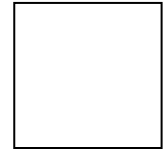


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Jason Hefner, Editor  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524



September 2018

Volume 58 Number 6



Corundum Crystals Photo from [Geology.com](http://Geology.com)

**THE  
ROCKFINDER**

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

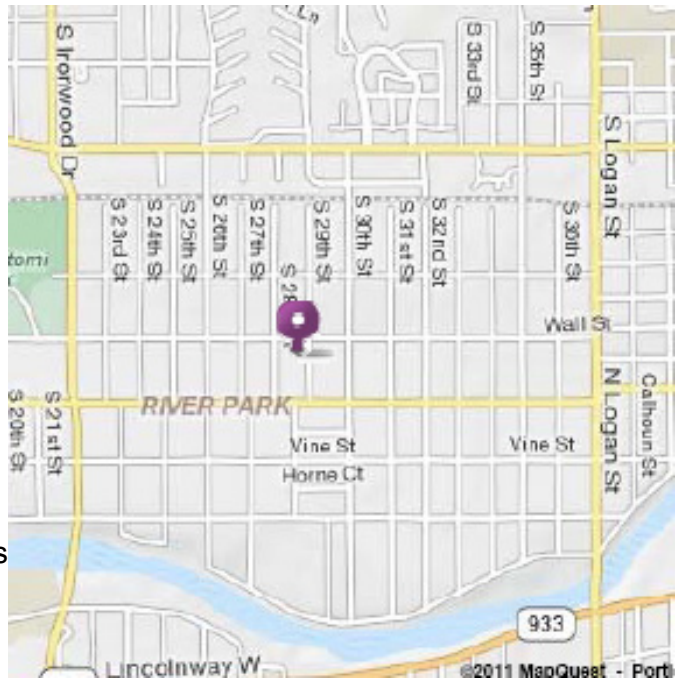
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
c/o Nancy Foreman  
58456 Kimberly Ct.  
South Bend, IN 46619

# THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 58 Number 6  
September 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](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 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.

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.



## A Round of Applause

by Judi Allison, AFMS Rockhound of the Year Chair, excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 71, Number 6 - June - July 2018](#)

Let's give a round of applause to those hard working, yet quiet, folks who have gone out of their way to do something above and beyond for their club this year. It can be done so simply; just by submitting a short write-up of the person's special contribution to your Regional Rockhound of the Year Chairperson.

Note that one of the key words here is "short". This is not meant to be a life's biography. It is a paragraph or so honoring the person(s) for a special contribution during the specific year. An example might be giving credit to "Joe" who attends every monthly meeting, shows up to quietly help with all aspects of the show, graciously passes on his door prize when he wins one (usually to a child or new attendee), brings ice cream as an extra treat for the potluck. With his quiet demeanor, Joe doesn't want to be an officer, but without his contributions the club would be lacking something special.

I am sure every club has persons who have given a great deal to their club; both those who have been officers, chairpersons and heralded other activities and the "Joe's" of the club. You get to decide who you honor. Just remember, like a round of applause, it is a "short" accolade for your member.

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: September 23, 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:**

Corundum

**Host & Hostesses:**

Linda Miller and Marie Crull

**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

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574-251-0255  
Editor: Jason Hefner  
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Educational: Jesse Zeiger  
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Field Trips:  
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Hospitality:  
Linda Miller 574-291-5027  
Juniors:  
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574-233-9178  
Programs: Kathy Miller (Interim)  
574-291-0332  
Publicity: Josh Klosinski

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Jennifer Hefner 574-858-9837  
Show Chair: Josh Klosinski  
Sunshine: Annette Freal 574-293-8193,  
Sherry Kobie 574-522-0189  
Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

**Behold 'Yooperlites', newly-discovered glowing treasures**

**in Michigan's Upper Peninsula** by Brandon Champion, excerpted 09/05/18 from [https://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2018/08/ behold\\_yooperlites\\_the\\_glowing.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2018/08/ behold_yooperlites_the_glowing.html)  
BRIMLEY, MI - You don't have to look very hard to find natural beauty in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, but if you know where to look, you may find a hidden treasure resting beneath your feet.

Behold "Yooperlites."

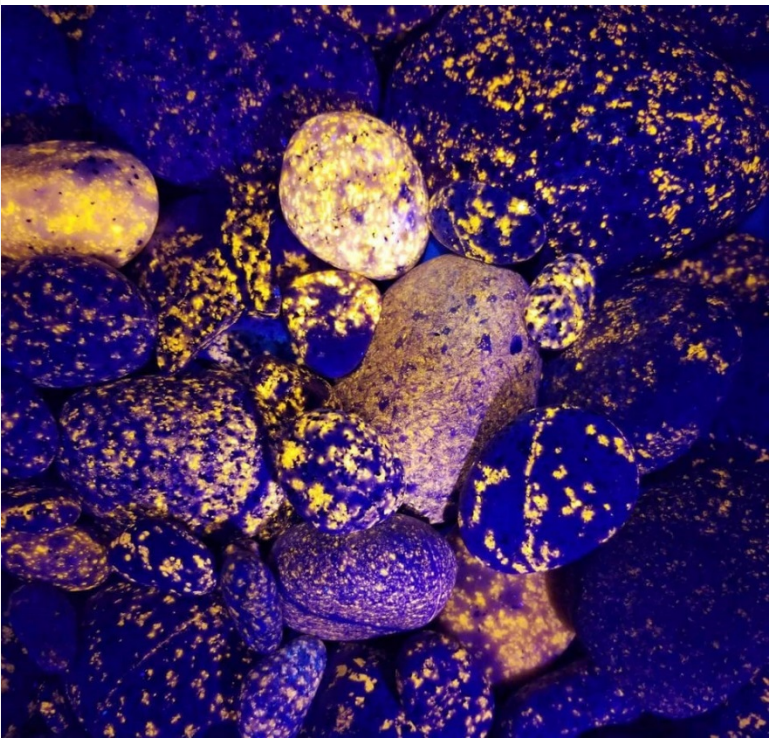
Brimley resident Erik Rintamaki has cornered the market on the fluorescent minerals found along the shores of Lake Superior. He named them. He collects them. He sells them. And, armed with a powerful UV light, he leads tours to show other rock hounds where to find them.

"I've been a rock hound all my life," he said. "It runs in the family. Once you start finding cool rocks on the beach, it gets addicting."

"Yooperlites," and other similar sodalites have likely been in Michigan for centuries, left behind by glaciers and rounded by the wave action on Lake Superior. But Rintamaki has been credited publicly with discovering this particular variation in Michigan, which includes a Hackmanite-like fluorescent quality.

Testing completed at Michigan Tech University confirmed the presence of sodium, aluminum, silicon, chlorine and oxygen, but no structural sulfur, which likely results in the fluorescent properties of the mineral, according to

Kevin Cole, associate professor of geology at Grand Valley State University.



The rocks have a mesmerizing, out-of-this-world glow when hit with high-powered UV lights, something Rintamaki discovered when he first encountered the mineral in June of 2017.

Continued on Page 3



# Yooperlites continued from page 2



"I left for the beach at 4 a.m. and arrived just in time to use my cheap 3 LED longwave UV flashlight," he recalled. "I found two very small Yooperlites about the size of a dime. I went four more times and only found a half dozen stones."

"Then I upgraded to a 100 LED UV torch and that's when the fun began. My largest find so far has been five pounds. Now I have upgraded even further to Convoy S2+ UV and a shortwave lamp. So I hope to open even more secrets of our Lake Superior beaches."

Armed with knowledge and equipment, Rintamaki has become known for his ability to find the glowing treasures. He routinely

leads guided tours throughout Luce and Chippewa counties. Two such tours are scheduled to take place at Muskallonge State Park on Sept. 8 and Sept. 9. The attention Rintamaki has brought to the presence of the fluorescent sodalite has led others to study the mineral. It is now believed to naturally occur in kilogram quantities along Lake Superior beaches, meaning it is readily available for collection.

Once you know where to look, that is.



# A Word from the President

by Sandy Fuller, President  
excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 71, Number 6 - June - July 2018](#)  
As I make my way east in the first of many trips this year to visit our seven federations and almost 54,500 members, I just had to take a short detour to visit Flint Ridge OH and collect some of the colorful materials found there. I knew the young visitors to our annual show would love to add some of the flint and colorful chert to their rock boxes.

There were a few very serious diggers going at the hard rock with sledge hammers and pry bars while some of us were content to just check out the small "leavings" left by others. In a brief chat with one young woman, she said, "I just like pretty rocks."

In our quest for pretty rocks and not so pretty ones, many of us will be visiting collecting sites across the nation, and even across the world. At each site we visit we are ambassadors for all the casual and serious collectors. It is up to us to model responsible collecting and care for the areas we visit. Our AFMS Code of Ethics provides a great foundation for our behavior in the field.

Continued page 6

# Presidents Message

David Root, President [MWF News September 2018 - Issue No. 574](#)  
It's that time of year, back to school. For those of us watching our children sending our grandchildren off to school, it brings back nostalgic memories. It's fun watching the excitement and enthusiasm those children have when discovering something new, and they have that experience nearly every day. This is something that we cynical old farts experience far too infrequently.

I enjoy watching the kids at our club meetings. The pride in their faces when they receive their Pebble Pup badges, the serious look on their faces as they decide what to bid on at the silent auction, and how their eyes get wide when they get a new specimen. It's good for an old man's soul.

It's also very good for the rock club. When I first got involved in the hobby and joined a club there was a bit of a controversy dividing the board. There were some who thought we needed to start a kids' program and those who were very opposed to the idea. They thought having children at the meetings would be too disruptive. The kids would be running around, being noisy, touching things they shouldn't. In a nutshell, they thought that having children at the meetings would wreck it for everyone. And they won.

Continued on page 6



## 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 Club shows and events Items from mailings and various websites.

## September 2018

**7-9—GREENFIELD, INDIANA:** Annual show; 500 Earth Sciences Club; Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple Street; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; 42nd Annual Greater Indianapolis Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show Dealers and Swappers in Fossils, Minerals, Gems and Jewelry and Lapidary Equipment PLUS Silent Auctions, Door Prizes and Much, Much More! Kids Activities, Demonstrations, Educational Displays and Programs for All!; contact Brian Mercer, 11202 Bridlewood Trail, Zionsville, IN 46077, (317) 459-1572; Email: bkremercer@gmail.com

**14-16—HOLLAND, MICHIGAN:** Annual show; Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club; Soccer Spot Sportsplex, 5 River Hills Drive; Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; \$3/adult. Others free.; 49th Annual Show: "Agates are Superior!" presented by the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club. Collect special rocks, fossils, jewelry and beads by visiting 10+ dealers. Enjoy an Artisan Market, Silent Auction and Club Sales. View displays by A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, GVSU and Hope College.; contact Linda Winkelmann, Soccer Stop Sportsplex, 5 River Hills Drive, Holland, MI 49424, (616) 834-6651; Email: lindawinkelmann@att.net; Website: www.tulipcity.org

**15-16—HOWELL, MICHIGAN:** Annual show; Livingston Gem and Mineral Society; Hartland Education Support Service Center, 9525 E. Highland Road (M-59); Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$3, 12-18 years \$1, Kids 11 and under Free; 45th Annual Rockhound's Dream Show Rocks, Fossils, Crystals, Gems and Jewelry. Lapidary Exhibits by LGMS Club Members Demonstrations in Silver-smithing, Bead Making, Wire Wrapping and Flint knapping Children's Table Silent Auctions throughout the Day; contact Sherlynn Everly, 314 Hadley Street, Holly, MI 48442, (810) 965-5899; Email: everly55@gmail.com; Website: [www.livingstongems.com](http://www.livingstongems.com)

**28-30—BEREA, OHIO:** 20th annual Gem Street USA wholesale and retail show; Gem Street USA; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Jr. Fair Bldg., Bagley Road entrance; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults and seniors \$7 (good all 3 days), \$1 off coupon on website, kids under 12 and Scouts in uniform free; vendors from around the country, rocks, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, beads, fossils, meteorites, petrified wood, carvings, tools, supplies, repairs, decorative accessories, free parking, door prizes; contact Jane Strieter Smith, PO Box 770680, Lakewood, OH 44107, (617) 512-6510; Email: JaneStrieter1946@gmail.com; Website: GemStreetUSA.com

**28-30—INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA:** Annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows; Indiana State Fairgrounds - Agriculture/Horticulture Building, 1202 E 38th Street; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Admission \$5.00 (Good all three days), Children under age 16 Free; Annual Show. Jewelry makers, goldsmiths & silversmiths from all over the U.S., who can reconstruct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer selected gems, stones, opals and crystals. Wire wrap wire sculpture, stone beads, pearls, stone setting, amber, opal, mineral meteorite southwestern jewelry and fossil dealers. Hourly door prizes including a ring with a precious stone that will be given as a Grand Prize. Demonstrations and classes.; contact VanWimmer - Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Rd, Salem, VA 24153, (540)-384-6047; Email: vanwimmer@comcast.net; Website: [www.toteshow.com](http://www.toteshow.com)

**28-30—HAMILTON, ILLINOIS:** Geode Fest; Keokuk Area Convention & Tourism Bureau; Chaney Creek Boat Access, Highway 96 North; Fri. 6:45 AM-6:00 PM, Sat. 6:45-6, Sun. 7:45-1; Free Admission; Guided Hunts, vendors with Rocks, Minerals, fossils and Jewelry, geode cracking. Registration for up to five guided hunts, \$20 individual, \$30 for family for the weekend.; contact Kirk Brandenberger, Keokuk Tourism Bureau, 428 Main St., Keokuk, IA 52632, (319)-524-5599; Email: info@keokukiowatourism.org; Website: www.keokukiowatourism.org

**28-30—JOPLIN, MISSOURI:** Annual show; Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society; Joplin Historical & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3; Free admission; This marks the 20th anniversary of the Rock-A-Thon rock show. In addition to vendors offering rocks, gems, and minerals, this family-friendly event includes door prizes; contact Christopher Wiseman, 504 Schifferdecker Ave., Joplin, MO 64801; Email: [jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net)

**29-30—BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN:** Gem, Mineral & Rock SuperSwap; Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society; Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; free parking, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, lapidary material, beads, free minerals for kids, demonstrations, mineral ID; contact William Barr, 1405 Hewett Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103; Email: wbarr@umich.edu; Website: [www.mmls.us](http://www.mmls.us)

**29-30—NASHVILLE, INDIANA:** Annual show; Brown County Rock & Mineral Club; Brown County History Center, 90 E. Gould Street; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; There will be demonstrations on gold-panning by the Southeastern Indiana Gold Club of Gatesville, they will have a children's activity. There will be demonstrations on flint-knapping by a local artisan and wire-wrapping by jewelry artisans. Vendors from all over the Midwest will show and sell everything from gems to geodes to fossils. There will also be rock crafts, jewelry, healing crystals, mineral specimens, turquoise, opals, and agates. All are invited to come to study, browse, or look for that special handmade jewelry. Free event!; contact Rhonda Dunn, P.O. Box 2023, Nashville, IN 47448, (812)-320-6237; Email: bcrmc2010@gmail.com; Website: <http://browncountyrocks.webs.com/>

## October 2018

**12-14—WARREN, MICHIGAN:** Annual show; Michigan Mineralogical Society; Macomb Community College Expo Center, 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; adults \$8, seniors \$5, children \$4; panning for gold, digging for fossils, cracking geodes, pictures with a dinosaur, lapidary demonstration, 84 exhibits, 60+ dealers, guest lecturers, mineral ID, microscopes for minerals and more; contact Dave Lurie, 755 Lakeview Ave., Birmingham, MI 48009, (248) 224-0752; Email: dlurie2001@comcast.net; Website: [www.michmin.org](http://www.michmin.org)

**19-21—FORT WAYNE, INDIANA:** Annual show; Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society; Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$5, Seniors \$3, Students \$1, Children 12 and under free; Gem, fossil, mineral and jewelry dealers, lapidary arts demonstrations, Viking Knit classes, exhibits, geode cracker, gem sluice, kid's games, door prizes, silent auction, fluorescent room, touch 'n feel tables.; contact Russell Greim, 7619 CR 68, Spencerville, IN 46788; Email: rotaryracer@comcast.net

## **AFMS President's Message** continued from page 4

But our behavior in the small towns near collecting areas also reflects on all of us. When my large club visited a small town for the weekend, local merchants asked us to spread our business across the various "mom and pop" restaurants and break into smaller groups when traipsing across town. Because our group took these suggestions to heart, we are welcomed each year at a favorite collecting locale.

In some areas, clubs are doing trash clean up at roadside and collecting sites, especially in public areas, to help take care of collecting areas. Still others are getting involved in local planning initiatives to keep collecting sites open. Their actions benefit all of us.

On the other hand, there are always a few who brag about flouting the law and property boundaries to collect in off limits areas. It is their behavior that hurts all collectors and leads to the closing of collecting locales. As club members we need to be vigilant in identifying those who flaunt our ethics and take appropriate actions to limit the damage they inflict on all of us.

## **MWF News President's Message** continued from Page 4

Well, a few years have passed since then and I'm happy to say that this same club now has a very vibrant and healthy youth program. I'm hoping that most of you reading this can say the same thing about your own clubs. If not, I would like to strongly urge you to reconsider.

Every volunteer organization I have ever been involved with has a core group of about 10% to 20% of the membership that fills all the positions required to run that organization. As the years go by these same people seem to move from position to position and back again, sometimes holding the same position for years.

But they get older. New younger members get fewer and fewer, the club is in decline and eventually they just decide to pack it in and disband. This is probably the main reason we lose clubs. It must be heartbreaking to those who have devoted 40 years to a club to see it fold.

Alas, what is the answer to this quandary? Children! Children bring their parents. Not all of these parents will get involved with the running of the club, but some will. And some of them will remain active when their children enter that Twilight Zone known as the teenage years.

And when those teenagers grow up, get married, and have kids of their own, what do you think the chances are they'll bring their kids to the rock club? Pretty good, I think.