

# THE WHITE RIVER SLUICE

**A PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE RIVER ROCK GEM AND MINERAL CLUB**

**P. O. Box ----Montague, MI 49437 Website: www.whiteriverrocks----**

February 2018

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Petoskey Stones

Most commonly found on beaches along the northern lakeshore of the lower peninsula of Michigan, Petoskey stones are actually limestone incorporated with six sided coral fossils. Although there are several varieties of fossilized corals in Michigan the Petoskey is the species *Hexagonaria percarinata*. Search the beaches near Charlevoix and Petoskey for our state stone, which was so designated in 1965. You may also have some luck collecting these on the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula near the lighthouse or along the shores of the state park.

**Bibliographical Source:**  
**Michigan Rocks & Minerals:**  
**A Field Guide to the Great**  
**Lake State, Lynch, Dan R. &**  
**Bob. Adventure Publications.**  
**Cambridge, Minnesota.**  
**Copyright 2010.**

## SILENT AUCTION

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

Included in this newsletter find slips that you can duplicate and use to sell your auction items.

**Please text (231) 215-7132 and let me know if you will have items to sell on the silent auction so we know how many tables to set up. You may also leave a message at (231) 894-1510. And even if you forget to do that bring your items to sell please. We'll try to find space for you. Sellers remember to bring money to make change for buyers. And buyers—try to bring small bills and change.**

**Items should have something to do with rocks and or minerals and or metal working and or jewelry making. Sellers participation fee is \$1.00 cash donated to the club. Sellers come at 6:30 to set up.**

**White River Rock Gem & Mineral Club meets at 7:00 PM at Vondie's House, 600 E. Fruitvale Road at the north end of Russell Road. Call Vondie at (231) 894-1510 for more information.**

**Bring something for Show and Tell, also a snack if you want to.**  
Notes from a Rockhound's Field Trip Journal:

### Keeweenaw

This far north the sun holds off darkness—  
a polar bear pushing against the night with all fours.

Around ten she curls up against the wide sky  
her gray-white pelt blocking out the dark.

The whole short night  
she sleeps with us in the white sheets of twilight.

I curl up, my back to the light, spoon into her bear-  
warmth, snug against the chilly northern air.

—Vondalee Knoll

**FIELD TRIPS: UPPER PENINSULA MICHIGAN**

**THREE ROCKHOUNDS IN THE KEEWEENAW PENINSULA, JULY 2014**

By the Grumpy Rockhound

The first thing I have to say is that the three of us picked up a lot of rocks. Some of them were even agates or epidote or copper ore and all of them were pretty—at least in the eye of the picker-upper.

“Whatever did you pick up that thing for?”

“It’s so pretty.”

“Yeah, right.”

Mr. Grumpier-Than-Me spent one afternoon digging a boulder out of a sand bank on the Eastern shore of the Keeweenaw where everyone but us knows not to go collecting. He decided on that particular rock because it has specks of the shining golden color of the real thing. “Look here,” he said, “Gold.”

“Chalcopyrite,” I said. He thought I was speaking in tongues. The young fellow who travels with us grinned, and took off hiking down the beach.

When Mr. Grumpier rolled the monster rock out onto the sandstone littered shore I asked him, “Are you taking that thing home?”

“No, it’s too big.”

“Are you sure?”

“Yeah, it’s way too big.”

“We can roll it onto a blanket and drag it back to the car. If we back the SUV down that slope so it’s almost level with the bank over there, it’d be just a short lift into the back area.”

“No. Too big.”

I packed up the picnic stuff and the scoops and shovels, and the dogs, while he looked at it wistfully. I volunteered the younger fellow’s muscles but he still couldn’t see taking it. We headed back west to camp, about an hour long drive.

It was good to be back on the side of the Keeweenaw where the best rocks were waiting to be found.

Next morning I said I wanted to go north along the coast.

“I couldn’t sleep all night,” the old man said, “Couldn’t stop thinking about that rock.”

“Boy, it’s a long drive back there. Wish you would have taken it yesterday.”

He plunked down in his lawn chair and didn’t say anything. I started packing up the picnic stuff: chicken salad, peanut butter and jelly, bread, water and iced tea. I checked the coolers to make sure there was enough ice. The young fellow loaded it all into the SUV for me, and we headed back east. We found the picnic table perched sideways next to the little brown outhouse where we had stopped the day before.

We pulled in, moved the table so we could take advantage of the angle of the slope there. I backed down to the little rise and tossed an old blanket out for the two rock haulers. I took off with the dogs, and let the two fellows figure out how to roll the old man’s boulder into the back. I assume it was easy, because when I came back to the vehicle with the dogs, I noticed they were both in the car, and not breathing very hard. I loaded the dogs and we were on our way. We stopped at a small picnic spot going north and ate our sandwiches with a bag of potato chips I had picked up when we filled the Durango’s gas tank.

On my own worst day, we were at the beach near Gratiot River. I had a pinched nerve and my left leg had stopped working. Pain was my adopted little sister. I had forgotten my cane so I limped along using one of those long handled rock scooper thingies as a cane. It held my weight, and I refused to give up beach walking and rock picking. Actually it was beach hobbling, but who’s going to nitpick over that little detail?

In spite of the pain, for a minute, I experienced the most ecstatic moment of my rock hounding career. I found an analcime gemstone that sat like a bird’s egg in a nest, the nest being a round agate of pink and green stripes in a egg-shaped brown stone, that except for that one end, looked just like all of the other brown beach stones. I had died right there and gone to heaven. It was so beautiful.

I pulled it out of my pocket to show the old man. He’s my proof that I did have it in my greedy little palm. Then when I went to show the young fellow, I reached into my pocket and it wasn’t there. I had missed my pocket when I put it back and it had returned to that shore of cobbled brown beach stones, never to be seen by me again. I looked. I went back the next day and looked. It’s the one that got away, and it was to die for.

The young fellow, meanwhile, picked up stones everywhere we went, and he being younger than us codgers, and possessed of decent eyesight, found fine treasures: fossils, agates, jasper, conglomerates, stones with copper inclusions, also some with silver, and a great zeolite specimen with radiating crystals in pink and green and white.

The Keeweenaw was beautiful in July and August. Superior showed off her varied colors and moods. Packing up to leave was heart wrenching. There isn’t a day since that I have not wanted to return to the beaches of Keeweenaw—as long as it is summertime when the beaches are almost hot and the water warm enough for wading in to look for rocks.

## *Rock Shows March 2018*

**2-4: RICHMOND, IN** Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society Annual Show. Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 4 pm. Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd., Richmond. Contact: Judy Burton, P O Box 1724, Richmond 47375; (937) 339-1966; [jleeburton@woh.rr.com](mailto:jleeburton@woh.rr.com)

**9-11: KANSAS CITY, MO** Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City Annual Show. Fri 10 am - 8 pm; Sat 10 am - 7 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador Dr., Kansas City. Contact Bruce Stinemetz, (816) 795-5159; [brucestinemetz@att.net](mailto:brucestinemetz@att.net)

**10: SKOLIE, IL** Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society Annual Silent Auction. 6 - 9 pm. St. Peter's United Church of Christ Gym, 8013 Laramie, Skokie. Contact: Jeanine Mielecki; (312) 623-1554; [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com)

**10-11: MACOMB, IL** Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc. Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Western Illinois University Student Union Ballroom, Murray Street, Macomb. Contact Ed Wagner, (309) 376-7781; [loesseditor@gmail.com](mailto:loesseditor@gmail.com)

**10-11: WEST BEND, WI** Kettle Moraine Geological Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Washington County Fair Park & Convention Center, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bend. Contact: John Rettler, W 477 Hwy 100, Rubicon 53078; Contact: Dave Carlson, 840 Oak St., Elgin (847) 931-0856; [fossil54@att.net](mailto:fossil54@att.net)

**24-25: JANESVILLE, WI** Badger Lapidary & Geological Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 9 am - 4 pm. Craig Center Building, Rock County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Ave, Janesville. Contact: Debbie Wehinger, 708 W 2nd Ave, Brodhead 53520; (608) 897-2608; [jdrules3@gmail.com](mailto:jdrules3@gmail.com)

**24-25: WHEATON, IL** Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton. (262) 345-5020; [johnrettler@gmail.com](mailto:johnrettler@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE:** We are working toward joining the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies. We need members committed to the success of our club to help with the paperwork involved in becoming a Michigan Non-Profit Organization. If you have experience or knowledge or are willing to research this, please contact a member of our club Vondie Knoll.