

OCTOBER 1990

# THE ROCKFINDER



BA



ED MILLER, EDITOR  
MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
3431 EAST 18TH B RD.  
TIPPECANOE, IN 46570



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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The MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, a non-profit organization, is affiliated with the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES and with the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

Regular Meetings

~~Time: 2:00 PM EST~~

Fourth Sunday of each month  
June-Field trip meeting  
July-No meeting  
August-Annual club picnic

Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1501 W. Cleveland Road  
South Bend, Indiana  
West of the St. Joseph River

Dues

Individual	\$ 6.50 per year
Family	10.00 per year
Junior	2.00 per year

Rockfinder Staff

Editor..Ed Miller	114 E. Logan Street
Staff...Club members	Argos, Indiana 46501

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 10th of each month.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the Rockfinder, provided due recognition is given.

OCTOBER 1990

# THE ROCKFINDER

VOLUME 30  
PUBLISHED BY: MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1990  
SOUTH BEND, IN

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 1990  
MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY.

President Margaret Heinek opened the meeting at 2:05 P.M.

New members were introduced.

President Heinek thanked everyone for the great job they did for her at the club show. Bob Heinek also thanked Marie Crull for helping him.

Minutes were accepted as printed in the ROCKFINDER by Kathy Miller, seconded by Mary Miller.

Treasures report was read and filed for audit.

Bill Crull made motion to give the church a donation for the use of the facility, seconded by Catherine McHugh.

Jessie Zeiger thanked everyone for donations for the Kiddies Booth.

We are all looking forward to our bus trip to Cleveland October 21st. There will not be an October meeting this month since we will have the bus trip. If you have not made your reservation, please contacted Margaret at 654-3673.

Mark you calender for December 9th for our annual Christmas Party at the church.

Marie Crull made a motion for Margaret to purchase table prizes for our 1991 show, seconded by Kathy Miller.

Bill Crull checking on picnic date for 1991.

Margaret & Bob gave a very interesting program this month. Bob Miller is doing an excellent job on our programs.

Door prizes went to Alec Rubenstein, Kenny Zeiger, Liz Nagy, Jessie Zeiger and Joe Kossack.

Hostesses were Joe Kossack, Mary Miller and Joe Fashbaugh.

There were 34 adults, 2 junior members and 6 guests.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marie Crull, Secretary



HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN



DON'T FORGET  
THE CLUB  
CHRISTMAS PARTY

ADJUSTABLE ARM  
LIGHTS FOR SHOW CASES  
OR WHATEVER..... \$10  
SEE BILL CRULL  
OR CALL 272-7209

MARGARET'S COLUMN

Well it looks like Winter is on it's way - but the weather has been really nice, so I guess we should be happy it has stayed as warm as it has.

Just got word that Paul Godollei had picked up a part of his display he had at the show in September, and hurt his back. He is now in Memorial Hospital while the doctors decide if surgery is needed. Our best wishes for a fast recovery.

The Christmas party will be held on Dec. 9th at the Church. We will set up about 12 oclock and hope to eat at 1PM, South Bend time. There will be a gift exchange of a rock related item, valued at \$3 to \$4. The meat and rolls as well as coffee will be furnished. Each family is to bring a dish (one for each 2 people in the family) that will be shared. It can be either a salad, a vegetable dish or dessert. You are to bring your own dishes and silverware.

Dues are due BEFORE JAN. 1 st, if you want your names in the roster. Marie may leave for the South by early Jan, and would like to have the roster ready before she goes. If you can pay the dues at the November meeting, or the Dec. party by check, it would help Sister Jean keep a record of your payment.

There were 24 members that went to the Cleveland Museum for the " Gem Fire" exhibit. It was a long trip, but we all really enjoyed the museum, We could have wished for more time to enjoy the other areas in the building and surrounding buildings. Some of our group did go to the Art Museum also. I am sorry more of our members did not go on this trip. If in the future, you are in the area, go to this AAA museum (one of 5 rated AAA in the U.S.) and see the Earth Science area, the dinosaurs and Indian exhibits which are permanent. The name of the Museum is the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The nominating committee has selected the slate of officers for 1991 and the election will be held at the Nov. meeting.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided the nominee has given permission to be placed in nomination and is willing to perform the duties.

Our program for November will be something we have never had, and it should be interesting. This informative program will be on ways to protect yourself from purse snatchers, hold-ups and ways to protect our homes from break-ins. I know this is an unusual program, but with the Christmas shopping season so near, with so many out to take "from you", we must be alert to ways of protecting ourselves as well as our possessions. Bob and Kathy Miller attended a talk on this and felt it was a good program for all. How about bringing a friend to hear this program? Bob also plans on having a slide program.

*Margaret*

**MINUTES OF THE MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETING FOR OCTOBER 21, 1990.**

President Heinek held a meeting on the bus to Cleveland, Ohio.

25 people attended the trip which was enjoyed by all. The gem collection was beautiful and was explained very well by Paul Clifford who gave us the tour.

The slate for 1990-1991 officers was presented by Bob Miller, Vice President. Those being:

President	Margaret Heinek
V-President	Bob Miller
Secretary	Marie Crull
Treasurer	Sister Jeanne Finske

Other nominations will be accepted at the November meeting and voting will take place then.

Dues are now due by the end of December so we may get our new directory out early in 1991.

Christmas party will be held at the church on December 9th. Club will furnish meat, rolls, coffee and punch. Please check your calender so you are prepared to sign up at the November meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marie Crull, Secretary

## Just Who Are Rockhounds?

FROM MARILYN MEIER....

I started thinking about what makes up a "rockhound" a few days ago when I was leaving an emerald field in North Carolina. The owner had shown me several of the emeralds from her diggings and then made a derogatory remark about the rockhounds that visited her mine, citing their lack of knowledge in looking for these gems. At the moment I was hot, sweaty and covered with a layer of wet red clay from digging at the bottom of a pit for several hours. I did not take to this remark kindly and had to bite my tongue not to make a caustic comment in return. However, as I drove away I remembered that she had several beautiful emeralds she couldn't bear to part with, along with a stunning piece of quartz that he recently bought from one of her customers. Ha, I thought, she is nothing but a rockhound herself. She just has a more specialized knowledge of the minerals in her area.

Rockhounds do come in all shapes, sizes, occupations and ages. I recently left Arizona and turned over the leavings of the rockpile in my backyard to the neighborhood children. Within hours it disappeared, the baby boom of five new rock piles and five new rockhounds.

Some rockhounds just collect micro-mounts. They usually give one the feeling that they are the "cream de la cream" of rockhounds. I have spent many boring hours looking through a magnifying glass at the minute grains in their collections. They always have several of these glasses around and at least one microscope. I've noticed that they lower their voices at what they have paid for these tiny bits of rock if their spouse is not a collector. Rockhounds do get sneaky if only one partner collects. I once moved 1,500 pounds of rocks across the country in cartons marked "books" so that my husband wouldn't realize just why the moving company was charging us so much.

I have been friends with many a gold prospector that maintains all he wants to do is "strike it rich." But, when they do find a nugget of considerable size--where is it? I'll tell you, usually in their home or pocket so they can show it to others. They are just rockhounds of precious metals.

I have friends who own a commercial quartz crystal mine in Arkansas. Do you think that they can part with their best pieces? Of course not. Their home is lined with shelves of beautiful specimens, along with their driveway, porch patio, even their kitchen window. They have all the symptoms of dyed in the wool rockhounds.

You don't need to carry the label "rockhound" to be one. I've met people who would scoff if I called them that. The stray rock I saw laying in their yard or home was just something that they picked up because it was pretty or interesting looking. I know one person who has a ping-pong table filled with rocks picked up over the years because they were interesting. In my estimation all of the above are latent rockhounds.

continued page 4

DUES ARE DUE -

ROCKHOUNDS ? - cont.

If you have ever met a collector of Indian artifacts, have you noticed that they can tell you just what kind of minerals their arrowheads are made of, be it quartz, chert, granite, obsidian, etc.? Rockhounds all! And, I can't help but think that precious gem collectors and jewelers are in it for more than just monetary reasons. The few I know can give me a run down on each gem, virtue by virtue, carat by carat, sheen by shine. They are just the elitist in the rockhound field. I might add that I would love to graduate into this type of collector myself.

Have I mentioned fossil hunters? Ordinary rocks are not for them, their collection has to tell a story of inland seas and ancient times. They collect anything from petrified foraminifers to agate dinosaur droppings. I must admit that most of us rockhounds have a bit of fossil in our collections but we would be hard pressed to tell you just what we had and what age it came from. We usually take our finds to the knowledgeable members of our group for identification. I once met a rockhound I called an "old fossil" but that had nothing to do with collecting. Almost every group has one of them present.

Rockhounding can be catching and we "rockers" usually infect the people around us. My husband, who at one time wouldn't get out of his chair to look at a meteor if it fell from the skies in front of him, has changed his attitude over the years. A few weeks ago I made him go gold panning with me and he sat on the banks of a small stream and watched me work for several hours. I dug deep holes, moved large boulders, carried tons of dirt in pails and fell into both the creek and a patch of poison ivy. His only comment was, "If I made you work this hard at home, you would divorce me!" Cleaning out the car after I arrived home I found this useless piece of granite with mica in it. "Where did this come from?" I asked. "Well," he replied, turning a little red, "I found it in the stream and thought it was pretty." I call this the budding of a blooming rockhound.

Another little bud is my daughter. She is vehement in declaring that she is no rockhound. Last week I talked her into going with me on a trip to a nearby quarry. She agreed as long as I didn't expect her to look for anything and reinforced this statement by putting a lawn chair, suntan lotion and a book in the truck with us. She also made several nasty comments about crazy people who spend the day breaking apart boulders and calling it fun. When we got to the quarry she took one look at the beautiful fractured garnets impregnated in the granite schist, grabbed my extra sledge hammer and went to work. Hours later she had the truck filled with huge rocks, saying that she collected more than she needed because she wanted her brothers to have some of them for their homes. Now all of my children have 30 to 40 pound doorstops and enough rocks to start a rock garden. I hate to think of what we would have brought back if she had been a "rockhound."

One nice thing about rockhounding is that it heightens your awareness of nature and the riches of this planet earth. Rockhounds also develop an ability I call "vision sharpening." I now notice everything on the ground around me. Indoors, this talent has led to minutes more

continued page 5

ROCKHOUNDS? - cont.

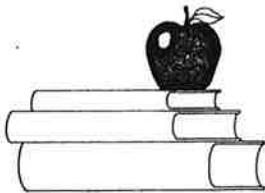
play at the one-armed bandits in Las Vegas as I am now adept at finding coins on the casino floors. Outdoors I not only find lots of interesting rocks, I also have collected pop can rings, petrified bubble gum, lost keys and a smattering of dried rabbit and burro droppings. Once I found what I thought was a fantastic fossil and only after picking it up did I realize that it was a decomposing fish that still needed a few thousand years to cure. I might add that no-one in the group came near me the rest of the day, I smelled as ripe as the fish after this encounter.

Rockhounds are dreamers. If we weren't, we wouldn't pursue our hobby to the extent that most of us do. My favorite dream is where the curator of the Smithsonian is begging me on bended knee to donate the magnificent specimen I have just found to the museum. I already know my answer, "Golly, I would like to but it looks so good on my fireplace mantel that I can't give it up." This answer also proves that some of us have rocks in our head.

The woman I met at the emerald mine just doesn't realize that a person needn't be a geologist or specialist to enjoy rockhounding. You can be a housewife, doctor, lawyer or truck driver--whatever. You can rockhound every weekend or just collect whenever you see a rock that catches your eye. You can join a club or go it alone. As far as I am concerned, civilization started when a rockhound first picked up a stone and decided that it might make a good tool. And, one of man's greatest accomplishments included a rockhound field trip, we call that resultant collection "moon rocks." In conclusion, I think that rockhounding is born and bred into all of us, it remains passive in some but the rest of us can be seen trekking through fields and streams hauling out "specimens" for our collections.

MWF Newsletter

October 1990 - Issue 299



*Education  
Through  
Sharing*

**HONORS AWARDS**

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION - March 1, 1991

SEND TO - Carol Anderson, Chairperson  
918 13th Avenue  
Green Bay, WI 54204  
(414)497-7867

Judges will use the same scoring sheet as the American Federation.

**I. SHARING IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

50

Points

- Talks, lectures at schools, senior centers, etc.
- Displays at schools, libraries
- Teaching lapidary, mineralogy, etc. (group or one on one)
- Demonstrations in community
- Giving or loaning specimens, time, or equipment to schools, museums, etc.
- TV, radio, newspaper publicity
- Showing concern in legislation as it pertains to earth sciences or to rockhounding
- Leading or participating in study groups
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**II. SHARING WITH OTHER GEM & MINERAL CLUBS**

25 Points

- Talks, lectures
- Displays
- Demonstrations
- Assisting at other clubs' meetings & shows
- Loans - of specimens, equipment, etc.
- Federation involvement
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**III. SHARING IN YOUR OWN CLUB/SOCIETY**

25

Points

- Offices and committees
- Talks, lectures
- Donating specimens, door prizes
- Teaching classes, lapidary, mineralogy, fossils
- Identifying minerals, fossils, lapidary, etc.
- Displaying/demonstrating at shows
- Leading or participating in study groups
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

You need not fill in the score sheet - the judge will do that. In writing up the entry, divide the presentation into the above three groups. The judging sheet has space for number of times, number of people, and age groups for many of the above - so be as specific as you can. Entries should have supporting evidence, pictures, thanks, and good detail.

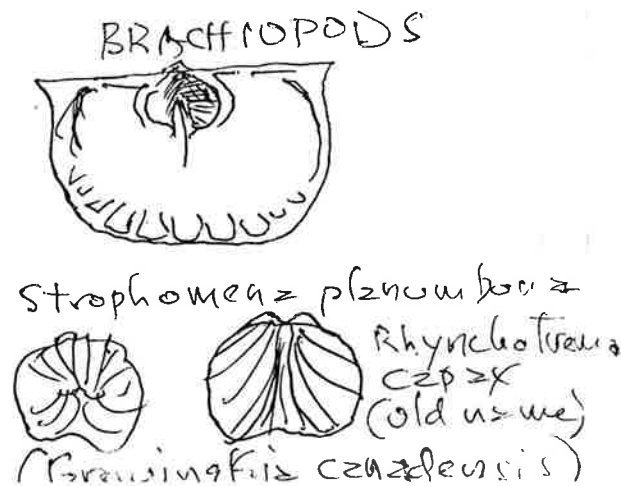
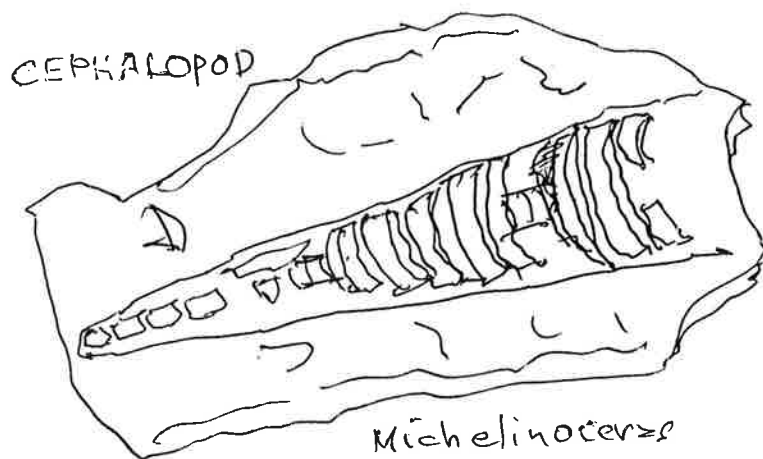
Do not enter a member with the idea that he/she must be in the top three that will be sent to the American Federation Contest. Enter a member as an HONOR to that member. All entrants will receive a certificate to show that his or her club appreciated that member.

FOSSIL COLLECTING IN INDIANA : By Paul Godoltei, Club Member

A lot has changed since the Field Conference in the Madison Indiana area in May of 1953, and I was anxious to get back to the old railroad cut in Madison and find some more Ordovician fossils. The opportunity came on Sept 6, when I was in Madison studying the local historic architecture. I had a couple of hours to spare and stopped first on the road leading from Clifty Falls Inn down to Highway 62. Near Big Clifty Creek bridge there is a road cut on the East side that contains many fine fossils and I was able to collect 4 *Streptasma* horn corals, a couple of brachiopods, including *Plasimoyes subquadrata*, *Laeptena* and *Strophomena* and a nice fragment of bryozoa that indicated this to be the Liberty-Waynesville Formation. I then proceeded into Madison and turned onto Route 7 which ascends through the Bellevue to Laurel Upper Ordovician formations including the famous Hanging Rock in the Saluda at the top of the hill. I parked my car at the entrance to the Madison State Hospital and walked a hundred yards North along highway 7 to an empty lot where I could gain access to the old railroad cut. I walked South along the tracks with weeds growing through the ties up to my shoulders in places., and was delighted by the beautiful wildflowers growing there also. I walked about a mile south through the narrow railroad cut and came to many big rocks and trees that had fallen across the long unused tracks. It was dark and lonely. The sides were overgrown with weeds and brush. It had rained the night before, and the ditches on the sides of the tracks had filled with debris years ago, so water was running down the tracks several inches deep and I had to pick my way around the rocks, trees and poison ivy. It was lonely and beautiful-I should have been with someone since if anything had happened to me, no one would have found me for hours or days. I stopped at a big rock slide across the tracks and found several nice horn corals, brachiopods and bryozoas. This was also the Waynesville Formation. Continuing down further I came to a big ravine with a culvert under the tracks. I was approaching the famous South cut of the Arnheim Formation. I looked at my watch and realized I would be late getting back when I promised to return, so I turned back. I was very interested in continuing on because I had heard of all the nice trilobites that had been found in the South cut. As I came to another rock slide I noticed a large fragment of rock lying in the track bed with a beautiful 8 inch cephalopod in it. I carefully cut around it with a cold chisel and rock hammer I had in my back pack and was fortunate to dislodge it in one unbroken piece. I wrapped it in paper towels and put it in my pack and hurried back the way I came. I returned to the Clifty Inn with the desire to return again some day and search for those elusive *Calymene* trilobites. At home I was able to identify the cup corals as *Streptasma rusticum* and the brachiopods as *Strophomena planumbona*, *Rhynchotrema capax*, *Dinorthis subquadrata* and *Hebertella occidentalis*. A nice piece of bryozoa I had found was identified as *Homotrypa*. It was a very successful trip, but the next time I go it will be with someone since it is dangerous to collect alone.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Ordovician Stratigraphy, and the Physiography of Part of Southeastern Indiana by Patton, Perry and Wayne-Ind Dept of Conservation, Geological Survey, Field Conference Guidebook No. 6, May 1953
2. "Excursions in Indiana Geology"-by Burger, Rexroad, Schneider and Shaver, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Geological Survey Guidebook





# MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

## REPORT OF THE 1990 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

For PRESIDENT

Margaret Heinek  
7091 E. East Park Lane  
New Carlisle, IN 46552

Margaret has served this past year as First Vice President. She is a member of the Michiana Gem Club. She served as president for three terms as well as serving a Liaison Officer, Secretary, Editor, and Club Show Chairman. She was also on the committee for two MWF Shows and Conventions. At the present time, she is Show Chairman for the 1991 Show.

For FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Harold McClure  
3233 Zephyr Drive  
Dayton, OH 45414

Harold has been Second Vice President this past year. Prior to that he was Ohio State Director for three years and was an Ohio Assistant State Director for five years. He has been to every Council since 1976 and has also served on the Credentials and Auditing Committees. He has been President (at least once) of the Dayton Gem and Mineral Society, Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club, and Brukner Center Gem and Mineral Club. He is qualified to serve.

For SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Miller  
1106 Clayton Dr.  
South Bend, IN 46615

Kathy Miller has been an active member of the Michiana group at South Bend, and has experienced many phases of the activities of our group from show, lapidary, collecting and editing. Her current activity in the Midwest is as Bulletin Editor. She has also served on the nominating committee. Her enthusiasm and dedication and commitment are unquestioned.

For SECRETARY

Jean Reynolds  
107 Tuttle Ave.  
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

Jean has served as Secretary of the MWF for many years. She is an Honorary Member of the MWF. A member and Past President of the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, she is also editor of the club bulletin and also Editor of the AFMS Newsletter.

For TREASURER

Kitty Starbuck  
7636 V Avenue East  
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Kitty has served the MWF as Treasurer for seven years. A member of the Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society, she has been club Show chairman and editor of their bulletin for many years. She was chairman of the 1983 and 1989 MWF Convention and Show.

Additional nominations for these offices may be made by petition signed by no less than 100 adults who collectively shall be members in good standing of at least 10% of the adult member societies, such petition designating the office concerned and the name of the nominee thereof. Such petitions must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee.

For NOMINATING COMMITTEE for a 3 year term to end in 1993. (TWO TO BE ELECTED).

John Washburn

Mr. Washburn has served as Archaeology Committee chairman. He has assisted on the Newsletter committee.

Lloyd Brown

Mr. Brown has served as chairman of the Safety and Field Trip committee. He has served as Show Chairman for the MWF show and is active in his local club.

The 1990 Nominating Committee announces its selection of (to be announced) to the MWF Scholarship Board of Selectors for 1990-1991.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Ben Moulton, Chairman  
Mary Edwards  
Jim Taylor  
Rex Webb  
Gordon Boone  
William Parch  
Kathy Miller

FROM THE MWF NEWSLETTER

**NEW ILLINOIS FOSSIL LAW REVIEWED**

Many fossil collectors read the new law (SB 467) and concluded that the State of Illinois required a permit to collect fossils on state-owned lands and that most of the fossils would end up in the state museum. At the MAPS EXPO, Dr. Russ Graham, Curator of Geology, Illinois State Museum was invited to explain the new law. He wrote the law draft and is now writing the guidelines to accompany the law.

Dr Graham stated that amateurs are free to collect fossils on state-owned lands without a permit if they are picked up on the surface. He explained that most of these fossils would deteriorate and they realize that in the past, amateurs have saved them for museums, schools, and private collections. The state wants to preserve the fossils that are below the surface and obtain the scientific data when they are collected. A permit is required to excavate fossils in known paleontological sites and most permits will be reserved for geologists and paleontologists. The fossils become the property of the state and may be studied before submitting the fossil and report to the State Museum. The location of known sites (past and future) will be published in many periodicals (incl. Illinois Register) and hobby magazines and the sites may also be posted (for out-of-state collectors and the un-informed). Local law-enforcement will patrol the sites and violators shall be subject to imprisonment and a fine not in excess of \$5000

It will take about 2 months to prepare the guidelines and Dr Graham welcomes your comments. A copy of the guidelines can be obtained by writing to him at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, IL 62701. There was some concern by fossil collectors that local law enforcement may not have a copy of the guidelines when they check you at roadcuts etc. It would be wise to carry a copy of the guidelines until they are well understood.

Some of the teaching geologists are concerned that fossils dug during field trips, do not become part of the school property. For this reason, they are backing a revision (HB 3242) to the current law that will eliminate the reference to "paleontological resources"

JOHN BOLAND ENVIRONMENT/LEGISLATION

FROM THE MWF NEWSLETTER

ARCH



FACTS....

Thought we might generate a little discussion from the troops about the "bone issue" we wrote about in February. Apparently all are in favor of closing prehistoric burial chambers from public display?

We did, however, hear from a couple new "friends" of the archaeology committee. First came an article sent in by Mark Harris of Columbia, MO. The article describes an incident in Columbia involving the accidental damage of an Indian burial mound during a construction operation. As soon as workers became suspicious of what they had uncovered, work ceased and the state historic preservation officer in charge of enforcing the Unmarked Human Burial Sites Act was contacted. Further investigation is planned.

From Beverly Imhoff of Rittman, OH, came word of two summer workshops.

Archaeology Field Experience & Laboratory

June 25-July 7

With excavation participation

4 hours credit

Geology of Eastcentral Ohio

July 28-August 12

Field trips planned

3 hours credit

For further information contact the University of Akron: Wayne College 1-800-221-8308.

Beverly also sent a brochure about the Killbuck Valley Natural History Museum in Killbuck, OH. It appears to be a place you should put on your travel agenda if you are in the area.

From Bill Zachary, New Berlin, IL, an article in the Jacksonville Journal Courier. In this story, our own president, Glen Hanning, is a key player. Glen was called in when a neighbor in Schuyler County uncovered the remains of some ancient Indian fire pits while working his farmland. Glen began mapping the area and carefully removed some dirt for detailed examination in an archaeological laboratory. Glen examined some pottery fragments and guessed that the site had been inhabited by Indians from the Mississippian culture, who established small settlements along the river valleys in this area from about AD 900 to AD 1500. When Larry Conrad from Western Illinois University arrived on the scene he confirmed Glen's suspicions. The land owner discontinued his plans to level the hillside in order to allow further exploration of this site.

The archaeology committee appreciates all of these great contributions. You keep them coming - we'll keep passing them along!

John Washburn, Chairperson  
Archaeology Committee