

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



September 2019

Volume 59 Number 6



**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 59 Number 6  
Sept 2019

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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 usually 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.



## Mel Glick

by Jason Hefner, Editor



Mel Glick passed away in late August. I am sure a lot of you knew him better than me, but I remember a man that was quick to laugh at one of my stupid jokes. Someone that was always interested in seeing what new treasure was brought to a meeting and offering information to new and old alike. His obituary will be on the next page as we still have a few members without email.

Continued on the next page

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: September 22, 2019**

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:** How minerals are named by Jim Daly

**Host & Hostesses:**

September - Linda Miller, Patty Enos, Jim and Diane Kendig  
October - Annette Freel, Sherry Kobie and Linda Miller

## Board of Directors

President: Bill Foreman  
574-233-9178

Vice-President: Randy Hill  
269-465-5814

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Treasurer: Diane Gram  
574-588-2665

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Show Chair:

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

## Mel from page 1

WAKARUSA, IN - Melvin R. Glick, 79, of Wakarusa, formerly of Indianapolis, died 2:59 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26, 2019 at Elkhart General Hospital. He was born Oct. 7, 1939 in Gap, Pennsylvania, to Mahlon R. & Ruth (Kennel) Glick. On Aug. 25, 1961, he married Sherrill (Swartz) Glick.

Surviving are his wife, Sherrill Glick of Wakarusa; 3 children, Mark (Marci) Glick of New York, New York, Starla (Bob) Martinez of Akron, Ohio, and Milt (Stacy) Glick of Wakarusa; 6 grandchildren, Matthew R. (Emily) Glick, Levi Glick, Rachel Glick, Caleb Glick, Colin Glick, and Caitlyn Glick; and 2 siblings, Robert (Anna) Glick of Atmore, Alabama and Mary Ann (John) Hostetter of Los Angeles, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Melvin was an Indiana University Professor of Biochemistry at IU Hospitals in Indianapolis for 32 years. He was a member of Holdeman Mennonite Church, where he was very active and was a Sunday School Teacher for many years. Melvin graduated from Eastern Mennonite College with his bachelor's degree and University of Alabama Birmingham where he received his masters and PHD. He was active in the International Wood Collectors Society and Michiana Gem and Mineral Society. Melvin volunteered at FCDC and the Depot where he could be found every Monday. He loved traveling with his wife, going to auctions, being outside and landscaping with rocks, watching sunsets and most of all, spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Visitation will be 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30, 2019 at Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret-Lienhart Funeral Home, 117 W. Waterford St., Wakarusa and one hour prior to the 10:30 a.m. Funeral service on Saturday, Aug. 31, 2019 at Holdeman Mennonite Church, 65723 CR 1, Wakarusa. Pastors Randy Detweiler and BJ Leichty will officiate. Burial will follow at Olive (East) Cemetery. Memorial donations may be directed to Holdeman Mennonite Church.

Online condolences may be sent at [www.rrefh.com](http://www.rrefh.com).  
Published in South Bend Tribune on Aug. 29, 2019



## Dear Good Friends and Fellow Members by Kathy Miller, member

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated your help this year with the Club's Show Kitchen. Without your jumping in to do so much of the needful physical help that kept the kitchen humming, we couldn't have accomplished the smooth transition of food to table, warmed, and ready to eat at a moment's notice. You sticking around too help with the clean up made it so much easier all the way around. You guys were great, you know who you are and our members do too, Thank you! Thank you!

To all of you that donated everything from big food items to the side dishes, to the looked forward yearly yummy mains, it put a smile on everyone's face and got those appetites going. No Burger Kings for us, we had the top of the line. There would have been no Show Kitchen without you. No one could complain of not having breakfast, brunch, lunch or even an early evening meal. We are family!!

Blessings to all of you,

## Journey to the Center of the Earth (Almost) by William Halliar, excerpted from [The Beacher](#), Volume 35, Number 28 Thursday, July 18, 2019 (click on the blue link to read the entire 6 page article!!!)

We bumped and clattered along in two elderly school buses that had seen better days. Sixty sweaty adults cramped in a space designed for middle-school children: elbow to elbow, knees pressed against seats, swaying back and forth as the yellow cocoons bounced over ragged stones of various sizes and shapes. We staggered along, down and farther down, the bumpy trail, driving over steep rutted dirt ramps covered in dust and littered with fist-sized rocks.

Four hundred feet down into the ground, we skittered and bounced, noses pressed against smudged windows, craning our necks to get a better view of the landscape. Steep vertical walls of limestone surrounded us as we progressed ever downward, dust billowed in our wake. Soon, we would disembark our cramped quarters and stand in the center of an ancient coral reef that began to form more than 200 million years before dinosaurs appeared on the Earth.

For the last several years, my brother-in-law, Tom Sroka, and I have enjoyed inviting each other to experience interesting local tours. The challenge is, who can find the most unusual and educational idea for the next little adventure. Little did I know when he called me and mentioned a trip to the bottom of the Thornton (Ill.) Quarry — one of the world's largest aggregate quarries — that it would be the best of all, that I would have to concede to his superiority in the realm of excursion planning.

I have been driving over the Thornton Quarry near the Indiana-Illinois border for years, travelling east to west and back again across Illinois, always wondering, "what, exactly is down there?" The TriState Tollway is laid on a bridge, a "dry dyke" that crosses this huge gash in the Earth's crust, which actually, consists of three distinct quarries or lobes. The quarries are connected by tunnels that cross far beneath the toll road.

Locals refer to the quarry as the "Grand Canyon of the Midwest," and a grand sight it is. Many motorists struggle to see over the fencing as they rush over it on the toll road. Some even manage to find a safe place to stop, peer into this man-made wonder and imagine what is going on in that deep pit.

Lehigh Hansen, current owners of the quarry, has a partnership with the Thornton Historical Society, which arranges two tours a year for those lucky enough to secure advance tickets. The ticket price is a fundraiser for the historical society housed in an old church in the little village. Curiously, newspaper stories that mention the tours are not encouraged because they only increase the demand for tickets which, to date, are booked through 2022. — Field trip anyone?

## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Safety Matters—A Numbers Game

by Ellery Borow excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 72, Number 5 – June 2019](#)

Perhaps you may have heard about the questions of vaccinations and having sufficient coverage to insure the safety of the “herd” effect. Being safe is sometimes a matter of numbers. What is the likelihood of a particular tree being struck by lightning? Or, the likelihood of a mailbox being taken out by a car careering out of control on slippery roads? Or, the likelihood of toast landing on the floor—butter side up? What are the odds? What are the numbers?

With much of the rockhound safety an important number is the number one. One person is usually the one working in the basement lapidary workshop. One person is usually the one working with the hazardous rock cleaning chemistries out in the garage. One person is sometimes the one going on the field trip to the new site.

How does the one protect him- or herself? Well, have you ever heard of the instance where the person pattering upstairs has a sudden thought, “Hmmm, sure is quiet down in our basement shop. It sounds a little too quiet. I think I’ll wander down and see how things are going for her.” In this case the number is two. There is another person involved with the safety of the other. What if there wasn’t the other? Well, there is always reliance on being familiar with all workshop safety parameters, have a cell phone for emergency communications, have a med kit nearby, know and respect one’s limits and abilities, and so on. Still, having the number 2 is a great backup.

Continued on next page

## President’s message

Kevin Ponzio, MWF President excerpted from [MWF News September 2019 - Issue No. 584](#)

September has come way too fast. By now you have all had countless summer adventures! If not, get out and have some unforgettable experiences. As for me, I came down from the mountains in Wyoming to write this. Each day we have gone on day-long hikes from camp at 8,000 ft. to about 10,000 ft. across rivers, walking creeks and seeing wildlife. The first few days, eagles, hawks, and badgers were spotted. Countless prairie dogs would pop their heads up, standing on their hind legs. Then they would scurry off dragging their bellies full of summer berries.

The next day we hiked for about an hour and a half up a river valley when we saw some grizzly bears. I guess I should say they saw us first. It was a momma and two yearlings. We stopped in our tracks to watch the bears ramble up the side of the mountain over the ridge. The two cubs had little care as they wrestled with each other and took turns climbing up trees. Mother bear must have reminded them as they stopped playing and followed her up over the ridge. Later that day a black bear was sighted only two miles from our campsite! Yikes!

Continued on 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)

## **Safety Matters** from previous page

With chemistries one can, with remarkable ease, encounter a situation of breathing too many fumes. One way to be safe would be to understand that pilots, surgeons, astronauts, and rockhounds use checklists. Why would a thoroughly trained professional use a checklist? Because they are a thoroughly trained professional. Please give serious consideration to having and using checklists when working around hazardous chemistry.

One person can be safe on a field trip if one is prepared. But even with the best preparation it is wise to have a number two. The number two in this case will be a person who has information about the one's destination, route (especially when there are several ways to enter the collecting site), anticipated time of return, cell phone number, and any other information that might be useful in an emergency, such as meds.

A herd is not necessary in most rockhound activities, although, the one should make doubly sure to do everything possible to be safe. It is often not merely a matter of numbers to be safe. It's a matter of guidelines, understanding, patience, practice, common sense, thoughtfulness, care, attention, preparedness. Is that all? Well, almost. There is one more. There is also a need to respect your abilities and limits.

By all the numbers, your safety matters.

## **MWF message** from previous page

Another day we helped a couple in our camp to document a possible habitational Native American site. A few signs were photographed, GPS'd and recorded; further study is needed.

There were many plants to see as well. There had been a fire in 2011 and countless young trees were filling in the barren landscape. Flowers of every color dotted the hillside below the tree line. OK, so that's all well and good, but Kev, what about the rocks? Yes, there were rocks too! Lots of jasper, agate and petrified wood. Many loose pieces were in the river gravels. Veins of agate could be seen crisscrossing the faces of the cliffs above. Most were solid colors, but banded, moss, and some iris agate could be found.

After getting some supplies in town and washing some clothes, I'm heading back up to the mountain. We have some overnight hikes planned for when I return. Bears and weather are the biggest concern. Possible medical issues are high on the list too.

Come to the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club show in Holland, Mich. the second week of September. We are having a MWF executive officers meeting there. Sit in on the meeting and then enjoy a great show! They will have some awesome displays too! I will be there so I can finish telling you the rest of my adventure. See you all there