

MARCH 1990



# THE ROCKFINDER

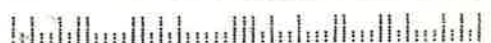


ED MILLER, EDITOR  
MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
114 E. LOGAN ST.  
ARGOS, INDIANA 46501



## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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The MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, a non-profit organization, is affiliated with the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES and with the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

Regular Meetings

Time: 2:00 PM EST	Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of each month	1501 W. Cleveland Road
June-Field trip meeting	South Bend, Indiana
July-No meeting	West of the St. Joseph River
August-Annual club picnic	

Dues

Individual	\$ 6.50 per year
Family	10.00 per year
Junior	2.00 per year

Rockfinder Staff

Editor..Ed Miller	114 E. Logan Street
Staff...Club members	Argos, Indiana 46501

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 10th of each month.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the Rockfinder, provided due recognition is given.

# THE ROCKFINDER

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 3 MARCH 1990  
 PUBLISHED BY: MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY INC. SOUTH BEND, IN.

## REGULAR MEETING:

SUNDAY MARCH 18, 1990

TIME: DOORS OPEN 1:30  
 MEETING 2:00

PLACE: WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 1501 W. CLEVELAND ROAD  
 WEST OF THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER  
 SOUTH BEND, IN.

## PROGRAM: BUSINESS MEETING

I hope all of you take special notice of the early meeting day this month so you won't miss this interesting program. Joseph Plymate will be speaking to us about stream erosion. Mr. Plymate has traveled the state presenting his program with a two projector set-up.

I was really disappointed about missing last month's program on Egypt. Those people who could make it to the meeting really enjoyed Jess's presentation.

## HOSPITALITY:

JANE & STAN KILE  
 JOE KOSSACK  
 MIKE GRING

## COMING EVENTS:

MAR. 24-25

Des Plaines Valley Geological Soc.  
 25th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

Rand Park Field  
 2025 Miner Street  
 Des Plaines, Illinois

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES!



PICK UP YOUR  
 NEW MEMBERSHIP  
 LIST!

CLUB PICNIC



AUG. 5  
 LAKEVILLE  
 CONSERVATION  
 CLUB

## COMING EVENTS CONTINUED:

MAR. 30-APR. 1

Flint Rock & Gem Club  
 24th Annual Gem & Mineral Show  
 Williams Community Education Center  
 3501 Minnesota Avenue  
 Flint, Michigan

APR. 4-7

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club  
 15th Annual Gem & Mineral Show  
 Eastbrook Mall  
 3655 - 28th Street S.E.  
 Grand Rapids, Michigan

APR. 20-22

Mid America Paleontology Society  
 National Fossil Exposition XII  
 Western Illinois Student Union  
 Macomb, Illinois

APR. 21-22

Calumet Gem & Mineral Society  
 17th Annual "Extravaganza" of Gems  
 & Mineral & Jewelry Show  
 Highland High School  
 9135 Erie Street  
 Highland, Indiana

JULY 19-22

Midwest Federation Show  
 Green Convention Center  
 Evansville, Indiana

MINUTES OF MEETING, FEBRUARY 25, 1990

The group met as usual in the Westminster Presbyterian church, with the meeting being opened by President Margaret Heinek calling the group to order a little after 2 p.m. Because of extremely severe weather over the weekend, only 17 members were present, but there were also nine guests. These included Mr. and Mrs. Harold McClure of Dayton, Ohio. Mr. McClure is a vice-president of the Midwest Federation, and was here on the matter of our sponsorship of the 1991 Midwest show.

Kathy Miller moved that the minutes of the January meeting be accepted as printed in the Rockfinder, and Tom McLaughlin seconded. There was no treasurer's report, no Education Committee report, and no Rockfinder report, because Sister Jeanne, Gordon Dobecki and Ed Miller were among those absent. Two of the three hostesses, Joan Scherer and Diane Bowman, were also absent, but Phyllis Smallwood managed to provide cookies and coffee by herself.

Kathy Miller, in the Sunshine report, mentioned that Joe Kossack is still in the hospital having a knee replacement and would appreciate hearing from people in the Club. A note was read from Melvin Chestnut; also one from Clarence Finley, who reports that Vivien is doing better.

Members were reminded that the March meeting has been moved up to the 18th.

The Heineks and the Bob Millers will be attending the Midwest Federation convention in July, but the club is allowed another voting delegate. Margaret nominated Bill Crull, who was unanimously elected. Any other members who can attend were asked to do so, to sit at our table and advertise both the 1990 and the 1991 shows.

The meeting then took up the matter of the missing books. About forty are still missing, some of which are very expensive books, the prices of which are far beyond a year's membership dues. Suggestions are needed for controlling the flow of the books, since we do not have a bookshelf

at our present meeting place. Printing the names of those who have long overdue books in the Rockfinder will solve only part of the problem. Some books are held by former members, who no longer get the Rockfinder, and some books were taken without being signed out. It is very important to let Paul Godollei know when you are taking out a book and when you bring it back. Books should be kept only from one meeting to the next.

Marie Crull moved that the Heineks be instructed to purchase a number of new door prizes at the next show they attend, using their own discretion as to number and price. Kathy Miller seconded and the motion carried.

Junior door prize was won by Danny Zeiger.. Senior prizes were won by Harold McClure (visitor) and Mary Evelyn Miller.

The meeting concluded with a program on Egypt by Jessica Zeiger, who has recently visited there. Jessica used artifacts, parchments, costumes and slides to provide maximum saturation for us in Egyptian culture.

Sister Georgia Costin csc  
Secretary

\* \* \* \* \*

"Dirt" and "soil"—what is the difference? When you sweep the floor in your home or wash your hands, you are trying to get rid of dirt. It is something you do not want and will do you no good to keep it.

The material upon which your home is built and your garden grows is called "soil." It is a precious natural resource that we all depend upon to grow our food and keep us alive. But what exactly is soil?

Soil is made up of 4 parts:

1. Mineral matter—As rocks break up and weather into smaller and smaller particles, eventually they become part of the soil. The largest particles are called sand, medium-size particles are called silt and the smallest particles are called clay.
2. Organic matter—When plants and animals die, they decompose (rot) and become part of the soil. This part of the soil is called organic matter, and makes the soil richer for other plants to grow.
3. Air—Animals that live in the soil must be able to breathe, and plants must be able to push their roots deep into the ground. Soil contains air spaces so this can occur.
4. Water—No matter how dry soil may appear, it likely contains some water. While the presence of enough water in the soil is usually not a problem here in Indiana, it is a serious problem in some parts of the United States and many parts of the world.

## MARGARET'S COLUMN

Sorry the weather was so bad last meeting day, and some of you were not able to attend and enjoy the excellent program that Jessie Zieger and her son gave on Egypt.

Twenty six brave souls were there, including 2 special guests, Harold and Fern McClure from Dayton, Ohio. They drove into South Bend on Saturday in the storm. Bob and I had planned on going to supper with them, but couldn't get into South Bend after the roads were closed. We were able to join them for brunch at the Marriot on Sunday, and ate too much. Harold is 2nd V-President of the Midwest Federation. He has tried to visit all of the State Directors, and wanted to discuss the clubs in Indiana with Bob.

Now on to summer shows. The MWF Convention/Show will be held in Evansville, IN July 19-22..Why not plan on going down for a day or two? Bob and Kathy Miller will have a Lapidary and Editors table and would probably appreciate some help (an hour or two) at the booth and also maybe help hand out fliers for our September 1990 and 1991 shows.

Bob and I have been asked to take a display from the MWF out to Ventura to the national show in June, so if you have a special rock, mineral or fossil from the midwest, and you would like to loan it to me, please let me know.

We have been asked to exhibit at the Chicagoland Gems and Mineral Assoc. show on May 26-28 1990. The CGMA will contribute to the club \$3.00 for each non-competitive case, and \$5.00 for each competitive exhibit. If you are interested in displaying, let me know. I have the exhibit forms.

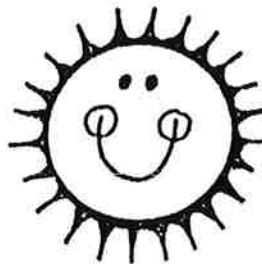
Joe Plymate, of Fairland, Ind. will be our guest speaker for the March 18th Michiana Club meeting. Joe will speak on the cycle of **erosion, a 2 projector show**, and I have heard his programs are excellent. Remember the meeting is one week early.

I'll see you at the meeting, and in the meantime, take care of yourself, and hope we have good weather for the rest of the Winter.

*Margaret*

\* \* \* \* \*

## SUNSHINE REPORT



This month's Sunshine will be in the form of a article submitted by Jessie Zeiger.

Jessie (with her assistant Danny, gave a tremendous program on her vacation to Egypt last year.

### BIRTHDAYS - MARCH

- 3 - Stuart Biek
- 11 - Marie Crull
- 15 - Jane Kile
- 24 - Joseph Kossack
- 22 - Gloria Merrill
- 30 - Margaret Heinek



### ANNIVERSARYS

MARCH 23  
Joyce & Dave  
Darrow



I hope all of you enjoy Jessie's article as much as I have. We tried her Near East receipe, it is great!

Keep Smilin'

*Kathy*

## MY TRIP TO EGYPT--Jess Zieger

Modern Egypt is made up of a strange mixture of races. A blend of the **original Egyptian bloodline along with the blood from the Nubian race of people to the south in Africa** (slaves which were captured by the armies over the centuries) and the other various races which occupied or ruled over the centuries, Greek, Roman and Moslems. The people of northern Egypt are fair skinned and as one progresses south, toward the Nubian Desert, their color becomes darker.

The vegetables and climate are a lot like southern California, palms (date), begonias, cactus, Bird of Paradise, zinnias, sugar cane and bananas. Farming along the Nile is much like it has been for centuries. The government assigns portions of land to farm and on the tour I could see the people taking the children and animals to the area in the very early morning and not returning until early evening.

I thought the food was delicious, but I am not a fussy eater. The meats most often served were lamb, goat, chicken, fish and pigeon (this I ate once and it was OK, but I don't think I would fix it at home). There were many varieties of olives, cheese and breads. Pita bread is very popular there also. Most cheeses are from goat's milk and have a more salty taste than our own brands. I sure missed my Maxwell House coffee and Coffee-mate creamer, as the goat's milk cream just did not compare to it at all. When I was at Abu Simbul, and I had just had a bout of the "Pharaohs revenge" eight hours before, I had a craving for a tall glass of cold milk. The

waiter, wanting to be so helpful, took the hot creamer milk away from my table and went to get a tall glass of cold or almost cold milk. I thought I was going to be sick again after attempting to drink it so as to not hurt his feelings, he said it was camel's milk, and it may well have been. It had taken him a long time to get it for me. I was fortunate to be wandering in a village where tourists do not go, and found that real cow's milk is sold in small cartons for about ten cents in our currency. I purchased a few to keep me from craving milk for the rest of the trip. Bottled water is a must and many of the Egyptians also purchase and carry it with them most of the time.

Cairo houses roughly 7-8 million people, 90% of the religion is Sunni Moslem, with the Christian religion next and only about 6% Jewish.

The Moslems in Egypt, are not supposed to drink and rarely do. The younger crowd are frequently seen in bars at the restaurants and hotels, but they only consume non-alcoholic drinks. The Moslems are also not allowed to enter or gamble in the Casinos.

While I was there, I had a sense of safety, we would walk the streets at night and did not hear or see any type of criminal activities going on.

Many of you enjoyed the FALAFEL sample I brought to the meeting. It is made by the "Near East" company and sold at Martin's store by Scottsdale and the west side of South Bend. You make them into patties and fry them until they are golden brown. Put them in Pita bread along with diced cucumbers and tomatoes. They are really good this way. In Egypt they retain a more greenish color because of all the spices there that are sold fresh everyday.

continued

EGYPT- cont.

I went to Egypt with the idea that I would only enjoy the ancient history part of it, but I also fell in love with modern Egypt. The people are all so nice and try hard to please you.

Many of the people will invite you to eat at their homes. The homes look like the pictures in the Bible with square buildings and the open roofs in some spots. You sit around on the floor and eat out of the same bowl (common bowl). It is sure an experience to take part in. We were also invited to a wedding reception, which took place out side in an alley way, with colored lights hanging all along the buildings. Every one in the wedding party wears brightly colored wedding dress in place of the common Moslem attire. It is a great place to visit!!!

I want to say a special thanks to the Heineks, Mary Miller, Mr. and Mrs Stout and Paul Godollei, for bringing some of their Egyptian articles to show at the meeting. I always enjoy seeing other Egyptian articles.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ROCKING WITH CATHERINE

Well, she's been at it again! Here is the latest correspondence from our "roving rockhound", Catherine McHugh.

Leaving Yuma early in the morning with Boma Johnson, the BLM archaeologist, to photograph and measure Indian dance and sleeping circles for posterity.

Boma tells us about wild gangs who come from California on weekends to race their cycles up and down steep desert hills. Also there are snowbirds, ages fifty and up, who drive their thick balloon tire vehicles playing Fox & Hounds through the desert. They ruin thousand year old Indian trails and pristine areas of Indian history in just a few hours. They seem to have no conscience about doing this.

Leaving the paved road we drove deeper and deeper into the desert and finally came to mountains, the road narrowing until the underbrush scraped the sides of the truck. It got rougher and rougher, I held on for dear life and bounced like popcorn in a popper! Marilyn and Boma took off for the sleep circles and I went rockhounding. Not a sound of a human, except for a Harrier, the dark, mysterious plane that can go straight up or down or be out of sight in a flash. It gave me a chill. There was a lot of mica and quartz that glittered in the sun--I was tempted but could almost hear Larry say, "Leave it there".

We left early in the afternoon and saw a large buck and doe in the underbrush. We took another road out and all the trees and brush were festooned with mistletoe. Again I was bounced around like a rowboat on a rough sea. Boma said the desert in this area can reach temperatures as high as 130 degrees in the summer, no place for meandering, even the animals stay hidden until nightfall.

Another day we drove to Oatman, an old mining town on historic Route 66. We passed old mines and the rock foundations of the miner's cabins, there were mountains on all sides. One million ounces of gold were taken from the area from the early 1900's to 1930. That adds up to over \$400,000,000 at today's prices. The miners had to be rugged to live in that place, it is like a moonscape. Today the decedents of the miner's burros still roam the little town, causing traffic jams on the only street that goes through it. The burros bum food from tourists and remind me of the street people who occupy Yuma during the winter.

Quartzsite is still mind boggling to me. As far as one can see are row after row of minerals, jewelry, clothes and "you name it"! I feasted my eyes but fought the urge to buy even one sparkling crystal. What I gave into was going up in an ultralight plane. It is a midget plane that is like a two seater motorcycle side car with small wings. We took off with my daughter yelling to the pilot, "Don't you dare crash, my sisters will kill me if you don't bring her back"! What a thrill it was to look over the side of the open cockpit, fastened in by just a man's belt and flying over the huge Quartzsite area. We then flew over

--CATHERINE McHUGH continued--

mountains, seeing many old gold mines, Indian trails and over the desert where thousands of trailers were parked.

The pilot asked if I would like to pilot the plane and I said "Sure" and there I was, making the plane go up and down and sideways. Nearing the landing field we could see Marilyn waiting. She is terrified of heights and the pilot asked, "Should we buzz her?". I said "Why not"--so down we went fast and all we could see was her standing there like a statue with her mouth wide open. Needless to say, that ride was the highlight of my Quartzsite trip.

Early morning mists make the mountains a blurry outline. We go through miles of plowed areas on our way to Phoenix. Between is the desert with saguaro, prickly pear, and mesquite and many orchards of oranges, grapefruits, and lemons.

The Interstate is lined with huge semi trucks loaded with fruit and vegies headed for markets all across the country. The shoulders of the road glittered with broken glass bottles, what a shame. In Phoenix, another large city, you'll encounter stress driving, traffic, and smog! Picking up my granddaughter, we left for Tucson to the big show. As we neared Tucson I was surprised to see the huge pecan groves outside the city.

The Tucson show is mainly for buying in quantities, and much wheeling and dealing is in order. There are dealers from all over the world and one can spend \$1.00 or \$10,000 in record time. Hotels and motels open the rooms to dealers who sleep and sell in their rooms. The motel parking lots were covered with tables of jewelry, minerals, fossils, and barrels of specimens. It would take weeks to methodically cover it and we had but two days, the tip of the iceberg. Marilyn and my granddaughter Cathy could hardly be torn away from this fascinating panorama.

By dusk on Sunday most of the dealers were gone and we headed back to Phoenix still savoring the delights of the past two days.

CATHERINE McHUGH

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Here is something of interest to all of our Midwest Federation Clubs--from the MIDWEST FEDERATION NEWSLETTER.....



Nominations for the 1990 MWF Scholarship Honoree(s)  
Russ and Doris Kemp-South Holland, Il.



**THE MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD IN INDIANA -PART 1: By Paul Godollei, Club Member**

The Mississippian formations in Indiana lie in a broad band across the southwestern part of the state and extend into Kentucky near Louisville westward. It is about 25 miles wide at the broadest part and tapers at both ends- (see map)

The Mississippian -Pennsylvanian were called the Carboniferous in earlier publications because of the coal deposits found in Europe in both formations. In America the Mississippian Period was formed in warm shallow seas, with little land to form coal.

The Period began 345 million years ago and ended 20 million years later, 325 million years ago.

Fossils are almost all marine, and consist of many rugose corals ,crinoids,blastoids and frenestrate bryozoans.

Foraminifers were formed into fossils by the billions and consisted of tiny single-celled animals the size of a pinhead. They were composed of calcium carbonate and make up 98% of Indiana Limestone.

The Salem limestone is mostly composed of their shells.

The Mississippian is divided into three formations-the Lower Mississippian, Middle Mississippian and Upper Mississippian.

The Lower Mississippian is known as the Borden Group and its lowest member resting on the Devonian begins with the Rockford Limestone. The New Providence Shale lies on top of this. The Locust Point Formation in Montgomery County consists of clay shale once used for making brick. Worm trails and concretions may be found in the beds. It is 72 feet thick in Montgomery Co. A 135 foot layer of the Caswood Formation is next, with a siltstone zone of crinoids in some layers.

The top of the formation is known as the Muldraugh and is in 3 parts, the Floyd's Knob, Edwardsville and Ramp Creek Formation. A zone of small geodes may be found in the lower zone , with crinoids in the next layer above. The Ramp Creek also has a zone of small geodes.It is 62 feet thick at Millport.

Next Month we shall discuss the Middle Mississippian Formations.

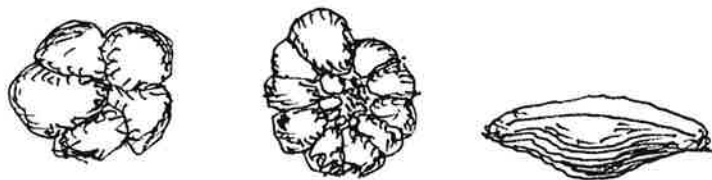
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2. Circular #6-"Adventures with Fossils" by Richard H. Shaver, 1959. Indiana Department of Conservation-Geological Survey.
3. Guide Book-"Indiana Geologic Field Conference"- 1948-Upper and Middle Mississippian Formations of Southern Indiana.
4. "Excursions in Indiana Geology"-by Burger ,Rexroad,Schneider and Shaver, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Geological Survey Guidebook



MISSISSIPPIAN FORMATIONS IN INDIANA

SYS-TEM	SER-IES	LITHOLOGY	FORMATION AND MEMBER	GROUP	
MISSISSIPPIAN	MERAMEC	[Brick pattern]	Salem Limestone	Sanders	
			Harrodsburg Ls.		
	OSAGE	[Dotted pattern]	Ramp Creek Ls. Mbr.	Muldraugh Fm.	
			Edwardsville Mbr.		
			Floyds Knob Ls. Mbr.		
		[Horizontal line pattern]	Corwood Formation	Borden	
	[Horizontal line pattern]	Locust Point Fm.			
	DEVONIAN	KINDERHOOK	[Horizontal line pattern]	New Providence Shale	
			[Horizontal line pattern]	Rockford Limestone	
			[Horizontal line pattern]	New Albany Shale	
[Horizontal line pattern]			North Vernon Ls.		
[Horizontal line pattern]			Jeffersonville Ls.		
SILURIAN		[Horizontal line pattern]	Geneva Dolomite		
		[Horizontal line pattern]	Louisville Limestone		
		[Horizontal line pattern]	Waldron Shale		
		[Horizontal line pattern]	Laurel Limestone		
		[Horizontal line pattern]	Osgood Formation		
		[Horizontal line pattern]	Brassfield Limestone		



webbinella Endothyra Fusulina

FORAMINIFERA

NOTE!

Some of the library books still missing! Please look and see if you, by any chance, have any of these.....

- CREATIVE GOLD & SILVERSMITHING - INDIAN JEWELRY MAKING- ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MINERALS AND ROCKS- (these three were taken out in 1987 by Stan Jacobs):
- SIMON AND SCHUSTER GUIDE TO ROCKS AND MINERALS- BURIED TREASURE OF THE UNITED STATES (one was taken out in 1988 and the other in March 1989 both in Paul and Lorraine Crum's name. No name after theirs).
- CRYSTALS & CRYSTAL GROWING - CRYSTAL GROWTH (both taken out in 1988 by Ed O'Neill)
- GEMSTONES OF NORTH AMERICA ( in Ralph Young's name, but he says he does not have it.)
- GEOLOGY OF MICHIGAN (this was taken out 9/25/88 by Harold Edington)
- MINERALS, ROCKS, AND PRECIOUS STONES ( in the name of Chad Gröaté in 1987 ???)
- GEM HUNTERS GUIDE BY Russel McFall.