

# Welcome to art of snowflake

WHEN SOMEONE cries out, "red-bellied woodpecker," we know he's referring to a bird. But if someone cried out, "I found a spatial dendrite," would you know what he had found?

If you were a snowflake fancier, you would.

As the season of snow approaches, identifying different snowflakes may be as much fun as identifying birds. With the use of an inexpensive hand lens a new world of beauty, shape and form can be discovered.

JUST AS birdwatching has field



nature  
**Timothy Nowicki**

guides to help identify birds, Edward R. LaChapelle has developed a field guide to snow crystals.

It's not necessary to learn the 80 different types of snow crystals that have been classified, but a few basic types will suffice to get started.

All snowflakes begin developing around a minute dust particle in a cloud. Water forms around the particle and begins to crystallize. Where the crystal starts forming will determine what kind of crystal is formed initially.

Cold air with little moisture will form column crystals. If the air is warm with lots of moisture, large feathery crystals form.

Often crystals are recirculated in the clouds before they fall to the ground. While they are moving around in the cloud, they may change shape because of the temperature and moisture.

TYPICAL SNOWFLAKES are known as stellar crystal and are only half-inch in diameter.

Large fluffy flakes are formed by several individual flakes interlocking.

Flat six-sided hexagonal plates are also formed and may combine

Column crystals with stellar crystals at both ends form another "hybrid" known as a tsuzumi crystal.

MANY SNOW crystals have minute beads of ice on them. This is called rime. If the flake is covered beyond recognition with rime, it is then known as graupel.

Examining snow crystals that fall on your glove with a hand lens is an enlightening experience. They may not last long, but before they melt, you will find a hidden world of delicate dendrites.

## Medics oppose AIDS test

AIDS testing shouldn't be mandatory, a spokesman for the Michigan State Medical Society said recently.

The health care organization announced its opposition to proposed state legislation that would mandate testing for prison inmates, military recruits, immigrants, and organ, blood and semen donors. It also announced opposition to reporting of AIDS carriers' names.

"Based on the studies available to date, the conclusion of the MSMS and the AMA (American Medical Association) are that mandatory testing will only drive people underground and away from the health care system," said Dr. Carl Gagliardi, MSMS president.

Anonymous reporting, as well as tracing of past contacts, is already possible, Gagliardi said.

AT THE same time, the organization seeks legislation protecting doctors who fail to warn unsuspecting third parties of potential AIDS infection because of patient confidentiality or lack of knowledge of the patient's past sexual contacts.

MSMS members also opposed legislation mandating AIDS testing for all patients entering hospitals.

The MSMS represents 11,000 doctors statewide.

In other AIDS news:

Anti-discrimination rulings protecting school children with AIDS should be extended to adult workers who have contracted the fatal virus, a University of Michigan Law School professor said recently.

"The likelihood of transmission of the virus between schoolchildren — who may scratch and bite each other

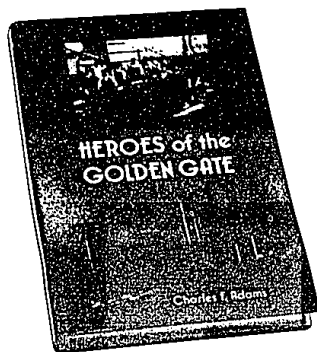
in play — seems much greater than between adult co-workers or between a teacher with AIDS and a student," professor Theodore St. Antoine said.

EMPLOYER WORRIES shouldn't be used as an excuse to keep AIDS workers off the job, St. Antoine said.

AIDS patients are generally protected under provisions of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, an act drafted to protect the handicapped, St. Antoine said.

"Just as employees' reactions to co-workers of different races does not justify overriding the 1964 Civil Rights Act, any employer who receives federal funding must obey the Rehabilitation Act and protect an AIDS patient from on-the-job reprisal by fellow employees."

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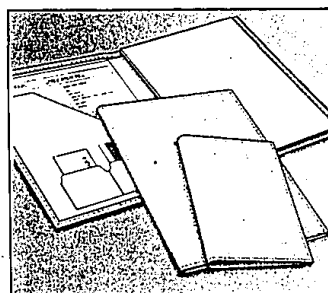
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