

# The Petoskey Stone

Oakland County Earth Science Club  
WWW.OCESC.COM

September 2009

## Club Meeting

**Sept. 2nd  
7:30**

Hi Club Members,  
I hope everyone had a good time at our Annual Picnic at the Rives plantation. I had a good time and made a couple great buys.

**I will have to make calls to cover our refreshments and program for September. I'm sure someone will come to my aid and save the evening.**

**I will have a new schedule to start for the year give the club a little consideration, I know you all have great interests and ideas.**

See you soon

## President's Message

Greetings Club Members,

Hope all had a great summer, with plenty of rock hounding experiences to talk about at our next meeting. In fact, if anyone did find any rocks or minerals this summer, please bring them to the next meeting and share them with everyone. Pat and I have a couple of new finds that we will be bringing. I do not know what program we have scheduled, but maybe there will be enough time for some show and tell.

I want to thank everyone who came to our Open House and picnic in July. We had about 60 people. It rained a little, but not enough to dampen our good time. Thank you for all the great food that was prepared and for the good company.

Pat and I are going to Kentucky September 26 to October 4. The Rockhounds of Central Kentucky will be having their 19th annual show on October 3 and 4 in Lexington at the National Guard Armory. I have contacted the President of the club for information on rockhounding in the area. Hopefully I will have some new information on places to go, but if not, we will be looking for geodes, fossils, and minerals in road-cuts and streambeds. Last year a club member went with us and filled up the bed of his pickup truck with geodes, so there is plenty for all to find. We are actually going on our trip for 2 weeks, but right now we don't know where we will be the first week. If anyone is interested in joining us, please give us a call. We should have more information soon.

We really enjoyed the banquet at our last meeting, and the presentation by George Matyas. Too bad we can't have a banquet at every meeting, because all the

food is so good and it is such a good time. But I am sure we will have a good time at our next meeting on Wednesday, September 2. Hope to see you all there.

Your President, Jim Rives

## October 9-11, MMS Rock Show VOLUNTEERS NEEDED---

We all know that the Metropolitan Detroit Show is coming sooner than we think--Oct. 9, 10, and 11. Some of the preparation schedule for the show may be a bit different since we're in a new location, but our members will be needed to help set up for the show.

Please check your calendars for Oct. 6, 8 and 9 to see if you are available to help when we are needed. On Oct. 6 you can volunteer your help to set up the show (covering tables, helping with show cases, vacuuming rugs, placing the booth signs, etc.) starting at Noon; you can arrive anytime after Noon too, including early evening. Enter the Gibraltar Trade Center through Door #7. We will have a sign-up sheet at our September meeting.

We'll also have a sign-up sheet for working at our booth during the show. Our members work for 2 hours at a time as possible, so check your calendars for Oct. 9, 10, 11 to see when you can donate a couple hours. We appreciate your help ! We need your help ! Thank you !

Do plan to spend more than 2 hours at the show. There is always so much to see and so many rock/mineral/fossil people to talk to, so give yourself time for that, as well.

The show is in the Gibraltar Trade Center, just off I-94. We will answer any of your questions during the September meeting.

Katherine Van Hoy

## The Petoskey Stone

**Upcoming Events** (more events can be found at [www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com) or <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Calendar/>) For detailed information, please visit the club's website.

Sept. 11-13 Toledo (Ohio) Gem & Rockhound show, Stranahan Great Hall, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd; info- Jerri Heer, 419-389-9204, [jheerx6@aol.com](mailto:jheerx6@aol.com)  
Sept. 11-13 500 Earth Science's Club show, Hancock Co. 4-H fairgrounds, info- Don Mahoney 574-892-5264, [dmcnaclu@aol.com](mailto:dmcnaclu@aol.com)  
Sept. 12-14 Tulip City Gem & Min Club show, Holland (Mich.) Civic Center, 150 W 8<sup>th</sup> St., [info-cfalstad@ameritech.net](mailto:info-cfalstad@ameritech.net)  
Sept. 19-20, Livingston Gem & Min Society show, Hartland Consolidated Schools, 9525 E Highland Rd, Howell, MI, info- Chuck Amberger  
Sept 25-27 Hamilton, IL, Geodefest 2009, Wortheren Earth Searchers. Montebello Access Area, Riverfront, Fri-Sun, Contact: Merlin Tobias, 1765 E Co Rd 900, Carthage, IL 62321, (573) 518-4739, [lstcrackgeodes.com](http://lstcrackgeodes.com)  
Sept 26-27 Traverse City, MI, Annual Show, Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club, Grand Traverse Heritage Ctr, 322 6th St, Contact: Karen Thomas, 2287 Ingersoll Rd SW, Fife Lake, MI 49633  
Oct. 9-11 Warren, MI, Annual Greater Detroit Show, Michigan Mineralogical Society, Gibraltar Trade Center North, 237 N. River Rd., Mt Clemens, MI (Exit 237 off I-94). , Fri 9:00-7:00, Sat 10:00-7:00, Sun 11:00-5:00, Contact: Carol Werner, (248) 887-3906, [briarhillwerner@comcast.net](mailto:briarhillwerner@comcast.net)  
Oct 17-18: Clio, MI, 42nd Annual Show, Flint Rock & Gem Club, Carter Middle School, Rogers Lodge Dr, Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact Ed Hearn, (810) 687-2339, [dleo324@comcast.net](mailto:dleo324@comcast.net)  
Oct 23-25: Mason, MI. 44rd Annual Show, Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society, Ingham Co Fair Grounds, MainArena, 700 E. Ash, Fri 6:00-9:00, Sat 10:00-7:00, Sun 11:00-5:00. Contact: Alan Hukill, (517) 641-6125, [Facetman60@yahoo.com](mailto:Facetman60@yahoo.com)

### 2009 Refreshments

Jan.	Linda Whitehead
Feb.	Pat Rives, Debbie Rathburn
Mar.	Lynnette & Tony West, Phyllis Keene
April	Chris Schull, Sue Klopfer
May	Jackie Presson, Monica Rowe
June	Banquet
Sept.	
Oct.	
Nov.	
Dec.	Club Potluck

### 2009 Programs

Jan.	Pam & Mike Brady-"A Desert by Any Other Name"
Feb.	Dave Whitehead
Mar.	Tony West
April	Silent Auction
May	J. & P. Schnur-flint knapping
June	George Matyas, Cave of Giant Crystals
Sept.	
Oct.	
Nov.	
Dec.	

Please look over this list and see if you can fill in somewhere. Remember you do not have to do a program yourself. You can elect to be responsible for getting a speaker or a video etc.

--Betty Cockerham, Program Chair

### **September Birthdays**

9 Luke Miller; 11 Greg Gressa; 18 Clifford Winters; 23 Andy Caceres

## The Petoskey Stone

**OCES 1Board Meeting** June 3, 2009 Meeting called to order 6:05 pm. Attendance: Betty Cockerham, Tony West, Dwight Keith, Eleanor Snyder, Katherine Van Hoy, Jim Rives, Andy Caceres, Leon Pearson, Nancy Mathura, Tom Pierson, Gerry Runkle. Secretary's report approved as it appeared in the Petoskey Stone. Report given on septarium nodules field trip by Eleanor Snyder. Considered not to be a good option as a field trip due difficulty getting to the best location. Discussion on publishing financial reports. A motion made, seconded and passed to stop publication of club financial reports. Nancy Mathura will be compiling a report on the books in the club library. A reminder: the last day for the grinding room to open is June 1. The room will be closed for the summer and reopened in September. Discussion on training people to use machines before they can go into the grinding room. Motion made, seconded and passed for training necessity Cathy Roller now convalescing very well. Parks and Recreation are again asking for classes. Leon will check into state of our club as a charitable organization. For those who want to get the Petoskey Stone on line instead of in the mail, we plan to invite Laura Sheffer to the board meeting for advise. The four-position belt grinder needs a replacement belt. Suggested to try the Bombay Co for replacement. Meeting adjourned 6:25 pm.

**General Meeting Minutes** June 3, 2009 Meeting called to order 7:35 pm. Jim Rives opened the meeting by announcing Leon's return as treasurer. It's great to have Leon back feeling much better. Also Eleanor truly gives "grateful thanks." Eleanor introduced our visitor, Sue, to club members. We are glad to have Kathy Roller back giving us her own health update. Secretary's report approved as printed in the Petoskey Stone. Treasurer's report is unavailable. Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed stating club financial reports shall not be published. Katherine Van Hoy has announced the need to prepare for the October 9-11 MMS Show. Volunteers are needed for three to four Fridays in July. Sign up sheet is being passed. On June 1 the grinding room was opened to six people. Since most people will be taking vacations, etc., the grinding room will reopen in September. If anything needs repair in the grinding room, let Leon know. This is for club members. Nancy Mathura has given information on MGAG's seminar June 13 and 14 in Webberville, MI. This is a "fantabulous" learning opportunity and great for fellowship with other rockhounds. Dwight Keith will be having another wire wrapping class in the fall. Once again the CAI reps have asked that our club offer classes relating to our hobby. Jim has announced his trip to Kentucky. Anyone interested contact Jim Rives, 248 879-6641. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Roberta Thomas, secretary

**Stamps**

## The Petoskey Stone

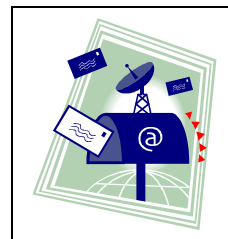
By Karri Nienhuis; Tulip City Conglomerate, June 2009

I was recently at the post office buying stamps and asked if they had any stamps with Gems or Minerals. The lady pulled out what they had: Flag, Purple Heart, or Homer Simpson. I was amazed that Homer made it on a stamp before a Gem stone!

If you agree, please write a short note and mail to the below address requesting a Gem Stone Stamp!

(no offense, Homer!)

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Comm. Stamp Development  
US Postal Service  
Rm 5013  
1735 North Lynn St.  
Arlington, VA 2209-6432



### Hints and Tips

From Joan Connor, Historian of The Crystal Gazer, Aug. '09: I found in an old Gemstone article—to clean limestone out of the ridges in fossils, soak them in some vinegar until the bubbling stops. The vinegar reacts with the limestone to form carbon dioxide and weakens the limestone. A large pin or piece of stiff wire can then be used to scrape away the excess limestone.

From Rocky Beader of The Crystal Gazer, Aug. '09: Here's something that I stumbled on in one of those old Lap journals that I have cause to read: how to dop a stone at room temperature. This does work, and it isn't too messy. You will use a material called Duco Cement, which is available at most hardware stores, Take one part cement and three parts corn starch and mix well. This will make the cement stiffer. Then use the stiffened cement to attach a stone to the dop stick. Let it harden overnight and the next day you will be ready to do your grinding and shaping and polishing like usual. You detach the stone from the dop stick by immersing the stone and stick in acetone (again, overnight). This technique was reported in a Lap. journal back in the sixties. I tried it and it works. This is the only way to dop up opals without damaging the 'fire' in them. They just do not like any heating. If you try it out, please let me know how it goes for you.

### FLINT

Michele Yamanaka, MWF Junior Activities Chairman, MWF Newsletter, June '09

#### What is FLINT?

Did you know that Flint and Amethyst are related? They are both in the quartz family and are forms of silica.

Amethyst can form in crystals you can see. We call it "crystalline." Flint forms in crystals too small to be seen and that grow together. We call it "cryptocrystalline."

**What does FLINT look like?** Usually it is dark-colored and found in nodules (lumps) in chalk deposits. Tiny remains of fossil sponges often are in it. Many people argue about if chert and flint are the same. We aren't sure. Usually if it is light colored, we call it "Chert" and if dark-colored, "Flint." While usually brown or black, there are areas where flint is found in red, green, blue, purple, yellow or pink, such as Flint Ridge, Ohio. It can be banded, spotted, or multi-colored and have beautiful patterns like some agate. Ohio chose Flint to be its State gemstone because

## The Petoskey Stone

this kind of flint, which has the hardness of 7, can be polished into beautiful jewelry.

**What is FLINT used for?** Flint breaks like glass, making very sharp hard edges. Prehistoric people and Native Americans used pieces of flint for weapons and cutting instruments like arrowheads and knives.

Another feature of flint is that if hit with steel, a spark is produced. So flint was used to light fires and fire gunpowder in old style flintlock guns. Today we use flint mainly in making nice pottery or jewelry.

Here is a Quartz Family Tree:

	<b>Quartz</b>	
<u>Opal</u> (sometimes opal is included)	<u>Crystalline</u>	
<u>Cryptocrystalline</u>		
Opal: non-crystalline + Water molecules.	Rock Crystal, Rose Quartz, Amethyst,	Chalcedony Agate,
Carnelian, Onyx,	Citrine, Smoky Quartz, Tiger-eye.	Chrysoprase.

(editor's note: The original graphic was not available in this newsletter's format, so the above 'tree' is a text form of that information. The original article is available on [www.Amfed.org/mwf](http://www.Amfed.org/mwf))