

FREDERICK C. NIEBAUER
174 E. Cleveland Road
South Bend, Indiana 46637

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE ROCKFINDER

MAY 1978



MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC.
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Junior Activities...			
	Joe Charles	26863 New Road, North Liberty, Ind.	4655
	Germaine Lifke	620 E. Marion St., Mishawaka, Ind.	46544

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 Street, No. Liberty, Ind.	46554
Staff Members...	Club Members		

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 5th of each 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 18

Number 5

May, 1978

Published by Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc.

South Bend, Indiana

Regular Meeting:

May 28, 1978

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

Place: Nature Center
Rum Village Park
2626 So. Gertrude St.
South Bend, Indiana

Program: Business Meeting

Surprise -- come and see
what Merl has for us.

Hospitality:

Russell & Goldie Randolph
Ossie & Josephine Kytta

Educational Meetings:

Time: 7:30 PM, EST

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

Program: Friday, May 26, 1978
Meeting Cancelled - Decora-
tion Day weekend.

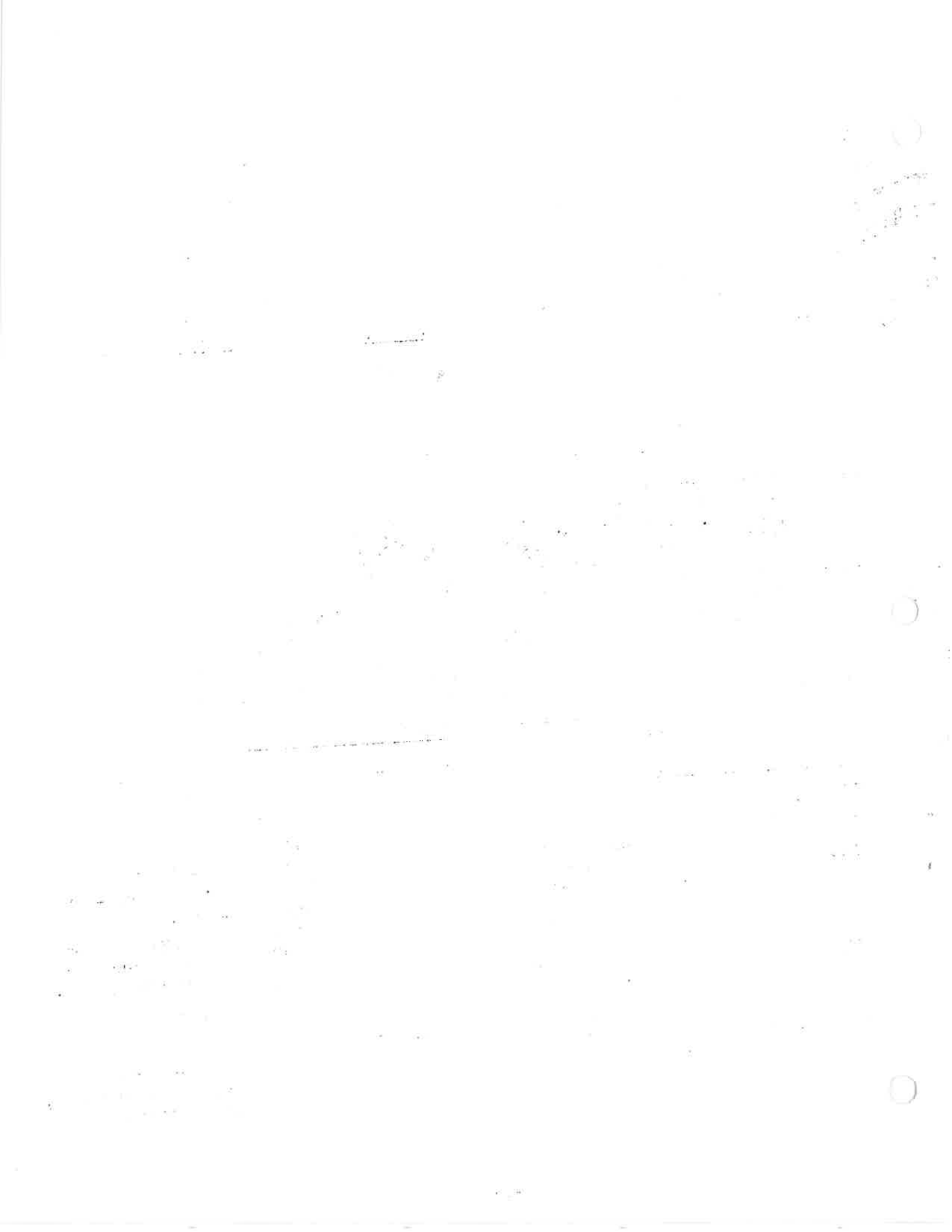
Program: Friday, June 9, 1978
Make items for club booth
at our Show.



Mothers Day

Calendar of Events:

- June 3-4 Steve Line Gem & Mineral Society Rock Swap, Wauseon, Ohio
- June 11 Our June Meeting at Rensselaer Quarry - bring picnic lunch.
- June 24-25 Michigan Geology & Gem-Craft Society Educational Seminar, Harrison, Mich.
- Aug. 10-23 MWF Show & Convention Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Sept. 9-10 Michiana Rock and Gem Club Show, 4H Fairgrounds, South Bend, Indiana



FROM YOUR ROCKY LEADER,

Hello there, fellow Rockhounds. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you Mothers and Grandmothers a Happy Mothers Day. Fellows, be nice and give the little lady a treat for Mothers Day, take her out.

It was sure great to see so many of you at our April meeting. We were glad to have the Cripes, Ellis's, Niebauers and Stouts back from their winter vacations.

To Carlton and Doris Pletcher the program that you presented was really great. I hope that the members present enjoyed the program as much as I did.

Things are moving along for our upcoming show in September of this year. Margaret is busy lining up the guest exhibits, and soon will be contacting the Club Members for their exhibits. If you will recall the plea has gone out for material for the Silent auction, Club Booth, Kid-dies Corner, and Grab Bags. PLEASE GANG, WE NEED GOOD MATERIAL. Remember as I have said before, this is your show, and only you can make it a success. Your 100% assistance is needed.

The Board has started the plans for our 1979 Show. Contact is being made with the ACC and plans are in the works. Also as I stated at the meeting, we are moving along with our bid for the 1981 MWF Show and Convention. I will be appearing at the MWF Executive Board Meeting on April 29th at Highland Indiana. The reason for this is that they have requested some information from us which I have compiled for them. I feel that if our Club is awarded the Show, we will do a great job. I know that there will be a lot of work, but if all of you give me the support that you have in the past, we can do it and be proud when it is over. If you have not read the first three issues of the Lapidary Journal this year, on "Shows, Shows, Shows," written by June Culp Zeitner, please read them. They are wonderful stories and give a lot of important information, that will assist us and

FROM YOUR ROCKY LEADER (CONTINUED)

other clubs on putting on great shows.

Merl will be calling for assistance on building the cases that are needed. When he calls you, say I'll be glad to help. I believe someone made a suggestion that we have a "Pot Luck" when we start this project

Well, Rockhounds, we have some really great field trips coming up. Hope to see you on some of them if not all. See you later.

Your Rocky Leader,
Jim

FIELD TRIPS

As you know, we have a field trip coming up May 20 & 21 to Morgan Monroe State Forest. A fun trip this will be.

To get there take US 31 So. to 465 W, go west on 465 to 465 So., go south to 465 E, east to 37. Go south on 37 to the State Forest. When you get there, go to the area past the Ranger station, where there is a fire tower. Turn right and go to the farthest camp area. There is plenty of room for tents, trailers, motorhomes and what have you. Hope to see all of you there. Dewey will have the information on the Gold Panning. Feel free to bring your pets, some good walking shoes and a pair of boots.

For you non-campers, there are motels in the area, and we will assemble at the campground for the various field trips.

The Russells will be leaving South Bend around 4:00 PM Friday, May 20. If anyone wants to travel with us in a group, give us a call. 289-7446.

Remember our June 11th trip which is our annual Rock Hunt-picnic with a short meeting. For this trip we will assemble for a caravan at the K-Mart parking lot on Western Ave. Take St. Rd. #23 to US 30, west on 30 to 421, south on 421 to 114, west on 114 to the quarry. Bring your lunch, boots and wear old clothes. We will leave the parking lot around 8:00 to 8:15 AM South Bend time. This quarry has some great pyrite specimens.

Minutes of the April Meeting

The Michiana Rock and Gem Club met April 23, 1978, at the Rum Village Nature Center, South Bend, Ind. President Jim Russell called the meeting to order. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as printed in the Rockfinder, motion carried. Treasurer's report was read and approved for audit.

Librarian - Two new books were bought and placed in our club library.

Old Business - Doris and Carlton Pletcher were awarded a nice gift for being the winner of our rock show theme this year, "Fantasy of Gems." Sherry Russell has ordered 25 patches at two dollars and fifty cents a piece. Also there are some decals ordered. If you are interested in buying any of these, please call Sherry Russell. Thanks to Jerry Shoemaker for getting our show flyers printed for the Club.

New Business - Cathy Miller is making a plea for her show booth. She needs polished stones or what ever you have for her to use for the kiddies sand-box. Sherry Russell also would like to be remembered. She needs things for the silent auction. When you go on field trips, pick up a few extra rocks for the club.

Display cases will be built for members to buy in the next couple of months. There should be at least 12 for sale. Place and time where they will be built will be in the May Rockfinder. A motion was made by Doris Pletcher, seconded by Joe Charles, if the editor is notified that he has been awarded an award, the club will pay fifty dollars to help defray the expenses. Motion carried.

Program - Doris and Carlton Pletcher showed slides from their vacation last year.

Door prizes were won by Robin Miller, Sherry Russell and Stanley Kile.

Motion was made to adjourn by Russ Randolph, seconded by Frank Elwell.

Attendance - 51 members

4 visitors

Secretary, Betty Jordan

A Note From Lucy Miller

During her four-month trip out west, she went to the Quartsite Rock Show and was a guest of Vivian and Ray Welborn and Dorothy Riordan in Wickenburg, Arizona.

Our Visitors

At our April meeting we were pleased to have the following visitors with us:

Ralph Young
Jerry Groday
Sue Groday
Angela Lacy

New Member

We all extend a welcoming hand to George R. Mc Connel and his wife Cora.

George is president of the St. Joe Valley Rock Hounds Club.

New Books:

Our librarian, George Kelsheimer has added two new books to our library:

Illustrated Encyclopedia of
Minerals and Rocks
By Jiri Kourimsky
Edited by Randolph Lucas

The Weekend Fossil Hunter
By Jerry C. LaPlante

April Program

The April program was presented by Carlton and Doris Pletcher on their recent trip to Greece and Italy. A fine slide presentation was shown along with various handi-craft items and rock and mineral specimens that they collected on their trip. The program was enjoyed by all members present.

Apollo 16 Moon Rock

This rock weighs 93.5 grams. It is a fragment of the original rock that weighed 4,262 grams when returned to Earth. The sample is a polymict breccia, and like all lunar highland breccia, it is very old, older than 99.99% of all earth surface rocks. This rock is 3.9 billion years old. Scientific research is being conducted on the balance of this sample at NASA's Johnson Space Center and at other research centers in the United States and certain foreign nations under a continuing program of investigation involving lunar samples collected during the Apollo Program.

Its chemical composition differs from terrestrial rocks mainly in its different percentages of constituent minerals.

From National Aeronautical and Space Administration's Ames Research Center

Contributed by Catherine Mc Hugh

Dying Gemstones

Crazy lace agate, some figured chert, and other agate such as Brazilian agate and others; can be dyed a more pleasing color. Get Rit dye powder and mix with wood alcohol, not the rubbing kind; a couple as oz. for the small package of Rit. Use small glass jars, such as baby food jars. Any small glass jar with a screw top will do. The salt in the dye won't matter. Crazy lace agate comes out beautiful. Much of it is a dull gray or pale color. With red, blue, or green dye it is much more interesting. Let it soak as long as is needed. Some stones will absorb the dye in $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, some take over night or longer. If too much color is absorbed, soak in clear wood alcohol till you are pleased. Only try this on polished cabs. After dyeing, wash in clear water. Let the stone dry and apply a good wax like Johnson's Favor. Rub with a soft cloth.

From The Hammer, via Crystal Gazette

How To Cut Obsidian

Iridescent--There are two types of iridescent obsidian. In cutting both correctly the orientation of the color is most important. One type of obsidian is banded, and the color lies in bands. On the unbanded type, the surface has to be chipped to find the color. The banded type will have several colors or shades, while the unbanded type will have only one color. Cut the banded material parallel to the bands to get the eye effect.

To get rainbow effect, cut the stone at approximately a 50 degree angle across the bands. Most Glass Butte iridescent obsidian is banded.

Gold Sheen--To get the most out of mahogany gold sheen obsidian, saw with the bands, as if they were a stack of plates and you wish to unstack them. Watch for "fire" spots in gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opal-like colors do sometimes occur in mahogany gold sheens.

Midnight Lace--Lace patterned obsidian should be cut across the surface pattern that you desire to reproduce.

Rock Scoop via The Loess Bulletin

Specimen Trimming

To break a cavity with fragile crystals from a large matrix specimen while in the field, fill the cavity with fine dirt and hold the material with the cavity facing up to retain the dirt while you trim the specimen. The dirt prevents the shock of hammer blows from loosening the crystals.

This also works very well on large cavities of crystals in large boulders.

At times you may want to trim out a small part of a cavity. If you will fill the rest of the cavity with dirt, it may prevent damage to the crystals you are trying to remove.

From Slab and Gab,
and The Geode

Midwest Federations 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 Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311

May 1978 - Issue No. 185

More new programs available to clubs

More good news about program additions to the Midwest Film Library from Donald Stinnett, Film Library Chairman.

The two prize-winning programs in the American Federation contest last year are now available to Midwest clubs.

"Making Constructed Silver Jewelry" by Marge Collins of Plymouth, Mich. She is a teacher of this subject and the program slides show four projects her students are taught. This is an exceptionally interesting and informative program for beginning silversmith or study groups.

"More Rare Than Diamonds - History of a Fossil Location" is by the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society of Portland, Oregon. It tells a very interesting story by a paleobotanist and an area called Clarno Fossil Location, a very unique area.

Don and the Northwest Federation program chairman are very pleased with a new program swap arrangement they have worked out that will enhance the pro-

gram library in the coming months. First of these programs, "One Hundred Miles of Agate", a tour of the Oregon coast has already been received and will be ready for club use about May 15.

The Midwest is anxious to have clubs participate in supplying programs for the library and clubs wishing to supply programs or have more information about their participation should write to the Film Library Chairman, Donald Stinnett,

All of the programs described above are available to Midwest clubs for immediate booking. Send your request for them to Donald Stinnett, Midwest Film Library, 29462 Aspin Drive, Flat Rock, Mich. 48124. Be sure to include the name and address of the person to whom the program is to be shipped, the exact date it is to be used, and name of your club. And don't forget to include the \$2.00 fee for each program you request. Always give an alternate date and program choice so you will not be disappointed.

Annual educational seminar dates set

The Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society's Fourth Annual Educational Seminar, hosted by Mid-Michigan Community College in Harrison, Mich. will be held on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25.

The seminar will involve illustrated lectures and working demonstrations on a full range of topics concerning geology and the lapidary arts. The areas include jewelry design, silver casting, wirecraft, filigree, Paleontology, Archaeology, mineral photography, faceting, basic and advanced lapidary, mineral identification, uniform rules of judging, carving, and much more. Seminar '77 had 46 different lecturers, presenting 52 different programs, with each program presented several times during the weekend. It is important to note that each year MGAGS strives to offer many new lectures and demonstrations, so that even for those individuals who have attended in the past few years, there is always some-

thing new and exciting to see and to learn.

The seminar will also help to answer questions like how can I improve my exhibit, what does this rule mean, what are the qualifications for becoming a judge, could I clerk for a judging group at a show, where can I find materials for my case, why did I get this comment the last time my case was judged, and can I include this specimen. This portion of the seminar will be conducted under the guidance of Calvin George, past chairman of the Midwest Uniform Rules Committee and present member of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee.

For further information write Lee Kirby, Chairman MGAGS '78 Seminar, 3660 Embarcadero, Drayton Plains, Michigan 48020

Paleontology society formed

The Mid-America Paleontology Society is the name selected by a newly formed fossil club. At their March 4 organizational meeting held at Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. with 38 fossil collectors from three states and ten clubs attending Dick Johannesen, Davenport, Iowa was named President; Gil Norris, Rock Island, Ill., Vice-President; Alberta Cray, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Secretary,

and JoAnn Good, Aledo, Ill., Treasurer.

Johannesen says the club is strictly a fossil club and no rocks, minerals, crystals or lapidary arts will be discussed. They plan to apply for membership in the Midwest Federation. Present membership includes three Assistant State Directors of the Midwest, the Midwest

Continued on back page....

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

The Midwest Federation welcomes into membership Ute Bernhardt, 1157 S. Elmwood Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60304.

Continued from front page...

Paleontology chairman, five bulletin editors, the Director Emeritus of the F. M. Fryxell Geology Museum at Augustana and a Consultant in Paleontology from the same museum. Ages of those attending the organizational meeting were from 8 to 78.

"MAPS" is open to anyone, anywhere who is sincerely interested in fossils. Interested persons may attend a meeting in person or write to Dick Johansen, 1508 W. 38th St., Davenport, Ia. 52806.

Park passports

The National Park Service now has available 1978 Golden Eagle Passports.

This passport costs \$10 for one year and will permit the owner and everyone with him in his vehicle to enter many federal parks and recreation areas where entrance fees are charged.

Golden Age passports, which are lifetime entrance permits to federal park areas, are also available. These passes are available free to persons aged 62 and older.

A brochure listing the areas where the passports are valid and telling how and where to obtain them is now available without charge by writing to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of Interior - South, Washington, D. C. 20204. Ask for pamphlet "1978 Federal Recreation Fee Program. Golden Eagle-Golden Age Passports".



MIDWEST SHOW AND CONVENTION



CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

AUGUST 10-13

Safety manuals proving popular

A report from Dr. Elwood T. Rees, the AFMS Treasurer, says the first 1000 Safety Manuals have gone out to fill orders. He is having a second 1000 printed to fill existing orders.

This 44-page booklet is an excellent manual covering three major safety areas, Field Trip and Camping, Lapidary and First Aid.

The booklet is available from the Federation Supply Office in your club who can secure his supply from Robert H. Hopwood, 1869 N. 71st St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53212. Individual members are requested not to order directly Mr. Hopwood as he is not in a position to ship such orders.

Six summer workshops scheduled

Six Workshops in Native American Technology will be held starting July 17 and continuing through August 25. The workshops have been developed by the Northwestern University Archeological Program and will be held at the University in Evanston, Ill. Each workshop will be one week long and will enable participants to study North American Indian culture by making and using many items commonly found in the artifact assemblages of both prehistoric and historic Indian groups. An ecological perspective will be emphasized, with Workshop participants gathering a wide range of raw material from the environment and processing these into useful containers, tools, clothing, etc. Pottery and stone tool-making, weaving, woodworking, and collecting and processing native foods will be featured.

Workshops will be lead by John White, Director of the Native American Studies Program at the Kampsville Archeological Center; Greg Thomas, one of America's foremost flint-knappers; and Ele White, an expert in Native American weaving techniques.

Additional information on the workshops can be secured by writing Paul Shanks, Workshop Coordinator, Northwestern Archeological Program, 2000 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Ill. 60201

Top prizes

What probably is the most expensive group of prizes ever offered by a host club of a combined Regional and National show are being assembled for lucky winning show goers at the National Show in Pleasanton, Calif., July 27-30.

Carmen Cavaliere of the Castro Valley Mineral and Gem Society, the host club, says tickets and in-

formation regarding the drawing on Sunday afternoon, final day of the show, will be available at the show.

First prize is a Caribbean trip for two for eight days. Departure will be by air from the West Coast and the luxury cruise ship is to be boarded in Florida. Six ports of call can be included and total value of the prize is approximately \$2,000.

Mexico is the destination of

the second place winner and is valued at \$1,400. Winner will have a choice of three colorful areas in Mexico which is for two and covers an eight day period. Departure is from the West Coast.

A microwave oven with a \$500 value will be the third prize. In addition to the top three prizes there will be seven auxiliary prizes each with a value of approximately \$100.