



THE JASPILITE

WINTER 2015 ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Our Purpose:

*To enjoy, to learn, to
teach and conserve*

*The rocks, the gems, the
fossils and ores,*

*To collect, to admire, to
brag and to show*

*The material we've
found, we'll trade for
yours.*

*-Bob & Marian Markert
(founding members)*

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Warmest wishes to everybody in the New Year - and warm is the operant word! Winter is usually my time to go through the specimens I've collected over the summer, but this year it's been so cold in my basement "rock room" that I've scarcely gone through a single flat.

I'd like to thank the members for having the confidence in me to elect me president for 2015. My predecessors have very high standard which I hope to be able to maintain.

Looking back on 2014, the club has had an active and successful year. Joyce and Al Smith, our education coordinators, were joined by several club members in presenting at the annual Kaleidoscope at the Superior Dome, giving hundreds of kids a fun introduction to rocks and minerals. Joyce and her helpers also reached out to the public at Aspen Ridge Middle School's Family Night and at History Day, hosted by the Marquette Regional History Center.

We had some fun and unique field trips during the summer. Thanks to the efforts of Norm Gruber, we visited the Groveland Mine in Dickinson County along with the Northwoods Geology Club. We were able to find a wide variety of minerals and even some fossils. A trip to the Lucy / McComber

Mine in Negaunee was the club's first trip in many years to this historic local mine. Despite more than a century's worth of overgrowth on the rock dump, members were successful in collecting some unusual iron and manganese minerals. Thanks to the persistent efforts of Bob Clark, we were able to arrange a tour of the Empire and Tilden Mine pits, guided by the mine's geological engineer. Due to the very short notice for the trip, only a small group was able to participate, but we hope to be able to schedule another trip next year with earlier scheduling and better logistics. In fact, we hope to re-visit all of these field trip sites in the future.

The club received a very significant honor in February, when we received the 2014 Peter White Award, presented by the Marquette Regional History Center. See the article on page 3 for details.

Speaking of awards, the club presented its annual Earth Science Awards to students Joseph Lawinger of Michigan Tech, and Katie Ringler of Northern Michigan University. See the article on page 5 for more information about these outstanding recipients.

-Dan Fountain

GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS

The 2014 show is history now and to all that helped in any way, thank you! Without your help the show could never be a success. We again had over 1500 attendees and it was a beautiful day. All the vendors that I spoke with commented on the show and the number of people who were there. The field trips again provided the opportunity for those who joined the trip to collect some very nice specimens. We had 60+ field trippers on Friday and 50+ on Sunday. The Saturday night function was will attended. The program on Michigan Gold & Silver, the donated raffle prizes (36) and the live auction items kept everyone there for the evening. Again, over all the show was a success and to all who helped, thank you.

Now for the 2015 show. It is set for August 1, with the field trips on Friday, July 31 and Sunday August 2. When you look at a calendar you say to yourself it is 6 months away, but those months seem to just fly by, as there are a lot of items that need to be addressed in that time period. One item is the raffle. Once the tickets are available, we need someone who will be the raffle chairperson. Then we get into advertising, the flyers and sending them out to whomever. We are working on the field trips now and as of now they will be to the Republic mine and the Lindberg Quarry. Our attendees want to keep going back to the two areas. We are looking for suggestions for the Saturday night program and for an auctioneer. During these winter days with no field trips, how about taking a field trip to your basement and starting to put together specimens for silent auctions. The auctions are a big draw for those who attend.

For now, mark your calendar so you will not miss the show, and think about how you can help the club make the show another great success. If you have any questions please contact me and talk with me at the club meetings.

-Ernie Johnson

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 14, 2015

Kaleidoscope

Volunteers needed – see page 5

FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Program Meeting

Topic and presenter to be announced

MARCH 15, 2015

Program Meeting

Topic and presenter to be announced

APRIL 19, 2015

Annual Club Silent Auction

A variety of specimens donated by members and de-accessioned from the Club's collection will be sold at silent auction. Don't miss this chance to build your collection.

MAY 17, 2015

Program Meeting

Topic and presenter to be announced

SUMMER 2015

Field trips!

We're working on locations.

JULY 31, 2015

Gem & Mineral Show Field Trip
to Republic Mine

AUGUST 1, 2015

42nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show

AUGUST 2, 2015

Gem & Mineral Show Field Trip
to Lindberg Quarry

IRMC WINS PRESTIGIOUS PETER WHITE AWARD

At the Marquette Regional History Center's annual meeting on February 27, 2014, the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club was presented with the prestigious 2014 Peter White Award. The award is in recognition of the Club's many years of dedication to preserving the history of mining and mineralogy in Marquette County and the Upper Peninsula. Jim Paquette, a longtime friend of the club and board member of the History Center, made the presentation, and we can do no better than to quote Jim:

"It is truly an honor for me tonight to present our Marquette Regional History Center's 2014 Peter White Award to the Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club (IRMC).

"The IRMC was organized way back in January of 1953 (wow, that's just a few months after I was born!). The organization was founded by Bob Markert—who served as the organization's very first president -- and a highly dedicated group of 27 local people from the surrounding Ishpeming, Negaunee, and Marquette area who had a joint vision and desire to share and to expand the knowledge that they themselves had about the incredible geologically rich and unique Upper Peninsula rock and mineral formations that are literally beneath our feet. The purpose of the organization as originally defined by founding members Bob and Marion Markert, and as recorded on the front page of the club's newsletter **The Jasplite**, is quite simple, but very deep reaching:

OUR PURPOSE

To enjoy, to learn, to teach and to conserve
The rocks, the gems, the fossils and ores,
To collect, to admire, to brag and to show
The material we've found--we'll trade for yours.

"In the past six decades, this Marquette County home-grown organization has educated thousands of people throughout the Upper Peninsula and the Midwest not only about the amazing geological make-up and history of this area, but because of their efforts, many,

many people through the years have come to better understand—and to respect—our communities' rich mining history and heritage. A listing of all of the countless field trips, educational programs, public invited lectures, the many workshops, publications, the rock, gem, and mineral shows, and just plain "friendly helping hands" that the volunteer members of this organization have provided for the people of Marquette County in the past 60 years would take up volumes, and certainly would take up much more time to talk about than we have here this evening.

"So, let me just say that perhaps the most important thing that we should all keep in mind tonight as we honor the IRMC is that they are an organization that has not only preserved and enhanced the history of Marquette County, but through the dedicated and unselfish volunteer efforts of so many people for so many decades, the IRMC itself has become an important part of our area's wonderful history.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct honor tonight to award our 2014 Peter White award to the members, past and present, of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club. Accepting the award tonight on behalf of his fellow membership is long time member, current vice president, and program chairman, the very face of the IRMC, Ernie Johnson."



Jim Paquette, Ernie Johnson & the Peter White Award

2014 Earth Science Award Winners

Every year the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club gives their earth Science Awards to deserving students in the earth science field, one from Northern Michigan University and one from Michigan Technological University.

This year's honoree from Northern is Ms. Katie Ringler. She is a senior at NMU and is Treasurer of the NMU Rocks and Minerals Club. While weather and climate are her passions, her strong interest in earth sciences make her a deserving awardee. Katie received her award and met the members at the October IRMC meeting.



President Richardson & Katie Ringler

Mr. Joseph Lawinger was this year's honoree from Tech. He is a junior majoring in Geological Engineering and expects to graduate in 2016. Joseph was the top student in Professor Ted Bornhorst's Introduction to Mineralogy class, and maintains a very high GPA. He is also active in MTU's geology club and was elected president for the fall of 2014.

42th ANNUAL UPPER PENINSULA Gem & Mineral Show

Saturday, August 1, 2015 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(All times Eastern Daylight Savings Time)

Ishpeming Elks Club Hall
597 Lakeshore Drive, Ishpeming, Michigan

Dealers

Silent Auction

Crackerbarrel

Displays

Kids Area

Working Demonstrations throughout the day

• **FREE Admission** • **Door Prizes** •

Field trips Friday and Sunday

Space available for all who sell or swap:
outside \$30, inside \$55 per 8 lineal feet.



Brachiopod Fossils from Groveland Mine

KALEIDOSCOPE 2014

WAS A FUN TIME FOR ALL!

The 22nd annual Kaleidoscope has come and gone. Children and their parents were provided many learning experiences. The IRMC had a display that attracted many people interested in the rocks and minerals on display, the sand tub, the fluorescent box, the microscope and the free specimens we gave away. Many thanks to Bob, Bill, Rob, Larry, Robin, Norm, Charley, Ernie, Dawn, and John who helped Al and me set up, answer a multitude of questions, and take down that day. The kids and parents who came learned a lot, but I think the members also had a lot of fun introducing them to the hobby of rock hounding.

Aurora Welker of Harvey won the IRMC collection of sixty rock and minerals specimens by giving the closest estimate of the number of Obsidian "Apache Tear" in the jar. She is a fourth grader at Cherry Creek Elementary. She is interested in rocks because her mom has a relative who brought them rocks from the mines when he worked there.



HELP NEEDED

FOR KALEIDOSCOPE 2015!

Another year has passed and it is once again time for Kaleidoscope. This year it will be held on Saturday, February 14th from noon until 4:00 at the Superior Dome. The event will be on the same weekend as the Sled Dog Race in Marquette so we should have a lot of visitors in the area.

This is a great time to get some good PR for our club. We have been getting hundreds of children and adults visiting our display the past few years. The event is focused on children from toddlers to middle school, but a lot of parents and grandparents also attend.

Our club has a hands-on rock and mineral display, dinosaur and woolly mammoth fossils, a fluorescent display, a microscope for viewing crystals, and a sand tub for digging for fossils. If you have time to help us out, we'd appreciate it. We need help from 11:30 to 12:00 for setting up and after 3:30 to take down. If you are willing to interact with people during the event, you could supervise the sand tub, give out free specimens, watch over the fluorescent display, help with the microscope, or answer questions about the minerals or about the club. If your time is limited, you can come for just an hour or two.

If you have large quantities of small specimens (walnut size) that could be given out, we'd like you to donate them. If you have specimens to donate, contact us (Joyce & Allen Smith: 906-225-040) at least a week before so we can make labels for them. We hope to see you there.

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club

www.ishpemingrocks.org

President	Dan Fountain
Vice President	Ernest Johnson
Secretary	Dawn Hoffman
Treasurer	David McGowan
Program Chairman	Ernest Johnson
Jaspilite Editor	Dan Fountain
Trustees	Bob Clark
	John Crady
	Beverly Trynoski

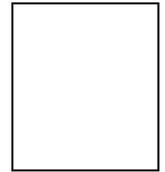
The club meets at the Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum in Ishpeming at 1:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, September through November and January through May. During the summer, business meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month.

WHAT IS (A) JASPILITE????

Well, it's a couple of things! It's been the title of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club's quarterly newsletter since the club's founding in 1953. The club chose the name in recognition of a beautiful variety of banded iron formation found on the Marquette Iron Range, and in the Ishpeming and Negaunee area in particular. It's a rock with alternating layers of silvery specular hematite and red jasper, with the layers commonly folded and contorted. A 13-ton cut and polished boulder of jaspilite from Jasper Knob in Ishpeming is on display outside the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 102
Ishpeming MI 49849



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