

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



November - December 2022

Volume 62 Number 6

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 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/mwff/> 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:
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.



Presidents Message by Ross Ferguson, MGMS

President

My favorite time of the year is upon us. The air is crisp, and the leaves are just starting to change color. What great weather to go out and stroll looking for gems for your collection.

I just dropped off the MOU with the church and as soon as we get that ironed out, we will be ready to start with the physical part of basement conversion. I have met with a locksmith, carpenter, electrician, and plumber. Will be meeting with the floor person in the near future. There is nothing overly expensive or difficult to do, so we should be in great shape moving forward. Saturday, I hope to get things in place, things removed, and things cleaned up.

I have gone over all of the show material from Josh and am figuring out how to break things down into smaller tasks. It is a very daunting undertaking. We will discuss this at our October 23rd meeting.

Also working on utilizing the parking spaces across from the church. I have talked with numerous individuals outside the club about a gem and mineral flea market/swap meet. Basically, anything to do with rocks, gems, minerals, crystals and such. Booth rental would go to the church, but it would give us more exposure for membership. I will keep you updated on this.

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: December 4 , 2022

Doors open at 12:15 pm

Meeting starts at 12:30 pm with meal to follow

Place:

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
29th & Wall

South Bend, IN. (This is in River Park)

Board of Directors

President: Ross Fergerson
574-850-6208

Vice-President: Nick Pellus
574-264-4772

Secretary: Jan Pellus
574-264-4772

Treasurer: Lyn Zeiger
574-259-5944

Liaison: Bob Bell
574-233-7352

Current Past Pres: Jason Hefner
574-354-0478

Committee Chairs

Displays: Kathy Miller
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner
574-354-0478

Educational: Jesse Zeiger
574-259-5944

Facebook: Holly Krafter, Nancy Foreman,
Jason Hefner

Field Trips:

Historian: Jim Daly

Hospitality: Linda Miller 574-291-5027

Juniors: Kathy Chidaster

Librarian:

Membership: Nancy Foreman
574-233-9178

Programs:

Publicity: Josh Klosinski
574-274-8714

Safety: Jennifer Hefner
574-858-9837

Show Chair:

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

Meeting Minutes: September 25, 2022, by Jan Pellus,
Secretary

Members in attendance / Adults 44__Children_4___ New
Members_12__Guests_0___

Call to Order: President Ross Fergerson

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

PAST PRESIDENTS: Diane Gram, Kathy Miller, Jason Hefner

Secretary report: Jan Pellus/ Motion made and seconded to accept
minutes as printed in the Rockfinder

Treasurer's report: Lynn Zeiger / Motion made and seconded to
accept report

Parliamentarian: Ross Fergerson

Midwest Federation/ Midwest Federation presented Josh Klosinski
with a certificate acclaiming him Rockhound of 2022. Great job Josh!!

American Federation/

American Lands Access/

Committee Reports

Show & Tell/ Nick Pellus/ Emily Nelson shared some of her treasures
that were found on the field trip to Newton Co. and Kentland meteorite
fields. Jason Hefner shared some fluorescent materials that he
collected in New York. Bill Nelson shared some rare yellow fluorite
material that he collected.

Editor: Jason Hefner / No Report

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / No Report

Face Book: Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Krafter/ Send
stories and pictures

Historian: Jim Daly/ No Report

Hospitality:

Continued on page 4

AFMS – From the desk of the President

Margaret Kolaczyk, AFMS President 2022 excerpted from [Volume 75, Number 7– October, 2022](#)
Hi Everyone,



This is my last article as the AFMS President. I wish to say a great big THANK YOU to all the AFMS Committee Chairs, AFMS Executive Committee, Regional Directors, Donna Moore and Pat LaRue. It is their support that made my job so much easier handle. One could not ask for a better team to have your back.

I have been able to attend a few of the rock and gem shows. It is great to be able to see friends and get a chance to catch up on how they are doing. Since I have moved and started a new job, it has not been easy to get to all the regional shows.

Starting November 1, 2022, there will be a new AFMS Executive Committee. Please take time to say thank you for stepping up. All officers, committee chairs, committee members and directors starting at the society/club level, to the regional level and then the national level are volunteers. These individuals are going the extra mile for the societies/clubs. My time as president for AFMS is coming to an end but the memories will stay with me forever. Thank you for letting me be your president.

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

President's Message

Mary Ann Fergguson-Rich, MWF President
excerpted from [November 2022 - Issue No. 616](#)



I am happy to be beginning my term as your President. As I am writing this message, I am packing to go to New Orleans for the AFMS Convention. I have never been there and I look forward to my first meeting (I'm on the Scholarship Committee this year).

I will be seeing many of you shortly in Springfield for our MWF convention, held in conjunction with the Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society show.

Thank you for serving as our hosts. The convention is October 21- 23, and show days are the 22nd and 23rd.



Purpose of the MWF

Now that we have, for the most part, been able to resume our lives and club activities despite COVID, we can look toward 2023 as a time of many excellent shows and events in our region. I will work hard as your president to promote MWF and its goals and activities. (It is also my plan to acquire many new rocks and new rockhound friends along the way.)

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

Meeting Minutes: September 25, 2022, by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Programs: / need someone to take over

Publicity: Josh Klosinski/ Looking for new ideas to get club information out.

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No Report

Show Chair: Josh Klosinski/ The show was a great success. There were 4650 guests in attendance. After serving as show chairman for the past 5 years, I find it necessary to step down. I have a detailed list of everything that needs to be done along with a time table.

Sunshine: - / Sympathy card to Jason and Jennifer Hefner on the passing of Jason's father

Webmaster: Joe Perry / The member list has been updated. Please verify your information. If you are not receiving club information, check your spam box.

Old Business

Thank you Josh for all your hard work on the shows. Moving forward there needs to be a few changes such as: bigger building, food trucks, more fossil dealers, etc. Josh said that there is a larger commercial building available. It does not have kitchen facilities. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the club rent the larger building. This will also provide more than one entrance. Food trucks need to make arrangements through the fair.

Holly Kraftor found that we were not registered with the American Federation for a juniors program. She has registered us for the program. The Federation will supply us with materials and handbooks for the program. We need someone to run the program.

New Business

Ross will schedule a clean up party for our new studio. Stay tuned.

After the show Marty Perry got someone else's club sweatshirt by mistake. She would like to have hers back. The other one is in the new studio.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: no

Next Meeting: Oct 23, 2022

Christmas Party info – MGMS website

If you didn't sign up for the lunch at the October meeting or have any questions, please contact Jessie Zeiger by email limdulk2@aol.com **no later than November 14** to let her know how many adults and children will attend. Jessie needs to know so she can order sufficient food and enough tables and chairs are set up for everyone. Also provide your phone number in the email to Jessie. If you contact Jessie by email to sign up make sure she replies to you to confirm your attendance.

Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2022, by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Call to Order: President Ross Fergerson

Pledge of Allegiance

Members in Attendance: Adults 33 Children 2 Guests 2

Welcome

PAST PRESIDENTS: Kathy Miller, Jason Hefner

Secretary report: Jan Pellus/ Motion made and seconded to accept minutes

Treasurer's report: Lynn Zeiger / Motion made and seconded to accept report

Parliamentarian: Ross Fergerson

Midwest Federation/ Midwest Federation Directory will be available to those members who would like to have one. Midwest would like to work with us regarding our kids out reach program.

American Federation/

American Lands Access/

Committee Reports

Show & Tell/ Nick Pellus - Kathy and Glen Wallace brought some specimens showing fluorescence – Stephanie Hughes brought some Indiana fossils with fluorescence – Jim Daley brought some misc mini fluorescent samples – Nick Pellus shared his “knee replacement” with the club (a complete bison knee with knee cap) – Jason Hefner shared rock hunting adventures on a recent trip and brought a radio active specimen to share with members after the meeting, its in the trunk of his car.

Editor: Jason Hefner / Please send stories

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / removed a display from school temporarily. Dennis and Holly did an outreach program with the Plymouth schools.

Face Book: Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Krafftor/ Send stories about new members, spotlight your hobbies to post on face book, or share a rock hunting trip.

Field Trips: / Bill Nelson went to the Illinois state fair grounds. There were many great displays of minerals and fossils. They held auctions and had a sales area after the show. Jason shared his adventures on a recent trip to New York and Ontario Canada. He talked with some professors and other rock hounds in the area. Stephanie Hughes went hunting Petoskey stones. Emily told us about their trip to the Illinois State Paleontology Museum and visit to an Arkansas diamond mine. Ross said that he is planning many rock hunting trips this year. He will let the members know when he will be at a given location. Any member interested is welcome to join him.

Historian: Jim Daly/ No Report

Hospitality: Thank you for the cookies

Continued on next page

Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2022, by Jan Pellus, Secretary, continued from previous page

Juniors: Kathy Chidaster / Kathy will lead our junior group. Holly Kraftor lead the group today. The group is working on the badge program. Today they talked about effects in stones such as chatoyancy in tiger eye. The group brought their rock collections to share with club members. One junior brought her collection of fossils, and our other junior brought some jewelry and dioramas that she created using minerals. Great job girls!

Membership: Nancy Foreman / Please pay dues for 2023 before January. Nancy will check into club tee shirts for the show.

Programs: / Need someone to take charge

Publicity: Josh Klosinski/ No report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / Keep your rock hunting gear with you. You never know when something may pop up.

Show Chair: / We need someone to be show chair. Please consider taking charge of a subcommittee. Josh has kept detailed notes on everything for the show, including contacts and when to do specific things. This year will be our 60th anniversary. Let's make it special.

Sunshine: - /

Webmaster: Joe Perry / No Report

Old Business

Ross will be signing the final papers later this week. All club materials should be kept in our new space. A motion has been made and seconded that the club meet every month on the 4th Sunday unless it is a holiday starting in January 2023. A motion was made and seconded that we keep the same officers for 2023. If anyone else would like to step up to fill these positions, please contact one of the current officers. The question was asked "who are the board of directors". They are the current officers and the previous president. Ross also read the duties of each officer from the bylaws.

New Business

The next meeting will be the Christmas dinner. It has been decided that the club will furnish chicken dinner from Martins. There is a sign-up sheet available. Please RSVP to Jesse Zeiger for reservations for dinner. The club will also purchase gift certificates from local rock shops for door prizes. Come join the fun.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Next Meeting: December 4, 2022 Christmas dinner

2023 Proposed Slate of Officers by Jason Hefner, Editor

The following is the proposed slate of officers for 2023. If you have any interest in pursuing a board position, please reach out to Ross Ferguson.

President – Ross Ferguson
Vice President – Nick Pellus
Secretary – Jan Pellus
Treasurer – Lyn Zeiger
Liaison – Bob Bell

We will cast a vote for this slate at the December 4th meeting. Please make sure you RSVP to Jessie Zeiger by email limdulk2@aol.com **no later than November 14** to let her know how many adults and children will attend.

Celestite info by Wiki, picture by Jason Hefner, editor

Celestine or celestite is a mineral consisting of strontium sulfate (SrSO_4). The mineral is named for its occasional delicate blue color. Celestine and the carbonate mineral strontianite are the principal sources of the element strontium, commonly used in fireworks and in various metal alloys.

Celestine occurs as crystals, and also in compact massive and fibrous forms. It is mostly found in sedimentary rocks, often associated with the minerals gypsum, anhydrite, and halite. On occasion in some localities, it may also be found with sulfur inclusions.



Celestine crystals are found in some geodes. The world's largest known geode, a celestine geode 35 feet in diameter at its widest point, is located near the village of Put-in-Bay, Ohio, on South Bass Island in Lake Erie. The geode has been converted into a viewing cave, Crystal Cave, with the crystals which once composed the floor of the geode removed. The geode has celestine crystals as wide as 18 inches (46 cm) across, estimated to weigh up to 300 pounds (140 kg) each.

Celestine geodes are understood to form by replacement of alabaster nodules consisting of the calcium sulfates gypsum or anhydrite. Calcium sulfate is sparingly soluble, but

strontium sulfate is mostly insoluble. Strontium-bearing solutions that come into contact with calcium sulfate nodules dissolve the calcium away, leaving a cavity. The strontium is immediately precipitated as celestine, with the crystals growing into the newly-formed cavity