

# THE WHITE RIVER SLUICE

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

Club Mailing Address: Mike Rakovits, 3736 Pillon Road, Muskegon, MI 49445

**Website:** [www.WhiteRiverRockGemAndMineral.weebly.com/](http://www.WhiteRiverRockGemAndMineral.weebly.com/)

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## **GOLD (AU)**

**Hardness 2.5**

**Streak Golden yellow**

**Size: most often pea-sized or smaller in Michigan.**

Gold is found in most states of the United States. Gold is a metal and a chemical element. It can occur in veins often in quartz and is often found in stream beds as well. When it accumulates at the bottom of a stream bed it is referred to as placer gold.

Placer is pronounced plasser with the “a” pronounced the way it is in “apple.” Gold is very easy to identify because of its low hardness and because its color never tarnishes. It is extremely malleable. Gold has been found in The Michigan Gold District north of Ishpeming in the Upper Peninsula. It can also be found in the gravel beds of the White River.

Pyrite, similar in color to gold has a greenish streak and tends to be brittle. Pyrite is much harder than gold.

**NEW MEMBERS @**

**OUR JUNE MEETING:**

**Tammy Fekken & Bambi Wilson WELCOME!**

## **White River Rock Gem and Mineral Club Second Annual Picnic—Saturday July 14**

**Our July Meeting will be a picnic at the Pavilion on the White River. This is at Vondie’s House, 600 East Fruitvale Road, (Blue Lake Township) Montague, Michigan.**

**>>>>Come around 3:00, IF you’re coming only for the picnic and to visit. Come earlier on Saturday if you plan to pan gold or float the river.**

**>>>>1:00 o’clock: Do you want to try your hand at panning gold? Come at 1:00 to see a short video explaining how to pan for gold and then try your luck panning gravel dug from the White River, following the video. Mike and Glenn will get buckets of gravel from the river for us to use for panning.**

**>>>>We will eat at 5:00 PM.**

**Paper plates, cups, plastic ware, et cetera, condiments, and beverages will be provided. The club will furnish hot dogs and buns. If you prefer burgers, please bring your own. There is a large charcoal grill where you can cook the meat of your choice.**

**>>>>Please bring a dish to pass that is adequate to feed a group. You may bring a hot dish, salad or dessert .**

**ALSO BRING: Bug repellent & sunscreen, lawn chairs—if you want to, and remember to dress for the weather.**

**Arrive any time Saturday to participate in the following activities:**

**Horse shoes or volleyball, or bring your own tubes kayaks or canoes and float down from Diamond Point.**

**Plan on taking about an hour or more on the river if you’re tubing, ¾ of an hour or more in a canoe or kayak.**

**Or make reservations with Happy Mohawk Canoe Livery for the day or part of it. Just plan to be back in time to eat at 5:00.**

**>>>>Anyone in a watercraft on the river must wear a life jacket. This is especially critical for children. The river current is strong. –And it’s the law. Critical to your health & safety: WEAR WATER SHOES in the river!**

## Contact Vondie @ (231)

### **Board of Directors**

President: Vicki Hartung  
Mike Rakovits (231) 766-3422  
Vice President: Kay Le Mieux  
[kaylemieux@outlook.com](mailto:kaylemieux@outlook.com)  
Secretary: Suzanne Ritchie  
[abcsuzanne@hotmail.com](mailto:abcsuzanne@hotmail.com)  
Brauen Gustafson  
[BRAUEN1@FRONTIER.COM](mailto:BRAUEN1@FRONTIER.COM)  
Treasurer: Glenn Gustafson  
(231) 788-3266  
Bert Wilson  
[bertjonnie@gmail.com](mailto:bertjonnie@gmail.com)  
Immediate Past President: Vondie Knoll  
(231) 894-1510  
Event Director:  
Field Trip Coordinator:  
Social Coordinator: Jeffrey Beekman  
(231) 893-1459  
Historian: Brauen Gustafson  
[BRAUEN1@FRONTIER.COM](mailto:BRAUEN1@FRONTIER.COM)  
Director at Large #1: Bill Burt  
[wburt4@aol.com](mailto:wburt4@aol.com)  
Director at Large #2:  
Newsletter Editor: Vondie Knoll  
(231) 894-1510  
Youth Program Director:  
Liaison Director: Vicki Hartung  
[Mike.Vicki@comcast.net](mailto:Mike.Vicki@comcast.net)  
Show Coordinator:  
IT Director: Eric Peterson  
(231) 780-7016  
Membership Coordinator: Kay Le Mieux  
[kaylemieux@outlook.com](mailto:kaylemieux@outlook.com)  
Grant Writing Director:

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Submissions to The White River Sluice  
should be sent on a memory stick via snail  
mail to: Vondie Knoll, Editor  
600 East Fruitvale Rd.  
Montague, MI 49437  
Or to hand deliver:

## 894-1510 for more information

Call Vondie @ (231) 894-1510.  
Deadline for Submissions is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday  
after the General Meeting.

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### **UPCOMING ROCK SHOWS, ETC.**

**JULY 14: Flint Rock & Gem Club Rock Swap.**  
9AM-5PM, Flint Rock & Gem Club Classroom, 11350  
N. Saginaw Rd. Clio, MI

**AUGUST 4: Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club  
Annual Show.** 9 am - 4 pm. Ishpeming Elks Club, 597  
Lakeshore Dr., Ishpeming. Contact: Ernie Johnson;  
(906) 228-9422; [ejohnson@nmu.edu](mailto:ejohnson@nmu.edu)

**AUGUST 10-12: Copper Country Rock & Mineral  
Club Annual Show.** Fri 1-8 pm; Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun  
11 am - 3 pm. Houghton Elementary School, 302 W.  
Jacker Ave, Houghton. Contact: Norm Gruber, 1850  
Clark St., Marquette 49855; (906) 228-  
6764; [show@ccrmc.info](mailto:show@ccrmc.info)

**SEPTEMBER 14-16: Tulip City Gem & Mineral  
Club Annual Show.** Fri 10-8; Sat 10-7; Sun 11-5.  
Soccer Stop Sportsplex, 5 River Hills Drive, Holland.  
Contact Sue Goedert, (616) 452-  
7843, [sonbeams2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sonbeams2000@yahoo.com).

**SEPTEMBER 15-16: Livingston Gem & Mineral  
Society Annual Show.** Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4  
pm. Hartland Educational Support Center, 9525 E.  
Highland Rd., Howell. Contact: Ed Oller, 68 Ganges  
Blvd, Swarty Creek 48473; (810) 241-8801

## **WHITE RIVER CLUB NEWS**

As members of the Midwest Federation of  
Mineralogical and Geological Societies we may  
send a delegate to the 78th Annual Council Meeting  
that will be held in Springfield Illinois in  
conjunction with the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science  
Society annual show held at the Illinois State  
Fairgrounds. Our delegate will get one vote in any  
business conducted by the Federation.

(Source: The Midwest Federation News June 2018, Issue # 573.)

At our business meeting, June 4, we refined wording of our bylaws which will be ready for ratification by our membership at our next general meeting.

At our board meeting June 4, we voted to accept new members at with reduced dues for the balance of the year. If you wish to join our fun and educational club, send your dues of \$15 for a family or \$10 for individual to Membership Director : Kay LeMieux 3658 Carr Road Fruitport, MI 49415.  
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## WHITE RIVER CLUB NEWS

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We discussed the possibility of having a show, and what would be involved in that. We talked about ways we might raise money in general.

We agreed to have a short business meeting at the July 14 Picnic.

\*Bill Burt is our new, enthusiastic, and fun Director at Large in charge of, among other things, our monthly raffle. Thank you, Bill.

\*We need more members, and we need more folks willing to work as board members and are actively seeking some folks willing to take charge of planning for a show in 2019. If you're willing to help, contact a board member.

\*There is no raffle in July.

## THE MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

publishes a monthly newsletter called the MWF News. You can read this online at the Midwest Federation website: [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)

Our club is mentioned in the MWF News report of the Executive Meeting Minutes from the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in Kalamazoo.

Secretary, Donna Moore's minutes reflect that Julia Donker reported, "There is also a new club, The White River Rock, Gem, and Mineral Club from Whitehall, Michigan."

Julia Donker proposed the formation of our club, and gave instruction and advice on how to form and organize our club. Thank you, Julia.

The newsletter also reported on Scholarships offered by the Federation, and the necessity for clubs to contribute to the fund.

John Donker, as State Director for Michigan Clubs reports that Michigan Clubs have started their spring and summer shows, and that the shows are well attended. Michigan clubs are planning summer field trips and picnics and tail gate sales. Michigan clubs give scholarships to college students who major in Geology or Earth Sciences.

As our new club grows, we will be able to do more to contribute to the Federation and to hold events to educate the public about geology and earth sciences through our own youth programs, tailgates, and hopefully our own show. If you are interested in working toward a rock show, talk to one of our board members.

## Club Calendar

**Saturday, July 14: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Club Picnic**

**Wednesday, July 18: Field Trip. We will visit Shelby Gem Factory at one o'clock, and collect rocks afterward. (See details below.)**

**August 6: A program by Harold & Vondie Knoll and Show and Tell the way we used to do it.**

**September 10: Kimmy Addison will do a Program about Michigan Rocks**

**There will be General Meetings on October 8 and November 5, one of which will feature Suzanne Ritchie's fabulous slides of Lake Superior rocks and beaches.**

**December 3: We will have our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Banquet and a Silent Auction.**

## Field Trip: Shelby Gem Factory and Summit Park Beach

Vicki Hartung has planned a trip to the **Shelby Gem Factory on Wednesday, July 18. We will meet the owner, Larry Kelley, at one o'clock at 1330 Industrial Drive in Shelby.** Afterward there will be an opportunity to hunt for rocks at the beach at **Summit Park, 5581 S. Lakeshore Drive, Ludington, MI.** Folks may bring a picnic or get dinner at **Bortell's Landing**, across the street from the park. Bortell's is take-out only, and features seafood and fish with menu items like Perch Fries & Slaw for around \$8.

Please note that there is a steep hill down to the beach, and there are long rugged stairs to the shore. Contact Mike or Vicki at (231) 766-3422 or (231) 557-5977.

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For up to date news and announcements friend us on Facebook at: White River Rock Club, and tell your friends about us, or go to our Web Page [www.WhiteRiverRockGemAndMineral.weebly.com/](http://www.WhiteRiverRockGemAndMineral.weebly.com/)

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*Hexagonaria percarinata*. Petoskey Stone.

## FIELD TRIP TO ANYWHERE

### Road Trip

Let's pick up and go anywhere  
there are mountains or memories of mountains  
anywhere the Precambrian and the Paleozoic  
peek out from under  
the sediment of recent history.  
I want to dig deep  
without too much effort.

The idea of steel-toed boots a pickaxe  
a small shovel a chisel a pry bar  
safety glasses hard hat  
and those collecting buckets  
weigh heavy on my mind.  
I want the freedom of cellophane wings  
veined with intricacies.

Here we are in this house filled with crystals  
fossils and mineral specimens—  
curious wonders—crystals thin enough to pass for fur  
that collapse to flannel when you touch them—

stones that enlarged could pass for a Calder or Picasso.  
The Cubists and Impressionists and Old Dutch Masters  
may have learned from these small beauties that carry  
with them so much weight.

We have moved with these stones and rocks  
once—twice—three times—have added to them  
and given hardly any away—  
because they are like family—cold and warm  
and slightly greasy to the touch—or dusty  
with a bit of acrid odor. Some contain  
arsenic or asbestos or lead—  
toxic like every other dysfunctional family.

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But let's go see more miracles—meet more folks  
and snakes and trees—more cats and peaches.  
I like the gnarly the erratic the less than proper.  
I like folks that wear black leather and jangles of silver  
folks that wear intimidation tattooed  
on skin that says, *I've been around  
and I'm going nowhere. Deal with me.*

I see us like some primitive tribe—half naked  
and pounding our drums with more gloss  
less purpose and less sophistication.  
We think we change. We imagine progress.  
We think the world revolves around us. We the people:  
We flaunt our freedom as if we had not sacrificed it to our fear.

Let's travel anywhere the spider weaves its webs  
watch the colorful bulgingly pregnant mama spiders  
dance on tightrope skeins,  
Let's live beside the wolf and loon and bear and turtle,  
and the marmots—those darlings.  
Let's see the Tetons and the Snake River again  
and everyday forever.

I long for the Washington and Oregon shores  
where the world becomes small and cozy  
until the sun burns off the mist and then the world  
is almost too grand to bear.  
Come with me. Trip along rocks as green  
or gray or brown as mountain streams.

Get you some gypsy garb—a back pack  
a hammock and tarp a metal mug for tea  
a small fry pan and a flask of oil—some herbs  
and drinking water,  
Let's be free spirits together  
prospecting for life and fossils.

Let's find the pretty stones  
and the mineral specimens to die for—  
ship whatever we find back home.  
But let's go see the world.  
Let's forage our way across the land and water  
live hand to mouth  
hard and easy. Yeah. Are you ready?

—Vondalee Knoll c. 2018

**Please submit your field trip stories or poems to “The White River Sluice.” We’d like to learn about your adventures and the kinds of rocks or fossils you like to collect. We would also welcome submissions about your lapidary craft—your particular skill and what you create. Submit photos and text separately so it can be copied and pasted into the newsletter’s format.**