



GEMS

NEWSLETTER for KALAMAZOO GEOLOGICAL And MINERAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Rockhounds,

I hope those of you who participated in our two October field trips had a good time and collected plenty of nice specimens. I heard that the weather was not real nice for either, but that is the way it goes sometimes. We cannot be real picky nor can we control what the weather is going to do on the dates of our trips.

Welcome new members! I hope that you enjoy your experience with KGMS. Please ask questions about how things work within the Club, do not be shy, or you may miss out on things you may enjoy. Lastly, please be active, at first it can be a little intimidating. You probably do not know many or any of the other members. You may not feel that you know enough. Remember, we are all here for the same reason, that being our interest in rocks. At times you may be asked to do things for the club, like work at the show. For the club to be successful all members, new and old, need to participate.

Our November meeting topic is always one my favorites. Members bring in some really cool specimens to share. It is like grade school show and tell. Please bring something to share.

The KGMS annual Christmas Party is not to far off and we need to make plans. The get-together is a potluck followed by some kind of game. It is great time to socialize with your fellow members. Bring a dish to pass and a big appetite. We are looking for someone to make centerpieces for the tables and we need game prizes. If you are creative, which I am not, and would like to use your creative talents, please let me know.

Check out our Web site, it is looking sharp. Thanks Diane, Jack and Jerry. Job well done!

As always, please contact me with any questions regarding the Club.

ROCK ON!

Bill Mitchell

KGMS President

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING: SHOW and TELL

Our November meeting topic is show and tell and/or show and ask. Bring in specimens, rocks, minerals, fossils, ... to share with the Club. Maybe you have found something and you do not know what it is, bring it and let's see if we can figure it out. Share your stories about how you found a particular specimen(s). Where are your favorite collecting spots? So please bring in rocks and stories to share. This meeting is dependent on participation by many.

****NOTE: DUE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WE WILL NOT BE MEETING IN OUR USUAL ROOM, IT'S IN THE SMALLER ROOM. WHEN YOU COME IN THE MAIN ENTRANCE, GO TO THE RIGHT PAST THE RECEPTION DESK, THEN TO THE LEFT DOWN THE HALLWAY, FOLLOW IT AND YOU WILL FIND US IN THE FIRST ROOM ON THE RIGHT.****

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello My Fellow Rockhounds!

I hope this month's newsletter finds everyone healthy and enjoying the beautiful fall days, well, OK when it's not raining. What a year it has been for crazy weather! I hope it didn't keep anyone from collecting some great rocks!



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On the note of the weather, as I am putting the finishing touches on this, I have the Weather Channel on. As you know there is a huge hurricane on our east coast. They are evacuating parts of New York City and other areas on the coast. They are saying this is a historical storm. I don't know if any of you have families out east, I have many family members in New York, Pennsylvania and Maine. They just announced that Atlantic City is under water, I didn't catch how deep. Let's keep all the people out east in our thoughts, prayers, and hearts. That they are safe and we will not have another Hurricane Katrina aftermath. America is resilient, we always join together and come back stronger.

On a happier note...

For those of you that are new: WELCOME! We're glad you joined the club! I agree with Bill that, sometimes, it can be intimidating at first. But don't let it stop you! My first year I felt like my head was spinning. I was embarrassed, because even though I had been picking up rocks since I was 2, I really didn't know much. I don't know if I'll ever catch up with the rest, but that doesn't matter anymore. I enjoy the club, learning about rocks, minerals, fossils, etc., the friends I've made, volunteering and I really enjoy working the show. Boy my first show was rough! If anything could go wrong for me, it did! I labeled a specimen wrong and even got lost coming from Battle Creek, couldn't find the Fairgrounds and I'd been coming to Kalamazoo since I was a kid! Well, here it is 7 years later, I'm still here and I plan on sticking around. I just took over as Editor of the GEMS, (this is my first newsletter, ever!) along with my other club responsibilities, I'm the Sunshine Committee and I manage the club photos on Photobucket. The last six months seem to be full of firsts for me. I also became the Editor for the new website Michigan Rock Clubs Pages (MI RC) - www.MIRockClubsPages.org This idea came from our State Director, John Donker and his charming wife, Julia. They wanted to create a website where Michigan Midwest Federation affiliated Rock Clubs/Rockhounds could communicate with each other, post their upcoming shows, events, sales, articles and there will be FUN for Rockhound Kids. So, when they asked me if I would be willing to create the site I was thrilled! PLEASE check it out, I am self taught and value all your opinions! I recently joined Jack Fuller and Jerry VanNocker on our KGMS website. Which, by the way, looks awesome! Thanks guys, swell job! I am planning to create a Rockhound Kids page on there, too.

I want you to look forward to finding this newsletter in your in-box/mailbox each month. What's going to be in it? I have no idea! I will always be looking for articles, stories, etc. In each issue, I would like to feature a KGMS member's "story" telling us how they became a Rockhound and why they joined our club. So start thinking about it and tell me your story, PLEASE!! Some of mine is already posted on the MRCP website. The GEMS will be a work in progress, in the meantime, please bear with me while I work on making the format of it better, I don't like this one. I did not plan on having the logo, GEMS, etc., at the top of each page, just the first one, but couldn't get it to work my way! If I left anything out, I apologize. I'm going to learn a couple new programs and we'll see what works the best for me. You can email me at rockin_gem@yahoo.com please put KGMS first in the subject line.

So let's get Rockin'!

Diane Peterson
Editor

KGMS at Kingman Museum

On October 13th members of KGMS lead visitors at Kingman Museum in Battle Creek on an interactive, hands-on exploration of minerals, with Allison and Jerry VanNocker and Tony Payne. As fitting for October the theme was "Mineral Mysteries". with fluorescent and non-fluorescent rocks and minerals presented to the museum visitor to explore.

The next KGMS presentations at Kingman Museum are:

December 8th, where we will lead visitors in exploration of "Mineral Properties". with Allison and Jerry VanNocker.

Feb 9th, "Glaciation" will be the topic, with our President, Bill Mitchell.

April 13th the subject is 'Beach Stones'. with Jack Fuller.

If you would like more info or like to help at one of these events please contact Jerry VanNocker at jerry@travelinginspain.com. Kingman Museum is located at 175 Limit Street Battle Creek, MI 49037; Phone (269) 965-5117. Additional info on Kingman Museum can be found at www.kingmanmuseum.org.

Mineral Study Group

The November meeting will be held at Jack Fuller's house at 6929 Bay Ridge Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49009-8967 Late comers are welcome;



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meetings have been lasting 2+/- hours. The study group's focus is on Minerals, Mineral Groups, Rocks, and Agates. The subject of study for each meeting is determined by the group during the previous meeting. Attendees are advised, but are not required, to read a little about the subject prior to the meeting. The meetings are very informal and are a good way to get to know other members. All you need to participate in the study group is an interest in learning about rocks, minerals, agates or geology in general, and a willingness to share what you know with others.

The topic for the November meeting is yet to be determine, it will be posted on the KGMS Calendar at KalamazooRockClub.org during the first week of November.

ANNUAL SHOW

Our 2013 SHOW is **MIGHTY MICHIGANDERS, "from Brachiopods to Mastodons"**

In each issue I will mention interesting facts to get us ready for the show.

MASTODON GENERAL FACTS

1. The Ice Age ended in New York about 12,000 years ago. Mastodons loved the cold weather.
2. Mastodons were one of the largest animals living here during and after the Ice Age. Mastodons lived here until about 9,000-11,000 years ago and then became extinct.
3. Scientists can test mastodon bones (radiocarbon dating) to determine how long ago the animal lived.
4. Mastodons had a heavy fur coat which made them feel very warm after the Ice Age ended.
5. Their fur coat had three layers with a heavy layer of fat just beneath the skin
6. Their fur color was yellow-brown to reddish-brown.
7. Mastodons had small ears and a short tail which meant less heat loss.

Note: Modern elephants have large ears to cool their blood in the warmer climates where they live.

What is the difference between a mastodon and a mammoth?

The American mastodon is different from the woolly mammoth (also found in Michigan but in fewer numbers). Mastodons had straighter tusks and both the body and head of the mastodon is longer and squatter than the woolly mammoth (its back doesn't slope like a mammoth's).

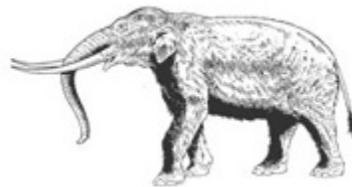
Mastodon's were about the size of an Asiatic elephant of today, but it's ears were smaller than modern elephants. They had thick body hair similar to a mammoth, but mastodon teeth suggest the diet of a browser, not a grazer (unlike modern elephants and mammoths). The also lacks the high, peaked knob on the head seen on the woolly mammoth. Mastodons are an older species, originating in Africa 35 million years ago and entering North America about 15 million years ago.

Source:

statesymbolsusa.org

The State Fossil is a Giant (pdf): Michigan.gov

David P. Thomas, Sr., Dept. of Physical Science, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106



UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

Our December meeting will be our Christmas Party. The dinner is potluck, and the Club asks that members bring a dish to pass that will serve from 2 to 12 people. Please bring your own place settings and silverware. We need a crafty person/persons to make 10 centerpieces for the tables, they are given away in a drawing at the end of the party! Prizes are also needed for the games we play. Please bring them to the November meeting. It could be a rock or mineral, just please make sure it is clean and labeled correctly. It can be a rock, mineral, book, a lapidary item or anything else related to our hobby.



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The 38th Annual ROCKBOUND SEMINAR Hosted by MGAGS (Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society)

Never heard of MGAGS?

MGAGS is a unique, statewide organization whose main activity each year is a "Rockhound Weekend", a seminar where you can experience hands-on workshops and other programs. Some will be about cutting and polishing stones. There will be classes with beading projects and dichroic glass, also demonstrations and programs about fossils and geodes, etc.

There will probably be a class where you can learn how to "set" stones, practice silversmithing, other jewelry-making and others perhaps a class on "wire-wrap" or gem trees -- all related to our great hobby. The goal is to have about 20 different topics to choose from each day. Some classes may have limited attendance. See website or call for details.

The schedule will be ready April 2013

TICKETS: Advance registration is only \$15.00 (adult) per day or \$25.00 for two days.

At the door: \$18.00 (adult) for one day or \$30.00 for two days **Students:** \$5.00 per day.

LOCATION: Western Michigan University, Rood Hall
near West Michigan Ave. and Rankin Ave. (East of Howard St.),
Kalamazoo, Michigan

The dates: Saturday, June 8th (9am-5pm) and Sunday, June 9th (9am-4pm) 2013

For further information:

Email: info@mgags.org

Don Brown: 734-421-8159

Marve/Kitty: 231-740-5512

For schedules, / Advance tickets, and more see www.mgags.org OR call Don or Marve

Ask about prepay for limited attendance classes and request flyers. Schedule will be ready in April. MGAGS welcomes new members! Plan on attending and have a GREAT time!

GENERAL MINUTES KALAMAZOO GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL SOCIETY (KGMS) FOR OCTOBER 2, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Bill Mitchell, President, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Portage Senior Center.

1. After twelve visitors and new members introduced themselves to the club there were adult and children door prize drawings. The children winners were Breanna Chapman and Casey and Cody. The adult winners were Bill Mitchell, Karen Schug, and Mary Johnson. Winners were encouraged to pass their rock/mineral specimen around for all to see.
2. Bill verified attendees for fossil collecting at the Rockport State Recreation area and the LaFarge Alpena Cement Quarry Alpena, Michigan on Saturday October 6th. Jerry and Allison VanNocker, Tony Payne, Dennis Guy, Marshall and Davis Williams plus Christine and Rudy Silich were planning on attending. In addition, time, directions, and equipment requirements for the dig at the Byholt Gravel Pit on October 13th from noon to 4 p.m. were discussed and will be available on our website.
3. Bill provided information about the annual Michigan Geological and Gemcraft Society (MGAGS/www.mgags.org) seminars/workshops, which will be held in June at Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MI. There are silver smith classes, cabochon cutting and polishing demonstrations, and workshops, etc. which relate to geology and lapidary. They will need our help so club members are encouraged to think of



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ways they could help.

4. Bill told us Diane Peterson has filled the newsletter editor position. If we have news articles or information that we think would be interesting for the club members please send it to her. She is planning a series of biographical articles about club members and their various geology interests. The GEMS newsletter will continue to be sent out by email and hard copy. Club members should make sure that Diane has their current, correct address. Also, Diane handles our Sunshine Committee mailings of birthday cards. She provided a sign up sheet at the front table for members to include their birthday information and mailing address.

5. Bill introduced our presenter Chad Wyatt who provided information about the mining methods used at the Doe Run Mine in Missouri. Chad previously worked at this mine, which is the largest lead mine in the world and includes concentration of zinc, silver, and copper. He also had worked at the Newmont Gold Company, which processes gold, silver, and mercury.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Vice President's Report:

1. Elizabeth Schau identified the following topics for future monthly general meetings.
 - a. November - Members show favorite finds from summer collecting. Members will be meeting in the smaller room since the Portage Senior Center is an election-polling site.
 - b. December - Christmas Party
 - c. January - No meeting
 - d. February - still open
 - e. March - Evonne Gaskin, EM Gem, will discuss synthetic minerals
 - f. April - get ready for the show
 - g. May - "after show" discussions
 - h. June - possibly the Michigan Core Lab samples

Treasurer's Report:

1. Board approved; report will be submitted for audit.
2. Demerly's have paid for their spot at the 2013 annual show.

Secretary's Report:

1. Bill will make sure September's General Meeting Minutes get added to the November GEMS newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scholarship:

1. Bill Mitchell will contact Western at the beginning of the year to offer potential submitters information about the scholarship.

Sunshine Club:

1. Diane Peterson handles our Sunshine Committee mailings of birthday cards. She provided a sign up sheet at the front table for members to include their birthday information and mailing address.
2. To help keep our mailing addresses accurate and ensure club members receive information, we will ask for email/postal mail addresses when club members renew membership.

Website:

1. Diane is working on an article about quartz for the website.
2. She encouraged members to provide her with articles of field trips, including pictures if available.
3. She's developing links to items of interest for youth.

KGMS/Kingman Museum Joint Efforts:

1. Jerry and Allison VanNocker met with Katy Avery, Kingman Museum Education staff member, to define roles, discuss monthly programs,



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available dates, target audience, etc. Four topics were developed and dates decided:

- a. Mineral Mysteries – October 13, 2012
- b. Mineral Properties – December 8, 2012
- c. Glaciations – February 9, 2013
- d. Beach Stones – April 13, 2013.
- e. Bill Mitchell volunteered for the Glaciations program and Jack Fuller volunteered for the Beach Stones presentation. Allison and Jerry will handle Mineral Mysteries and Mineral Properties. All members are invited to assist. Efforts will include KGMS membership recruitment.

Swap Meet/Tailgate:

1. Dennis Guy reported on the results of the first Annual Tailgate/Swap meet. We had 6 vendors – 4 from the club and 2 outsiders. The club received \$86.15 in donations as a result of the sale. The expenses were between \$40-50.00. Outreach efforts were highly successful and resulted in many of the new members/visitors attending tonight's meeting.
2. Local Boy Scout group sold coffee and cookies. Terry Buder suggested we provide each of the Boy Scouts with an egg carton to thank them, encourage geology interest, and interest in our club. The membership agreed.

2013 Annual Show:

1. Theme expanded to "Mighty Michiganders... Brachiopods to Mastodons."

Field Trips:

1. Alpena, Michigan – October 6, 2012. Rockport and LaFarge Cement. Tony Payne will be the on-site KGMS representative. October 13 Byholt Gravel Pit. Ken Ahrens will be the on-site KGMS representative. Attendees will need steel toed shoes, safety vests and glasses, and hard hats.
2. Let Bill Mitchell know if you plan to attend.

Mineral Study Group:

1. The October topic will be Agates and the meeting place for October and November will be at Jack Fuller's home. The November topic will be decided during the October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kingman Museum of Natural History Battle Creek, MI has asked if the club would be interested in participating in their "Spooky Science Saturday" program held on October 27, 2012. The public attendance has been 3,000 kids during the 5-hour span. Participation requirements would be a hands-on activity appropriate for youth ages 6-12. There is no fee to participate.
2. It was determined that for this year we did not have the personnel available to handle this activity, but we should pursue for next year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Board meeting for October 15th will be at the VanNocker home – 13101 East Armour Lane Battle Creek, MI 49014
2. General Meeting for November will be in the smaller room since the Portage Senior Center is an election-polling site.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40.

Allison VanNocker, Secretary

Minutes approved



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President

Bill Mitchell
269-375-5678

Vice President

Elizabette Schau
269-344-7198

Secretary

Allison VanNocker
269-979-3348

Treasurer

Kate Dutrow/Chet Parrow
269-372-2177

Education Committee Chairperson

Sherrri Crum
269-383-3731

Show Committee Chairperson

Jerry VanNocker
269-979-3348

Field Trip Coordinator

Jack Fuller
269-353-5372

MWF Liason

Marve Starbuck
269-649-1991

Club Dues

Due by December 31st
Family \$15.00/year
Single \$13.50/year
Student \$8.00/year
Senior/Couple \$13.50/year (age 60)
Senior/Single \$10.00/year (age 60)
Students \$8.00/year

Board Members

Tony Payne
269-962-4912

Jack Fuller

269-353-5372

Diane Peterson
269-962-0874

Library

Jack Fuller
269-353-5372

Meetings

First Tuesday each month except:
January, July and August.

Work bees/Picnic Dates

TBA in July and August

Meetings Location

Portage Senior Center
Portage, MI

Website Committee

kalamazoorockclub.org

Jack Fuller
269- 353-5372

Jerry VanNocker
269-979-3348

Diane Peterson
269-962-0874

MI RockClubsPages.org

Diane Peterson
269-962-0874

Editor/Publisher

Diane Peterson
269-962-0874

Annual Show

Annually the weekend before Mother's Day
(May 3rd, 4th & 5th 2013) at the
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake Street (Kalamazoo Fairgrounds)
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
(269) 383-8778

[Kalamazoo Expo Center](http://www.kalcounty.com/parks/show_calendar_expo.php)

www.kalcounty.com/parks/show_calendar_expo.php

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies