

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



February 2018

Volume 58 Number 2

# THE ROCKFINDER

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

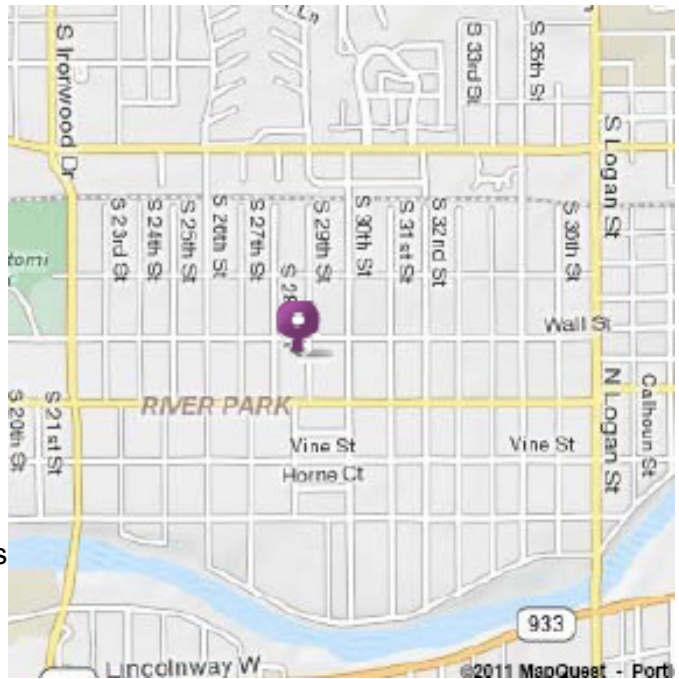
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
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Volume 58 Number 2  
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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/mwf/> 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 5th. 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.

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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.



## Science Alive

by Jason Hefner, Editor

Science Alive was a hit. By about 2pm all the bags we packed were gone. The kids got a kick out of handling the different specimens! Lots of ooo's & awes from the fluorescents. (Feb program is Fluorescents by the way). The geodes were big hits as well as the petrified wood.

Several members were interviewed by the press, both TV and print. I believe we will have a few guests at our February meeting because of our involvement with Science Alive.

A big thank you to the group that volunteered their time, expertise, and samples for the day. There are a few pictures on page 5 of how the day went. Please consider volunteering next year!

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: February 25, 2018.**

Doors open at 1:30. Meeting starts at 2:00.

**Place:**

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

**Program:**

Fluorescent Rocks  
and minerals

**Host & Hostesses:**

Jessica & Alyssa Astott  
Norma Cherry & Al Alstott  
Sherrill & Mel Glick

## Board of Directors

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269-221-8366

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# USING GIS OR MOBILE MAPPING APPS FOR ROCKHOONDING

by Ruth Hidalgo

excerpted from ALAA Newsletter Oct-Dec 2017 Vol 9 Issue 4

There are numerous Apps for mobile phones that will allow you to track your routes and favorite collecting spots. You need not have a separate GPS unit to create maps anymore. These Apps work even when you do not have cell service. My App of choice is Avenza. I started using an IPHONE App called Terra Nova well over 15 years ago, that has evolved into Avenza. I have used the data stored in that App to make several NEPA comments.

Basically, this is how it works. You download the APP. You select what maps you want to download. Some are free, some you have to purchase. There are now thousands of maps to choose from. You can even download a geological map that will show you where you are and what the geology is around you. I prefer the BLM maps and USGS Topo maps for trail tracking. You have to have internet service to download a map, but not to use the APP once the map is downloaded.

When in field, you open the APP and you will be able to see where you are on the map. You can then choose to record you track or trail as you drive or hike. Save the trail and the next time you go out in the field, just follow the trail on your map and you will know how to get back to that collecting spot. Gone are the days of trying to remember what fork you took or wondering if your on the right path. You can then export that information to Google Earth or other GIS programs. You can even email it to your friends. You can also choose to place markers on the map showing collecting areas and use that data the same way. You can insert a GPS coordinate a friend gave you and see where it is on the map relative to where you are.

You can use the data to easily create maps to attach to your formal NEPA comments. This gives the agency the exact trail you use and shows it to them on their own map. Alternatively, you can use export the data to Google Earth or other GIS mapping programs and create maps to attach from there. I used a trail exported to Google Earth to create a map I attached to formal comment on the WEMO Travel Management Plan where the BLM had not included a road rockhounds use in their inventory. In this way they could see the road clearly existed as you could see it on the satellite image in the map I attached.

Continued next page

## Mobile Apps for rockhounding continued from previous page

Now days, making formal comments is much easier, thanks to Apps like Avenza. If you are not taking advantage of this technology to make your formal comments, give a try. If you are not speaking up because you think it is too complicated, try using this kind of technology. You may find it is easier and less time consuming than you think.

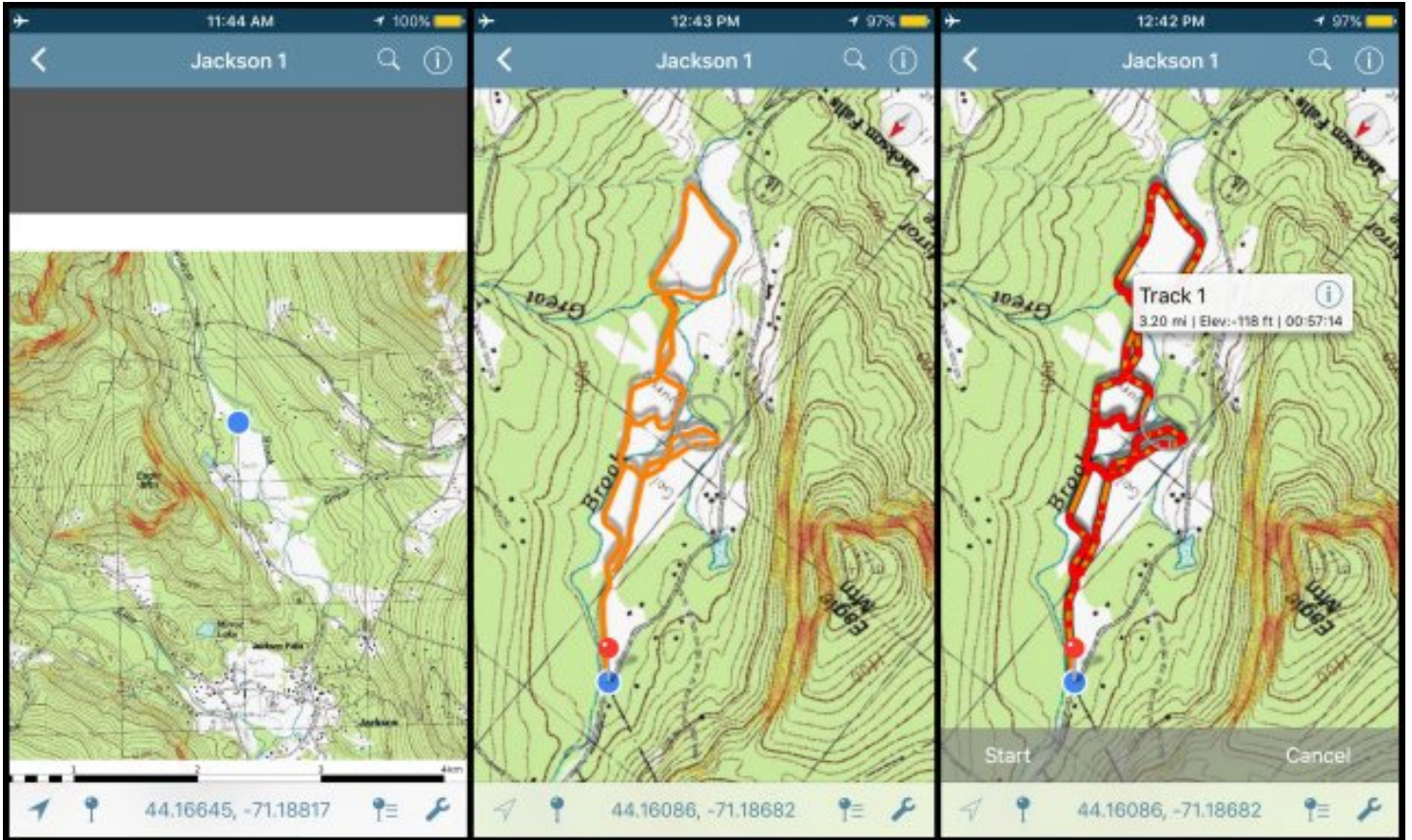


Image from GPS Navigation with PDF Maps on Smartphones by Phillip Weaver, excerpted from Section Hiker 2/2/18

Have a story to share? Send  
it to the Editor. Contact  
information on page 1.

# American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

## A Word from the President

by Sandy Fuller, President  
excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 71, Number 3 - February 2018](#)

Happy New Year! Once again, it is time to examine our successes and re-think those things that could be improved. Are we continuing to grow at a reasonable pace? Are a variety of people involved in leadership roles? Are we willing to try new ways of doing things, even if we “already tried that way back when.” Are we engaging families and children? Are we willing to try something different?

Not long ago, I received a communication from a club that had merged with another group just a few years ago. They expressed their disappointment in announcing the demise of their club. After fifty-three years, they could no longer find enough members to continue the group.

I wish they were alone in this unfortunate situation, but this story is repeated each and every year. Another club disbands, perhaps for lack of members or the inability to find someone to lead.

Are people no longer interested in minerals, fossils and lapidary arts? A recent Facebook search shows 37,912 members in the “Minerals and Gems for All” group, and 38,165 members participating in the “Rocks, Fossils & Minerals ID” group. Over 15,000 follow the Lapidary group and over 16,000 share their “Lake Superior Agate” finds. [Read the rest here](#)

## President’s message

by David Root, President excerpted from [MWF News February 2018 - Issue No. 569](#)

Can I have a show of hands, how many are ready for spring? Last month I marveled at the unusually warm temperatures for December. Well, as I write this, we are in the second week of a period of unusually cold weather. It was four below when I left for work this morning.

Starting this month I’m going to use this podium to put some “out of the box” ideas out there. Now I’m not saying that anybody is doing anything wrong, or that I know how to do anything better than anybody else. Maybe you’ll be intrigued, maybe you’ll think I’m full of hoo-hoo, but it doesn’t hurt to look at how we do things from time to time.

Most, if not all, of the clubs in the MWF conduct their monthly meetings in accordance with Roberts’ Rules of Order. And it is probably safe to say that most of them start with the business portion of the meeting, followed by whatever program they have scheduled. In a perfect world, all club members would be highly interested and enthusiastic about the day-to-day business of running a club. And make no mistake, there are those who are very interested and eager to participate in the business portion of the club’s meeting. But there are also those who find the business portion of the meeting to be rather boring, especially when there is a lot of discussion about something they really don’t care about.

[Read the rest here](#)



### 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)

## Science Alive from Page 1



Crowds throughout the day kept our members busy.



Demonstrating how water changes the color of specimens.