

Charlie's Chatter

by Charlie Baumann

The first meeting of 2010 was a regular business meeting followed by an auction. This was Cher's and my first experience at this type of auction. Each person was given \$500 in play money. We could then purchase the donated items with the funny money. More on this later.

We had 53 people attending. New members introduced themselves. Karen Crane, Myra Hemmingway, Herb Merten, Ruth Bloomer, Cindy and Tom Atkinson.

Big Rapids is forming a Rock and Mineral Club.

They've asked if any of our members would be interested in putting on a presentation. See Lauren Vaughn for details if interested.

The Petoskey Stone Festival is May 29th. A 10' x 10' space is available for \$35.00. Reserve before April 1st and save \$5.00. There will be a Mineral & Lapidary material auction Feb 27th & 28th. Sat. 11am - 6pm, Sun noon - 6pm. Schoolcraft College Visa tech Center bldg. 18600 Haggerty Road Livonia, MI (handouts will be available at the next meeting).

Judy Owen was Rockhound of the Month for November. Thanks, Judy, for keeping our classes filled as education coordinator. Voting slips for Rockhound of the year were available. Winner to be announced next meeting.

I want to thank the Silversmith's teaching team- George Lasich, John Matz, and Jim Kennedy. Cher and I were blown away by the amount of knowledge these three gents have. Besides knowing their trade, they have the ability to convey this knowledge. Thanks guys!

Now onto the auction...talk about a generous club! The array of items brought in for auction was phenomenal. Mineral items included amazonite, smoky quartz, mica cleveite, Indiana geodes, Lafargo Quarry slabs(Alpena), Leland foundry glass, agates, jewelry, and many more. Then came the baked goods...strawberry rhubarb pie, cookies, candies, fudge, rum cake (hic), organic granola, and much more. There were also a couple of miscellaneous items...a large basket of dental care items and packs of scissors and tweezers

Bidding started out slowly, then as people got into it, WOW! Tom Fordyce was the auctioneer. He did a great job, and kept things hopping. Tom started out with the minerals and finished with the baked goods. I purposely spent all my bucks on minerals, so when it came time for the baked goods I wouldn't be enticed with these goodies. All in all it was one heck of a good time. Thanks again for all the generosity.

Upcoming Events



February 16th

5-Minute Program

"Smithsonite"

by Lauren Vaughn

Main Program

Salt Mining in Kansas

DVD

March 16th

5-Minute Program

"Crinoid Fossils"

by Deb Bull

Main Program

"The Morefield Mine (VA)"

by Lauren Vaughn

April 20th

5-Minute Program

"Quartz, Tourmaline, and Polyhedroid Agates"

by Sis Leake & Jim Lutfy

Main Program

"Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grade Rockhound?"

see reverse for more upcoming events around the state...



...More Upcoming Events in Michigan

Fantastical Fossil Gem & Mineral Show

April 30th – May 2nd

Friday 4-8, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5

at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center

contact: Kitty Starbuck 269-649-1991

Huge Rock & Mineral Sale

At the home of Marve & Kitty Starbuck

May 22nd-23rd

Saturday 9-6, Sunday 9-4

contact: Kitty & Marve Starbuck 269-649-1991

MGAGS 36th Annual Rockhound Seminar

and Midwest Faceters Guild Seminar

June 12th & 13th

beginning & advanced workshops, demos, & lectures

Webberville High/Middle School

info: www.mgags.org or www.midwestfacetersguild.org

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 2010

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Photo credits: Alice Hauser

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
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