

When I opened up the last issue of **Showcase** I was amazed that it was from June - about 3 months ago. How time flies! Since the last **Showcase**, the museum has been busy place.

### Copper Pavilion

Made possible by a generous donation from  
John and Jane Matz



View from entrance to parking lot.

In the last issue I described the moving of the world record native copper slab to the museum complex from Quincy Hill. We dedicated the **Copper Pavilion** and opened it to the public for the first time on August 3. After it was set in place a pavilion was constructed over it to keep off rain and snow. The native copper slab was in a near vertical position prior to falling over to a horizontal

orientation as it was found on the bottom of Lake Superior. In the pavilion it is inclined between these two orientations, which provides viewing of its top and bottom. We are working on permanent signs to describe both the geology and the discovery to increase the educational content of the exhibit. We will also be adding to the pavilion a much smaller 500 lb slab that was found nearby as a touchable specimen.



Viewed from walkway west of museum.  
Landscaping not yet complete.

For the past decade, the museum has hosted and organized a summer event, **Keweenaw Mineral Days**, which provides an opportunity for those wishing to do legal collecting of minerals in the Keweenaw Peninsula. This year the event ran from August 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. We had 143 participants from 16 different states and 2 Canadian provinces. All but one individual collecting site was filled to capacity. As part of the event we had a very successful surplus mineral sale at the museum and a few evening presentations. Keweenaw Gem and Gift, collaborator for the event, held a picnic at its new retail store. Mineral shows held by area mineral clubs rounded



2015 Keweenaw Mineral Days participants searching the prepared rock pile surface for native copper, chisel chips, and more.

out the event. Annually for the past 30+ years, the museum has been involved to greater and lesser degrees in the predecessors of this event which was started by former museum director Stan Dyl and Richard Whiteman of Red Metal Minerals. It was organized and hosted for

many years by the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club. The challenges of running an event of this kind are great but since it offers rare and valuable opportunities, we hope to be able to make it work for at least a few more years. Without the generosity of property owners, who allow us access to the rock piles, the event would cease to exist.



Excavator preparing a mine rock pile. Rock is moved and spread out with the goal to provide material not previously searched.

August is traditionally the month with the highest number of visitors to the museum. This past August we recorded the second highest visitation in the past decade. We also recorded the single highest day of visitation since reopening July 2011 at our permanent home on Sharon Avenue. The museum is a destination for geology field trips by Midwest universities, elder hostel groups, local K-12 and great explorations children's groups, tour buses, Girl and Boy Scout groups, beginning to connoisseur mineral collectors, tourists, Michigan Tech alumni, and prospective students and their families. We take our role to showcase the quality of Michigan Tech very seriously.

In the next issue as the Fall colors begin to fade, I will be telling you about a couple of new acquisitions for the collection.

*Ted Bornhorst, Executive Director*