

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



December 2014 Volume 54 Number 10

**Next Meeting 12/7**  
Christmas Party!!

THE  
ROCKFINDER

**We're on the Web! See us at: [www.MichianaGMS.org](http://www.MichianaGMS.org)**

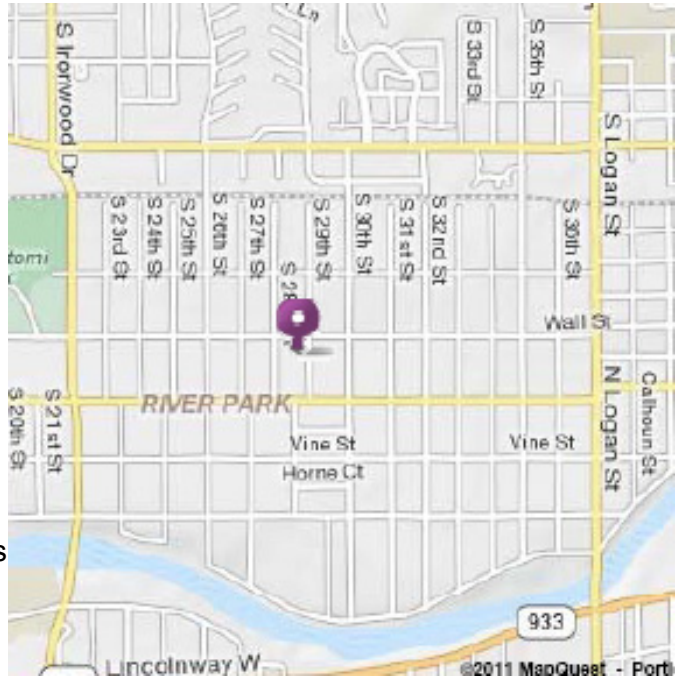
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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

# THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 54 Number 10  
December 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](http://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](http://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 **5<sup>th</sup>** day of the previous month. This means that the due date for the March Issue will be February 5<sup>th</sup>. Advance items are appreciated. Material may be e-mailed to [hefner\\_family@hotmail.com](mailto: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 & Jason Hefner, Editor

This month's newsletter will be short and sweet. I hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. Come a little early and visit.

Mark Tarner, our presenter during the October meeting has a request to our members...

**Mark needs volunteers to help prepare fossil bones for display. The work requires some training and an attention to detail. Applicants need to also be willing to work in front of the public and from time to time speak about what you are doing, the fossil, and paleontology in general. I will provide the training and information. Volunteers will be provided lunch and a drink for every four hours on time worked. Please contact Mark Tarner at 574-993-0156.**

## 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  
(29<sup>th</sup> & Wall)  
South Bend, IN.  
This is in River Park.

**Program:**  
Christmas Party!!!

**Refreshments:**  
EVERYONE bring something to share

## Board of Directors

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574-291-0332

Vice-President: Randy Hill  
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574-264-4772

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Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

# We May Lose More Idaho Collecting Sites— The Proposed Boulder-White Clouds National Monument

By Dee Holland,  
ALAA Director, Salmon, ID

For a number of years, some legislators from Idaho have been trying to create more wildernesses in Idaho, as if we don't have enough already. They haven't succeeded, so the latest try is to make the Boulder-White Clouds area of Idaho into a National Monument, which does almost the same thing as making it into a wilderness area. If they write the law the same way they in Washington, DC, usually do, it will not allow "picking up rocks" and especially not "excavating" within the monument. Boulder-White Clouds is currently within the Salmon-Challis National Forest, which allows activities like rockhounding. Why fix what's not broken?

Here is a list of areas within Boulder-White Clouds that I personally know have collectable rocks:

East Fork of Salmon River through Herd Creek: agate, jasper, amethyst crystals and petrified wood;

Trail Creek through Copper Basin: agate, jasper and petrified wood;

Livingston Mine, which included specimen collecting on old mine dumps;

Horse Basin: agate, jasper and petrified wood.

P.S.: Thanks to Shirley Metts of the Magic Valley Gem and Mineral Society for forwarding this important information. Shirley is an ALAA Representative for southern Idaho.

—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.

**Dues are due!!**  
Mail them to Marty

## Monoclinic 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 Monoclinic System, Prismatic, Sphenoidal, and Domatic.

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 Monoclinic system includes all crystals that may be explained by three axes, where two of the three axes are at right angles to each other, and the third is not. We only had two species this month where we had more than one specimen.

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 Monoclinic habit minerals. We got to hand examine crystalline specimens of Malachite, Azurite, Epidote, Muscovite, Gypsum (Selenite), Titanite (Sphene), Arsenopyrite, Chlorite, Diopside, Pyrrhotite, Chalcocite, Brochantite, Linerite, Realgar, Orpiment, Acanthite, Erythrite, Vivianite, Rosasite, Phlogopite, Augite, Lazulite, Creedite, Boulengerite, Hubnerite, and Datolite (sorry if any of these are misspelled). The Datolite crystals (to almost 1/2 inch) fluoresced (light) green; living in Michigan we are more used to the unusual porcelain like variety.

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.

As usual our group will not meet in the busy month of December. The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 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 Triclinic minerals (and end the crystal study in February with twinned crystals).

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## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News From My Desk to Yours... One Last Time

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

I have enjoyed serving as AFMS President this past year and have appreciated all the support I received from the AFMS Committee Chairmen and from the officers of our Regional Federations. So many of you were good about communicating and always helpful when I had questions. I especially want to thank everyone who contributed articles from publication in the AFMS Newsletter. Marion Roberts has an equally qualified group of officers with which to work and will have a successful upcoming year.

Attending the various Regional Federation shows, and being able renew old friendships and make new ones, was perhaps the highlight of the year for me. As I write these words, I still have the Midwest and Southeast Federation Shows to attend and am very much looking forward to those. We had an excellent AFMS Convention in Tulsa this July; it was really pleasing to see thirty-two competitive exhibits along with excellent attendance at the Cracker Barrel, Awards Banquet, and Breakfast with the Editors & Webmasters.

The 2015 AFMS Convention and Show will be held in Austin, Texas in conjunction with the South Central Federation Show. They are already hard at work planning for that function and looking forward to extending their hospitality. Make plans to attend.

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## Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### President's Message

by Jim Marburger, President excerpted from [MWF News December - Issue No. 537](#)

I hope that everyone had a good Thanksgiving, Black Friday, survived the football games, family games, and gathering of friends. With all of this, I hope each one took time to have a little "rock, mineral, fossil, etc. time" for yourself. There are so many things to be thankful for, with so little time.

Speaking of time, here it is December with that dreaded snow on the horizon for many. Plans for next year need to be made by your clubs, and forms need to be filled out for the Federation Dues, Insurance, and the calendar of events for the coming year. Get them submitted early so you can enjoy the holiday season. Life easier for all involved when things are handled in a timely manner. Your information will be used to update calendars, directories for the clubs, web sites, show and event listings, insurance, and many other things. If done correctly, it will avoid hurt or bad feelings that could occur when something is missed by our hard working people. We are here to support your club's activities.

If your activity is to be held in January, February, March, or April, it is especially beneficial to your organization to get the information submitted early. It would also be good to send it to Webmaster Cindy Root, and to Newsletter Editor Sharon Marburger.

Continued next page



### 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](http://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](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)

## Upcoming Events

### 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 Mbulah, 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](http://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](mailto:pfisherkeller@indianamuseum.org); Web site: [www.indianamuseum.org](http://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

## Monoclinic System

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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). Hope you can join us for the next meeting and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated.

## From My Desk to Yours... One Last Time

Continued from previous page

Here's hoping that you have a successful year of rockhounding and health ahead of you. Work within your clubs to increase membership, to expand opportunities for your members to participate in our hobby, and to reach out to your communities with educational activities.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as your AFMS President for the 2013-2014 year.

## President's Message

Continued from previous page

The reason is that the MWF News deadline for submissions is the FIRST OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH. For example: The January issue submissions are due to the editor on December 1. The webmaster can also get your activity posted to the web site where others can easily view it. We do not want to miss out on your club's information.

When planning your club's future activities, please consider sponsoring a Federation spring or fall meeting (depending on when the Federation Show is that year). We like to travel to different show events and share good times. If interested in hosting a meeting, contact J.C. Moore or me, and we will be very interested to discuss it with you.

The New Year is just around the corner and I would like to challenge the MWF clubs to enter competitions sponsored by the Federation. You may win recognition for your club or individuals within your club.