

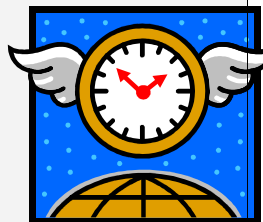
# The Petoskey Stone

Oakland County Earth Science Club  
WWW.OCESC.COM

January 2010

## Club Meeting

Jan. 6th  
7:30



Elections!  
See article at  
right

Club Dues are  
now due-  
please see pg  
2

Refreshments  
Jane  
And  
Linda W.

## President's Message 2010

Greetings members and Happy  
New Year,

Hope everyone enjoyed the  
holidays recently and is looking  
forward to what the New Year brings.

What a great banquet we had again  
this year. The food was excellent as  
usual, but since everyone brings their  
own special dishes, there is always  
more than enough food for everyone  
and it always tastes so good. I am  
looking forward to our next pot luck  
already. Special thanks also to Cathy  
Roller for her interesting and  
informative program on Lassen  
Volcanic National Park in northern  
California. Great presentation Cathy.

At our last meeting, things were a  
little confusing as to board  
nominations. I am afraid this was my  
fault. It should have been done in  
October and voted on in November,  
so the new board members could be  
installed in December. Cathy Roller  
has agreed to take on the  
responsibility of filling the needed  
positions with the help of Katherine  
VanHoy and Eleanor Snyder. They  
will be looking for a new board  
member, a new secretary, possibly a  
new Vice President, and possibly a  
new President if our current Vice  
President does not move up to be the  
President. Cathy and Eleanor will be  
making phone calls looking for  
volunteers to fill these positions, and  
at the January meeting we will be  
voting on the nominees. In the  
meantime, if anyone would like to  
volunteer and make their jobs easier,

please feel free to give them a call to offer  
your services. It would be greatly  
appreciated.

Your President, Jim Rives

## IMPORTANT- Elections

President Jim Rives has asked that during  
the January 6, 2010 Rock Club regular  
membership meeting, we hold an official  
election of officers and board members. If  
you are interested in running for: Co-  
President, Vice President, Recording  
Secretary, or Board member, please call  
Katherine Van Hoy or Eleanor Snyder at  
248-698-4386 PRIOR to the January 6  
club meeting. Nominations will be taken  
from the floor during the January 6  
meeting. Election will be held and  
installation will then take place -- all  
during the January 6 club meeting. Your  
club needs you. PLEASE CONSIDER  
RUNNING FOR ONE OF THESE CLUB  
POSITIONS. Thank you, Cathy Roller,  
Eleanor Snyder, and Katherine Van Hoy.

## Mike and Pam Brady present a program on recycling

Pretty soon, several communities in the  
north Oakland County area are scheduled  
to begin to offer recycling programs in  
various forms. Please join OCESC  
members from Troy, Mike and Pam Brady,  
as they demonstrate the eco-balance of  
Mother Earth and the importance of  
recycling, describe the hierarchy of  
resource conservation and why it is  
important to recycle.

--See Recycling Program,  
continued on page 3

## 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.

January 15, 2010: Club volunteers needed at the CAI club room to begin sorting material for the next auction. It is not necessary to be there at an exact time, nor to stay for the entire session.

January 2010: starting Wednesday, January 13th in the CAI club room, for club members. Classes will run for 8 weeks on Wednesday night from 7:00 to 9:00, except on Club meeting nights. The charge is \$35.00. If you have tools you are welcome to bring them. If you do not, I have whatever you will need. Silver and stones for making the jewelry are included in the cost of the class. Contact Eleanor Snyder if interested.

Jan-Feb 2010: Mt Clemens Gem & Lap. Soc Rock and Mineral workshop, classes to assist students grades 3-6 in Science Olympiad competition. Info- Sandra Chownyk, 586-469-2939, yourhobby@yahoo.com

### 2010 Refreshments

Jan. Jane \_\_\_ & Linda Whitehead  
Feb. Phyllis Keene, Debbie Rathburn, Lynette West  
Mar. Linda \_\_\_, Eric \_\_\_\_  
April Chris Schull, Sue Klopfer  
May Jackie Presson, Monica Rowe  
June Banquet  
Sept. \_\_\_\_\_  
Oct. \_\_\_\_\_  
Nov. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dec. \_\_\_\_\_

### 2010 Programs

Jan. Brady's – Recycling Today  
Feb. Roberta Thomas - Selenite  
Mar. Dwight Keith  
April Silent Auction  
May ID specimens- bring yours!  
June \_\_\_\_\_(available)  
Sept. \_\_\_\_\_(available)  
Oct. \_\_\_\_\_(available)  
Nov. Club Member Swap/Sale  
Dec. \_\_\_\_\_(available)

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

### **January Birthdays**

1 JIM RIVES  
1 JACKIE MIDTGARD  
6 GEORGE MATYAS  
10 JANE GUNTERMAN  
12 ROSE SEIBERT

[I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances.](#)

[Martha Washington \(1732 - 1802\)](#)

### ***Recycling Program, continued from pg1***

They'll discuss what are the most important items to recycle and why recycling affects all

## The Petoskey Stone

of us. They'll also touch on the importance of our daily habits with respect to water quality and how it affects our global ecosystem, from the use of bottled water to brushing our teeth to boating in the summertime. Share your recycling experiences with the group, too.

When: after the business meeting of the Oakland County Earth Science Club on January 6, 2010

---

### Dues Dues Dues

---

Yes, that time of year is here. Please see Eleanor wherever you can find her and pay your \$20.00 for the year 2010; either check or cash is acceptable. Thank you.

If you are not able to attend the January Meeting, you can send a check to Leon Pearson, or to "Treasurer". His address is 3137 Shawnee, Waterford 48329

---

### Silver Class Starts January 13th

Silver Class will be meeting Wednesday January 13 at 7:00 PM (We go until 9:00) in the club room next to the grinding room (at the CAI building). If interested, you can also see me at the Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

I have tools and all material you will need. If you are interested in the class and will not be at the Jan. meeting, give me a call at 248 698 4386. Former members please come on the 20<sup>th</sup>.  
-Eleanor Snyder



### Club Silent Auction

Time to get minerals together for the April auction. We will work in the clubroom on Friday afternoons starting January 15th. and into February until we have enough items for the auction. We will be there between noon and 4:00. Join us when you can during those times. If you want to improve on rock/fossil ID, this is a good time and place to do it. See you there!  
-Katherine Van Hoy

## The Petoskey Stone

### Program Notes from Betty

Hi Club Members, I hope everyone had a good time at our banquet and had plenty to eat. I know everything was delicious. We are lucky with so many good cooks. The turnout was great, I think we had about 70 people and again new members!!!! The Volcano video was interesting. Thank you Cathy Roller.

We will be having an ID class on our May meeting. Plan to bring an example or two from home to use in our class.

Our program in January will be on RECYCLING by Pam Brady. The way of the future and effecting everyone and our way of life. Refreshments in January will be provided by Jane & Linda Whitehead.

See you in January HAPPY NEW YEAR -Betty Cockerham, Program and Refreshment Chairman

**OCES Board Meeting** The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 The minutes were read and approved. A report was given on the grinding room. We have 8-10 people attending each night. It was decided to have the grinding room open two nights a week. New blades are on order for the saws. The money was already in the budget. Linda Whitehead will be taking care of the library while Nancy Mathura is unavailable.

The treasurer's report was given and accepted. We have \$6,456.74 in the bank. Tom Pierson and Jerry Runkel approved the treasurer's report. Under old business was a discussion on Election of Officers and Board Members. A discussion was held re: Incorporating the Club. Midwest Club is asking us to save cancelled postage stamps. Snyder is going to start another silversmithing class the 2nd week in January.

We had several nominations for our board Pat Caceres as Secty, Chris Schultz, Andy Caceres, Maria P and Laurie Wilkins our newest member offered to fill a board chair. The meeting adjourned to the program of volcanoes by Cathy Roller.  
-Betty Cockerham, Pro tem secty.

OCES General Meeting Minutes December 9, 2009. Meeting called to order 7:40 by President, Jim Rives. Visitor, Laurie, introduced to the club along with Cathy, Phyllis Keene's friend, who plans to become a club member. It has been brought to our attention by Betty Cockerham that there is an error in the minutes regarding the club becoming a charitable organization. The word "would" should have read "could". So noted. Secretary's report approved as corrected. Treasurer's report read by Leon Pearson. Approved as read. Leon has mentioned that we will continue to work at making the club a charitable organization. Further news forthcoming in upcoming meetings. Grinding room is going strong. We have been having up to nine people working on a Monday. There is consideration that we may open up the room on a second day of the week.

## The Petoskey Stone

Don't forget the \$1 workroom fee going to CAI. Silver smithing class will begin the second Wednesday of January for eight weeks--except on club meeting night. The cost is \$35. There is still a need for a program for May and June. Refreshments have been taken care of. Nominations have been opened to fill the need for vice president, secretary and three (?) board members for 2010. Pat Caceres, secretary: Chris Shull, Marie Pitania, Laurie, Andy Caceres, board members, or Andy Caceres possible nominee for vice president. In advance I apologize for any errors in the names. It became very difficult and confusing to hear the nominations. Katherine Van Hoy has brought before the club the need to help sort and tag rocks/minerals for the coming club auction in April. A sheet is being passed around for helpers beginning Friday, January 15, 2010. It is not necessary to be there at an exact time, nor to stay for the entire session. Thanking volunteers in advance. It has been suggested that for the May meeting if you have any rocks you would like to have identified, bring them to the meeting. Meeting adjourned 8:03. To be followed by a presentation given by Cathy Roller on Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Respectfully submitted, Roberta Thomas, secretary

### **Illinois Amber has Scientists Stuck for Answers**

By Henry Fountain – New York Times News Service

(via The Conglomerate Dec.2009, et.al.)

Scientists who study amber—fossilized resin that oozed from injured plants millions of years ago—divide the most

common type into a couple of categories based on chemical makeup.

Some consists of resin from gymnosperms, or conifers, with the most famous being Baltic amber. Other amber, including that from the Dominican Republic, is made of resin from angiosperms, or the flowering plants.

But amber found in a coal seam in southern Illinois appears to confound categories. It has a chemical makeup similar to amber from angiosperms, but it dates from about 200 million years before the flowering plants evolved.

The amber, in droplets barely a quarter-inch in diameter, was analyzed by researchers at Southern Illinois University and described in the journal Science. At 320 million years old, the Illinois amber is far older than other known types. The

discovery demonstrates that plants evolved complex resins for use as protection against injury much earlier than thought, geochemist Ken B. Anderson said.

“And now that we know it’s there, we want to nail down when it evolved,” he said.

“Ultimately, we want to know what kind of plants were producing it.”

## The Petoskey Stone



### **Midwest Federation CANCELLED STAMP COMMITTEE**

by Lyle & Colleen Kugler MWF Newsletter, Dec. 2009

When we receive stamps from the clubs, we go through a couple o sorting processes. As explained last month, we sort out the bad and keep the good, but we also do a sorting step of placing like kinds of stamps together. For example, there are categories of lighthouses, airplanes, cars, flowers (several different kins of these), Disney, Looneytunes, states, etc. There are also different denominations that go together. Right now, with the postage being 44 cents, we are not receiving enough of them to sort into separate categories, so we just sort all of the 44 cent stmps into one pile. Sometimes we get a package including a lot of the old 3 and 4 cent stamps. We don't try to sort these into different categories, we just put all the 3 cent stamps together.

Whenever it is possible, we sort into categories first and then into denominations. The best way to do this is with Ziploc bags or envelopes. As you receive a few stamps each month from your members, just slip each category or denomination into a baggie or envelope. The 3 X 4 inch baggies that you would put specimens in work very well for this.

This sorting process can be a lot of work for us, especially when we receive a large package. This is another BIG way of HOW YOUR CLUB CAN HELP! So, step number 4 is CATEGORIZE YOUR STAMPS.

(editor's note: Individual members who save lots of stamps could pre sort theirs, too)

Send **cancelled postage stamps** for the Endowment Fund to:

Lyle Kugler 612 S.E. 3rd St. Aledo, IL 61231

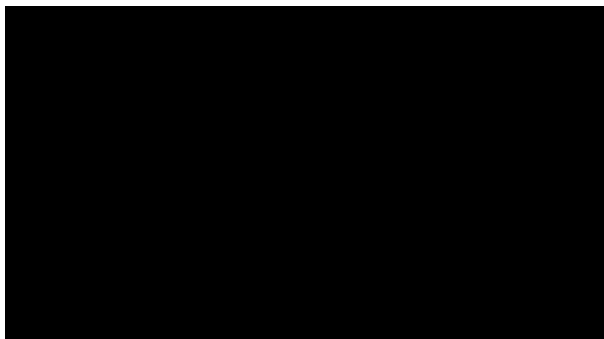


Diagram of the [Earth](#)'s seasons as seen from the north.

Far right: December solstice ([Wikipedia](#))

### **Winter Solstice**

Did you know the 'shortest day' of the year in the Northern Hemisphere of Earth is known as the Winter

Solstice? It occurs every year about December 21-22. But, when it gets down to the science of the situation, why is it so cold?! It is not cold because we are farther away

## The Petoskey Stone

from the Sun in the Winter—we are actually at our closest distance! What explains this oddity? It is the tilt of the Earth that causes the seasonal changes.

As you see in the illustration, even though Earth is closest to the Sun at this time of year, the North part of the globe is tilted back, away from the Sun. This tilt ( a.k.a the axis of rotation) is what makes Winter colder than summer (at which time the globe is tilted toward the Sun.) That more oblique angle between Sun and Earth allows much of the Sun's energy to pass us by. If Earth had no tilt in relation to the Sun at all, that is if Earth was exactly at a right angle in relation to its plane of orbit, we would have the same 'season' year around

-Laura Sheffer

## Hardest Substance Ever Made by Man

The Rockpile, Dec. 2009, via Cedar Valley Gems, Nov. 2009

General Electric scientists announced the hardest substance ever made by man or nature, an entirely new material. It is crystal hard enough to scratch a diamond and able to withstand twice as much heat. Named Borazon, it is expected to have far-reaching impact in industrial polishing and cutting operations. The inventor, Dr. R.H. Wentorf, started with boron nitride, commonly called white graphite, and is very similar in appearance and feel to talcum powder. Using pressures of about one million pounds per square inch and temperatures of over 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit, he changed the crystal's structure from hexagonal to cubic, like diamond. While a diamond burns at 1600 degrees F, Borazon can withstand temperatures up to 3500 degrees F.

(Editor's note: Borazon is a trademark name of cubic boron nitride (CBN), and Dr. Wentorf first invented the compound in 1957. Today Borazon is used in industrial shaping of tools, especially when high temperatures are involved; in jewelry making, and glass cutting. Borazon can scratch diamonds, and diamonds can scratch Borazon.)