable and can be called ores (some would include cubanite as a very minor ore). Native nickel is known but not common. Most nickel ores have a high percentage of nickel content, but the ores are dispersed on gangue so the average ore grade seldom has more than 2% metal.

65% of nickel is used to make stainless steels, 12% is used in super alloys and non-ferrous alloys (usually copper), and the remainder is used in (foundry) alloy steels, rechargeable batteries, coinage, and plating. Nickel is an essential economic metal that is the 24th most abundant element, comprising an average of 0.02% of the earth's crust. We had specimens of all but two of the nickel ores to hold and study. Hand identification is never perfect, but by holding and studying enough specimens you can learn to identify the most common 10% of minerals, including most ores. By sharing our specimens and a little research we are learning from each other.

Pentlandite is also an important ore of Cobalt. The rich deposits near Sudbury provide 30% of the world's supply of nickel. Millerite is not uncommon in geodes, and some fine ones are found around Bay City. Nickeline and Breithauptite form a series of minor nickel ores that are best known from Cobalt, Canada, which is also a good source of Skudderudite

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crystals. Nepouite is common in Australian deposits, and Vaesite is common in African deposits. Bravoite is usually found in Missouri type lead deposits.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, Apr 12, 2011, from 7pm to 9pm, at the home of Bryan Brewer, 1148 60th St. S.E., Kentwood, MI 49508.. We will be studying the ores of Lead (galena, cerussite, anglesite, pyromorphite, bournonite, boulangerite, jamesonite, semseyite, crocoite, and wulfenite).

We try to start (and end) on time (though we often finish a little early); 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 mineral(s), and bring along specimens of the topic mineral(s) to let others look at (the more, the merrier, but feel free to come even if you can't bring a specimen). We hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other.

Field Trips- Kreigh Tomaszewski

It was a great day in Michigan for a field trip. Partly sunny skies, fresh snow falling, and temperatures in the mid 20's. We met in the parking lot before our 10 am entry time and everyone got signed in. Once the line at the surface bathrooms ended we took the big elevators down 85 feet to the mine; we only had to send a few folks down in the small elevator due to lack of room. Carts, wagons, wheelbarrows, mining equipment, and 35 people, take up almost more space than the 110 people capacity of the twin mine elevators. Being able to push a elevator button labeled "MINE" is a great thrill. We had access to multiple trips to the surface, so most rockhounds had the experience. The mine only required that we all go down at the same time (if you are late, too bad). We used the small elevator for most surface trips to be kind to the mine (our nominal entry fee barely covers lights and elevators).

I can't give enough thanks to our host, Professor Peter Riemersma, from GVSU. This was our first trip with him, and I have hopes we will have more in the future. The mine requires us to be escorted by a local Geology Professor, and Peter was kind enough to step in after our usual host went on Sabbatical. He was a most gracious host and we had an opportunity to learn from his expertise (It also gave him an unusual chance to collect since he did not have to lead and lecture the entire time).

As we entered the staging area in the mine (at the edge of the clean warehouse and the dirty drifts) we met a large group of geology students from Hope College coming out of the mine with their professor.

We greatly enjoyed being greeted as old time miners, with full hand equipment, sledges and chisels, carts/wagons/wheelbarrows, hard hat lights, and even 'child laborers' like in

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the old times (it doesn't get much better than taking your kids collecting in an underground mine). I really would have liked to hear the comments after we passed. The college students were pretty blown away by our appearance.

And old time mining did occur. We spent six hours in the mine. Hammer and chisel. Helmet lights, flashlights, and coleman lanterns. Great gypsum/selenite/satin spar specimens. Hundreds of shark coprolite specimens (and one possible tooth). Mississippian. Miles of tunnels to explore in the dark.

I estimated that the 35 of us took out well over two tons of specimens (much of it alabaster for carving). I'm still trying to figure out how some of the larger pieces managed to make it out of the drifts to the carts in the staging area; I saw pieces that two people could not lift onto a cart. Many collectors were stripped down to t-shirts wet with sweat from their exertions.

A third were in the mine for their first trip. We had club members from the Big Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Holland, and Wyoming (Grand Rapids) clubs. Our youngest collector was only six years old (we prefer 8, but it worked out).

The mine is a balmy 52 degrees, high humidity, and you can usually see your breath. The drifts are like walking in drywall mud (well, duh!). Everyone paid attention to safety (there is no excuse not to when you go underground) and we all returned to the surface in good condition. Food always tastes better underground.

I wish I could take more on each trip, but the mine limits me to 40 (and there always a few who sign up but can't attend at the last minute).

We really had a great day collecting! I just wish I had remembered to bring my camera.

Future Field Trips

I have several tentative field trips in the works, but no dates or confirmations at this time. The two most likely are another Alabastine Mine trip in May (and maybe also in June), and a gravel pit trip with the Lansing club. But I want to make you aware of some trip opportunities with the Holland Club.

May 14 Quarry in Paulding, OH

June 12 - July 8 Oregon High Desert

August Gem Mines in Spruce Pine, NC

Sep 2 - 5 Flint Ridge, OH

Oct 2 Quarry in Alpena, MI

If you are interested in any of these trips you should visit www.tulipcity.org and click on the field trips link for details, and then contact the Holland club directly to sign up. As usual, if any of our club trips work out I will announce them first on the club email list (are you a member?), and get them in the bulletin (and announce them at club meetings) if there is enough lead time. Keep on Rockin!

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A TRIP IN THE PAST, A DREAM FOR THE FUTURE- Don Van Dyke

In the early 1970's the Van Dyke's decided to make their 1st trip out of state to look for Lake Superior Agates. For several years we had spent our vacations scrounging the beaches of the Keweenaw Peninsula with some success, finding quite a number of small agate and Thomsonite nodules, but always longing for larger ones.

Reading Midwest Gem Trails and other material lead to the decision to go to Minnesota, but where? In checking the location of churches of our denomination we decided that we should go to the Ogilvie area, about 50 miles north of the Twin Cities, where 'we' had a church. We also found out that there was a campground right in town. After a long days drive we arrived, to find a few campsites on the edge of a mobile home park with a dozen or so year around mobile homes.

As we checked in, the boys were already 'hunting' the gravel driveway, there was great excitement as they found numerous small agates, wow, we were in paradise! As the boys roamed the trailer park they were soon talking to the residents, older, retired couples, and widows, mostly retired farmers who were amused at the excitement our kids had from finding stones!

The rest of the week went fast, as we hunted the gravel roads, ditches, and an abandoned gravel pit or two. Oh what fun! On Sunday we went to church and became acquainted with several of the members who were farmers. They invited us to hunt on their farms, and told us of several small gravel pits in the 'hog backs' (glacial moraines) that were common in the countryside. We were also told of a road-building project near an adjacent town. One of the couples that resided in the trailer park, who were also members of the church, invited us for coffee on Sunday evening. They were immigrants from the Netherlands who had come to the U.S. shortly after Word War I, and had cleared the land and established a small farm. The 'De Hollanders' (not their real name) had moved to the trailer park when farming had become too much for Mr. 'De Hollander,' who had advanced Parkinson's disease and could no longer talk. As we visited we were asked just what we were looking for, so one of our sons ran to our trailer and came back with a nice agate. Mrs. 'De Hollander' looked at it, and said, " That looks a lot like the big stone that we found on the farm and used as a door stop for the screen door in the back porch." Now that got our attention, "how big I asked?" Mrs. 'De Hollander' gesturing with her hands, indicated something about 6-8 inches in diameter. In her rich brogue she told us that she had no idea of what had become of the 'stone', it was probably somewhere around the yard, or maybe had been thrown out by the pasture fence. They had been off the farm for a number of years already and she could not remember.

With only a day or two left before we had to go home, we had no chance to go and look for the 'big stone' The next year or two we returned, but never got around to looking for the 'big

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one,' since we had so many other places to look. Years went by, and we went on rock hound trips out west, and in the U.P. But in the back of my mind I never forgot the story of the big stone. About 20 or so years ago we managed to stop in Ogilvie again, how things had changed, the trailer park was gone, many of the businesses were closed, the town was practically a ghost town. Many of the farms were untilled, the land, marginal at best had returned to the wild, some of the farm houses and other buildings were deserted. As we drove through the country it was hard, in some cases impossible to remember to where we had been, we did not even remember just where the De Hollander farm was.

Now we dream of going back, to find the De Hollander farm, and search for the 'big one'. Is it still there? 3/4th buried, peeking out of an overgrown flowerbed, or under the sprawling lilac bush, or maybe next to a rotten fence post on the edge of the pasture? A pleasant dream, but at our age, one that more than likely will never be fulfilled!

Best of the Year

Time is rapidly approaching for our annual "Best of the Year" competition. If you don't enter you will not be in the drawing for gift certificates for our June Summer Super Sale. Please start looking NOW for your best specimens to enter (as long as they have not been entered previously).

You may enter one specimen in each category. The more categories you enter the better your chances of winning. Do not put your name on the specimen or label (only bulletin articles will identify the writer) -- you will be assigned an entry number to use on your labels. The categories are...

Creative Arts (self made, not purchased):

1. Bulletin Article: Each writers need to select the best articles that you wrote from this past year. hopefully, one per month}
2. Bead work: Bead stringing or weaving (mineral instead of glass beads preferred)
3. Cabochons: any shape or size, natural preferred but may be synthetic, no plastic
4. Metalworking: Metal forming, inlaid design, cast, smithed, or wirewrapped
5. Most Creative Use of Lapidary: Must contain some formed natural stone.

Collected Items (must be natural minerals/specimens, cleaning permitted):

6. Self collected Thumbnail: must fit in a 1x1x1 inch box
7. Purchased Thumbnail: must fit in a 1x1x1 inch box (may be a gift or trade)
8. Self collected specimen: must be larger than a thumbnail
9. Purchased specimen: must be larger than a thumbnail (may be a gift or trade)
10. Self collected fossil: cast, mold, trace, replacement, carbon, etc., but not pseudo
11. Purchased fossil: same rules as 10 (may be a gift or trade)

World Class (must start with natural minerals, cleaning and alteration permitted):

- 12: Most unusual specimen: Forget the ordinary. Unusual associations. Legally collected cave formations. casts, molds, meteorites, dyed or irradiated specimens, fluorescent, or

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whatever originally natural specimen you can come up with.

13. Ugliest specimen: It should be a natural specimen, but creative touches (like eyes, arms, etc) may enhance its lack of appeal

14. Best of Show: Any specimen, any category. What grabbed you? One of the above.

Juniors (you must be under 18 to enter):

15. Junior Best of Show: Any specimen, any category. One specimen per Junior.

You will start by registering as a participant and get a number. This number will identify you on the label you will fill out for every category you enter. This number will also enter you in the drawing for the Summer Super Sale Gift Certificates.

You will then fill out a label for each specimen you are entering. The label will identify the category, specimen, locality (if appropriate), and your registration number. You will place each entered specimen on the appropriate category table along with its label. You will use your registration number for each category to hide your identity and make the voting fair.

Voting will take place by category. Club members will select the specimen they like best in each category, and record the registration number on their ballot.

Awards will occur in each category for first, second, and third place. All participants will be in the running for gift certificates. There will be prizes for the best of show categories.

The May meeting will start at 7 pm, but if you are entering you will want to come early so you can register and display your specimens before the meeting starts. This is the one meeting you want to be early for -- if you are late you will miss out!

Thanks to all that contributed: Nancy Spalenka, Kreigh Tomaszewski, John & Eloise Kuipers, Don Van Dyke, Julia Donker, Anne & Rance Westover, Brad Smith- Bench Tips, Bryan Brewer, Jim Elliott, LaDonna Siebelink, and anyone else I forgot. This is your newsletter so send everything you want in this newsletter.

Back from Washington State and I had a great time with my 2nd grandson who was born January 28th, 2011. I want to thank all those that put together our show, help setting up, publicity, rentals, selling items, and the best is when we are able to watch our club members show how to make the things that they do. Remember, I am not responsible for the spellings of articles by people who do know how to spell them. Until next month...

To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe –
Marilyn vos Savant

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