

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



March 2018

Volume 58 Number 3

Time for MSHA class
3/25/18

**THE
ROCKFINDER**

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

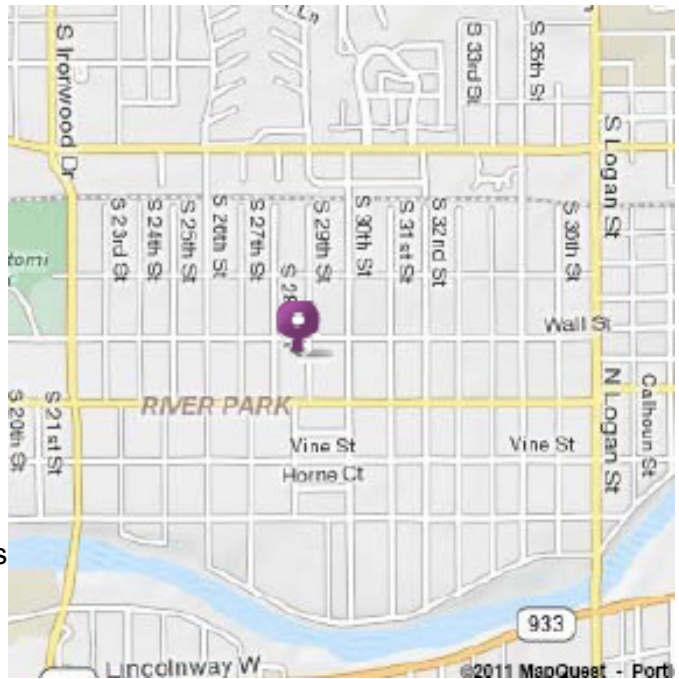
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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 Nancy Foreman
 58456 Kimberly Ct.
 South Bend, IN 46619

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 58 Number 3
Mar 2018

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/mwf/> 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.



MSHA Training

by Jason Hefner, Editor

It's that time of year. The Club is hosting MSHA training for members at the March meeting 3/25 at 2pm. Non-Members may attend as space allows. This class is the safety portion for rock collecting. This is NOT New Miner training. Come learn about collecting safely. Many quarries require this training along with their site-specific training for you to go on trips with the club.

Cost for members is \$3 and \$10 for non-members. The class will start at 2pm and will take a few hours. This is the only time this class will be offered by our club in 2018.

The class is applicable for young collectors to not-so-young collectors. There will also be snacks!!

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: March 25, 2018.

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

Place:

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

Program:

MSHA training

Host & Hostesses:

Board of Directors

President: Bill Foreman
574-233-9178

Vice-President: Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Secretary Rachel Sutton
269-221-8366

Treasurer: Linda Cioch
219-363-5809

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: Danielle Wilborn
574-344-3385

Field Trips:

Historian: Jim Daly

Hospitality:
Linda Miller 574-291-5027

Juniors:

Librarian:

Membership: Nancy Foreman
574-233-9178

Programs: Kathy Miller (Interim)
574-291-0332

Publicity: Josh Klosinski

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

Show Chair: Josh Klosinski

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

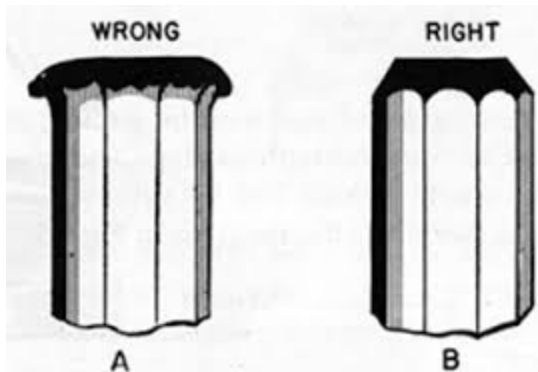
Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

Safety Matters: Mushroom Collecting

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair, excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 71, Number 3 - March 2018](#). Click on the blue link to read the article. Yes, this is a great time of year for rockhounds to do some serious mushroom collecting. The mushrooms being referred to here are not those collected by mycologists, but those more specific to the rock collecting hobby. We are talking here about the mushrooms that form on the head and end of our rock splitting and gap widening chisels. Diagram #1 illustrates the mushrooms that can grow on our chisels...if we are not careful.

- Mushrooms growing on our chisels are indicative of several issues: that the chisel is working properly
- that the chisel may be developing dangerous fractures on its struck end
- that there may be little bits of sharp metal flying off from the mushroom forming process when its head is struck.

Why do mushrooms form? A bit of background information is needed to explain. Good rock hammers are expensive. Rock splitting chisels are much less expensive. If we want a thing to break, we would want the cheap chisel to break rather than the expensive hammer. Well, engineers would rather not have anything break so what they did was to create a better rock chisel. The designed chisels to have two different harnesses of the metal used in their making. The sharp end of a chisel is rather harder than the end being struck by the hammer. See diagram #2. The reason for there being two hardness is simple. The metal in the end of the chisel being struck by the hammer will absorb some of the shock, deform its shape slightly, transfer the energy to the rock being split. If the end of the hammer or chisel was hard, and the hammer was hard, it could end up with either the hammer or chisel being damaged. So, as a compromise, chisels are designed to "wear out" by mushrooming and thus protecting the expensive hammer from damage



[Picture credit Garage Journal](#)

MINERALS WITH ALUMINUM (D, E, F) Kreigh Tomaszewski, President Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club (Michigan)

Our study group meets in the Learning Lab of Blandford Nature Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We started our “learn from each other” mineral study looking at economic minerals – ores. We've looked at minerals by hardness, by crystal shape, by the major classifications (oxides, sulfates, tectosilicates, etc.), and by colors.

Now we're using chemistry as we work our way through the periodic table of elements. Some elements were easy because they are not found in many minerals (at least ones likely to be found in collections) and we could do them in one session. Aluminum is the third most abundant element in the Earth's crust, and there are way too many minerals that contain it for us to review them in one meeting. Recently we looked at aluminum-containing minerals that start with the letters D, E, or F.

Our habit is to pass our topic specimens around the table in alphabetic order, one mineral at a time, and share some facts about the mineral. We started this month with the sorosilicate Davreuxite, the carbonate Dawsonite, the oxides Diabantite and Diaspore, and the cyclosilicate Dravite.

The nesosilicate Dumortierite engendered a discussion of tiger's eye. Tiger's eye was believed to be a quartz pseudomorph after the asbestos known as crocidolite; other researchers postulate cryptocrystalline Dumortierite. Some say the iron from decomposed crocidolite has oxidized to a brown limonite, keeping the fibrous structure. Recently Heaney and Fisher (2003) gave another interpretation of tiger's eye origin: ". . .we argue that tiger's-eye classically exemplifies synchronous mineral growth through a crack-seal vein-filling process." We are still not sure how tiger's eye is formed or what it is made of.

Back to passing specimens, which included the phosphate Durangite, the inosilicate Edenite, the cyclosilicate Elbaite (including a specimen collected by John Sinkankas where the label was as interesting as the specimen), the sorosilicate Epidote, the tectosilicate Erionite-K, the nesosilicate Euclase, and the phosphate Evansite.

The next two specimens, the tectosilicates Faujasite-Ca and Faujasite-Na, started a discussion on mineral nomenclature to help out our new member from the Blandford community. Naming of minerals is a complex process, and we touched on the Type Specimen, the Type Locality, Groups, and Dominant Members before moving on. We looked at the sorosilicate Ferriallanite-Ce, the tectosilicate Ferrierite, the phosphates Fluellite and Foggite, and the cyclosilicate Foitite. And we ended with the phyllosilicate Fuchsite. Our new member received a specimen of native copper from the Cliff Mine as a welcome gift. We also had a discussion on the mounting and labeling of mineral specimens.

Elbaite from Brazil.
Photo by Rob Lavinsky/ iRocks.com,
via Wikimedia Commons.



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

A Word from the President

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

Spring is just around the corner (I hope, as I sit here in the Northland looking out at several feet of snow). It's almost time for we northern folks to get out in the field and do some serious collecting.

I'm really looking forward to checking out the field collecting opportunities near Raleigh, NC in early April during and after the AFMS convention. This combined Eastern and national convention is the first gathering this year of federation leaders. Other regional conventions are planned for later in the spring and summer.

Each regional convention provides an outstanding opportunity for the host club to showcase its interests and expand local outreach. I love the chance to see the great displays and bring new ideas back to my own club.

The regional conventions bring together club representatives from across the area to direct the work of the federation. Delegates and federation leaders discuss common concerns and initiate actions. It's also an opportunity to recognize individual and club accomplishments. It is important that each club send a delegate to their regional convention.

[Read the rest here](#)

SAVE THE DATES FOR MWF CONVENTION

Carole Harp, Secretary, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (Illinois) [MWF](#)

[News February 2018 - Issue No. 569](#)

The MWF convention is coming to Springfield, Illinois in 2018.

Mark your calendar now for October 6th and 7th. In the next few issues of the MWF newsletter, there will be a series of articles talking about our rock club, LOESS; the history of our mineral show; plans for the MWF convention; Springfield attractions; field trips; and more. We have already started planning and are excited how everything is coming together.

We are looking forward to welcoming members from clubs throughout the Midwest. So stay tuned for more information 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



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 Club shows and events Items from mailings and various websites.

March 23-25 Fri 4-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5 Rock Hobby Club, Machinist Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, **Bridgeton, MO** Roy Hurlburt, hurlburt@juno.com

March 24-25 Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4 Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Craig Center Building, County Fair-grounds, 1301 Craig, **Janesville, WI** Debbie Wehinger, jdrules3@gmail.com

March 24-25 Sat 8:30-6, Sun 9:30-5 Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society, Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6th Street NW, **Cedar Rapids, IA** Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com

April 5-7 Thurs & Fri 9:30-9 Sat 9:30-7 Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club, Rogers Plaza Town Center, 28th Street at Kreigh Tomaszewski, Clyde Park, **Wyoming, MI** kreigh@gmail.com

April 7 Sat 10-3 Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society, open house with displays and demonstrations North Suburban Library, 6340 N. 2nd St. **Loves Park, IL**, Duane Cushing, tcdc78@comcast.net

April 7-8 Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-4 Des Plaines Valley Geological Society, Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch, **Des Plaines, IL** Lois Zima, 847-298-4653

April 7-8 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5 Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock, **Lincoln, NE**, Jayne Beer, jbeer60070@aol.com

April 14-15 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5 Southern Illinois Earth Science Club, Marion City Pavilion, 1602 Sioux Drive, **Marion, IL** Mike Chontofalsky, hontofalsky@att.net

April 21-22 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4 **Chippewa** Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Eau Claire Expo Center, 5530 Fairview, **Eau Claire, WI**, Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com

April 21-22 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 Fulton County Rockhounds, Donaldson Center, Wallace Park, 250 S. Avenue D **Canton, IL** George Coursey, 70georgecoursey@gmail.com

April 28-29 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5 Akron Mineral Society, Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath, **Cuyahoga Falls, OH** Sandy Shorter, Gemboree@outlook.com

April 28-29 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4 Miami County Gem and Mineral Club, Duke Lundgard Bldg., County Fairgrounds, 650 N. County Road 25-A, **Troy, OH** Dewey Buck, Dewey.Buck@pcmg.com

April 28-29 Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4 River Valley Rockhounds, Webster County Fairgrounds, 22770 Old Highway 169, **Fort Dodge, IA** Robert Wolf, midnightwriter@frontier.net