



From the Executive Director by Ted Bornhorst

The last “newsletter” was one year ago. The newsletter is similar to **Showcase** except that it is sent in paper form to most of you at least once per year. **Showcase**, our regular digital communication was sent 7 times this past year. If you are not getting it but would like to get it, you can email me (tjb@mtu.edu) to be put on the digital list; we do not share contact information.

When we moved into the new building, the exhibit cases, built in the mid-1970s, were reinstalled. Former Curator Jean Peterman-Kemp did an excellent job of designing them, especially the glass windows which were tilted forward rather than being vertical to lessen reflections. While they are still quite usable they are showing their age. We added black highlighting to the floor cases but we have been seeking a way to economically modernize them and thereby avoid the much larger expense of all new exhibit cases. In 2013 we installed a few new wall cases in the Mineral Treasures gallery because we had no older wall cases left for that gallery. A little over one month ago, a new idea emerged on how to renovate the old exhibit cases with the goal being, to extend their usefulness for another 40 years. We are considering a test implementation before next summer. Modernizing the cases will provide a more visually appealing environment in the Thomas D. Shaffner exhibit hall.

One purpose of this paper Newsletter is to encourage you to support the museum. Renewing your membership or becoming a new museum member provides us that extra support to do such things such as upgrade the exhibit cases. I would be grateful if you would consider a year-end gift to the museum and have enclosed a form making it easy to mail back or you can donate via credit card online: <https://www.mtu.edu/givenow/?desig=A.E.-Seaman-Mineral-Museum-SM01> (Go to <http://www.mtu.edu/giving/> then Ways to Give, Designate Your Gift, Current Priorities, Departments, A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum in the Giving to a Department list)

World-class Datolite Donated

by Chris Stefano, Associate Curator

If you recently visited the museum, you probably noticed the highlight case in the Michigan Copper gallery exhibiting three large datolite specimens from Isle Royale National Park. The largest of these is a single polished section that has been on loan from Roland and Doris Snyder for multiple years. The museum is pleased to announce their generous donation of this world-class datolite to the museum.



Datolite, Isle Royale, Lake Superior
30 by 20 cm
Gift of Roland and Doris Snyder

This datolite was collected about 1980 from an underwater area discovered by a park ranger and prior to restrictions on such collecting. The piece is 30 cm by 20 cm and is a pale cream that fades to reddish pink on its rim. It is one

of the finest and largest nodules of datolite in existence. The museum thanks Doris for entrusting the museum with their legacy. Now you and the many visitors to the museum can continue to marvel at one of nature's masterpieces.

Salotti Earth Science Education Award

Since 1999, the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum has recognized individuals for excellence in earth science education with the Charles A. Salotti Earth Science Education Award. Now the mineral museum has a new partner in selecting the awardee: the Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association (MESTA). Thanks to the efforts of museum executive director Ted Bornhorst and Tiger Salotti, wife of the late Charles Salotti, MESTA has agreed to promote the Salotti Award, solicit nominations and select the awardee. The award will now be focused on recognizing excellence in informal earth science education and/or mentoring. Informal approaches to earth science education include exposing students to experiences such as field trips, field-based explorations/projects, the creation of exhibitions, and museum-based exploration/projects. The mentoring aspect focuses on the positive impact that mentors have both on students, such as helping them to think about careers in earth science, and on other educators, such as professional development.

“I am delighted that MESTA has agreed to partner with the museum to advance informal earth science education,” said John Jaszczak, museum adjunct curator and professor of physics, who has played a key role in the Salotti Award since its inception. “My own path to becoming a scientist started with informal mentoring in the mineral collecting hobby.”

Dr. William I. Rose - 2015 Charles A. Salotti Earth Science Education Award

by John Jaszczak, Adjunct Curator

The Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association (MESTA) and the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum are honored to announce that the 2015 Charles A. Salotti Earth Science Education award winner is Dr. William (Bill) Rose of Michigan Technological University. Bill was formally presented with the award at the MESTA fall conference banquet held October 9th, 2015, at Okemos High School, in Okemos, Michigan.

Dr. Rose has had a distinguished career as a researcher and educator on the faculty of Michigan Technological University since 1970. Now as Professor Emeritus in the department of Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences he has given tremendous effort toward informal earth science education. MESTA's Salotti Earth Science Education Award selection committee was impressed by the letters of recommendations from fellow colleagues as well as current and former students who cited numerous examples of Bill's recent work, including the following: developing geoheritage programming, embedding geoscience of the Keweenaw area within community partnerships and projects, initiating geological interpretive signage within the region and frequently offers educational public field trips. On the Michigan Tech campus he has worked with teacher professional development outreach programs to promote the "Big Ideas of Earth Science" in the Michigan Teaching Excellence Program.



Dr. Bill Rose (left) receiving the 2015 award from MESTA past-president Chuck Schepke.

Nominations for the 2016 award are now being accepted by MESTA. For nomination details and a downloadable form, please visit MESTA's awards and grants website at <https://www.mestarocks.org/cms/content/grants>.

Museum Hosts Outreach For Great Explorations Children

by John Jaszczak, Adjunct Curator

This past August the museum hosted 26 students from kindergarten to 5th grade from the community "Great Explorations" (GE) to participate in a hands-on workshop about minerals called "Treasures from the Earth". The students were split into three groups, and guided through the museum by museum assistant Margaret Hanson, associate curator Chris Stefano and adjunct curator John Jaszczak. Afterward they gathered together to explore minerals, their properties and how to study them. With the support of the museum and the UP section of the American Chemical Society, each of the children received an assortment of interesting mineral specimens, a specimen storage box, a loupe magnifier, a notebook, an ultraviolet LED flashlight, and an introductory book about rocks and minerals- all to keep. The attentiveness and the gratitude of the students were apparent as they received their treasures throughout the workshop, studied the minerals, and listened to Drs. Stefano and Jaszczak introduce each topic. We expect that several future scientists and mineral collectors were born or inspired that day. Thanks to Dr. Loredana Valenzano (Chair, Upper Peninsula Local Section of the American Chemical Society) for initiating and supporting this project.



(left) Museum assistant Margaret Hanson showing GE students the copper slab in the museum's new pavilion. (right) GE students taking notes about some of the new mineral specimens they received.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE A. E. SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM

