

OCTOBER 1992

# THE ROCKFINDER



Joyce Larson, Editor  
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
144 Spruce Drive  
Westville, IN 46391



MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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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 p.m. EST	Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of each month	1501 W. Cleveland Road
June - Field Trip meeting	South Bend, IN
July - No meeting	West of the St. Joseph River
August - Annual Club Picnic	
December - Date to be announced	
Christmas Party	

Dues

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

Rockfinder Staff

Editor.....Joyce Larson	144 Spruce Drive, Westville, IN 46391
Co-Editor.....Margaret Heinek	7091 E. East Park Ln., New Carlisle, IN 46552
Staff.....Bob Heinek/Club Members	

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OCTOBER 1992

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SOUTH BEND, IN

MEETING: There will not be an October meeting, due to the President and V-President having to attend a meeting in Oshkosh, WI on Sat. Oct. 24 th.

The November meeting will be held November 22, the usual 4th Sunday.

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held on December 6th. Mark your calendar. More on this in the Nov. ROCKFINDER.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS -

Catherine Dahlquest  
Apt D, 20026 Country Club Ln.  
Anderson, S.C. 29625

Louis and Lorraine Jordan  
52087 Central Ave.  
South Bend, IN 46637  
(Louis 7yr & Elizabeth 10yr)

Jason Imler (age 12)  
920 So. Gladstone  
South Bend, IN 46619

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We wish Pam Rubenstein a quick recovery. She insures me she is feeling better.

BIRTHSTONES FOR OCTOBER - OPAL  
OPAL is a cryptocrystalline structure. A variety of quartz.

SPECIAL DAYS FOR OCT. FOLKS!  
Happy Birthday to:

11 - Rob Heinek  
16 - Judith Heinek  
(I am sorry I do not have other dates of our members birthdays or anniversaries.) If you are celebrating any event,  
CONGRATULATIONS!

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OUR BUS TRIP TO CHELSEA, MI.  
was a very pleasant trip and a beautiful Fall day. It was cool, but proved to be a very interesting place. At one time the Museum was a Nature Center, but now that a mineral society has taken an interest in the area, they have an annual Art Fair. The only thing left of the Nature Center, was a hive of bees.

There were dealers, hikes, programs, swap and sell areas, and work shops (which featured making gem trees. Several of our members took the class and had fun. Alec Rubenstein did a very nice tree for his mother).

One of the hikes, a guided tour, took you through a glacial area with bogs and swamps.

MARGARET'S COLUMN

If you were unable to go on the trip to Chelsea, I am sorry. We did have room left on the bus. If you want to go to Chicago, let me know. The cost will be approximately \$7.50 for adults and \$2.00 for juniors. I have asked for a 47 passenger bus. We won't have to leave as early on this trip as we did on the Michigan trip, as Illinois will be on a different time by then.

Our member, Marge Collins, had a deer hit her car on the way to the bus trip. She was on the by-pass, and the deer ran into her left head light, back to the driver's door (breaking the window) and dented the back door. Marge was not hurt, but the car was a mess.

I am trying to do the ROCKFINDER on the computer, Word Perfect, and running into a lot of problems. So if it looks funny, please forgive me. Joyce does such a good job, I really dislike sending this one out.

I would like to thank the hosts and hostesses for the nice birthday party in September. Marsha and Ed Miller did such a good job on the emblem on the cake. I hope Ed took a picture of it. Paul Stone surprised us with ice cream squares, with the society's initials and 30th year on them. The nuts were good too, furnished by Nina and Dewey Hassler.

We will see you in November. Be careful when driving in the country and watch for the deer.

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MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 1992  
MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

It was decided to hold an impromptu meeting Sunday, Oct.4, due to unavailability of the President and Vice-President on the regularly scheduled meeting date later in the month. This decision was voted on and passed by members present on the bus field trip coming back from the EDDY CENTER in Chelsea, MI. A motion was made and passed to accept the September minutes and Treasurer's report for September.

It was decided to have another bus trip to the Science and Industry Museum Nov. 29th, to see "Rings of Fire and the Festival of Trees. After leaving the museum (time permitting) the trip will include attending the Geodon Show in Wheaton, IL.

A letter was read from Pam Rubenstein thanking the club members for her get well gift and our concerns. Her surgery was a success!

The day was beautiful and everyone had a great time. The EDDY CENTER was very interesting and educational. Attendance 43 members.  
Kathy Miller, Secretary Pro-Tem

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 1992  
MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

President Heinek opened our regular meeting at 2 P.M. Guests and new members Louis, Lorraine, Louis Jr. and Elizabeth Jordan, Evelyn Kleinert, and Loretta Mileske were introduced.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as printed in The Rockfinder. The Treasurer's club and show reports were read and approved for audit. President Heinek indicated our annual club show was a success this year thanks to the cooperation and time given by members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Librarian - Paul Godollei brought in a wide variety of material for members to browse through. (NOTE) Applause to Paul for donating 150 of his Cephalopods to the Indiana State Museum. They were very happy to receive them.

Sunshine - Pam Rubenstein will undergo surgery this coming Wednesday. We all wish her well and the operation a success. Mary Miller was in a car accident earlier in the month. Since she was not hospitalized, we hope she is fully recovered. Congratulations to Bill & Marie Crull who became grandparents of a new baby boy on September 26th.

Field Trip - The last chance for sign up to the EDDY CENTER Geology Art Fair in Chelsea, MI is today. Everyone going is anticipating a good time. Another bus field trip is in planning stages for Chicago late in November. More information at the next meeting.

1993 SHOW - The contract has been signed with the Century Center for next year. We have reserved a different hall, this will be a large savings for the club and more convenient for the public.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Bill Crull 1992 Dealer Chairman, read appreciation letters from this year's dealers. Bill also commented he sent out thank you notes to all the dealers.

The Red Cross has asked for donations for Florida hurricane victims. After much discussion, members decided to send club donations to local organizations. Marie Crull made a motion, seconded by Patt McLaughlin to donate \$50 to the Battered Women's Association and \$50 to the Salvation Army. Motion carried. Sr. Georgia Costin made a motion of giving \$100 to The Homeless Center, seconded by Marge Collins. This also passed by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS: (Under Field Trip)

NEW BUSINESS:

The South Bend Public Library is having a day scheduled for February 20, 1993 called "Science Alive". Our club has been invited to participate by having a booth or table. We would either have exhibits or some type of project to create public awareness of our hobby and what we're all about. Following discussion the members decided to accept the invitation.

Minutes continued-

The Chamber of Commerce distributes maps with advertising on them to approximately 20,000 newcomers and businesses in the area. Discussion was held if the club wanted to purchase an advertisement on the map. It was decided not to.

Fred Niebauer made a motion, seconded by Stan Kile to give the Westminister Presbyterian Church \$100 for the coming year for use of the church for our monthly meetings. Motion passed and carried by voice vote.

The Program were club slides taken by Tom McLaughlin from the combined 1991 annual and MWF show. Refreshments consisting of a decorated 30th year cake and decorated 30th year ice cream accompanied with nuts & mints helped celebrate our club's 30th year.

Door Prizes were won by Louis & Elizabeth Jordan, Brian Hess, Irene Ungurait, Larry Hess and Chuck Collins.

Attendance 37 Members  
2 Guests

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Miller, Secretary Pro-Tem

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JEWELRY MAKING - at Fernwood

Make the jewelry you want to wear or give as gifts in this hands-on class. Beginners will learn all the basic techniques of metal-smithing, including forging, cold joints and texturing. More experienced students will continue to master their skills under the tutelage of Jon Niedzwiecki. Turn copper, brass and silver into bracelets, brooches, rings, earrings and chains. Materials for first project will be supplied. Students may purchase materials for projects of choice afterwards. (Class limit: 12; ages 15 and up). Jon Niedzwiecki Tuesday, Oct. 27; Thursday Dec. 3 7-10 p.m. Members, \$55; non-members, \$65. For information call: 616-695-6491.

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UP COMING SHOWS:

Oct 23 - 25 Mundelein, IL  
Mundeline Holiday Inn  
Rts 45 & 83

Oct 23 - 25 Lansing, MI  
Marshall Street Armory  
300 Elvin Ct.

Oct 24 -25 Sterling, IL  
Northland Mall  
2900 E. Lincolnway

Oct. 24 -25 Oshkosh, WI  
Park Plaza Mall

Oct 30 - Nov 1 Dearborn, MI  
Midwest Faceter's Guild  
Dearborn Civic Center  
Michigan Ave and Greenfield Rd.

Nov 7 -8 Evansville, IN  
Washington Square Mall  
Washington Ave & Green River Rd

Nov 27 - 29 Wheaton, IL  
Geodon Gem Show  
Exhibition Hall, Dupage Co  
Fairgrounds,  
2015 W Manchester Rd

The Michiana Society has been asked to participate in a program at the South Bend Library in January. I have asked for 2 tables. Several suggestions have been made as to how we can fill the tables. One was to show how to hand polish a Petosky stone. Following is an article from the CEDAR VALLEY GEMS via THE ROCKPILE on polishing. Another idea is that we have a film on rocks and minerals. This would mean we must have a T V and a V C R available. Any other idea will be welcome.

Here's how to hand polish a Petosky:

1. Select a stone that has already been smoothed considerably by the action of beach and wave.
2. Assemble these materials - wet/dry silicon sanding paper in three grit sizes (150-220, 260-320, 340-400); styrofoam board (as used in packaging); Cerium oxide or tin oxide polishing powder; a piece of felt or carpeting.
3. Place the 150-220 sandpaper on the styrofoam board and rub the stone with a circular motion on the wet sandpaper. The sanding process should be performed on all surfaces of the stone uniformly; don't overdo it on any one area to avoid getting flat spots on your stone. Rinse stone, sandpaper and your hands frequently to remove the buildup of sanding residue, and rinse especially thoroughly between steps.

4. Repeat step 3 with the 260-320 grit and 340-400 grit sandpapers being sure to rinse everything thoroughly between steps.

5. Mix a small amount of either cerium oxide or tin oxide and water to make a paste, put the paste on a piece of dampened felt or carpeting and rub the stone briskly against the paste covered felt for its final polish. (Note: toothpaste or tooth powder may be used as a substitute for the polishing powder.)

6. Rinse the stone in clear water and dry with a soft cloth.

Before beginning the sanding process, stones can be shaped or a form of your choosing by using a hacksaw or file.

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HINT: Toothpaste with Fluoride formula has the unique characteristic of penetrating stone, ceramics, brick or terra cotta and flushing dirt to the surface where it can be flushed away with water. It was used to restore Etruscan vases by New York's most famous art & antique restorer, Sigmond Rothchild.

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If God had meant us to travel tourist class, He'd have made us narrower.

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Don't put off until tomorrow because tomorrow never comes.

FOSSIL COLLECTING by Paul Godollei, Club Member



Crinoids or sea lillies were very abundant in the early Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian and Mississippian seas of Indiana. The limestone near Bedford and Bloomington is almost entirely composed of crinoid stems and plates. The disc shaped plates of their stems are sometimes called "Indian Beads". These ranged from a few inches to many feet long, and from less than a sixteenth to almost an inch in diameter. They were round, ovate, or polygonal in cross section, with a small central opening. Larger stems may have small jointed appendages, known as cirri, or the fossils stems may have scars where they were attached. Most crinoids had stems that anchored themselves to the bottom of the sea or to some object with a stony anchor or root-like arms. The "Head" or calyx looked like a globular bowl, made of calcareous plates fitted together like irregular bricks with a mouth on top surrounded by arms which extended outward and upward like wavy plumes to gather in food.

The number and arrangement of the plates is used in classifying the species. The crinoid arms consist of hundreds to thousands of plates, each known as a brachial. When the animal dies, the plates and discs tend to fall apart and sink to the sea floor, so very few complete specimens are found. The attached or sessile echinoderms fall into four classes, Edrioaseroidea, Blastoidea, Cystoidea, and Crinoidea. Crinoids still live in the seas today, but are scarce, and few species survive. Silurian species include Caryocrinites ornatus Say and Eucalyptocrinites crassus Hall found in the Huntington Dolomite and Pisocrinites benedicti Miller found in the Liston Creek limestone. Glen Dean (Middle Chester) Limestone of Orange, Crawford and Perry counties in southern Indiana yield specimens of Zeocrinites wortheni Tholocrinus and Aphelicrinus and Onychocrinus plates. Many large crinoid stems can be found in the quarry dump 1 1/2 miles southwest of New Ross in Montgomery County Mississippian age formations. Its on private property so you must ask permission. Ordovician age crinoids can be found near Richmond Indiana, if you know the right spots.

Bibliography: Crinoids from the Glen Dean Limestone (Middle Chester) of Southern Indiana and Kentucky. Ind. Dep't of Conservation Geological Survey Bulletin 34 1965, written by Alan Horowitz. Guide for Beginning Fossil Hunters: by Charles Collinson, Illinois State Geological Survey, Educational Series 4

Fossils: Prehistoric Animals in Hoosier Rocks, by TG Perry Ind. Dept. of Conservation Geological Survey Circular #7 1959.

Geology of the Silurian Rocks of Northern Indiana by Cumings and Shrock, 1928 Pub. #75, Ind. Dept of Conservation Division of Geology.

Index Fossils of North America by Shimer and Shrock.

Glyptocrinus  
(Ordovician)



A MMLSD Original Article

# Gem Tree Making

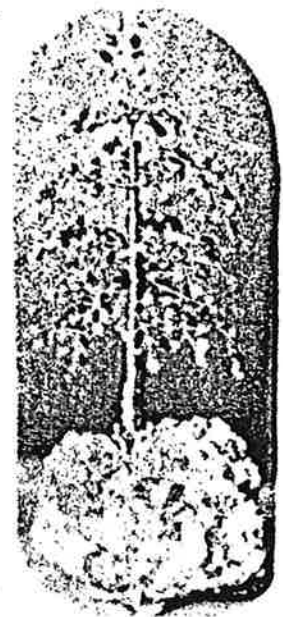
## The Florence Stevens Method

### Introduction

The finished gem tree is a work of art. MMLSD member Florence Stevens rightfully can be called a gem tree artist. The gem trees she has created and displayed at MMLSD Shows and Demonstration Days give credence to that assessment. The photo at the right is of one of Florence's gem trees, a small pine tree (black and white reproduction does not do it justice).

In the following article, Florence describes the steps she followed in making her small pine tree. We should note that the illustrations of her tree constructions shown on the next two pages are photos of actual wire constructions and are not drawings.

The ROCKPILE is pleased to present this original MMLSD article to its readers, and with Florence, we wish them "Happy Gem Tree Making." — EDITOR



### Making a Small Pine Tree

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- 38 yds. of 26 gauge wire
- 1 yd. of 20 gauge wire for reinforcement (may use 18 or 22 gauge)
- 1 loop hook (6 inch piece of wood dowel with a cup hook on the end)
- 1 rock for the tree base
- Gemstones of your choice
- Wire cutters
- Craft glue (I use Bond 527)
- Adhesive or floral tape for trunk thickening

#### GENERAL DIRECTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Stems are made with the loop hook in a method called the spin twist. Branches are made by turning wires between thumb and index finger in a method called the twirl twist. The twirl twist should be performed a half twist at a time and this is counted as one turn.

When adding a reinforcement wire, place it so its end is one inch above the juncture of the stem wires and then twirl twist the stem wires around the reinforcement wire. Then pull the reinforcement wire down until it doesn't protrude.

#### THE PROCESS

Step 1. Cut four lengths of 26 gauge wire 45 inches long. Bend as in Fig. 1A. Cut one length of 20 gauge reinforcement wire 8 inches long.

Step 2. Make four 9-loop pine tree stems (Fig. 2C).

Step 3. Twirl twist the four stems together with the reinforcement wire (Figs. 3 & 4); twirl twist five turns. This completes the top of the pine tree.

Step 4. Cut six lengths of 26 gauge wire 45 inches long. Bend as in Fig. 1A. Cut three lengths of 20 gauge wire 8 inches long.

Step 5. Make six 9-loop pine tree stems (Fig. 2C). Twirl

twist three sets of two-stem branches (Fig. 3), each with a reinforcement wire (Fig. 4).

Step 6. Add each of the two-stem branches to the tree, one at a time, initially twirl twisting each for two turns to secure, and completing their attachment with 6 or 7 additional turns.

Step 7. Cut fifteen lengths of 26 gauge wire. Bend as in Fig. 1A.

Step 8. Make fifteen 9-loop pine tree stems (Fig. 2C). Twirl twist five sets of three-stem branches (Fig. 3).

Step 9. Add each of the three-stem branches to the tree, one at a time, following the procedure of Step 6, and twirl twisting about a half inch. Arrange the five branches to extend from the trunk in the manner of real trees.

Step 10. To thicken the tree trunk (not too thick), wind adhesive tape around the reinforcement wires (Fig. 6) for an inch or two and twirl twist to cover the tape. Cut off one reinforcement wire.

Step 11. Make tree roots (Figs. 7 & 8) by dividing the tree stem wires in three equal parts. Divide one of the parts into two subparts and twirl twist them around the reinforcement wire 3/4 inch. Cut off the remainder of the reinforcement wire. Keep reducing root thickness by cutting by half to make two thin roots.

Step 12. Repeat the procedures in Step 11 with the remaining two root parts.

Step 13. Separate the three root parts to extend in three directions, equal distances apart. Also separate the tree branches to give it a pine tree shape.

Step 14. Glue the tree roots to a rock base and finish the branches by gluing gemstones to the loops (Fig. 8). (Green stones such as moss agate or mother of pearl would be a good choice.)

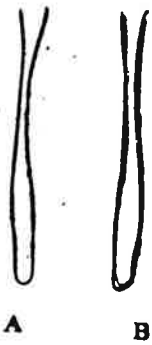
Step 15. Admire your work of art.

— Florence Stevens  
Member, MMLSD

### Gem Tree Parts and Constructions Used by Florence Stevens

Supplies -  
Russell's Trees &  
Treasures  
27911 North Street  
North Liberty, IN 46556

FIG. 1. Bend one or two wires at center.



A

B

A. Small stem (one wire).

FIG. 2. Types of stems.



C. Pine tree stem.



D. Willow tree branch.

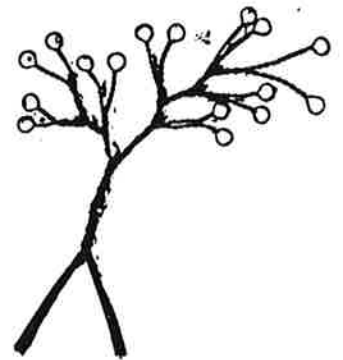


FIG. 3. Stems are twirl twisted together to make a branch.

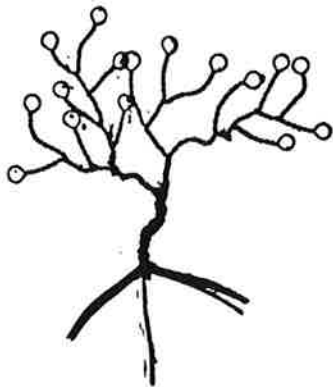


FIG. 4. Adding reinforcement wire to branch.

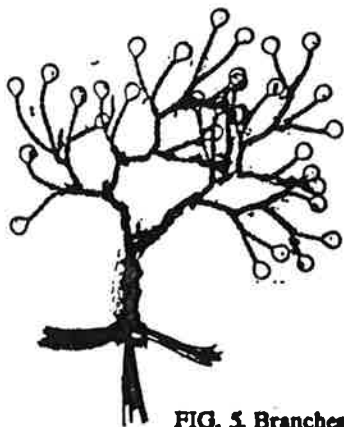


FIG. 5. Branches are twirl twisted with reinforcement wire to make tree trunk.

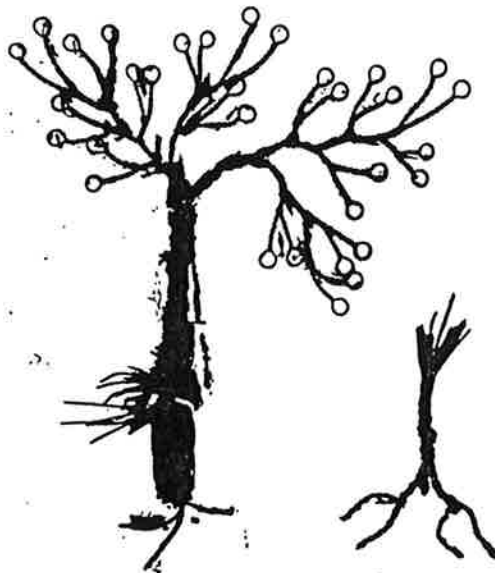


FIG. 6. Tree trunk may be thickened with tape.

FIG. 7. Roots are made with reinforcement wire and covered with stem wire.



FIG. 8. Gemstones are glued to stem loops.