

Beth's Notes

By Beth Harlan

Our annual September show was most successful! It was fun and it made money for our Club. More people came to buy and more volunteers were kept busy the whole two days!! We had a constant stream of rockhounds coming in and I would like to thank Gary Bokerman for his "run" to the bank for change. The extra signs along the roads and the publicity in the Record Eagle were most helpful, along with the cooperative weather. The dealers, vendors, children's table downstairs and the open museum upstairs all were busy. Thanks to Tom Fordyce, Chairman, the many volunteers, the over 930 attendees, including about 450 who bought raffle tickets, for making our two day show all come together!

We had an excellent October meeting. As a direct result of the show, many new members attended and Karen Thomas, Treasurer, said that she is still receiving applications for club membership! We again voted to contribute \$500 to the Heritage for the use of their facilities and allowing visitors to enjoy their museum displays on our ticket.

Russ Barron, President, announced that Northern Michigan College and a local grade school both are asking for someone from the club to give a "talk" about Petoskey Stone/rocks at some near future date. Please contact Russ if you would be interested in inspiring future rockhounds!

Our very delicious and much expanded Halloween refreshments were provided by Mary Ann Warner and Karen Burns. Don Flegel won the doorprize which was provided by Don and Bonnie Reed. It was a beautiful copper crystal, a rare and unusual specimen, along with a nice piece of bedrock with greenstone inclusions.

Jim Lufty presented the well researched and most interesting five minute program about Ocean Jasper. He had some beautiful Ocean Jasper examples showing unique colors - pink and yellow - along with the green and white bubbles from a mine in NW section of rural Madagascar. The gemstone was named and owned by the Madagascar Mineral Company. It was found along the shoreline and only visible at low tide from a boat. It was difficult to mine and a rare deposit which is now mostly mined out.

Don Reed presented a program about Mexican Agates from Brad Cross's Mexican Treasurers DVD. The video showed beautiful amazing pictures of Crazy Lace and Laguna

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Upcoming Events



November 17th

5-minute program

"Treasures from 2009 Copper Country Mineral Retreat"

If you have a prized specimen from this year's retreat, bring it to share!

Main program

"Iron Smelting History in Michigan"

by Lauren Vaughn

Bring your favorite Leland Blue, Frankfort Green or other iron smelter slag or jewelry pieces to show.

December 6th

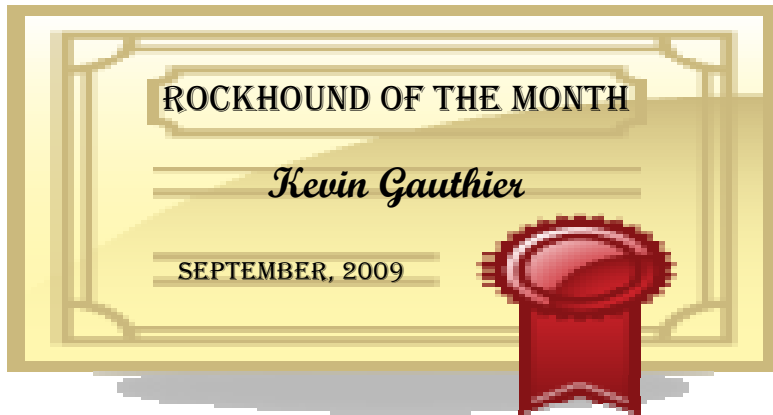
Annual Meeting & Holiday Dinner

Come to the November meeting ready to sign up for a dish to pass. Roast Beef and a possible second meat selection will be provided. Bring your own table service and beverage.

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Agates. The Agates were originally found along the edges of new highway construction across the desert of Mexico about 90 miles South of Texas border, otherwise pretty inaccessible. The colors within the nodules were spectacular pinks, reds, blues, violets. Different areas, sometimes only a few miles apart produced different colors. The Mines are now deep, some over 200 feet, and dangerous. Don brought several beautiful examples of the Laguna and Crazy Lace agate. It was amazing to see such beauty out of the rocky dull desert.



YOUR CLUB THANKS YOU!



Thanks to Charlie Baumann for answering the call! Charlie has generously agreed to write a monthly article for the newsletter starting in January after Beth Harlan finishes her long and generous stint.

We could still use a club photographer. Contact our club president, Russ Barron, or newsletter editor, Carol Towar, if interested.

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club (GTARMC) is open to the public. Promoting our hobby is our goal.

All regular meetings & classes are held at the Heritage Center (the old library) on Sixth Street in Traverse City on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7pm, unless posted otherwise in the newsletter.

If you have received a complementary newsletter, we welcome you to attend our next meeting. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings of the GTARMC.

The Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

CLUB OFFICERS 2009

Russ Barron, President	645-1292	tcbchbum@yahoo.com
Lauren Vaughn, V. President	276-6150	maple2b@aol.com
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Carol Towar, Newsletter Editor	223-7108	tcrockhounds@yahoo.com
Lauren Vaughn, Webmaster	276-6150	maple2b@aol.com

Photo credits: John Harlan

Annual Membership

Adult \$15.00 / Jr. (8-17) \$5.00
Couple \$20.00
(children \$3 ea.)

Dues are payable to:

GTARMC
c/o Karen Thomas, Treasurer
2287 Ingersoll Road SW
Fife Lake, MI 49633