

While most news reported here has been regarding the collection, there are exciting developments outdoors too. Last fall we dedicated the Phyllis and John Seaman Garden located immediately west of the main building. The garden continues to evolve and when it matures it will exhibit plants and a diversity of rocks from the Great Lakes region organized by the rock cycle; both rocks and plants will be labeled. Another significant development is underway now.

In July of 1991, Bob Barron and Don Kauppi, local divers, discovered a large 17 ton slab of native copper on the bottomlands of Lake Superior in about 30 feet of water due north of Jacob's Creek. In the 10 years to follow, Bob Barron, currently professional staff in the Department of Geological, Mining and Engineering Sciences, and Stan Dyl, past curator and now retired director of the museum, tirelessly sought to have the slab recovered so it could be put on public display. It was recovered by the Army Corps of Engineer's barge and crane from Duluth, MN in July 2001. The native copper slab is on loan from the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources to the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum and has been on exhibit at the Quincy Mine Hoist Association in the hoist building until recently. A generous donation from John and Jane Matz made possible the construction of a new home for the slab just west of the garden. I've been asked so many times in the past couple of weeks about this project that I thought you might like to see a few of my pictures when the actual slab itself was moved into place here at the museum.

World record 17 ton native copper slab on lowboy trailer awaiting placing on stand



80 ton crane lifting the slab from the trailer



Placing slab on to specially designed stand



Pushing the slab into position



The Julio Contracting Company crew and owner for past 68 years 2nd from left, stand design engineer on left, Michigan Tech project engineer 4th from left and stand fabricator 4th from right.



As this arrives to you, the pavilion being built over the copper is well underway. The Copper Pavilion exhibit will likely be open for public visitation by late July to early August. Until next time.....

Ted Bornhorst, Executive Director