



GEMS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
KALAMAZOO GEOLOGICAL AND
MINERAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2012

A Message from Your President

Greetings Rockhounds,

At the writing of this letter it is really starting to feel like fall. Summer went by really fast.

We have recently had some changes within the personnel structure of the club. Jerry VanNocker has accepted the position of Show Chairperson for our 2013 show. Jack Fuller has accepted the position of Field Trip Coordinator. We will be having a new editor of the GEMS, however for this edition you are stuck with me, Mr. Not Very Creative. So please bear through this transition. Jerry and Jack will need input, cooperation, and participation from all of our members for continued success of the club, please give them constructive input and feedback.

Our annual Alpena field trip to collect fossils is a go. Information is included in this newsletter.

The Tulip City club held their annual show the weekend of September 14. They do a great job. I hope our members took time to go and support this club. Their members have been supportive of KGMS in the past with participation in our show and joint field trips, among other things. The Central Michigan club (Lansing) will be having their show the weekend of October 26. If you have time please attend their show. It is a lot of fun, and again, their members have been very supportive of our club over the years.

Thanks to Jerry VanNocker and Diane Peterson for updating our Web page!

As always, please contact me with any questions or comments.

Rock On!

Bill Mitchell

KGMS President

Nomination of Club Officers

Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) of our club are in position for two year terms, and Board Members have 3 year terms. The next term begins January 1, 2013. Nominations for 2013 are:

President: Bill Mitchell

Vice President: Elizabeth Schau

Secretary: Allison VanNocker

Treasurer: Kate Dutrow/Chet Parrow

Board Member: Jack Fuller

Editor: ?

Other current Board Members are Tony Payne (2013) and Jerry VanNoker (2014).

The Club will be voting at the October meeting.

October 2012 Club Meeting Presentation

Chad Wyant will be giving a presentation on the Doe Run mine located in the lead district in southeastern Missouri. This area has been the largest source of lead in the US for many years and is the largest deposit of galena (lead sulfide) in the world. The area deposit also contains sphalerite (zinc sulfide), chalcopyrite (copper iron sulfide), and silver. The rock in which the ore is present is Cambrian in age and the ore minerals are believed to have been deposited during the late Pennsylvanian and/or early Permian periods. Lead produced from this area represents about 70% of the U.S. need, and almost 85% of this is used to produce lead batteries. Please plan on attending this interesting and informative presentation.

We Need Rocks

As usual the club is asking for donations of rock specimens for game prizes for the kids section of our show. We can use fossils, rocks, minerals, or whatever you have that would be appropriate. So far we have about 3,000 and looking for another 3,000. We place each specimen in a bag with a label. If you have anything you can donate please bring them to a club meeting (preferably with labels already made) or ask for bags, and then bring the labeled/bagged specimens to a meeting.

It is only the start of fall, but during our Holiday Party we play some type of game and have prizes. If anyone has some hand specimens they would like to donate as prizes, please bring them to a club meeting and/or contact Bill Mitchell.

Book of the Month

At the September Club meeting a book titled the "Geology of Michigan" was presented. However, no one checked it out. KGMS has a nice library with a wide selection of titles and subjects. Please take advantage of this great resource.

Lapidary Workshop

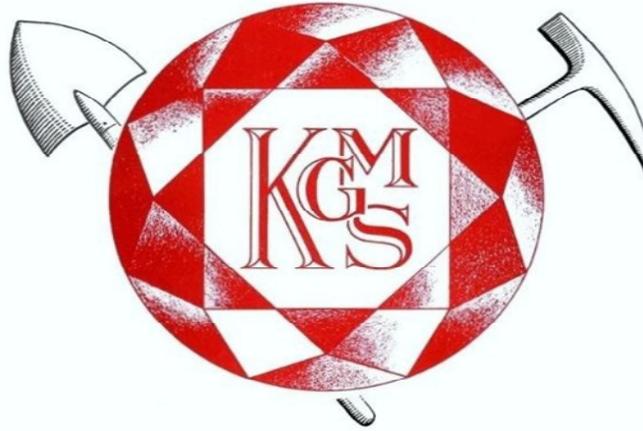
With the weather changing the lapidary workshop will be closing for the winter, when it gets too cold to keep it operating. Get in while you can. The club has material for sale at reasonable costs. No experience required. The fee is \$2.50 for 4 hours and includes instruction. You must have safety glass, which are available for \$2.50/pair. Please call Marve Starbuck for an appointment (649-1991) (Do not show up unannounced!).

Call for Articles

Have you come across any interesting articles or tid-bits regarding our hobby? Would you like to write an article for the GEMS about a topic of interest to you? Please submit any such article to the editor. We are always looking for content for the newsletter.

Field Trip News

Once again we will be going to the Alpena area to collect fossils. Locations will include the old Rockport quarry and the quarry operated by LaFarge. This is a great trip for all members – young/old, new members/long time members. Most of the fossils at both locations are just lying around, no hammering is really needed. At Rockport it is a bit of a trek to get into the quarry from where you park, but the collecting is easy, fossils are just lying there waiting for a new home. Remember you have to carry out the material that you collect. Be aware that the LaFarge quarry is an active facility and you are required to wear sturdy boots (steel toe preferable, absolutely no street or tennis shoes), hardhat, safety glasses, and reflective safety vest. For directions go to google map, type in Rockport, Presque Isle County, MI, and for the address for the LaFarge quarry is 1435 Ford Ave, Alpena, MI. Maps will be available at the October club meeting. And remember; there is no such thing as having too many rocks.



KGMS – Annual Alpena Fossil Collecting Trip October 6, 2012

Meet during the morning at Rockport State Recreation Area
Starting time is up to you.
Ending time 1:00

Travel to LaFarge Alpena Cement Quarry
1435 Ford Ave.
Alpena, MI 49707

Meet in the Plant parking lot at 1:30 pm
Access to the quarry is from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Be on time, our time in the quarry is limited, and we will not wait for stragglers. Prior to entering the quarry, LaFarge personnel will discuss the rules for our time in the quarry. Pay close attention and adhere to all of the rules. Continued access to facilities like these is dependent on our behavior and adherence to these rules.

Things to bring: While in the LaFarge quarry:

All personnel are required to wear steel toed boots (sturdy leather boots are OK, do not wear regular street or tennis shoes, you will not be allowed access), bright colored safety vest, safety glasses, and hard hat.

Other useful equipment include: rock hammers (do not use nail hammers), cold steel chisels, buckets, wheelbarrow/cart. It is trek out of Rockport with a load of rock, so be prepared to carry what you collect a fair distance back to your vehicle.

Questions prior to the event: call Bill Mitchell 269-873-5549.

Questions day of the event call Tony Payne 269-832-9844