

Charlie's Chatter

by Charlie Baumann

Our April meeting started on a somber note: Lauren Vaughn told the membership that President Russ Barron is in the hospital for testing. Lauren provided a card for all present to sign. Our prayers are with Russ and family at this trying time. Get well soon, Russ!

There were 55 members present, and two new members: Gwen Van Ness and Mary Jane Anderson. Welcome!

Rockhound of the Month awards were handed out for October and November 2009 to Kevin Gauthier and Judy Owen respectively. March 2010 went to Charlie Baumann.

Judy Owen donated the door prize – only half of which was ready for the meeting and actually awarded: a potted plant that will soon have a stone planter in which to live. Deb Bull was the winner.

Kevin Gauthier announced he will be giving classes on lost wax casting, Fridays in September. More information to come.

Last month Ken Schug and Tom Fordyce gave a lab report regarding the need for a saw blade and polishing wheels. They have come in and will be installed. Tom is in the process of writing the lab procedures. When complete they will be posted in the lab.

Tom came forward and said that some of the students from the cabochon classes were not ready to work without supervision in the lab yet. Lauren said the instructors can request further training for individuals if they feel they are not ready. This is not meant as a penalty, but rather for your safety, and for the longevity of the equipment.

For the short program we had two presenters. Sis Leake presented various samples of quartz: Tourmalinated Quartz - Tourmaline inclusions, Rutile Quartz - Platinum ore inclusions, Manganese Quartz - Manganese inclusions, Phantom Crystal Quartz - crystals within crystals. Most unique. When holding these to light you get to see mother nature at her best: beauti-

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Upcoming Events



May 18th

5-Minute Program
"Bring Your Best Picture Rock"
with Don Reed

Main Program
"Tucson Show 2010"
by Don Reed

May 29th

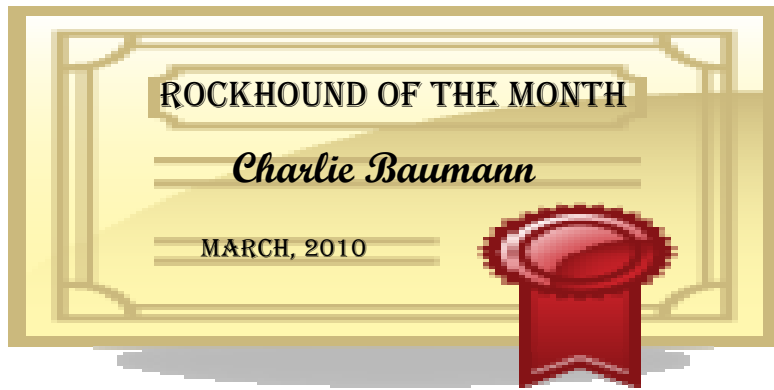
2010 Petoskey Stone Festival
10 am - 4 pm
Barnes Park, Eastport, MI
www.petoskeystonefestival.com

June 12th

LaFarge Quarry Trip
Located near Alpena, MI. Meet hosts Hollis & Karen Thomas at 11 am at quarry. Directions & more info at May meeting.

June 15th

"Silent Auction"
Bring items for the auction and money with which to bid!



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ful patterns within the quartz. Jim Lutfy presented some examples of Polyhedroid Quartz. Polyhedroid Quartz are very rare and are no longer found in the wild. They were originally found in one small spot of "red soil" in Brazil. About 200 kilos were removed and sent to Australia, where they were distributed to collectors. The Polyhedroid Quartz are sharply angular. When cut and polished – a most beautiful display! Polyhedroid Quartz are only available from collectors, and therefore quite expensive. Jim donated a very detailed paper regarding Polyhedroid Quartz to the Rockhounds library. Both presentations were very entertaining and informative. Thanks, Sis and Jim.

We had a nice break between the presentations. Treats provided by Judy Owen and Victoria Miller. Thank you for your generosity.

The long program, Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?. was put on by Karen Thomas. Don Reed did a great job as emcee. Those present were broken into three groups. Individuals from each group were pitted against each other. It was **VERY** informative and entertaining. All the questions came from a home game version of the TV game show "Are You Smarter Than a 3rd Grader?" The questions ranged from quite easy to very difficult. But I am happy and proud to say that overall the Rockhounds fared quite well. The participants had a great time. Thank you Karen for setting this up. Looking forward to next year's game.

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.

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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:

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