

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



November 2014 Volume 54 Number 9

Next Meeting 12/7
Christmas Party!!

THE
ROCKFINDER

We're on the Web! See us at: www.MichianaGMS.org

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 choose 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 ROCKFINDER

Volume 54 Number 9
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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

What a great meeting we had in October, I am sorry some of our members could not be there to enjoy the program and special treats.

This week I am looking forward to the Geode Cracking party held at John and Mary Davis's home. It should be a lot of fun. Bob and I, plus many others will have lots of geodes to break open.

It was brought up and discussed by the MGM Board at the October meeting on having the Midwest Federation Convention in conjunction with our annual club show in 2016. The Board members were in favor of this, so not only will there be a presentation and vote on the slate of officers for 2015 at this year's Christmas party, we will also discuss and move to have the convention for 2016. The meeting will be short so we have more time to enjoy our party.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: December 7, 2014 Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 12:00 and the party starts at 12:30.

Place:

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

Program:

Christmas Party!!!

Refreshments:

EVERYONE bring something to share

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: 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

CHRISTMAS PARTY!! December 7, 2014 - 12:30 p.m.
Same place as meetings – Our Redeemer Fellowship Hall

This is a potluck and enjoyed by everyone. FYI I absolutely need to know ASAP well in advance (not the week before the party) if any member is bringing a junior member or young guest up to the age of 18 years old. This is a priority! Santa is expected and we don't want any disappointed youngsters. Please call me (you can leave a message) your name and how many adults/kids are attending.

In the past we also take donations of non-perishable food items to put under the Christmas tree at the party. These food items are then delivered to St. Vincent DePaul as our club Christmas contribution.

Just a note, Mike Skoczylas called and passed on some information which I am giving you. IF EVEN 10 MEMBERS call the Bureau of Land Management at 202-912-7457 (it is a Ms. McBrides phone #) and ask for 25 books on Junior Explorer Geology and Fossils, they are supposed to be free and shipped free to you. I did call, got Ms. McBride's machine, put in my request, emphasizing free books and shipping and am now waiting for delivery. Mike indicated that no more than 25 books can be requested. Make it known it is for an earth science club or organization in your community. We sure could use these for our juniors, or Kid's Corner at our show.

Looking ahead, no one remembered to bring in any material at the last meeting for Science Alive. I would like to have the January meeting program as preparing the MGM gift bags to pass out the next weekend (February 7) at Science Alive. All rock, fossil, mineral material accepted. Lots of the children attending never get up close and personal with the goodies we have and are so pleased and excited when they receive our MGM gift bags.

That's all for now, have a very Happy Thanksgiving, and I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas party.

ROCK ON - Kathy

Dues are due!!
Mail them to Marty

Orthorhombic System by Kreigh Tomaszewsk

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. This month we decided to take on all three classes of the Orthorhombic System, Orthorhombic Dipyramidal, Rhombic Disphenodal, and Rhombic Pyramidal.

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 (but you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated).

The Orthorhombic system includes all crystals that may be explained by three axes, all of different lengths, and all at right angles to each other. We had two or three specimens to handle (or more) for half of the species reviewed this month.

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 an exceptional collection of Orthorhombic habit minerals. We got to hand examine specimens of Rosalite, Kinoite, Herderite, Whitmoreite, Hydroxylherderte, Anglecite, Barite, Sulfur, Atacamite, Energite, Celestite (Celestine), Marcasite, Olivene, Natrolite, Varascite, Andalusit e, Antleriite, Aragonite, Tyuyamuniite, Scorodite, Diiaspore, Adamiite, Azurite, Goethite, Perovyskite, Brookite, Romancheiite, Cobaltite, Strontiantite, Stibnite, Chrysocalla, Wavellite, Epsomite, Dumortieriite, Caledonite, Danmburiite, Phrehnite, Thulite, Topaz, Norburgeriite, Hemiimorphite, Thompsonite, Rockbridgeite, and Mottrymite (sorry if any of these are misspelled).

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, look at it under black light, 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. Some of the specimens were self collected, and a few were museum quality. This was a really good month, and we ran late by 15 minutes because we had too many specimens.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 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 Monoclinic minerals.

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

A Word from the President by Marion Roberts,

President excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 67, Number 7 - November, 2014](#)



Greetings! As the new AFMS President, allow me to introduce myself to you. I served as President of the California Federation in 2005, and have been director of the CFMS lapidary and jewelry "camps" for several years. I've also served as AFMS 4th and 1st Regional Vice President and last year, I was your President-elect.

I am very competitive with most everything that I do. My major competitor is myself and I'm always wanting to improve even if the result is only minutely better. My hobbies consist of all areas of lapidary, woodwork and wood turning, building replicas of old sailing ships

and bowling.

I worked as a maintenance mechanic for most of my working years. I retired on doctors' orders in 1992 and became busier than I was all my working years.

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Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

President's Message by Jim Marburger, President excerpted from [MWF News November - Issue No. 536](#)

I would like to thank all who have served on Committees and the Board of Directors of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Society (MWF) in the past year. These are the many who serve with love and dedication of our Hobby and have sharing hearts. Many of these people are continuing to dedicate time and effort in their positions for the upcoming year. If you have any inkling that YOU would like to join this group, I will make every effort to find the perfect position for you. We have a few open committee chair positions that need to be filled, and people are

needed to help with different committees. Just let it be known that you are available, and willing, to serve your federation.

To each committee Chair, I would like to ask for a short article on your specific facet of the hobby, for inclusion in our newsletter. This will update everyone on what we can do for the clubs that make up the MWF. Many clubs are struggling to get younger people involved, or even to join in the fun. We must provide guidance and a fast response to the "I want it now" generation.

Continued on Page 9



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

NOVEMBER

21-23 AFFTON, MO. St. Louis Mineral and Gem Society's Annual Show; White Rodgers Affton Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Rd.; Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Melissa Perucca, meliss5301@aol.com, stlrockclub.com.

22-23 MADISON, WI. Madison Gem & Mineral Club's Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show; Exhibition Hall at Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Nevin Franke, 608.251.2601, burniesrockshop@gmail.com, www.madisonrockclub.org.

DECEMBER

6-7—NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Wholesale and retail show; American Bead Shows, Tennessee State Fairground; Smith Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6 (discount coupon on Web site); antique and vintage jewelry components, beads, freshwater pearls, gemstone beads, Swarovski beads and components, seed beads, beading supplies, carved wood and bone beads, Kumihimo supplies, jewelry and craft tools, finished items; contact Samuel Mbullah, PO Box 490803, Atlanta, GA 30349, (770) 739-0057; e-mail: beadshows@hotmail.com; Web site: <https://americanbeadshows.com>

13-14—FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE: Annual show; Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Williamson County AgExpoPark; 4215 Long Ln.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, students \$1, children free; demonstrations, exhibits, silent auction, hourly door prizes, grand prize, more than 30 dealers, beads, crystals, geodes, minerals, fossils, rough, cabochons, gemstones, finished jewelry, Native American jewelry, tools, supplies; contact John Stanley, 2828 Donna Hill Dr., Nashville, TN 37214, (615) 885-8704; e-mail: show@mtgms.org; Web site: www.MTGMS.org

FEBRUARY 2015

20-22—INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA: Annual show; Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indiana State Museum; 650 W. Washington St.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; adults \$12, seniors \$10, children \$7; dealers, regional clubs, adult and kids' activities; contact Peggy Fisherkeller, 650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-7172; e-mail: pfisherkeller@indianamuseum.org; Web site: www.indianamuseum.org

March 2015

6-8—RICHMOND, INDIANA: Annual show; Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society, Wayne County Fairgrounds; 861 N. Salisbury Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$1, children (under 7) and Scouts and leaders in uniform free; jewelry, minerals, fossils, displays, demonstrators, silent auction, children's activities; contact John LaMont, 1271 Fairfield Ave., Brookville, IN 47012, (765) 647-4894 or (937) 339-1966

Orthorhombic System continued from Page 3

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 Monoclinic minerals, and bring some representative specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (but you are always welcome even if you can't bring any specimens).

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). We think this month's unknown was petrified wood (we also identified a hyalite). Hope you can join us for the next meeting (and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated).

Octobers' Program by Jason Hefner



Photo by Jason Hefner

For those of you that missed October's meeting you missed an awesome program presented by Mark Tarner. He has spent years finding and now removing and preserving a Hadrosaur named "Juliet"

In the photo above Mark and his daughter are showing club members claw marks in one of the bones from something that had scavenged on the dinosaur after it had died. There are several more pictures in the newsletter for you to see as well.

Meeting Minutes October 26, 2014

by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Meeting Minutes Date: October 26, 2014

Members in attendance / Adults_44___ Children_13___ Guest_6___

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 will be held in Cleveland, OH, Oct 31/ Midland, MI, Nov 1&2/ Bloomington Hills, MI, Nov 1&2 See Bob for details.

Parliamentarian – Bob Miller / There will be a report in the Rockfinder on the Midwest Federation meeting.

American Lands Access-Tom Noe / No Report

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas / John Davis presented the displays in Mike’s absence. Ed Miller brought examples of geodes from Keokuk, IA, Huntercreek, and Morocco. Nick Pellus brought a dinosaur bone specimen. John Davis brought geodes from Keokuk and a copper slab. Jim Daly brought samples of geodes from Keokuk and pictures from the club field trip to Keokuk Geode Fest.

Editor: Jason Hefner / No Report

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / No Report

Face Book: Raven Bowen / No Report

Field Trips: John Davis / There are no field trips scheduled until spring. November 1 we will have a geode cracking party at the Davis home. Please sign up if you are planning to come.

Historian: Ed Miller / Updated the club on articles on recent dinosaur finds.

Hospitality: - Linda Miller & Marsha Miller / Thank you to Annette Freel, Sherry Kobie, Kathy Miller, and Linda Miller

Juniors: Trista McIntosh / No Report

Librarian: Bill Foreman / Working on list of new materials for library.

Membership: Nancy Foreman and Jennifer Thompson / Introduced guests Jim Gargis, Carol Gargis, Carol Rosenback, Mark Tarner, Anna Tarner, and Elizabeth Tarner.

Programs: / Still looking for someone to chair this position (could be shared).

Publicity: Nick Pellus / No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No Report

Show Chair: John Davis & Joe Perry / Working on plans for next year’s show.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Sympathy-Jesse Zeiger for her brother/ Sherry Kobie for her brother Get Well- Raven Bowen and Doug Kyle - Thinking of you-

Continued next page

Meeting Minutes September 21, 2014

Webmaster: Joe Perry / No Report

Old Business

New Business

Sign up sheets are available for 2015 club hosts/ assisting with the junior program/ and the Christmas party.

Many people from other clubs and the public have responded very favorably to our club shirts, great conversation starters. There will be sign up sheets available at the next meeting to order more.

The election of officers for 2015 will take place at the December 7 Christmas party, with installation at the January meeting. The slate is as follows:

President: Bill Foreman
Vice Pres: Randy Hill
Treasurer: Marty Perry
Secretary: Jan Pellus
Liaison: Bob Bell

We have been asked to host the 2016 Midwest Federation meeting. The board has agreed to do so. More details will be available in upcoming meetings.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: “Juliet Revealed” presented by Mark Tarner

Next Meeting: December 7, 2014



Mark Tarner Speaking about Juliet photo by Jason Hefner

EPA Seeks Authority Over All US Waters

Note: The EPA's authority over "waters of the United States" was legislatively defined as applying only to "navigable" waters. Recently the EPA proposed new rules which omit the word "navigable," thus placing under its authority ALL waters and waterways, even temporary waterways such as drainage ditches.

From the Congressional Record: June 25, 2014:

Today, U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) called on the Senate to support his legislation to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing their March, 2014, proposed rule which would significantly expand federal authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Excerpted from Sen. Barrasso's remarks: I have very serious concerns about the EPA's proposed Clean Water Act jurisdictional rule. . . . Through this recently proposed rule, federal agencies are attempting to expand the definition of "waters of the United States." They want to include ditches and other dry areas where water flows only for a short duration after a rainfall. The government wants to control even that. Federal regulations have never defined ditches and other upland drainage features as "Waters of the US." But this proposed rule does, and it will have a huge impact on farmers, on ranchers, on small businesses that need to put a shovel in the ground to make a living. . . . Congress never intended the Clean Water Act to be used this way."

—From the ALAA Newsletter (July-Sept, 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.



Checking out skin from Juliet photo by Jason Hefner

A Word from the President (AFMS) Continued from Page 4

Now, down to the present. I have for a long time, felt that inter-communication is lacking in a large way. I know that this is a subject that has been emphasized many times before, but I am hoping that with different people and an approach that I have not seen used before -- or maybe it has, but before my time.

First, I am asking all of our AFMS Regional VP's to initiate contact with their respective committees at least twice within their term in office. While in contact, I will ask them to encourage these chair people to contact the regional federation chairs of their committee to find out what's going on and to share information about the AFMS program that they are responsible for. If there is no other accomplishment, just familiarity can bring understanding and possible good useable information for either one of the committees. Much of this contact information needs to be relayed to myself and the President-elect. The incoming President will be able to use this to help compose his or her committees, which is a large project in that we are dealing clubs and individuals within the U.S. and with four time zones.

In closing for this month I want to commend the Tulsa Society and Richard Jaeger for an excellent show, great competitive area and meetings held in a very efficient manner.

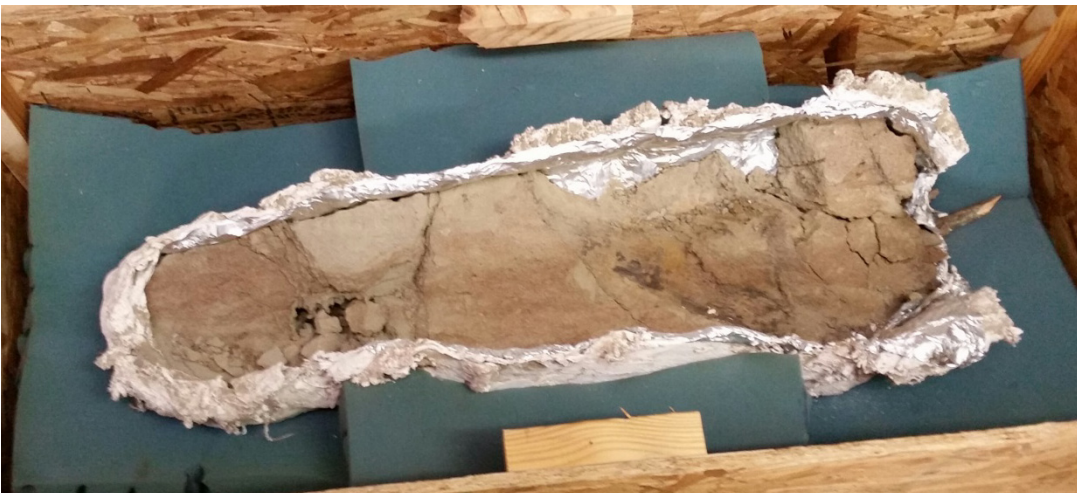
Until Next Month,

Marion

President's Message (MWF) Continued from Page 4

With the fast pace of electronics and the internet, collectors are now moving away from "clubs," but they are missing out on a vast knowledge base. With some creative ideas and high value information, we can win them back and show them that interaction with local and regional clubs will provide more satisfaction than the one-way internet.

Now, for our member clubs, I would like to have ideas from you regarding how the MWF can help you and your club to prosper. We all are members of local clubs, and we have a great wealth of knowledge of what works and what does not. Let's share this for the good of all. Many of the clubs' members are looking for something, so help the MWF to provide what you and your clubs need. Thank you for your help from the past, and to the year coming up.



**Section of Juliet with skin
Look but don't touch**

Photo by Jason Hefner