TC ROCKHOUNDS

April 2017 issue

Our next regular meeting will be held on MONDAY, April 17, 6:45 pm at the TADL

Five Minute Program: None this month

The Main Program will feature tables set up around the meeting room with various equipment and skills being shown and demonstrated. Things like wire wrapping, silversmithing, hand polishing of stones, and several others.

Snack Hosts: Pat Captain, Jerry Conroy, Jim & Jill Gary, and Sarah Vanderkleed

Door Prizes: Pat Captain and Gary Knudsen

From the March 21 Meeting:

The February short program featured John Matz telling about various items used in lapidary projects to repair or enhance cabochons. The long program by Lauren Vaughn featured the many-colored mineral, Kyanite.

Snack Hosts were Kim Olson, Carol Popa, Lauren and Cynthia Vaughn, and Sarah Vanderkleed. The door prizes were furnished by Lucas Vanderkleed and Lauren and Cynthia Vaughn. Thanks to our volunteers for their important role in the meeting.

The Rockhound of the Month for February was Alinka Lipchinsky.

Plan now for 2017:

The May meeting will be held on **MONDAY, May 15th**.

The registration for the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club trips to mine rock dumps between August 8 and 11 began on March 6.

Registration for Keweenaw Mineral Days put on through Michigan Tech's Seaman Mineral Museum with trips to mine rock dumps between July 18 and 22 has also begun. Register early to avoid full trips.

Please sign up to present a 5 minute or main program or to provide treats or a door prize. See Lorna or Kevin.

The Midwest Federation Convention will be May 6-7 in Brainerd, Minnesota

The American Federation Convention will be June 9-11 in Ventura, California

GTARMC Club dues need to be paid for 2017. If you joined after the show in September, you are paid through 2017.

Newsletter Items Wanted

There is a need for items of interest and importance for the upcoming newsletter editions. If you know of something you would like to contribute including photos of club activities or areas of interest, please email to Lauren Vaughn at:

maple2b@aol.com

Following is some information on Septarian Nodules prepared and shared by Eric Hallman. Thank you Eric !

Septarian nodules

Septarian is a concretion stone, a geode that is a combination of yellow calcite brown aragonite, grey limestone and white/clear barite, thus it has properties of each of its component minerals.

This unique rock is formed by periodic volcanic eruptions killing smaller sea life, which sank to the sea bed to begin decomposition. During this decomposition process the minerals in the shells and carcasses begin to attract sea floor sediments. Through wave action in the shallows, these deposits formed mud balls or nodules. When the ocean eventually receded, the mud balls dried, and began to shrink and crack into the beautiful patterns that you see inside the Septarian nodules. The ocean returned depositing more shell life above them. Over the eons this new layer decomposed, and trickled calcite from the shells down into the cracks of the mud balls to form calcite crystals, which grew to fill the cracks. The interface between the calcite and the Bentonite clay then transformed into aragonite, which is the dark

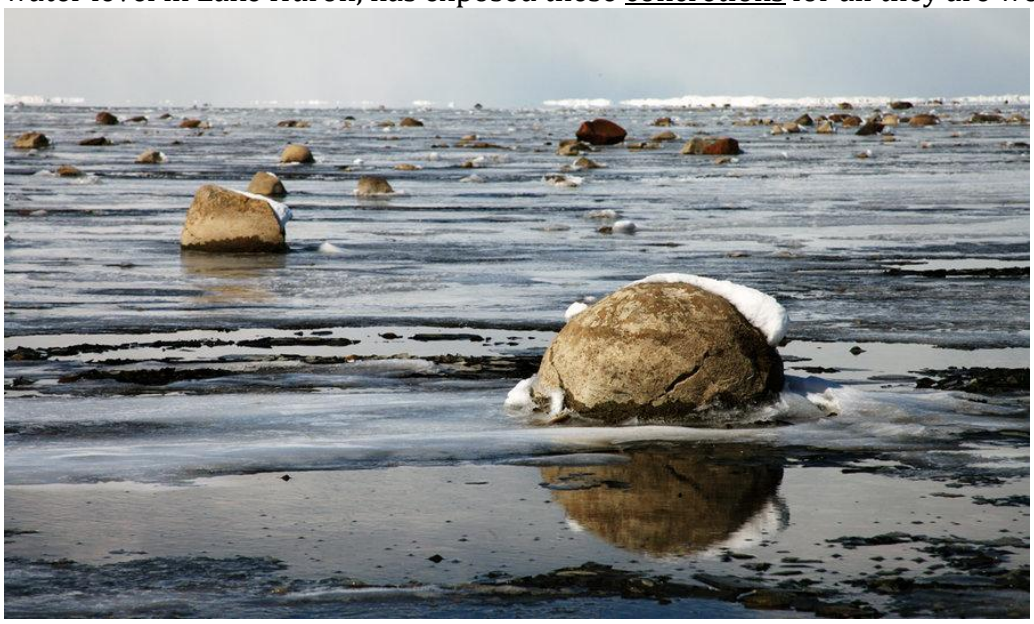
brown crystal layer. The Bentonite clay was eventually replaced with limestone, completing the transformation of the entire nodule to stone. This is truly a magnificent piece of artwork from Mother Nature.

Where to find them: good examples are found in Utah & Navada where the ancient sea beds reached their limit some other beautiful examples are also found in Madagascar, New Zealand and many other places around the world.

Concretions in and around Michigan: My wife and I found 2 side by side outside of Alpena MI in a sand quarry. They are on the large size for our cutting abilities (10 in Saw) , The stones being 12 and 16 inch across. These are great examples that we could not pass up the opportunity to bring these home.

These rocks found in Alpena MI, fall 2016

Kettle Point is 22 mi northeast of Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, on the southern shore of Lake Huron the site of a rare outcrop of an Upper Devonian shale called the Kettle Point Formation. This rock layer is exposed at the tip of the point near the shore of Lake Huron Spherical or ovoid concretions of rock, locally called 'kettles', weather out of the shale along the shoreline. The concretions are now protected, but are often found on nearby properties. They lay scattered along the shoreline of Kettle Point First Nations Reserve in South Western Ontario in this picture below. The low water level in Lake Huron, has exposed these concretions for all they are worth.



Google Images

Great example of Septarian nodules, Cut and polished **.**
Picture from 2016 GT rock and mineral show vendor booth

http://www.madagascarminerals.com/metaphysic_of_septarian_physi.cfm
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chippewas_of_Kettle_and_Stony_Point_First_Nation

See you at the meeting on Monday, April 17 !

Please be there for some important information about the annual fall club Rock and Mineral Show!