

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



September 2014 Volume 54 Number 7

Next Meeting 9/21
Bring in something
you collected this
summer!!

THE
ROCKFINDER

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Volume 54 Number 7
September 2014

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/mwff/> and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies www.amfed.org

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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

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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

Summer is over and I am writing this message on Labor Day! Our club has remained quite busy with summer field trips, the Envirofest, club picnic and of course, our annual show.

Jan and Nick Pellus said they gave out a lot of information and flyers regarding our club and show at the Envirofest held in Elkhart, IN. I was so pleased to see the turnout for the picnic at our new location. We had a beautiful day and time to share our summer calendars.

The show was wonderful, I did not hear one negative comment from anyone! All I heard were praises on what a great show we had, the good attendance, happy dealers and the outgoing active participation of MGM members. It was neat to see the flashes of neon green around the show floor from members wearing our club T shirts.

Continued on Page 2

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: September 21, 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:
Made by the Stars,
Elements in Action
by John Jaworski

Refreshments:
Linda, Todd Miller & girls, Patty & Ed Enos, Marsha & Ed Miller, Kathy & Bob Miller

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

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574-232-8823

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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

It will be interesting to hear our finalized show report coming up at either the September (or) October meeting.

Speaking of September, remember our next meeting will be September 21, 2014, one week prior to the 3 day bus field trip. Also in September I hope many of you will have been able to attend the 1 day field trip to the LaFarge Quarry in Paulding, OH, on September 13th. That quarry produces fossils in abundance, you don't come home empty handed. This trip is made possible through the diligence of our Field Trip Chair, John Davis. In fact, if you would, please bring in some of your finds for the September meeting Display table.

We still are in need of a Program Chairman (it could be a Co-Chair position), and now if you volunteer, you don't have to worry about a program until possibly February 2015. That just leaves you to think about February, March, April and May. This is thanks to John Jaworski, Rev. Larry Calhoun, and a few other ideas coming up, so please consider your part of being in the club and step up to the plate – Volunteer!! J

At the upcoming meeting, if you have been a member of our club for awhile and see new members or visitors from our show, please make a point to meet and greet them. Our "forever" family of Rockhounds are really a great group of people coming together!

ROCK ON - Kathy



Checking out the Demonstrators at the 2014 show

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

by Kathy Miller, President

THANK YOU.....to our 2014 Show Chairman, Marie Crull, her assistants Bill Crull, Joe Perry, John Davis and their Show Committee Chairs/helpers. Not to forget Marty Perry, club Treasurer for all the time and effort put into making our annual show a success –AND IT WAS!!

THANK YOU...to all the MGM members who donated food and or money (to defray the costs of paper products, etc.) in order to feed the dealers, demonstrators, and club members during the entire 3 days of our show. You are what makes a club a CLUB.

The back room/kitchen was really a joy to see and hear everyone conversing, eating and having a good time together. THANKS to our Kitchen Committee made up of Bonnie Church, Marcia Jacobs, Bob Bell, Robin Schuster, and the 3 Millers, Marsha, Linda and Kathy

NOTE: We really appreciated Bob Bell our dishwasher!!!!

Falls of the Ohio State Park's Digging the Past

Come visit Saturday September 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event combines Archaeology Day and Earth Discovery Day into a single event that promotes interests in archaeology and earth science. Activities for visitors of all ages are located around the parking lot behind the Interpretive Center.

You will enjoy learning about human history and the Earth's past with nearly 20 different activities.

Archaeology – throw a dart with an atlatl and use primitive tools, make clay pottery, get dirty finding “artifacts” in a mock dig, play games, and more.

Geology – Dig for fossils and minerals in our refreshed collecting piles*, explore the fossil beds, examine micro-fossils with a microscope, make an egg carton geology collection, children's craft area to make gem trees, weather rocks, are some of the highlights.

What do I have? Get your unknown artifacts and rocks identified by experts.

*Collecting is prohibited at the Falls of the Ohio; however, local quarries donate 30 tons of fossil-bearing Silurian Waldron shale and Devonian limestone residuum. Dig for brachiopods, bryozoans, corals, crinoids, cystoids, snails, clams, and trilobites in our collecting piles. Search the mineral pile from Rosiclare, Illinois for fluorite, sphalerite, barite and calcite. We can direct your club to other localities in the area to collect fossils. This would be an ideal weekend field trip. We hope members of your group will be able to attend!

Alan Goldstein
Interpretive Naturalist / Event Coordinator
Falls of the Ohio State Park
201 West Riverside Drive
Clarksville, IN 47129-3135 USA
(812) 280-9970 ext. 403
<http://www.fallsoftheohio.org/>
www.facebook.com/fallsoftheohio

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

From My Desk to Yours by Richard Jaeger, President

excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 67, Number 5 - September, 2014](#)

Probably most every president of most every organization has talked about the importance of communication. I mentioned communication in an earlier message, but was speaking primarily of sharing and passing on information between the AFMS, regional federations, and individual clubs. In my last message, I mentioned that I had been surprised by being asked to intervene in disputes involving rockhounds with each other, with their clubs, or with their federations. Many of the disputes, in fact, resulted from misunderstandings due to people failing to effectively communicate.

When you are contacted by someone, please respond in a timely fashion. Now, in many cases, that means as soon as possible. Other questions may require you to do a little searching before you reply. Sometimes you get a communication which is unpleasant or even rude; in that case it may be best to ponder for a day or two rather than responding hastily. I know that is true for me.

On the other hand, when you contact someone and don't get a reply in a timely fashion, don't give up or get mad. Perhaps the message didn't get through to the other person or perhaps the person fully meant to respond but forgot.

Click on the link above to read the rest of the article.

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

2014 Convention Silent Auction by Ed Dvorak,

Silent Auction Chairman excerpted from [MWF News June 2014 - Issue No. 534](#)

Just a reminder about the "EONS EXPOSED!!" show and convention coming up in October at Des Moines, Iowa. The silent auction to benefit the MWF will be held at the Awards Banquet on Saturday, October 18, and we need donated specimens.

When you are on field trips this summer, or just checking the local areas, think about collecting some extra specimens for the silent auction. You will no doubt pick up some great specimens for yourself. I ask only that you collect a few more for the silent auction. Since this silent auction will be limited to those attending the banquet, nicer specimens would be appreciated, however, nothing will be refused. If you have no place to store them, please contact me. If you live close to me, I will pick them up; otherwise, they can be mailed via priority flat rate mail. Thank you for your donations. You may call 402.946.3041 and leave a message or e-mail: ed20649@windstream.net.



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 September

12-14—HOLLAND, MICHIGAN: 45th Annual Rock, Gem, Fossil and Jewelry Show; Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club; Holland Civic Center; 150 W. 8th St.; Fri. 9-8, Sat. 9-7, Sun. 11-5; adults \$3, students free with adult; Birthstones - "Everyone's a Gem": 12 dealers, special exhibits, lapidary and jewelry demonstrations, kids' games, club sales, silent auction; contact Jodi and Steve Miller, 4420 Oak Hollow Ct., Hamilton, MI 49419, (269) 751-2808; e-mail: sjmillerman@yahoo.com; Web site: www.tulipcity.org

20-21—HOWELL, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Livingston Gem & Mineral Society; Hartland Education Support Services Center; 9525 Highland Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children 50 cents; contact Chuck Amberger, (248) 787-6586; e-mail: camber459@gmail.com

26-28—BEREA, OHIO: Wholesale and retail show; GemStreet USA; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds; 174 Eastland Rd., (use Bagley Rd. entrance); Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$6, children (under 12) and Scouts in uniform free; gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, beads; contact Jane K. Smith, PO Box 770680, Lakewood, OH 44107, (216) 521-4367; e-mail: Janestrieter1946@gmail.com; Web site: gemstreetusa.com

27-28—LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY: 24th Annual Gem Mineral Jewelry Show; Rockhounds of Central Kentucky; Kentucky National Guard Armory; 4301 Airport Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; adults \$2, families \$5, children \$1, Scouts in uniform free; dealers, minerals, jewelry, equipment, club sales, exhibits, Kentucky agate, fluorescent display, hourly prizes, grand prize drawing; contact Allen Ferrell, (859) 277-2469; e-mail: kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com; Web site: www.lexingtonrockclub.com

OCTOBER

3-5—INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA: 16th Annual Fall Show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows; Indiana State Fairgrounds, Agriculture/Horticulture Bldg.; 1202 E. 38th St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5 (3 days), children (under 16) free; beads, pearls, gemstones, wire wrapping, wire sculpture, silversmiths and goldsmiths, custom work and repairs while you wait, door prizes, classes available; contact Van Wimmer Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com

Complacency Has Led Nowhere

 by

Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

As president of American Lands Access Association, I have been working on the many problems rockhounds are having because we are not receiving the recognition we deserve. We have only ourselves to blame. For many years in the 1970s and 1980s, rockhounds were involved in land-use decisions made by both the National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Then complacency set in, and we were mistakenly told that getting involved in government policy-making would jeopardize our 501-C3 status. So, many of the clubs who had participated earlier went to the sidelines and sat. A lot has taken place on our public lands since then, and rockhounds for the most part have not been included in the process. The sad outcome of this is that now we are not recognized in many states. Rockhounding was once identified as a category under "Recreation," but now it's been eliminated, and in southern California last year some BLM managers were under the impression that rockhounds and rockhounding were dead, which I objected to vigorously.

So here's my challenge to you. GET INVOLVED. Make your voices heard. The bitter truth is this: if we don't get out there and participate in decisions that will change the way our public lands are administered, then we are all doomed to backyard garage sales to find suitable lapidary material.

--Edited and excerpted from the ALAA Newsletter (Apr.-June, 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. Contact Shirley at president@amlands.org.

Trigonal Division 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 to the trigonal division of the Hexagonal System and its five crystal classes.

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 try to 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. Searching MinDat.org by crystal class is a great way to identify candidate minerals. 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 unusual crystals.

The concept behind our crystal class study theme is 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 a fun collection of Trigonal habit minerals. We got to hand examine specimens of Quartz in its many varieties, including rose quartz crystals, Calcite in a variety of crystal forms, Hematite crystals approaching 1 cm, Dolomite, Siderite, The Tourmalines, Elbaite, Rubellite, Indicolite, Schorl, and Dravite, Rhodochrosite, Smithsonite, Diopase, Cinnabar, Willemite, Wickenburgite, Millerite, Corundum (Ruby), Pyargyrite, Proustite, Magnesite, Jarosite, Arsenic, Bismuth, Kutnohorite, Antimony, Alunite, and Uvite. We had multiple specimens of most minerals.

It is one thing to look at the pretty 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 and the crystal shapes they represented. A few of the nicer specimens were self collected.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 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 Orthorhombic minerals.

Rhodochrosite is pictured to the right

Photo Credit

<http://www.galleries.com/minerals/carbonat/rhodochr/rho-37.jpg>



2014 Club Show Photos by Jason Hefner, Editor



Dinosaurs!!!!



Silent Auction action



North end of Show. Vendors, Kids Corner, and demonstrators!!



Checking out the Displays