

Beth's Notes

By Beth Harlan

There was an excellent turnout of new and regular members on a cool but pleasant November evening for our meeting. The 5-minute program was about the Copper Country Mineral Retreat that some of our members attended that resulted in many interesting and sometimes valuable finds. Jim Pillar, Lauren Vaughn, Dave Perry and Bonnie Reed's specimens were most interesting. Don Reed and John Harlan's jewelry showed to great advantage what beauty can be revealed in ordinary rocks just waiting to be found, with only a little help from cutting, polishing and setting! Those who attended look forward to next year's event!

Our Club is ready with classes, equipment and volunteer instructors in the rockhound basics. In response to requests and the large numbers of new members, Judy Owen, Education Chairman, scheduled a recent cabochon class.

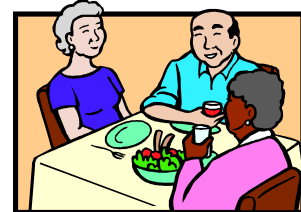
Elk Rapids is interested in starting a Rock Club in their area and would be happy for some assistance. If interested, please talk to Club President Russ Barron. They hope to have a first meeting in January or February and would like some donated specimens or rocks for their upcoming auction.

The door prize this month, a nice chunk of Leland Blue, was donated by Marshall Collins. The lucky winner was a new member, Jennifer Van Wingen. True to the past few meetings, the Rockhound of the Month, Cynthia Vaughn, was not present, but her help with our Show was much appreciated. Our generous and delicious refreshments were provided by the Collins, the Bayers, and the Bokermans.

Lauren Vaughn presented an excellent short program about iron smelters in Michigan. With eventually twenty five smelters in the UP and more in the Lower Peninsula, location depended on water transportation availability. Large amounts of timber were also needed to make the charcoal used in the process of refining the iron. Traces of copper and cobalt resulted in the blue color of some of the slag. Slag was either dumped into the lakes or piled on shore locations near the foundry. The Bluebird Restaurant in Leland was the site of bee hive shaped kilns. The recent road improvements in the area unearthed some quantity of the Leland Blue Stone, which is now prized in jewelry. Other pieces of the slag are washed ashore from the dumping of it over 100 years ago.

*This is Beth's last column. Thank you, Beth!
Look for Charlie Bauman's new column next month!*

Upcoming Events



December 6th

*Annual Meeting
& Holiday Dinner*

Come ring in the Holiday season and celebrate with fellow rockhounds!

Contact the Vaughns (276-6150) by December 1st to sign up and to choose a dish to pass.

Roast Beef will be provided. Bring your own table service and beverage (wine is allowed, no other liquor). \$5 for members/\$8 for guests.

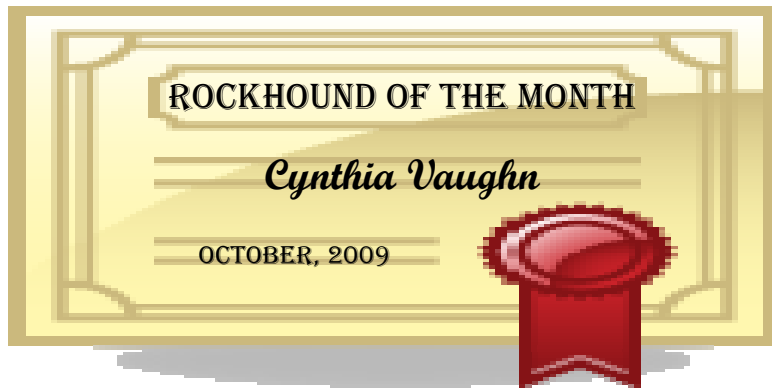
January 19th

Live Auction with Play Money

Bring an item or two (rock-related or not — baked goods are always a favorite). Receive play money and have fun bidding!

2010 Calendar

If you have an idea for a 5-minute or long program, or would like to contribute snacks or a door prize for an upcoming meeting in 2010, please contact Lauren Vaughn at 276-6150 or maple2b@aol.com.



Silversmithing Workshops

There will be a silversmithing workshop offered January and February *if* enough people are interested. It is open to members who have completed the basic silversmithing class. (It is not a class for beginners.) Workshops will be held every Wednesday night from 7-10 pm starting January 6th and ending February 24th. The cost is \$1/night. Call John Matz at 231-223-7644 if interested.

Workshop Use Etiquette

When using the GTARMC workshop during Heritage Center hours - adhere to the posted hours: M-F 10 am to 4:30 pm. Clean the work-room and be ready to leave *before* 4:30 so as not to keep the Center's staff or volunteers waiting. Let's remember our privilege in having this workshop space and being able to use it outside of club classes.



This month marks the last that John Harlan will be documenting our club's activities with his photo pages. (Many, many thanks, John!) If you have any interest in documenting even some of our meetings and shows—several photographers could share the fun—contact our club president, Russ Barron, or newsletter editor, Carol Towar.

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
Dave Perry, Secretary	223-4026	perkad@aol.com
Karen Thomas, Treasurer	879-4658	darcyinc@hughes.net
Judy Owen, Education	922-9619	jowen9619@charter.net
Please call Judy rather than emailing, her Internet service is dial-up		
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