

Marie C. Niebauer
174 E. Cleveland Road
South Bend, Indiana 46637

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE ROCKFINDER

APR 1976



MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC.
1976 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....	George E. Kelsheimer	19137 Dresden Dr., So. Bend, Ind.	46637
Vice Pres.....	James F. Russell	27911 North St., No. Liberty,	46554
Secretary.....	Betty Jordan	16705 Eisenhower Dr, Mish., Ind.	46544
Treasurer.....	Maxwell L. Cripe	119 S. Hawthorne Dr, So. Bend, Ind.	46617
Liaison.....	Molly Elwell	105 No. Ironwood Dr, So. Bend, Ind.	46615
Past Pres.....	Jess Wise	1513 Clarendon Ave. Niles, Mich.	49130

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Program.....	James F. Russell	27911 North St., No. Liberty,	46554
Hospitality....	Nina Hassler	Rt. #3, Plymouth, Ind.	46513
Education.....	George E. Kelsheimer	19137 Dresden Dr, So. Bend, Ind.	46637
Librarian.....	Phillip Lilley	2422 Hollywood Pl, So. Bend, Ind.	46617
	Wayne Lilley	2422 Hollywood Pl, So. Bend, Ind.	46617
Historian.....	Bess Wise	1513 Clarendon Ave, Niles, Mich.	49120
Field Trips....	Frank Elwell	105 No. Ironwood Dr. So. Bend, Ind.	46615
Safety.....	Leslie Van Wormer	Rt. #5, Box 113, Elkhart, Ind.	46514
Sunshine.....	Pauline Kelsheimer	19137 Dresden Dr. So. Bend, Ind.	46637
Scholarship....	Catherine Grayckowski	1111 No. Huey St. So. Bend, Ind.	46628
Display.....	Jess Wise	1513 Clarendon Ave. Niles, Mich.	49120
Publicity.....	Sherry Russell	27911 North St. No. Liberty, Ind.	46554
Membership.....	C. L. Mortensen	913 So. 36th St. So. Bend, Ind.	46615

THE MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC., a non-profit organization, is affiliated with the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES and with the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

REGULAR MEETINGS

TIME: 2:00 P.M.	PLACE: Nature Center
Fourth Sunday of Each Month	Rum Village Park
June - Field Trip Meeting	2626 So. Gertrude Street
July - No meeting	South Bend, Indiana
August - Annual Picnic	

DUES

Individual - \$3.00 per year Family - \$5.00 per year Junior - \$0.50 per year

ROCKFINDER STAFF

Editor.....	Fred Niebauer	174 E. Cleveland Rd. So. Bend, Ind.	46637
Asst. Editor...	Sherry Russell	27911 North St. No. Liberty, Ind.	46554
Staff Members..	Club Members		

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 5th of the month, of publication.
Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER, provided due recognition is given.

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 16

Number 4

April 1976

Published by Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc.

South Bend, Indiana

Regular Meeting:

April 25, 1976

Time: Doors Open 1:30 PM, EST
Meeting 2:00 PM, EST

Place: Nature Center
Rum Village Park
2626 South Gertrude Street
South Bend, Indiana

Program: Business Meeting

Program to be presented by
our junior members

Hospitality:

John & Juanita Tetzloff
Joe & Leota Joachim
John & Roberta Bohdan

Educational Meetings:

Time: 7:00 PM, EST

Place: First Bank Basement
Corner of U.S. 31 North
and Cleveland Road
South Bend, Indiana

Program: Friday, April 23, 1976
"Pseudomorphs"

Program: Friday, May 14, 1976
"Cameos, Intarsias, and
Scottish Jewellery"

FIELD TRIP FOR MAY

MORGAN-MONROE STATE FOREST CAMP-
GROUND MAY 14, 15, 16
Camp or stay at a motel nearby.
Highway 37 South of Indianapolis.
Find geodes and what-have-you.
For more information, call the
Russells - 289-7446



Calendar

- April 23-25 Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society show
Richmond, Indiana
- April 24-25 Calumet Gem & Mineral Society show,
Highland, Indiana
- April 24-25 Peru YMCA Rocks & Mineral Society show,
Peru, Indiana
- May 1-2 Wabash Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
show, Lafayette, Ind.
- May 7-9 St. Joseph Valley Rockhound Club show
Elkhart, Indiana
- May 8-9 Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society show
Kalamazoo, Michigan

1940

1941

1942

1943

1944

1945

1946

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The Michiana Rock and Gem Club met, in the monthly meeting, at the Nature Center, Rum Village Park, South Bend, Ind. on March 28, 1976.

The meeting was called to order by President George Kelsheimer. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Treasurer's report was presented by Jim Russell, acting for Max Cripe, Mr. Russell reported on the club's income and disbursements during the month of February.

The Treasurer's report read and approved.

Field Trip Correction on the Secretary part, The Sept. bus trip will be in October.

Sept. first Jim Russell will be on W.S.B.T. Morning Show to talk about our Rock and Gem Show.

An auction was held to raise money for our Scholarship fund. Jim Russell, Auctioneer raised \$93.25.

Program - For May "Artifacts" by Bill Mangold, from Three Oaks, Mich.

Display - Carlton Pletcher showed display of rocks he brought back from his vacation in Florida.

Door Prizes - Door prizes were won by Thelma Monashan, Olive Sammons, Phil Silley.

Attendance - 42 members, 15 visitors

Motion was made to adjourn by George Kelsheimer, second by Molly Elwell.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Jordan

Hostesses For September 26th Meeting:

September was omitted when the list of hostesses was published in February.

Jessee & Betty Jordan
Fred & Marie Niebauer
Clyde & Alice Ellis

Nina Hassler, Chairman
Hospitality Committee

President's Message:

Our president, George E. Kelsheimer, has been in the hospital. He is now at home but not up to getting a message to you at this time.

We all wish George a speedy recovery and hope to have him with us at our April meeting.

Editor

At our March meeting we had 56 members and 6 visitors.

The visitors were:

Ann Van Dyke
Paul W. Van Dyke
Mary Davis
Marcia Davis
Gordon K. Wesel
Linda Lifke

Gordon K. Wesel became a member of our club at this meeting. We all welcome him and wish him all the fun we have been having.

Nature Center Display

The display has been completed. Specimens and minerals were donated by the following:

Lew Bourdon
Elza Brockenhamer
Bob & Margaret Heinek
Lawrence & Catherine McHugh
Fred & Marie Niebauer
Carlton & Doris Pletcher
Castleman Fuel & Heating Co.
Quality Stone Center, Inc.

If at any time anyone has an item which they would like to add to the display, we will be happy to make this addition.

Display Committee,

Elza Brockenhamer
Jim Russell
Fred Niebauer

Selective Rockhounding

The ultimate aim of most rockhounds is the collection of materials that can be finished for application to jewelry or some other beautiful piece of handiwork for display in the home or at rock shows. In our search for good rocks all of us bring back home a large percentage of trashy stones which may have the appearance of workable material but on closer inspection the opposite may be true. The result is a larger mound of stones in the back yard, of which I have a plentiful sufficiency.

Many words have been written by experts on the subject of rocks selection and this writer makes no pretense of being an expert for after reading many of these articles I still continue to add to my piles of granite, sandstone, gneiss and other non-workable materials.

Having spent some time in the mountains of the west where most good stones abound, I had on occasion spent much of my time in and around the many streams of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming and have spent considerable time studying the various types of rocks and petrified wood. On most of my meandering through these valley streams, I have concluded that these streams carry tons of gravel and stones from the high country where the water is fast and powerful and deposit them in the valleys below where the water does not have the swiftness to sustain the load. The stone and gravel beds will be found mostly along the shorelines of large and small streams and some of them are so vast as to provide hours of hunting.

The Yellowstone River east of the divide is well-known as a mecca for agate hunters but a surprising amount of good hard colorful cutting material can be found along the smaller streams if some time is taken to thoroughly examine them before placing them in the rock bag.

If applied, a few simple rules will reduce the number of leverites

Selective Rockhounding (continued)

you take back to your Indiana home. If the rocks have been thoroughly washed by the fast waters in springtime, the job of selecting will be made much easier for under these conditions it is much easier to determine if the material contains color and if so does it penetrate far enough into it to make an interesting piece. If the sun is shining at the time, you will be less apt to keep a gray colorless piece of agate or other opaque material. Is the rock heavy for its size and generally smooth or does it have the appearance of a badly fractured piece?

Petrified wood can also be found in these gravel beds - some colorless and others with red and yellow and white banding. Color will depend on where it has remained for all of the eons it took to complete the metamorphic cycle. Once you have adjusted your eyes to the wood pieces you will want to continue your search for there will be many different shapes and sizes - some with colorful interiors while the outer surface may be drab and uninteresting. This is, of course, true of many stones also and even the most practised eye will be deceived.

Quartz will be found in quantities since it comprises a large percentage of all rock and gravel deposits. Unless you intend to tumble these white opaque and clear specimens, toss them back to deceive some other hapless hunter of rocks. Jasper is also found in these gravel beds in mixed colors and solid greens but all of it will be worth collecting.

On my last visit to Montana we found huge deposits of red agates, most of it on the banks of the river where it had been exposed to freezing and thawing. While the stones were of the best red tones, we were forced to use a glass to determine the extent of the fractures in them and

SELECTIVE ROCKHOONDING (continued)A Thank You:

Carlton Pletcher would like to share with you the following:

March 30, 1976

Dear Mr. Pletcher,

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to you for being a guest exhibitor at the 7th annual show of the Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society. We are well aware of the time, effort, planning and skill required to produce a good exhibit. It is fine exhibits, like yours, that make gem and mineral shows an inspiration to fellow rock hounds and a rewarding experience to the general public.

Thank you again for being an important part of our recent show.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Peg Mohn

Polishing Thundereggs:

Floyd Garber, Charles City, Iowa, has a method of polishing flat surfaces such as thundereggs. "I lap the surface with 220 grit, then 400 grit, and finally 600. After washing well, I put the stones under a heat lamp or 100 watt bulb for 5 minutes.

When they are dry and very warm throughout, I polish them on a felt wheel with tin oxide. It takes no time at all to get a good polish. In this way I preheat the stone so the polishing action is instant. I have no trouble by preheating the stone.

Otherwise the felt wheel has to heat the stone, to start the action of polishing. I have helped many people out by this method. It speeds up polishing time by three-fourths.

From Gem and Minerals

in more instances than I care to relate, when I cut into some of them at home I found fractures that made them unsuitable for finishing. Such is the effect of sun and rain on these seemingly perfect hard stones.

It is not always necessary to travel the great distances to the Rocky Mountain states to find good hard rocks. Some of our states have deposits of specific types of material and some of these materials can be found in good quantities if you plan your trips to those particular areas.

No attempt has been made here to describe the more scientific methods of determining the hardness of a rock by the scratch method or specific gravity. I prefer to use the hit and miss method and if I bring home enough scrap material, perhaps some day I may pave a driveway with them or build a chicken coop. But seriously, if you visit enough gravel pits and examine the peculiar shapes and colors of the stones found there, using the few tips I have described about you will undoubtedly find something of value. In southern Michigan gravel pits I have found one nice piece of jade with colorful inclusions and a host of fossils. Keep your eyes to the ground and good luck.

C. L. Mortensen

Annual Audit

The club books have been audited and found to be in order and well kept. They have been turned over to Maxwell Cripe, our Treasurer, who has returned from vacation.

Your auditing committee recommends that the practice of using two signatures on our checks again be followed.

Audit Committee,
Fred Niebauer
Melvin Chesnut
Alice Ellis

Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER



Published monthly except July and August as a service to members clubs.
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication
should be sent to the Editor, Haydon Peterson, Parrot Printing, 2125 Forest, Des Moines, Ia. 50311

Issue No. 164 - April 1976

Executive meeting

The Midwest Federation Executive Committee will meet at the Ramada Inn, 5560 6th Street, S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406. (319-366-7721). This is the spring meeting and will be held April 10, 1976. A noon luncheon will be served and tickets will be sold in advance. MOtel rates are \$17.00 for a single room and \$23.00 for a double. Free camping is available to all trailers at the show site fairgrounds. There are limited electric hook-ups. All other facilities are at the building sites on the fairgrounds. Mr. Truman J. Ramsell, Show Coordinator, invites all MWF officers and members to display at their show. Both competitive and non-competitive displays are welcome. There will also be a "Come and Go" area. However, this is non-competitive.

GEM TIARA TO JUNE ZEITNER

June Zeitner, a past president of the Midwest Federation and associate editor of the American Federation Newsletter, will be presented with the American Bicentennial Tiara as the "First Lady of Gems" during the International Gem and Mineral Show in Washington, D.C. April 29th through May 2nd. Announcement of the presentation was made by the committee in charge of the show which will also feature other special features with a Bicentennial theme.

The Tiara is being made by Honey O'Sullivan, a jewelry instructor. It will feature a faceted stone or cabochon to represent every state and Washington, D.C. Many of the stones in the Tiara representing the states have been contributed by the many friends of June who are hobbyists and friends.

NEW APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Safety and Field Trip Chairman
Larry Bigley
6126 Hartley Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68507

Administrative Assistant to the Treasurer
Mrs. Milford (Gladys) Sharp
3901 West 210th Street
Fairview Park, Ohio 44126

Meet Our

MWF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

The 1976 First Vice President for the Midwest Federation is Hazel Kuntz, 5 Deer Ridge, Quincy, Illinois. Hazel was a commercial artist specializing in pen and ink and layout work before her retirement. She is a member of two clubs, The Worthen Earth Searchers, Carthage, Illinois of which she was program chairman and the Gem City Rock Club, Quincy, Illinois where she served as secretary. She has also been State Director for Illinois. Her main interest is in minerals but she does some work in lapidary when time permits.



Miss Hazel Kuntz

SPECIAL EXHIBITS AT CONVENTION

In addition to the competitive displays and other special displays, the Midwest Federation Show and Convention will have a large number of museum exhibits. Among these are the "A Mineral Display from the Keweenaw" from the Cranbrook Museum in Michigan; a mineral display from tri-state area collected over 100 years ago exhibited by the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; an exhibit of fine gemstones from the Smithsonian of Washington, D.C., and an exhibit of the "Old Lead Belt" and "Viburnum Trend" from the Ed Clarke Museum of the Missouri Geological Survey, Rolla, Missouri.

Headlining the working exhibits and demonstrations are "An Equipment Demonstration" by Crystalite Corporation, California; "A Tumbling Demonstration" by Geosonics, New London, Iowa; an art working exhibit by A. O. Henry, Omaha, Nebraska; a gemstone tree and picture-making exhibit by Bev and Hugh Carroll, Fort Dodge, Iowa; a wirecraft exhibition by McNamar, Des Moines, Iowa; and the sand bottle art by "Almax" Rock and Gift Shop, Lockesburg, Arkansas.

St. Louis
in '76

MIDWEST FEDERATION
SHOW AND CONVENTION

JULY 22 - 25, 1976

WELCOME NEW CLUB!

Cleveland Geological Society
Sister Joan Acker, H.M.
20770 Hilliard Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

PROGRAMS

by E. Donald Stinnett, Program Chairman

Business is good in this part of the Fédération. Even though we have no new program to announce yet, there is one in the making. We very much appreciate the new programs you all are sending to us.

We will be going to the convention in St. Louis so will not be taking orders between July 15th and August 31st. Most clubs are out field-tripping then, and I hope this doesn't inconvenience anyone.

NEW NAME

The Museum Rock and Mineral Club of Oshkosh, Wisconsin recently changed its name. The club will officially now be known as the Oshkosh Earth Science Club. The 1976 president is Mary Jane Overton, 436 West 14th Avenue, Oshkosh, WI.

GIANT TEXAS PTERODACTYL

Fossil collectors visiting Texas for the National Show will have the thrill of seeing the giant Texas Pterodactyl at the Texas Memorial Museum. The bones of the gigantic flying creature were discovered in the rugged Big Bend area in the early 1970's by geology student, Douglas Lawson. The wing span of the ancient Texas size animal is estimated at about 51 feet, making it the largest flying creature known to science. The Memorial Museum also houses the superb Barron Mineral and Gem Collection. Shuttle bus trips to the Museum will be available from the show which will be in the Austin Auditorium on Town Lake.

Field trip information will be available at the show. There are excellent fossil hunting locations near Austin, and the hill country of Texas also has collecting areas for mineral and gem hunters. The Llano Uplift is the source of Texas blue topaz and other gems, rocks and minerals. Ranches around Mason and Enchanted Rock are favorite sites. Southeast of Austin are locations for petrified wood, including palm.

The four day show promises something for everyone interested in the earth sciences and lapidary arts. Displays will feature everything from hand cast jewelry to tektites, the Texas outer space objects. With lectures, seminars, luncheons, barbecues and a host of other events, the schedule is packed with education and recreation for old and young.

WINTER CRYSTALS

Earth Science News tells how to collect beautiful crystals in the winter. The crystals are snowflakes. While there is no trophy at present for the best snowflake collection, here is how to do it. Collect the fragile crystals on cold black velvet and transfer with a cold toothpick to glass microscope slides which have been kept at a 32 degree temperature. Spray at once with acrylic which will harden immediately. The process is said to be simple, interesting and fun. Brrrrr!

RECENT DISCOVERIES

The Oshkosh (Wisconsin) Quarrier prints an item about the exciting scientific discovery in west central Africa of a burned out natural nuclear reactor. French scientists believe it may have caused mutations in the plant and animal life of the region about 2 billion years ago. Work has stopped at the area of the open pit uranium mine for investigation of the spontaneous reactor which is the only known natural atomic pile. Henry Chauvet, chief geologist of the mine, said the reactor was started by unknown causes and burned with a cataclysmic effect on the environment for more than a million years but that radioactivity from the spontaneous fission has long since disappeared.

The Rockfinder (Michiana Rock and Gem Club) reports that Dr. Bruce Raemsch, anthropologist from Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York and his archeological team have recently found a hand ax and several other ancient tools at a dig near Cobleskill, New York which are thought to be 70,000 years old. In earlier digs Dr. Raemsch discovered 30,000 year old tools.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

A club particularly active in the educational aspects of the hobby is the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. The club members are concentrating on the mineral, gem and fossil deposits of their own area. Their prospecting and collecting are scientifically done, and their records are available in pictures as well as in writing. Their program on *Florissant Pegmatites* has been popular everywhere it is shown. Another of their professional quality programs is about the legendary gold town, Cripple Creek. The club is almost finished with a documentary on the *Florissant Fossils* and is sixty percent or more through with a comprehensive program on Colorado minerals. Many clubs could produce similar programs even if their area is not as richly blessed as Colorado Springs.

George Cihacek, Editor of *The Loup Scoop* (Nebraska) says thirty-six out of the forty-two members of the Loup Valley Club are graduates of a rock and lapidary class sponsored by the Platte College Continuing Education Division. Schools all over the country will offer such courses if there are enough requests.



THIS IS YOUR LAND
KEEP IT CLEAN