

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



March/April 2020

Volume 60 Number 3

THE ROCKFINDER

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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 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 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:
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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.



Presidents message by Jason Hefner, President

Greetings. Happy March!! Unfortunately, we had to cancel our March meeting and have decided to cancel our April meeting. If you turn on the TV, radio, read a paper, or see another living person, you will undoubtedly hear about how to stay safe during the ongoing health crisis.

I would like to take a moment to talk about another type of safety. Safety while hunting rocks. Let's take a moment to go over several items; physical ability, equipment, and personal protective equipment.

No comments from the peanut gallery, but if I was invited to hunt topaz in the high mountains of Colorado, all expenses paid, I would need to turn them down. I'm not able to hike for hours at 8,000+ feet above sea level and then dig all day and walk back down. We all need to recognize our limits and be honest with ourselves.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: May 24, 2020

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

Place:

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

Program: Parking lot swap meet!! This will be our chance before the show to trade and sell to members.

Hospitality: Bring your own – no adult beverages please

Board of Directors

President: Jason Hefner
574-354-0478

Vice-President: Josh Klosinski
574-274-8714

Secretary: Diane Gram

Treasurer: Lyn Zeiger

Liaison: Bob Bell
574-233-7352

Committee Chairs

Displays: Kathy Miller
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner
574-354-0478

Educational: Jesse Zeiger
574-259-5944

Facebook: Holly Kraftor, Nancy Foreman,
Jason Hefner

Field Trips:

Historian: Jim Daly

Hospitality: Linda Miller 574-291-5027
Marsha Miller 574-498-6513

Juniors: Linda Cripe

Librarian:

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574-233-9178

Programs:

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574-274-8714

Safety: Jennifer Hefner
574-858-9837

Show Chair: Josh Klosinski
574-274-8714

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

February meeting minutes, by Diane Gram, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Jason Hefner at 2:02

Guests were Dennis Niemier, Chris Owens, Aaron Bermire

Attendance: 33 adults, 11 children

New Members were welcomed: Aaron Burdin, Keegan, Ava and Hannah.

The January minutes were accepted as printed in The Rockfinder.

The Treasures report was given and approved.

Committee reports:

Bob Miller reported that the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies show and meeting will be in Sept.

Show Josh Klosinski reported that Nick Pellus will be display chairman.

Field Trips: Kathy Miller will no longer be in charge of field trips or programs. John Davis is working on a driving field trip to Ohio in March or April.

Unfinished business:

Kathy Miller announced that the Lizzardo Museum bus trip on March 8, has 13 seats remaining.

New business:

The treasurer, Lyn Zeiger related that the by-laws state that the treasurer be bonded. Two officers are authorized to sign checks. Lyn found that the cost would be about \$300-\$400 per year. A motion was made and carried to bond 2 officers.

A safety class was discussed.

Generally mine- property owners require the class before access to their sites. A show of hands realized that there was interest. The class is good for 1 year. Jason Hefner will see about having a class soon.

Continued on next page

February minutes, continued from previous page

Personal item sales between members should not be displayed during club gathering time. Save items for the Silent Auction at the Show. This way many people are looking at your things and the club makes 20% of sales. A club swap meet in the parking lot could be planned for the future.

Jim Daly suggests that you take pictures to add the club archives, please send to Jim. Also send pictures to Joe Perry for posting the web site.

Thank you to all who helped at Science Alive with a great display of fluorescent materials. Kevin Johnston and Linda Cripe were co-chairs. Jim Daly, Diann Gonserak, Jason Hefner, Josh Klosinski, Bill Nelson, Tom Noe, Jess and Lyn Zeiger talked to many people. Bill Nelson suggested a thank you note to Notre Dame Science Department, the space allowed was roomy and easy to navigate. The secretary will write a letter.

Bob Miller explained that the doors of the church must be kept locked after the start of the meeting. If you go outside during the meeting, let him know so that he can let you in.

Thanks to those who provided refreshments Jason Hefner, Marty Perry, Diann Gonsorek, Nancy, Bill Forman, Glenn and Kathy Wallace, Bob Chapa.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:38

Program: Platinum, Gold, & Silver – John Jaworski

President's message, continued from page 1

Make sure all your equipment is in good working order. If you are driving somewhere make sure your vehicle can handle the trip and the terrain you expect to encounter. Some places are OK in a car or minivan, but others require 4-wheel drive. Do you have a way to transport materials from the dig site to your car or are you going to carry everything by hand?

Make sure all your tools are free of cracks, obvious bends, and that chisels do not have mushroomed heads.

Do you have safety glasses? Buy a pair of rated safety glasses. They need to be stamped ANSI Z87. Regular sunglasses don't count. Don't forget the kids. Do you wear glasses? Are they stamped ANSI Z87 (probably are not). You can get prescription safety glasses at many stores for around \$30, if you don't care about frames. Or you need over the glasses safety glasses. My rule is..."if you have a hammer in your hand you need glasses on your face"

Do you have sturdy shoes? Boots are best as they protect and support your ankles as well. I honestly recommend safety toed boots.

Don't forget your hands. A good pair of gloves can go a long way to making a trip enjoyable. It is amazing how sharp some rocks can be.

AFMS - From the Desk of the President

David Wayment excerpted from [A.F.M.S. Newsletter Volume 73, Number 3 – April 2020](#)
Hopefully, Spring is starting to show up in most areas. By the time this is printed I will have attended the Southeast Federation Rock Hound Round Up and the Eastern Federation Annual Meeting. I anticipate having a great time at each event, seeing old friends and making new ones.

This month I will be attending the Judges Training and the Northwest Federation Show held in Ogden, Utah. The show and class are over Easter weekend, April 10th to 12th. It has been more than 40 years since I've been to Utah and I am looking forward to the trip. Hopefully I will be driving from Florida to Utah and have good weather and time to stop along the way.

As I write this, everyone is worried about the Corona Virus. Hopefully soon everything will die down and it will not affect the show season. As of today, they are recommending regular hand washing with soap and water, wiping surfaces with disinfecting wipes and staying 6 feet away from anyone coughing.

Currently I have no AFMS trips planned in May. At the end of May I will be teaching at William Holland in Young Harris, Georgia. If you have an opportunity to take a class at your Federation or a local school I strongly recommend it. We can all learn new things about our hobby.

President's Message John Donker, MWF President excerpted from [MWF News March 2020, Issue No. 590](#)

As the winter weather gets nearer to spring, the snowbirds are coming back to the cold weather of the 20s and 30s. What a change from the 70s of Arizona!

There was snow from New Mexico to Michigan on my recent trip, and then a change from the ice to the heat. Quartzsite and Tucson were places of many rockhounds, and a lot of deals to be had.

Many clubs are working on their spring and summer shows and sales. As the weather warms up, plan to visit the shows in your area. Many clubs have summer field trips, as well.

Hope everyone had a good winter. Remember the MWF Executive Committee meeting in Wyoming, Michigan (near Grand Rapids) coming up! The annual MWF Convention will also be held in our great state in September, in the city of Howell. We hope to see a lot of rockhounds in Michigan this year.



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.

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