

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Jason Hefner, Editor
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524



February 2013 Volume 53 Number 2



SCIENCE ALIVE !!!



THE
ROCKFINDER

We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.sauktown.com/Michiana>

The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S. 29th St.,
South Bend, IN.
Please see the map to the right.

Doors usually open at 1:30 for meet & greet time.

Regular meeting exceptions include May (third Sunday), July (Club Picnic), August (Club Show) and the November/December meeting and Christmas party.

Board meetings are held before the monthly meetings. The annual club show is in late August.



DUES

Yearly Membership Dues are payable by December 15th of each year. Please chose type of membership below.

- Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00
- Junior \$1.00 Subscriber \$7.50

Please indicate areas of special interest.

- General Geology Gems & Minerals
- Fossils Micro mounts
- Crystals Field Trips
- Cabochons Faceting
- Carving Beads
- Jewelry Making

Name(s) _____
Street _____
City, ST, Zip _____
Phone(s) _____
Email _____

Please send your dues and the bottom half of this form to:



Please read and sign this section

With my signature I hereby release the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., and its individual members and the owners of any premises upon which I enter under permit granted to the society, absolutely free of any liability whatsoever, to my person or property, and further I will respect the equipment and property of the aforesaid owners.

Signed _____ Date _____
Signed _____ Date _____

Family Information:

Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
c/o Marty Perry
29154 Frailey Dr
Elkhart, IN 46514

The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques.

Michiana Gem and Mineral Society
(www.sauktown.com/Michiana), is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/> and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
www.amfed.org

The *Rockfinder* is published monthly except July and August.

Please note that all items for a given issue of the *Rockfinder* are due to the **Editor** no later than the 5th day of the previous month. This means that the due date for the March Issue will be February 5th. Advance items are appreciated. Material may be e-mailed to hefner_family@hotmail.com or submitted via the U.S. Mail.

Editor:
Jason Hefner
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524

Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles as long as recognition is given along with the reprint.

REMEMBER – Items in The Rockfinder that are **BLUE & UNDERLINED** are links to the internet or email addresses. Just click on them for more information.



Kathy's Column - President Kathy Miller

Throughout these past few years as President I am impressed by one overriding factor: The commitment of so many people who give so much of themselves for the hobby.

We have the same type problems that many clubs have---we have many of the same offices and committees which have to be staffed by people willing to effectively do their jobs. True these people have been active in our club for quite a while. I won't insult anyone by suggesting that some of us have been doing this since rocks first formed, but I know that many of you recognize names that are quite familiar to you.

These dedicated people in our club never utter the words "burnout", "I can't", or "let someone (not my favorite word) else do it". They are always there ready to pitch in where needed and not waiting in line to receive credit. They are the people who make sure that our hobby and our club continues to provide all it can to others.

Continued on Page 2

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: February 24, 2013

Visitors are always welcome.

Doors open at 1:30 and the meeting starts at 2:00.

Place:

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S 29th Street
(29th & Wall)
South Bend, IN.
This is in the River Park area.

Program:

To be announced

Refreshments:

Susan Huffman
Michelle Winters
Carrie Brown
Linda Miller
Diane Gram

Dues are still due

Board of Directors

President:

Kathy Miller
574-291-0332

Vice-President:

Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Secretary:

Michelle Winters
574-267-6127

Treasurer:

Marty Perry
574-295-9050

Liaison:

Linda Garwood
765-592-3409

Past President:

Diane Gram
574-272-6885

Committee Chairs

Displays: Mike Skoczylas
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner
574-858-9837

Educational: Jesse Zeiger
574-259-5944

Field Trips: John Davis
574-232-8823

Historian: Ed Miller
574-498-6513

Hospitality:

Linda Miller 574-291-5027
Carrie Brown 574-266-0150

Juniors: Trista McIntosh
574-780-1162

Librarian: Pat Bell
574-233-7352

Membership: Joan Hill
269-465-5814

Programs: Rev Larry Calhoun
574-631-1887

Publicity: Joe Perry
574-295-9050

Show Chair: Marie Crull
574-272-7209

Sunshine: Annette Freel 574-293-8193,
Sherrie Kobie 574-522-0189

Webmaster: Jim Daly
219-778-2196

Kathy's Column..... continued from Page 1

The point that I want to make is this; any job that you do for the club is important. It is at the local level that our hobby is actually practiced, and although we do not have as many participants as other larger avocations, we are a special group of people. We can get our hands dirty in the field, cut a beautiful stone, make an unusual piece of jewelry, classify a rare fossil, or collect or photograph a truly beautiful mineral. We at the club level can influence the future of our hobby by interesting others in what we do. Through our show, working with schools, scouts, public displays, and classes or workshops, we show the public just what we are all about.

Now that 2013 has started I want to thank all the dedicated officers, committee chairmen, and committee members for their hard work and selfless devotion. Without your support and effort, my job would be impossible to do.

**Rock on,
Kathy**

It's 10 P.M.: Do You Know What Your Land Managers Are Doing?

By Shirley Leeson,
ALAA President Part One

Signed into law January 1, 1970, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) tells us that we must understand the impacts and effects of the choices we make. To understand those choices, a land-management agency has to do a study. It is supposed to be a scientific study with facts, data and logical analysis. The decision that the agency makes—for example, the US Forest Service (USFS) or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—*must* be based on the facts and conclusions of the analysis in that study.

NEPA simply tells us to look at what the environmental costs are, and make an informed decision.

Every project that has “on the ground” impacts requires one of the following three types of study:

- Categorical Exclusion: no formal study required, that is, no public notice or participation required at all. The Forest Service uses Cat Ex for everyday chores like putting up signs, installing a culvert, grading and maintaining roads, etc.
- Environmental Assessment: less complex and thorough, so it requires less public participation.
- Environmental Impact Statement: the biggest, most complex and thorough study, and it *requires* full public participation.

Continued on Page 3

It's 10 P.M.: Do You Know What Your Land Managers Are Doing?

Continued from Page 2

You're the public. Do you know what the forest managers near you are planning? NOTE: You have to be *specific* to be productive. You can't just say "I don't like it." You have to mention a specific road and tell them why you use it and why you want it kept open.

—Excerpted from the April to June, 2012, *ALAA Newsletter*

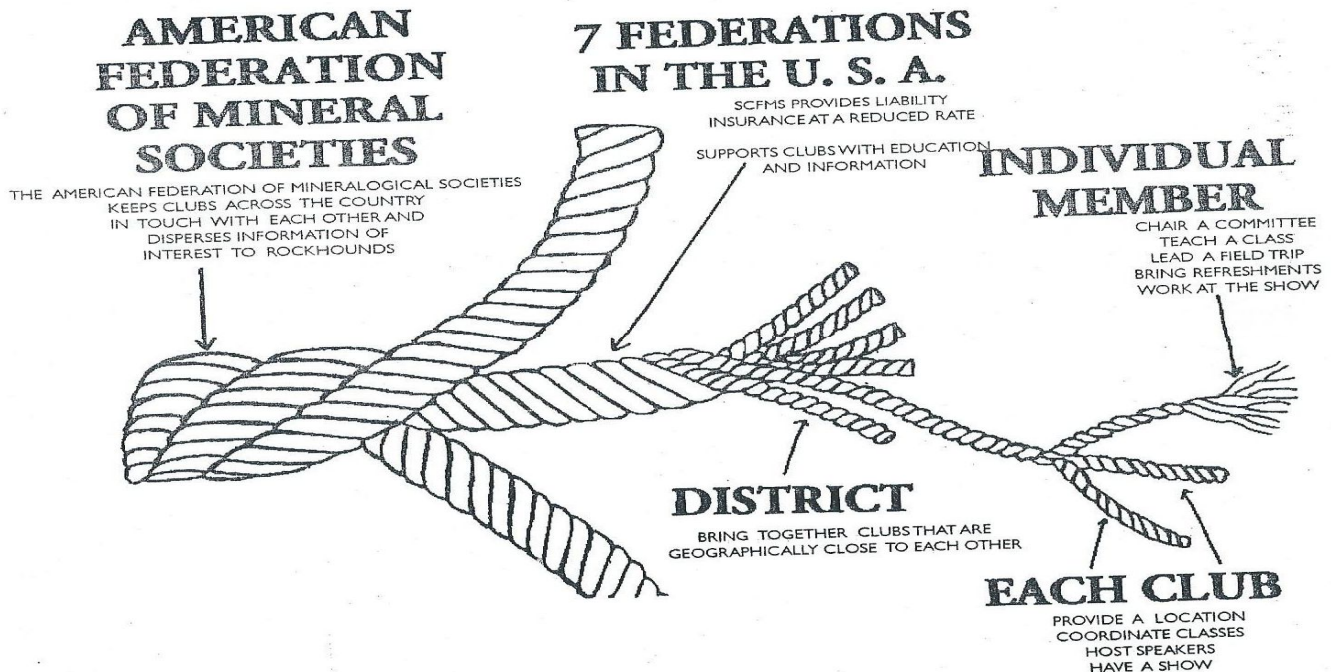
ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

Communication by Kathy Miller MGMS President

Take a look at the rope diagram below. It expresses the inter-relationships between the AFMS, regional federations, districts (areas, regions, states, etc.), clubs and individual members. The drawing shows that the basic and forming strand is the club member. He or she is the one who makes things happen in the hobby. The intertwining as you progress through the thicker strands shows the support mechanisms in place to provide such services as insurances, contest help, advice, information, materials, and recognition of members.

If you picture this now as a communications cable, such as a telephone line, you can see that the flow of information goes both ways. The ultimate goal is to provide as much information as possible to the individual clubs and their members. Communication for all is a vital process not only for keeping us informed, but also for the sharing of information and ideas which are so necessary for the effective operation of our clubs.

Kathy



Science Alive Report Kathy Miller, MGMS President

The club's presentation and presence was a success at this year's "Science Alive" event! Our booth was placed in a great prominent location for attendees to locate us. With the club banner, matching club T-shirts and our displays, we couldn't be missed. 3,000 folks came through the doors at the South Bend main library in the downtown area, which meant our members were kept busy all day long. Between answering questions, handing out our neat "rock" bags, and educating visitors about our hobby the day went by fast. So many people, including a South Bend Tribune reporter (Heidi Prescott) and the event Chairman commented on what a fantastic job our club did and how they always enjoyed and looked forward to seeing us there.



The calm before the storm

Which brings me to name the following;

Our members at the January meeting who gave up the day's regular program to help fill the 500 bags.

John Davis, Fr. Larry Calhoun, Ed Miller, Phyllis Luckert, Srs. Jeanne Finske & Mary Mulligan for all the rock, fossil & gem items to fill the bags.

Linda Miller for a very large amount of assorted candy, cookies and gum for the bags.

Ashley and Kaley Miller for bagging 500 sharks teeth and 500 apache tear with labels for the bags

Bill Foreman for getting the yellow bags with our logo to us ASAP.

Mike Skoczylas for his dinosaur postcards and assorted pamphlets as handouts for people to take.

Jason Hefner for all the candy placed in the bags.

Joe Perry for 500 club show flyers put in the bags.

Ed Miller for the great show sign he made that was mounted on an easel.

Don & Bonnie Church who donated the beautiful Club banner, being maintained by Nick Pellus.

Continued on Page 8

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

The Way I See It! By Don Monroe, President

“Nunc est Hora” which many of you know translates as “Now Is the Hour” was one of the favorite expressions of my very dear high school Latin teacher. She insisted that we use our meager knowledge of Latin at every opportunity. I surprise myself when I realize how much of what she taught us actually stuck in my mind. I encourage each of you to remember whatever foreign language you were taught. If you will do that you may accomplish two things: first you may well be surprised how much you remember and second you will prove to your children and grandchildren that they were correct when they thought that their elders are weird.

Now back to the subject at hand. It is now the hour to make any needed changes in all of the non-profit organizations we are involved in. We have a lot of new committee chairs, officers and others that we will be relying on. I think we have most of our positions filled, but now we must learn how to work together. Many if not most of our American Federation members are experienced people and that should make things go smoothly in 2013. I received a few inquiries in the past month and I think that most questions have been resolved.

Continued on Page 6

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: Rockhound Mentoring

by Dennis Westman

Do you remember when you first discovered that rocks were fascinating? Growing up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin, I was always scouring our rock piles looking for interesting rocks. One day I was driving my first car, a 1950 Nash, in the county park. A huge banner was in front of the 4H building. Free Rock Show; Rib Mt. Gem & Mineral Society! I had no idea there were other people who were interested in rocks. A whole club! These people knew everything about rocks. They knew the names of the fossils. They knew that to polish a rock; its hardness needs to be high on the Mohs scale. The Smokey Quartz crystals behind the Rib Mt. are formed naturally with six sides, not cut that way. I was impressed! These are my type of people! I wandered around checking out the displays, talking to the dealers and hoping someone would invite me to a meeting. I’d like to mention, this was not a young club. There were no kids and most of the members were retired. Finally, someone who knew my dad invited me to a club meeting. I was in heaven. All the members weren’t. The club did not need a kid with an Elvis Presley haircut, playing rock and roll music on his transistor radio. But, none of their fears came true. No transistor radio and 51 years later, I still am fascinated by rocks.

Continued on Page 6



Purpose of the AFMS

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

www.amfed.org



Purpose of the MWF

To promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and lapidary, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of groups interested in these fields.

www.amfed.org/mwf

**Coming Events from MWF
newsletter
MARCH**

1-3: RICHMOND, IN. Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society's 40th Annual Show; Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd.; Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; Contact: John LaMont, 765.647.4894, midwestchar@peoplepc.com .

2-3: LIVONIA, MI. Roamin Club's 41st Annual Special Auction; Vistatech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Rd; Sat. 11-6, Sun. 12- 6; Contact: Todd Gall, 248.348.5093, cuhead@mac.com .

9-10: MACOMB, IL: Geodeland Earth Science Clubs' 33rd Annual Show; Student Union Ballroom, Western Illinois University, Murray St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5; Contact: George Coursey, 309.368.2947, courseyfarm@gmail.com

9-10: MONROE, WI. Badger Lapidary & Geological Society's 43rd Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show; Monroe Senior High School, 1600 26th St., Monroe, WI; Sat. & Sun. 9-5; Contact: Terri Marche, 5415 Lost Woods Ct., Oregon, WI 53575; tmarche@usnetizen.com .

9-10: WAUKESHA, WI. Kettle Moraine Geological Society's 51st Annual Show; Waukesha County Expo Center, South & North Halls, 1000 Northview Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Richard Rosenberger, rosenber.w@sbcglobal.net, www.fromtherockroom.com/Kettle_Moraine_Geological_Society.html.

11: BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI. Michigan Mineralogical Society's Social and Swap, Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 N. Woodward Ave.; Mon. 7:30 p.m.; Contact: Millie Hurt, 248.318.6693.

15-17: KANSAS CITY, MO: Greater Kansas City Association of Earth Science Clubs' Annual Show; KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador Dr; Fri. 9-8, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Mark Sherwood, 816.690.8226; kcginfo@yahoo.com ; www.kcgemshow.org or www.gemshowkc.org .

16-17: CEDAR RAPIDS, IA: Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society's 49th Annual Show; Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6th St. SW; Sat. 8:30- 6, Sun. 9:30-5, Contact: Marvin Houg, 319.364.2868, m_houg@yahoo.com , Sharon Sonnleitner, 319.396.4016, onnb@aol.com , Tom Whilatch , 319- 362-0684 , whitlatcht@gmail.com www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org .

The Way I See It!

Continued from Page 5

To conclude our Latin review I would like to say to all of you "amo te". Further I wish to say to all of those elected officials particularly those in our nation's capital that can't get along "ad infernos te cum".

Don Monroe

AFMS Newsletter V66 No. 3 Feb 2013
http://www.amfed.org/news/n2013_02.pdf

Rockhound Mentoring

Continued from Page 5

We used to have two clubs in my area. They felt kids were a disruption. The clubs folded. Each one of us rockhounds have all this knowledge we learned over the years. We need to pass along that knowledge. We need to encourage young people to join. What will happen to our collections if we are sick for an extended time and, at the end, there is no one to care. Garage sale or landfill! Who will tell the stories of our adventures? Invite kids to your clubs. Kids who are interested in things like rocks are good kids. We need them.

MWF News No. 519 Feb 2013
[http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/FINAL%202013-02%20MWF%20News%20\(519\).pdf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/FINAL%202013-02%20MWF%20News%20(519).pdf)

22-24: ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO. Rock Hobby Club of Greater St. Louis' Annual Show; Machinist Hall Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road (Bridgeton), Fri. 4-9 p.m., Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Willis Smith, Publicity, 314.521.8896 or Roy Hurlburt, President 314.846.0711.

23-24: DES PLAINES, IL: Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's 48th Annual Show; Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St.; Sat. 9:30-5:00, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Lois Zima, 847.298.4653, nival42@hotmail.com.

Bill & Marie Crull Thank you note.

Bill & I would like to thank everyone who sent cards & prayers for him. Also for all the phone calls that Marie received. Bill still has a long way to go, but the Dr. said we can go to Florida after Feb 15th. We have a wound clinic down there. On Feb 21st he will see Dr. Nelson there. We have stayed home most of the time except for Dr. appointments. He has been having home nursing come in everyday so that takes care of going places. We are sorry for missing the Jan meeting. We hope to see everyone in April. Thanks again to everyone – Marie.

Minutes of the January 2013 Meeting

by Michelle Winters, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 by President Kathy Miller.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Bob Miller.

Welcomed 2 new guests + a family to this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vice President - Randy Hill was not in attendance at this meeting, Michelle Winters and Kathy Miller did his reports.

Displays: - Mike Skoczylas, explained how members bring in displays to the guests.

Editor- Jason Hefner - mentioned that members need to update their mailing addresses and email addresses and to make sure they are currently getting The Rockfinder.

Education- Jessie Zeiger had nothing to report.

Field Trip- John Davis was not in attendance and no yearly club bus trip is planned for this year. The club will focus on the annual show in August.

Historian - Ed Miller, he explained that he is currently working on new stuff for the Big Annual Club Show.

Hospitality - Linda Miller, Marsha Miller - organized a wonderful spread that was brought in by members that signed up. They also explained to the guests that we sign up to bring items to the monthly meetings.

Juniors- Trista McIntosh was not in attendance for this meeting .

Librarian- Pat Bell had nothing to report

Membership - we had 41 adult members and 6 juniors at this meeting

Program- Larry Calhoun- today's program was filling give away bags for the Science Alive to hand out to the children in attendance to this event.

Publicity- Nick Pellus - is putting an advertisement in the paper for the Science Alive event to run in the South Bend Tribune.

Show Report- Joe Perry and Marie Crull - Joe stated that he is just waiting on contract to come back.

Sunshine : Annette Freel and Sherry Kobie had nothing to report

Webmaster: Jim Daly - website is up and running and will be looking into getting a domain which will make it easier for people to access the site and this will attract to members.

OLD BUSINESS- if members have not paid they need to do so because there is still roughly 20 members who still have not paid yearly club membership dues.

The junior's leader (Trista) needs more people to sign up to help her at the meetings.

Hospitality still needs members to sign up to bring in food for future monthly meetings, still has blank spots to fill.

Science Alive - workers already scheduled to work this and filling 500 bags to give away at this event hoping to attract new members.

NEW BUSINESS-

Midwest Federation is looking for a Delegate to attend this from our chub and see Kathy Miller for details on this if interested in doing this.

CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC - The date is Sunday July 28th at the same location and time as last year.

Open discussion - Bill Crull is doing a lot better and he and Marie are headed to a warmer climate for the remaining winter.

Door Prizes: - donated by Jim and Michelle Winters, one each was given away to an adult & Junior member.

Science Alive Report

Continued from Page 4

Todd Miller for his exhibit and "touch" stones for the tables.

Bob Miller for "touch" stones and labels for them.

Randy & Joan Hill for the Dinosaur Coprolite or (poop stone) which young and old enjoyed overseen by Jason Hefner who made sure it was held and smelled by many before he told them what it was. THAT was fun!

The booth volunteers were:

Lana Wright (who supplied the pictures - thanks), Bill Foremen, Don Church, Mike Skoczylas, Jason, Jennifer, Justin, Matthew & Michael Hefner, Todd, Linda, Ashley & Kaley Miller, myself and last but not least my Bob Miller who did something of everything before, during and after the event.

If I have missed anyone who helped in any way I do apologize, there were so many who gave for this event.

Thank you! Thank you! I love you guys!!

Kathy



The Storm