



June 2018 issue

Our next meeting: the third Monday!

Silent Auction Club Fundraiser

Our June program (**Monday June 18, 6:45 pm at the Woodmere Library**) is a silent auction. Bring items that others might be interested in purchasing. Rocks, slabs, equipment, food, crafts or craft items are items that have been sold before. Cookies, pies, and breads are welcome in case you don't have rock items! No excuse, bring some things to donate to the club fundraiser. Money raised will be for our Christmas party, kids educational items, and club projects.

June Hosts:

Janice and Mike Brown
Gary Knudsen
Debbie Laslow

Door Prize:

Lisa Knudsen
Mike & Debbie Laslow
Cathy Dodge-Miller

Five Minute Program: none in June, more time for our auction

Field Trip coming

On June 9 Randy Sundstrom has arranged access to a gravel pit for rock picking. The hours are 10-4. Other trips have resulted in lots of happy rock hounds, so join the fun. They have found Petoskey stone, fossils, unakite, agate, and more. Directions are take M-37 south to M-115, then east 11 miles

to No 29 Rd. Go north 3.5 miles to No 24 Rd (Meauwataka) then east 1 mile. South on No 31 Rd, gravel pit is on the right (1/2 mile). Randy's number is 231-429-9626.

[August Rock Hunting in the UP](#)

If you are new to the club and rock hounding you may want to consider joining rock collectors from around the country to gather in the Keweenaw Peninsula to hunt for rocks. Many members of our club participate in this special place to hunt rock. Two events are available.

The Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club is hosting Keweenaw Week 2018 Aug. 6-9 [field trips, social events and workshops]. Visit <http://www.ccrmc.info> for their information.

Michigan Tech sponsors Keweenaw Mineral Days, to be held on Monday, July 16, 2018 to Saturday, July 21, 2018. Read about it <http://www.museum.mtu.edu/visit/events/keweenaw-mineral-days>

Don't miss these fun rock events!

Show News

Lorna Coe is looking for small Michigan rocks for the kids table. Some examples she would like to have: copper, limestone, quartz, pyrite, gypsum, sandstone, epidote, dolomite, feldspar. Can you contribute?

Board News

The officers meet to discuss plans for the club and make out meetings go smoothly. If you have ideas or would like to volunteer to help with a project, please let them know. One idea looking for volunteers is to have a Tailgate Swap. If you would like to work on this, let Pierre know.

Recap of May Meeting

The February Rockhound of the Month was Ken Shug and the March ROM was Eric Hallman. (Seems like it was his lucky night for Door Prize too! And his wife won too—is that possible?) Stay tuned for the April ROM!

The club allocated up to \$200 for educational items for the kids table at the club show.

Don Reed showed lots of pictures and talked fast about the Tucson Rock and Mineral Shows. Great program!

The summer Picnic will be at the home of John and Jane Matz again, on Sunday August 19. The address is 1214 Peninsula Dr. Meet at 4 to socialize, 5 to eat. Bring a dish to pass, tableware, chair, alternative drinks. Tea and lemonade will be available. Mark your calendar!

Comedy at the Gravel Pit (submitted to the editor)

This is a letter that appeared in a fantasy Rock Club's safety bulletin explaining the series of events that led to the injuries of a certain club member as he maneuvered around the intricacies of a UP gravel pit:

To whom it may concern:

Bruce and I arrived the gravel pit about two in the afternoon. The bulldozers had been working the tailings both in the pit and high up on the ridge for some time, and we could see a lot of prize material both high and low. Since the sponsored tours weren't scheduled until nine the next morning, we quickly formulated a plan to abscond with our fair share the day before the crowds arrived with their metal detectors and pick axes.

The plan was simple. Since we could drive our truck into the pit at ground level to load up our loot, we decided to procure our treasures from the ridge first. Bruce had a great idea; he knew I wasn't much into climbing, so he offered to climb up to the ridge and fill a bucket with rocks. Not wanting to risk a fall with a bucket full of rocks as he climbed back down, Bruce headed up El Capitan with an empty bucket, a long rope and a pulley we had brought along just for such an event. Before too long, he had rigged up a slick elevating device with the bucket and pulley at the top of the ridge. He threw me the long end of the rope and had me tie it to a stake I had driven into the ground.

The bucket was now dangling over the edge of the cliff, held securely by my rope and stake arrangement. Bruce began to fill the bucket as I relaxed in the shade with a cool one. After about thirty minutes, Bruce had filled the bucket with our priceless boulders and signaled for me untie the rope and lower the bucket to the floor of the gravel pit.

As I untied the rope, it occurred to me (slightly late) that the bucket was now heavier than I was. The bucket started down at a pretty good clip, about the same

time that I started up (at an equally good clip). Not wanting to get a serious rope burn, I held on – tightly. Unfortunately, I met the descending bucket halfway up the ridge. (This explains the two broken fingers on my left hand). But, I managed to hold on throughout the collision.

At the top of the derrick, my right hand contacted the log and pulley mechanism at a pretty good rate of speed. (This explains the fractured thumb and index finger on my right hand). At the same time that my right hand was hammering the pulley mechanism, the bucket of rocks was contacting the ground at warp speed. The sudden impact caused the rusty bottom of the bucket to fail, spilling our entire batch of ore on the gravel pit floor. In an instant, the bucket was now lighter than I, and it started its ascension at the same moment I began my descent. Fortunately, I was able to hold on to the rope through this entire matter or else I would have suffered a long gravity-assisted fall from the cliff's edge. Unfortunately, at a good rate of speed, I contacted the bucket on its way back up the ridge with my right foot and knee. (This explains the three broken toes and fractured kneecap on my left leg). Still, I kept my tight hold on the rope.

I thought my run of adverse luck was coming to an end since my velocity seemed to slow considerably at the bottom of the pit. However, all that changed when I landed directly on top of the jagged slabs that the broken bucket had deposited on the floor of the pit. (This explains the lacerations and contusions on my arms, back and buttocks.) At this point I must have lost my head, because I let go of the rope. As the loose end of the rope headed upward, the bucket headed downward with a vengeance. It struck me directly on the top of my head as I humbly sat on the serrated pile of stone. (This would explain my concussion and left ear laceration) Bruce and I have decided to hunt the gravel pit next year as part of the sponsored tour.

Sincerely,

Purance Yessircat, New club member

July Meeting note—also on the 3rd Monday, not Tuesday

Hosts:

Jenny Sharp
Randy Arndt
Loretta LaFoille
One more needed

Door Prize:

Pierre LaFoilie
Kathy Churchill

5 Minute: Carol Popa

Main: Deb Bull on Kentucky Agates

Following is an article written by Kevin Gauthier for the free Family Magazine that you can pick up around town. Here's his best advice.

Michigan Rock Hunting 101

Rocks found in Michigan will have more color and variety than anywhere else in the world. Pause and think about that for a moment. Nowhere else on the planet is there such color and variety to rocks than right here. Nowhere else on the planet did Five Great Lakes form. The advancing and retreating of ice acted as a "conveyor belt" for rocks. From areas over 200,000 miles away we can find the rocks right here. Once the ice melted it left the sand, pebbles, rocks, and boulders in their place. Keep in mind the ice moved south and could only push/carry rocks south, but as it melted the rocks did NOT retreat they melted through the ice and stayed where they lay. On a smaller version, the winter snowplows push up large snow banks, but as spring comes the rocks and sand melt through and lay in place. This is how Michigan has such a variety of material. It is also why it is rock hunting the much of the material is scattered – there is no Petoskey stone Mine, nor Quartz mine or any other it is the luck of the hunt that keeps people coming back.

When rock hunting in Michigan I highly recommend Lake Michigan Rock Picker's Guide which can be found at Korner.gem.com, on Amazon, and book stores. This 80 page book (some have referred to it as "the bible" for rock hounds) covers much more in depth with pictures of where to look and how to identify rocks. However, for a quick reference here is how to identify most rocks you will find.

You can identify ½ your stones by carrying a piece of steel with you– a nail, pocket knife, file, etc. Michigan basin is lime stone. Lime stone is a 4 on Mohs hardness scale (1 is softest to 10 is hardest) and steel is a 6. Something harder will scratch something softer. So if you can scratch your stone it is a native of Michigan. Lime stone contains all the fossils of Michigan: Petoskey, Favosite fossil (Charlevoix stone), horn coral, brachiopods and many more. If you cannot scratch your stone, more than likely came from Canada or Arctic Circle. This includes: granite, quartz, feldspar, jasper.

There are no granite outcrops in Michigan other than one might argue the Keweenaw Peninsula. This means all the field stone, stone houses, stone fences, landscape boulders and half the stones you find on the beach were brought here by the glaciers and are NOT local stones. This is not a bad thing. You can walk a beach and find stones that are 1000 miles away or 100 miles or 1 mile all in the same 10

min walk. This variety of treasures was brought to us...we don't have to drive to each source. There are Petoskey stone "beds" in and around Petoskey. This is where the whole coral head grew but what we find on the beaches Travers city, Elk Rapids, Glen Arbor, Frankfort are the remains of a larger coral head that once formed near Petoskey. Remember Glaciers carried material south- not north thus there are no Petoskey stone (unless brought there by man) north of cross village, Mackinaw city, Cheboygan, and none in the Upper Peninsula. However, we can find Upper Peninsula Agates all throughout Lower Michigan thanks to the Glaciers.

Tips on hunting:

- Bring a nail and try to scratch your stone. If it leaves a silver- gray streak you found (on a very basic scale) Quartz, Jasper, Feldspar, or granite. *** Note some local fossils of Michigan can become agatized, where the living coral was replaced with quartz rather than calcite to become a fossil. This would negate this rule on a very small percent of stones.
- If the nail leaves a scratch in your stone you have found local Michigan lime stone: including Petoskey, Favosite fossil (Charlevoix stone), Horn coral and many others fossils
- Start out early in the morning the water is calmer
- Right after or during a light rain the rock will be wet and you can find stones higher up on the beach line
- After a strong storm or high winds this will turn over new material to discover
- A large object on the beach such as log or boulder rocks will pile up in front or behind. Dig through them typically they are wet underneath and there is much to discover
- Back packs are a great way to carry drinking water and snacks put heavy duty (freezer) zip lock bags to put rocks in. This keeps the water and sand that is on the rocks out of your back pack
- Go where no one goes. Under and inside the leaning tree into the water, a fresh road cut or steep bank that is gravel a long side a road, in a parking lot many, many treasures have been discovered in parking lots. Everyone rushes to the beach front, but very few people looking in the parking lot, especially after a rain
- Michigan DNR law is 25lbs per person per year to remove rocks from the beach.
- For more tips Discover the Lake Michigan Rock Pickers Guide

We do not own the rocks; we only borrow them ...so enjoy them while you are their keepers

Kevin Gauthier – Owner Korner Gem

Co-Author of Lake Michigan Rock Pickers Guide