

THE ROCKFINDER

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Tom Noe, Editor
305 Napoleon Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46617



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JUNE, 1998

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Newsletter of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 38, Number 6

June, 1998

July Birthdays

7 Marcia Hoover
9 Tim Robbins
12 Louis Jordan, Jr.
16 Florian Bieschke
19 Dewey Hassler
22 Laurel Bieschke
23 Scott Zeiger
24 Elma Heynssens
25 Bob Harman
28 Pat McLaughlin
29 Matt Brueske

August Birthdays

1 Sherrie Russell
13 Todd Miller
16 William Clark
17 Betty Stout
21 Larry Hess
22 Dawn Cytacki
23 David Peltz
24 Rebecca Parker
26 Georgia Costin
27 Phyllis Smallwood

September Birthdays

7 Janet Pellus
11 Laurie Bubala
21 Tom Fields
21 Marsha Miller
28 Lana Wright

July Anniversaries

1 John & Margie Hawkins
6 Jim & Barbara McHugh
20 Dewey and Nina Hassler
31 Bob & Margaret Heinek

August Anniversaries

4 Ed & Marsha Miller
8 Dennis & Janus Horral
12 Hal & Bonnie Brueske
26 Jim & Sherrie Russell

September Anniversaries

1 Tom & Pat McLaughlin
9 Kathy & Florian Bieschke
9 Herb & Phyllis Luckert

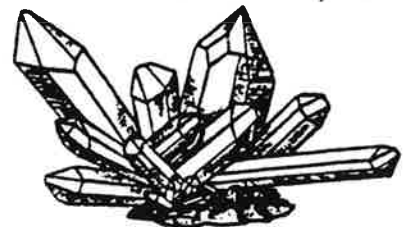


YOUTH FEST '98

The club has accepted an invitation to participate in Youth Fest '98 on July 18. The event will last from 10 in the morning until 4 pm, and we will present displays of minerals and fossils, along with a kiddie wheel for the youngsters to spin for prizes such as tumbled stones. Sally Peltz is organizing this, so give her a call at 683-4088 in Niles if you are available for all or part of the time, or if you have displays that could be used. The location is Gridiron Plaza in front of the College Football Hall of Fame.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Do you know of people who would enjoy our club show in August? Call Margaret with their names and addresses and they will be put on the mailing list. They will receive a postcard reminder a few weeks in advance of the Labor Day show and the April show. This list is not used for any other mailings.



Regular meetings start again in September. The next scheduled event is the club picnic, and you will receive a flyer to remind you about it.

Have a safe and rock-filled summer!

UP AND COMING

June 26--28: Show and swap, Bloomington, IN. 4-H County Fairgrounds.

June 27--28: MGAGS Rockhound Seminar, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI.

August 11-16: Combined Midwest Federation and American Federation convention and show, Michigan Tech University, Houghton, MI. (Upper Peninsula).

Oct. 9--11: Greater Detroit show, 4400 E. Eight Mile Road, Detroit, MI.

Oct. 23--25: Central Michigan show, Marshall Street Armory, Lansing, MI.



MINUTES FOR THE MAY 17, 1998, MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Margaret Heinek at 2:00 P.M. Fourteen members were present.

Refreshments were served by Sr. Jeanne.

There were no committee reports.

A motion was made by Herb Luckert that the minutes of the April 26 meeting be accepted as printed in *The Rockfinder*. The motion passed unanimously.

The financial report given by Diane Gram was made and filed for audit.

Banking report: We are now listed as a non-profit organization at our bank. We will be limited to 10 check deposits and 10 withdrawals per month. Over this number, there will be a charge of 25¢ per transaction.

A discussion on advertising for the club show was led by President Margaret. She distributed an analysis sheet of last year's expenses, including advertising, to all present. It appears the direct mail postcards produce the best returns. We send out 800+ postcards. Tom Noe suggested that we should beef up our postcard mailing list. Margaret reported on her interview with WSBT. As a result, we will be featured on a news program sometime before the show. It is recommended that we present a display and information type of interview. We will be contacted by the 1st of August for details. Phyllis Luckert described the options regarding setting up an information table at the University Park Mall on a weekend. (We furnish the tables.) Scottsdale Mall would provide tables and charge \$100 for a set-up.

Herb Luckert made a motion to buy tumbled stones to give to kids at the shows, and Sr. Jeanne seconded the motion. All voted yes, and Margaret agreed to look into the matter.

We are invited by the Youth Services Bureau of South Bend to participate in the Youth Fest '98 on July 18 at the College Football Hall of Fame. Displays should be interactive in nature. David Peltz motioned that we accept the invitation. It was seconded by Herb Luckert.

We discussed a possible field trip in June to the Thornton Quarry in Illinois. Hard hats and hard toe shoes would be needed. Nothing was decided, because we needed more information.

Door prizes were won by Laurie Bubala, David Peltz and Sr. Jeanne. One special prize for the ladies went to Diane Gram.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

A program on flintknapping and a video shown by David Peltz followed. David also displayed a number of materials related to flintknapping.

Gladys Pacholke,
Secretary

SUMMER REMINDERS

Remember, there are no club meetings scheduled over the summer (except for the picnic), and *The Rockfinder* is not published in July or August, so here are some things to keep in mind until the regular schedule resumes in September.

The annual picnic will be held August 23. More information will be sent in a flyer later this summer.

The dates of our club's fall gem and mineral show are September 4,5,6--Labor Day weekend. We need volunteers to work at the show: on kids' activities, the silent auction, setup and takedown, the admissions table, etc., etc. Those who volunteer several hours' worth of work for the club during the year will receive free bus transportation on field trips, plus other desirable considerations.

Mike Slattery is chairing the kids' activities during the show, so call him at 273-9532 to volunteer or to donate inexpensive rocks and fossils to give away as prizes (tumbled stones, for instance).

Bob Miller is organizing the demonstrators, so call him at 291-0332 if you would like to demonstrate some lapidary skill.

Tom McLaughlin is organizing the displays, so call him at 259-1501 to let him know how big your display is. Then he can order the proper number of tables. All members are encouraged to bring in displays of their finds or of items from their collections.

Tom Noe is chairing the silent auction. Members can donate items to the club for sale, or else consign items which will be sold for you, with the club taking a percentage. You can set a minimum price. Call Tom at 289-2028 to volunteer or to arrange for selling your items.

Margaret Heinek is organizing the prepar-

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

As the nation gets ready to celebrate its Declaration of Independence on July 4, take a moment to consider the minerals that make fireworks such a spectacular part of the festivities. Each color in a fireworks display is produced by a specific mineral compound:

- ◆ Bright greens are made with barium.
- ◆ Deep reds are a product of strontium.
- ◆ Blues come from copper.
- ◆ Yellows require sodium.

More colors can be created by mixing compounds. Strontium and sodium together produce a brilliant orange. Titanium, zirconium and magnesium alloys combine to make a silvery white. Copper and strontium mix to yield a lavender.

Certain minerals are used for special effects. Iron filings and small particles of charcoal produce gold sparks. If you want a loud flash, fine aluminum powder is the fuel to choose. Larger particles, such as small flakes or granules, give a longer, showerlike effect. Magnalium, a magnesium-aluminum alloy, can produce a tiny series of silvery-white flashes.

Although fireworks date back to ancient China, they continue to grow in popularity. Just in the past decade, their use has doubled to nearly 30,000 short tons per year. Of this amount, consumers buy two-thirds. The remainder go for fireworks displays. About 85 percent of consumer fireworks and half the display variety are imported from China, Japan, Korea and European countries such as France and Italy.

The role of minerals in fireworks is just one example of society's growing reliance upon minerals for the manufacture of products from automobiles to toothpaste. During the lifetime of the average American, he or she will use:

- ◆ 3,300 pounds of aluminum,
- ◆ 880 pounds of zinc,
- ◆ 23,000 pounds of clay,
- ◆ 94,000 pounds of iron and steel,
- ◆ 800 pounds of lead,
- ◆ 1,400 pounds of copper,
- ◆ 26,000 pounds of salt,
- ◆ over 1 million pounds of stone, sand, gravel and cement.



U.S. Bureau of Mines, Office of Public Information
(1992)

IPS FIELD TRIP

By Herb Luckert

Phyllis and I recently went on a field trip in northern Kentucky with the Indiana Paleontology Society. We arrived in Madison, IN, early enough on a Friday afternoon to do a little collecting at a huge road cut on US 421 a couple of miles north of town. Near the lower end of the cut we found rocks full of brachiopods and a few bits of bryozoan, along with an occasional rugose coral. Farther up the cut Phyllis found two (broken) cephalopods.

The next morning we met in Kentucky and 7 cars carrying 15 to 20 people (including 4 children) went to a road cut on US 42, about 2 miles east of Bedford, KY. The lower end of the cut was similar to the site north of Madison. However, higher up the hill there was a small area yielding gastropods prolifically. I found between 20 and 30 completely out of matrix and ranging in quality from poor to good. The total found by folks in our group must have been well over a hundred, possibly two hundred.

From there we went south of Bedford on 421 and turned west on 1606. About 3 or 4 miles along 1606 there was a road cut and railroad cut through the same hill. There we found a good many brachiopods of good and better quality which were completely free of matrix.

Our last stop for the day was farther south on 421 to a road cut just north of New Castle. The cut is just north of a cemetery on the north side of town. Here, too, we found a good many brachiopods similar to the site on route 1606.

All in all, we had a very productive trip. I think we were helped by the recent heavy rains in the area. That's OK. We'll take all that kind of help we can get.

BOGGLE YOUR MIND

It has been suggested that if all of the fossils could be removed from the Ordovician rocks of the Cincinnati area, Cincinnati would be below sea level.

From "The Geology of Ohio--The Ordovician," by Michael C. Hansen

CRAZY FROM THE HEAT

By Pat McLaughlin



The hot wind had been blowing all day; it seemed more like August than July. The sky was a chalky blue that held no promise of cooling rain. Tom and I were on our way to southern Indiana, whose geological composition makes it irresistible to many rockhounds. Numerous layers of shale, limestone and fossilized coral beds assure even novice hunters like ourselves of the possibility of finding fossils and geodes.

Fellow members of Michiana Gem and Mineral Society had given us tips on where to camp and where to hunt. Our '86 Buick held everything we needed for a week: a tent, Coleman stove and lantern, cooking and eating utensils, clothing, ice chest and food supplies. It was a tight fit, and well organized.

Our destination the first day was Versailles State Park. (This is pronounced "vur-SAILS" by the locals.) From our campsite we had forays planned, per instructions from Paul Godollei, our club's fossil expert. The park is located in southeast Indiana, near the Ohio River. It had been recommended to us by Ed Miller, the club's historian, as having easy access to the places Paul suggested that we hunt for fossils.

A creek within the town limits of nearby Bedford was suggested as a possible location for finding geodes. Ozzie Kytta had found some there for his own private stock. As we drove through Bedford we noted many buildings and houses constructed of limestone. In fact, several houses had fences entirely built of geodes! This was an amazing sight, because geodes are highly valued by rockhounds.

Bob and Margaret Heinek had brought me up to speed regarding the formation of geodes. Ancient creatures lived and died in the shallow, warm sea that covered much of the area around Bedford and Bloomington. (See "On the Road" article, May, 1998, issue of *Rockfinder*.) Sometimes they geodized into a distinctive shape: globelike and often with a knobby surface. Sizes range from as small as a marble to many pounds in weight. The geodes' interiors are of two types. The category known as botryoidal has a smooth, grapelike cluster of stone

and can also resemble a human brain. The more common variety will have calcite or quartz crystals lining the inside walls. Not knowing what is inside these spherical fossils adds to their fascination.

We arrived at the creek site and Tom parked the car and promptly took a nap. I put on my old torn-up sneakers and happily slid down the bank into the water. The bed of the creek was comprised of uneven slabs of limestone and siltstone. It was a challenge to walk on, but the water was cool.

I hunted for at least a mile in both directions and found nothing. The heat was intense and I'd sprouted a fountain on top of my head. Disappointed but still hopeful that we'd have better luck, I went back to the car. My sneakers were dripping wet and upon taking them off I let loose with a blood-curdling scream. They were full of maggotlike worms! Tom woke up to nonstop shrieking that continued until he threw them into a garbage can. Now we were both hot and sweaty! Two young boys with fishing poles approached the creek and I told them about my experience. They were only surprised that I hadn't seen any of the usual snakes in the water.

We were traveling in a unique area of Indiana that is famous for its natural resources of limestone. Our next destination was the Bedford town cemetery. My brother-in-law Bob Miller said this was a "must-see." The monuments were all made of limestone and carved by local craftsmen. We saw statues of soldiers, horses, cats and dogs, children, golfers, carpenters, plants and flowers and many more variations. It seemed as though the only limitations were the artistic imagination. Later, after a bit of research, I discovered that between the years of 1890-1930 12 million cubic feet of limestone were quarried annually from this area. It was then transported throughout Indiana and the United States. The limestone was prized for its durability, and many prominent structures were made from it. One of the newest buildings is the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Other notable limestone buildings in Washington are the Pentagon and the National Episcopal Cathedral. Three of the Vanderbilt mansions are constructed of Indiana limestone and 90% of the structures on the Indiana University

