

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



April 2014 Volume 54 Number 4



Website [Credit](#)

THE
ROCKFINDER

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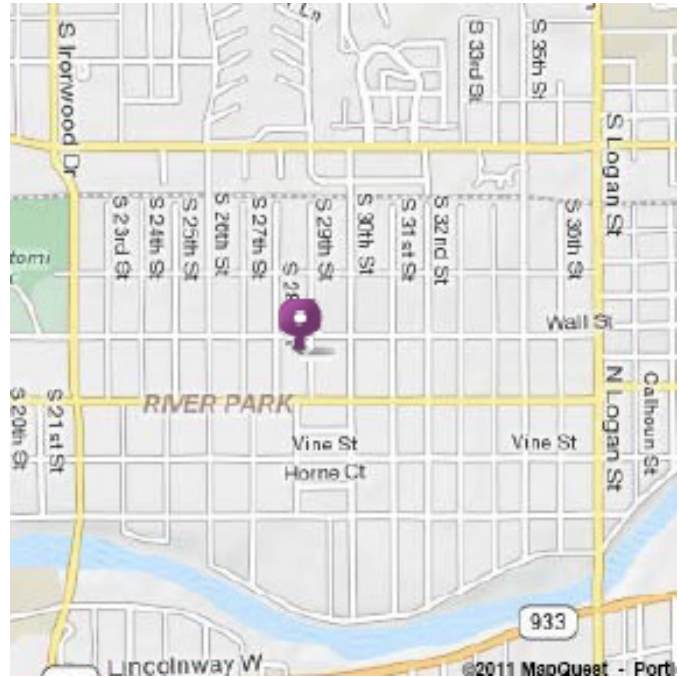
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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.MichianaGMS.org, is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies <http://www.amfed.org/mwfi/> 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

The sun is shining "Oh Happy Days". Finally we are getting close to our outside collecting time. One of the functions coming up this month will be the Arbor Day festival held at the Potawatomi Greenhouse in South Bend on April 26th. John Davis has volunteered to Chair a booth for our club. I am sure he will welcome any help from our members that day. The festival expects a large crowd from the community to turn out for it. If you can help John, please give him a call.

I would like to thank Diane Gram for the beautiful job she did on our Society's Directory for this year. For those of you who haven't picked yours up, they will be available at the April 27th meeting. Diane not only listed our member roster, but included all the many activities, meeting dates, Chairmen, and Hospitality for the year. Good job Diane, applause, applause!!

It was so nice to visit with members who were able to come to the March meeting, Nick Pellus gave a great program on what we can do to display our collections and as always the hospitality table was loaded with goodies to enjoy.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: April 27, 2014 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 River Park.

Program:
TBA

Refreshments: Bob & Pat Bell, Sherrill & Mel Glick, John & Mary Davis, John Jaworski

Board of Directors

President: Kathy Miller
574-291-0332

Vice-President: Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Secretary Jan Pellus
574-264-4772

Treasurer: Marty Perry
574-295-9050

Liaison: Bob Bell
574-233-7352

Committee Chairs

Displays: Mike Skoczylas
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner
574-858-9837

Educational: Jesse Zeiger
574-259-5944

Facebook: Raven Bowen
269-279-1827

Field Trips: John Davis
574-232-8823

Historian: Ed Miller
574-498-6513

Hospitality:
Linda Miller 574-291-5027
Marsha Miller 574-498-6513

Juniors: Trista McIntosh
574-780-1162

Librarian: Pat Bell
574-233-7352

Membership: Nancy Foreman 574-233-9178 & Jennifer Thompson 574-360-9886

Programs: Rev Larry Calhoun
574-631-1887

Publicity: Nick Pellus
574-264-4772

Safety: Julie Wieger 574-291-2597
Jennifer Hefner 574-858-9837

Show Chair: Marie Crull 574-272-7209,
John Davis 574-232-8823

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

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

We have new members, so for those who could not attend, be sure to come to the April meeting and introduce yourself to new friends of our hobby.

We only have the April and May meetings to go, then it is field trips, the picnic, and annual show coming up this summer. In fact at the May 18th meeting I will have signups for the picnic and show kitchen.

Speaking of field trips, in this newsletter is information on the Mine Safety Training Class we should attend, if we want to go on some of the car field trips to quarry's this summer. The quarry companies require that we be certified from this class.

Meanwhile, Bob and I would like to wish all of you a very blessed Easter and look forward to seeing you April 27.

ROCK ON - Kathy

Bus Trip Update

We have 20 seats left on the Cardinal bus for Keokuk, Iowa, September 26, 27 & 28, 2014. The motel rooms are filling up fast. For those of you have your seats on the bus, but have not called in to reserve your room, please do. When you have reserved your room call me and let me know along with your room confirmation. Hampton Inn #1-319-524-6700 (under MICHIANA GROUP).

If you haven't signed up to go and still wish to, call me A.S.A.P. 574-291-0332. Remember, don't sign up unless you know for sure you can go. Club pays the bus, you pay motel (block room rate) and a Saturday night meal. I also need to know if you will be eating dinner with us at the Black Hawk restaurant. They would like us to pay upfront before we sit down to eat, so would like a count of how many adults and children. We have a private room for our club and have to have a certain amount of people. For those of you who didn't attend the March meeting, I have copies of our itinerary, Geode Fest information of what takes place, and the Geode Fest reservation form.

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Board met and it was decided because of the rising cost of bus rental & Drivers motel (in contract) that we will only have a 3 day bus trip every TWO years, AND IF I DON'T GET MORE PEOPLE GOING ON THE BUS THIS YEAR, I SEE NO REASON TO EVEN RENT A BUS IN TWO YEARS. Where we are going this year no one will come back without beautiful geodes or fossils. Everyone who goes has a super time.

Get cracking sorry, couldn't help myself!
Kathy



Meeting Minutes Date: March 23, 2014

Members in attendance / Adults 30 Children 6 Guest 1

Call to Order: President Kathy Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

Secretary report – Jan Pellus / Motion made and seconded to accept minutes

Treasurer's report – Marty Perry / Motion made and seconded to accept report

Liaison report – Bob Bell / shows coming up in Columbus, OH; National Convention will be in Tulsa, Ok. See Bob for details.

Parliamentarian – Bob Miller / no report. We still need a delegate for the Midwest Federation Meeting in Des Moines, IA

American Lands Access/ Bob Miller explained that we are members of the American Lands Access. They fight for our rights to use public lands.

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas / 1. Jill Meuninck brought in a rock for identification
2.a sample of Hour Glass Selenite
3. a sample of Koekuk geode
4.an Ammonite in the rough
5.samples of Fulgurites given to junior members and club members.

Editor: Jason Hefner / no report

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / no report

Face Book: Raven Bowen / no report

Field Trips: John Davis / Kathy Miller reported for John that MSHA training and certification will Be held on May 3, 2014. Certification is required for entry to quarries and mines. Kathy also advised that there is still space to sign up for the trip to Keokuk. For Information, contact her.

Historian: Ed Miller / gave general information.

Hospitality: - Linda Miller & Marsha Miller / Thank you to Bill and Nancy Foreman, Susan Huffman, John and Mary David, and Randy and Joan Hill.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh / juniors brought in some of their own collection for discussion.

Librarian: Pat Bell / new additions to the library are: a CD with 6500 pictures of specimens; a book on stringing beads; a book on wire wrapping; a book on mineral mining.

Membership: Nancy Forman & Jennifer Thompson / welcome one guest/new member Jill Meuninck.

Programs: Rev. Larry Calhoun / no report

Publicity: Nick Pellus / no report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / no report

Continued on page 5

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News From my Desk to Yours

by Richard Jaeger, AFMS President excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 67, Number 5 – April, 2014](#) **Click on the link to read the rest of the article.**

Hopefully by the time you read this article the worst of the winter weather will be well past us.

There are a couple of items I wish address this month.

First is the AFMS Endowment Fund; Donna Moore, our AFMS Chair for this committee has an article elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. Currently, the Endowment Fund supports new programs for the AFMS Program Library, including the program contest, the conversion of older programs into more modern forms, purchase of programs, and distribution of programs to regional federations. It supports the Uniform Rules Committee Judging Seminars (the one this year is in Ogden, Utah) and it supports our junior programs and junior badges. These are all worthwhile, important functions. Donna now has a chairman in each of our seven regional federations. They are working hard to sell tickets and secure prizes for the Endowment Fund drawing to be held at the AFMS Show in Tulsa this summer. A couple of things are combining to make this more challenging than in some years. First, we have a relatively short time gap between the 2013 and 2014 show – less than ten months. Secondly, only two of the regional federations hold their shows before the national show. Please respond by purchasing tickets and/or donating a prize for the drawing. You may get lucky and win, but at any rate you will be supporting our federation in a positive way.

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News Presidents Message

by Tony Kapta, MWF President excerpted from [MWF News April 2014 - Issue No. 531](#) **Click on the link to read the rest of the article.**

Hello Everyone,

Well, the weather seems to be testing us this year. It is now the beginning of March and I may be seeing a hint of warmer weather, or at least a lack of snow here in the middle of Illinois. So maybe a new year of field trips is about to begin relatively soon. Yeah!

Club shows have begun and that is always a great time to see new specimens and renew old relationships with people we have met over the years in our hobby. Great times.

As I have said before, we are working on putting together a history of the MWF. I think this is important as it makes it easier to see into the future by looking at what has happened in the past. I have selected some of the highlights that have occurred in the MWF and AFMS past, and am putting them here for everyone to see where we have come from.

In March 1940, several members discussed the possibility of forming a regional federation like those in California (1935) and the Northwest (1938). On September 22, a trip to the strip mines near Wilmington, Illinois was held, and during the lunch hour, a committee composed of Larry T. Brezan, Frank L. Fleener, George Huss, Bryant Mather, Arthur L. Peck, and Ben Hur Wilson as Chairman, was appointed to organize the federation. Mr. Mather, Assistant Curator of Mineralogy at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, would draft a constitution.



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

Upcoming Events

APRIL

26-27 DECATUR, IL. Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club's 63rd Annual Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show; Macon County Fairgrounds, 3700 Westlawn Ave.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Tony Kapta, 309.830.6516, cigmc@comcast.net.

MAY

3-4 CINCINNATI, OH. Geofair 2014, Cincinnati Mineral Society's and the Cincinnati Dry Dredgers' 49th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show; Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 E. Seymour Ave.; Contact: Terry Huizing, 513.574.7142, or tehuizing@fuse.net, or www.geofair.com.

3-4 MARSHFIELD, WI. Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society's 41st Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show; Marshfield High School Field House, 1401 E. Becker Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Cynthia Kelman, 715.387.8782, kelman@tznet.com, www.fromtherockroom.com.

16-18 JOPLIN, MO. Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society's Spring Rock Swap; Schifferdecker Park, 7th & Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. & Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-3; Contact: Chris Wiseman, 17.623.1180, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net.

17-18 NORTH OLMSTED, OH. Parma Lapidary Club's Annual Show; Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain Rd.; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-5; Contact: Sue Zaborowski, 440.213.1153.

May 24-25—WHEATON, ILLINOIS: Chicagoland Gem & Mineral Association (CGMA) 38th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show; www.chicagolandgemshow.org. Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester Rd. Chicagoland's largest club-hosted retail and wholesale show for rockhounds features more than 30 nationally known dealers, displays by museums and private collectors, lapidary demonstrations, silent auction, door prizes, Kids' Korner. Rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, tools, supplies and equipment, books, findings, glass fusing, jewelry making, geode cracking, micromounts, opal cutting, wire-wrapping, metalsmithing, cabbng, fossil preparation, faceting, gem trees, and more. Air-conditioned. Food. Free parking. Adults \$5, Students (ages 13-17) and seniors (60+) \$3, service personnel and children under 13 free. Contact Jeanine N. Mielecki, (773) 774-2054, jaynine9@aol.com or Rich Dillon, P.O. Box 360, Wasco, IL 60183-0360, (630) 377-0197; cgma@sbcglobal.net.

March Meeting Minutes Continued from page 3

Show Chair: Marie Crull & Joe Perry / at present we have 10 dealers signed. We are waiting on 5 or 6 more. We have a new dealer that will be selling equipment and tools.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Get well to Diane Gram

Webmaster: Joe Perry / we are putting the old Rock Finders on the web site. We need copies of The Rock Finder between 1980 and 1990. If you have these, please contact Joe.

Old Business

There are a few club shirts available. Contact Marty Perry

New Business

The 2014 club directory and membership cards are available. If you have not received yours, please see Nancy Foreman.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: Mounting and displaying your finds and specimens presented by Nick Pellus.

Next Meeting: April 27

New Ways to Mount Your Specimens

A follow up to March's club program by Nick Pellus

After the March meeting was adjourned, I was asked a few questions that I should have addressed in the program. The main question was "what material do I use to mount the specimens". Though you can use epoxy for mounting, I prefer to use a clear 100% silicone sealant. Silicone will fill the voids and, with some work, the specimen can be removed with little damage to it in the future.

There are so many different ways to make your finds more interesting and decorative. I would like to see other club member's new and innovative ways to make these works of art using their rock specimens or other items they collect. So, for our September or October meeting, bring your creations for our "show and tell" table.

Remember, everyone has a creative side and you can show this off this fall. Besides, I need some new ideas to steal

Access Problems for Fairburn Agates in National Grasslands -- Again!

By Jan Baumeister, South Dakota Rep for RMFMS and ALAA member

Since 1980, we rock club members, later joined by cattlemen and other organizations of people who use our public lands, started fighting to keep total wilderness designation out of the most scenic areas of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, namely Indian Creek, Red Shirt and the original Fairburn agate beds east of Hermosa. These areas are highly desired areas for hunting our State Agate, the Fairburn. The original Fairburn Agate allotment east of Hermosa became instant wilderness a while back when the Forest Service closed all vehicle access except for a trail that goes one mile into the grasslands to a turnaround. Pro-wilderness groups have been trying to turn this beautiful area into a land prison, to keep out everyone except those who can hike on foot for miles or can afford the luxury of owning or renting horses to enjoy agate hunting, photography and other activities enjoyed by families.

There is now a proposed draft being drawn up for a Conservation Management Area Designation bill for these areas. This was tried before in 2010, with the backing of over 50 pro-wilderness organizations, but the bill never came to vote. The only difference between a wilderness bill and the proposed Conservation Management Plan is the emphasis on meeting the land's dominant uses--just livestock grazing and primitive recreation allowed, but still no motorized vehicle use, which includes atv's the ranchers use! . . .

No matter what state you live in, you can help preserve the future of our major Fairburn agate beds! Outdoor organizations and rock clubs can provide information to their members, pass the word to outdoor groups and their headquarters via their newsletters or in local newspapers. Urge them to write/call/e-mail our SD representatives asking them NOT to allow proposed wilderness bills for the Indian Creek and Red Shirt areas of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. Contact: SD Senator Tim Johnson 800-537-0025; SD Senator Tom Thune 800-850-3855; SD State Representative Kristi Noem 855-225-2801.

--Edited and excerpted from the *ALAA Newsletter* (Jan-Mar, 2014)

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.

MSHA Safety Class MAY 3rd by John Davis

The club cannot stress how important this class is for your safety in the field. Some locations require this training and if you do not take the class you cannot attend that field trip. NO EXCEPTIONS!! The date is: Saturday, May 3rd. Time is from 10 am till 12:00 and from 1:00 till 3:00. Cost is \$15 per person and an extra \$15 if you need a book. Lunch is on your own, brown bag, or a quick trip to local restaurants.

Do you have any old Rockfinders???

Joe Perry, MGMS Webmaster

I've been placing recent issues of the Rockfinder to the Members Area of the MGMS website, www.MichianaGMS.org. Many earlier issues of the Rockfinder have been scanned and placed on the website.

I'm missing Rockfinder issues from 1980 through 1989 and from 1975 and earlier. If you have any of the missing issues please let me borrow them to scan and place on the website. I'll return them to you after they've been scanned.

Dodecahedral Crystal Class Minerals by Kreigh Tomaszewski

The crystal form of a mineral is a visible clue to the fundamental atomic arrangement of the elements that make up a mineral. Knowing the crystal form of an unknown specimen gets you a long way down the path to identifying the mineral. There are six crystal systems, isometric, hexagonal, tetragonal, orthorhombic, monoclinic, and triclinic, in order of declining symmetry. Within these six systems there are 32 crystal classes that represent the possible symmetries of crystal faces. We started with isometric, and this month moved from octahedral to dodecahedral.

Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we really want to learn to hand identify them. Hand identification is a skill you learn from holding and studying many different specimens of a given mineral (and doing some homework on its physical properties). We do our homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral (class or group) of the month, but we also dig through our collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. We really do learn from each other (and you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated). It was a small group again this month, but some really nice crystals.

The concept behind our crystal class study theme was to have as many different minerals of a given class, to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish between them as we also learn to identify the class from multiple examples. Our group came up with an reasonable collection of dodecahedron habit minerals. We got to hand examine specimens of Grossular Garnet, Andradite Garnet, Almandine Garnet, Uvarovite Garnite, Hessonite Garnet, Peridot, Rhodazite, and two beautiful specimens of Pyrite.

It is one thing to look at the pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold a specimen and look at it thru a lens (feel the heft, shine a bright light on it, etc.). And then look at another specimen of the same mineral (and maybe another). And then look at something else that is close but different. Some homework was done, and we learned a bit about the specimens we studied. Mindat.org again got a workout during the study session.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We are going to study minerals that have a Ditetragonal Dipyramidal crystal Class. Think vesuvianite, rutile, or zircon.

We try to start (and end) on time; please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (and everyone gets thrown out by 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about basal pinacoid, prisims of the first order, prisims of the second order, ditetragonal prisims, dipyramid of the first order, dipyramid of the second order, and ditetragonal dipyramid minerals as we move into the Tetragonal System, and bring some representative specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (and you are always welcome even if you can't bring any specimens).

Continued next page

Dodecahedral Crystal Class Minerals by Kreigh Tomaszewski

Continued from previous page

We usually have some time at the end to look at some unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are getting better at identifying minerals). Our fun unknown for the evening turned out to be Dahillite Concretions from Big Horn County in Wyoming (aka, Desert Golf Balls), and everyone got to take one home. Hope you can join us for the next meeting (and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds).

Field Trip Report March 1st, 2014 by John Davis – Field trips

On the way to Albany Kentucky I stopped by Corydon, In. and picked up my good friend Steve Garza, whom many of you may remember. Steve and I got to the quarry at about 8 AM and to our surprise, we found a crew working in the quarry breaking up big boulders. We were supposed to have the quarry to ourselves. But last minute orders required the pit crew to work. From 150 feet away we could see huge pockets of pink calcite and pink dolomite being broken up. We still milled around for a while at a safe distance from the work area and picked up a few nice specimens.

We had found that the crew would be quitting at noon, so when my buddy Everett Harrington and his mother Celia arrived at 9:30, we decided to check out a few road cuts that Steve and I had observed on the way down and come back later. We did this thinking we were going to hit the mother load when all the large boulders were broken up. The road cuts ended up being duds, as all we found were a bunch of ordinary thin shell geodes with average clear quartz crystals in them.

After arriving back at the quarry the crew was still busy in the quarry so we went up and worked the upper benches for a couple hours and found some great specimens there. We found several nice boulders that produced some very fine specimens.

Finally the work crew finished for the day and we moved to the quarry floor to see what kind of goodies awaited us there. You can imagine our surprise to find they had taken all the smashed boulders and piled them in about 6 individual piles, with obviously most of the really nice stuff buried under them. Although we did still find a few specimens, we had found more in 2 hours on the upper benches than the rest of the day combined. What we had thought was going to be great pickings, turned to disappointment when we saw it was all buried under the piles.

