

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



September 2023

Volume 63 Number 5

# THE ROCKFINDER

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

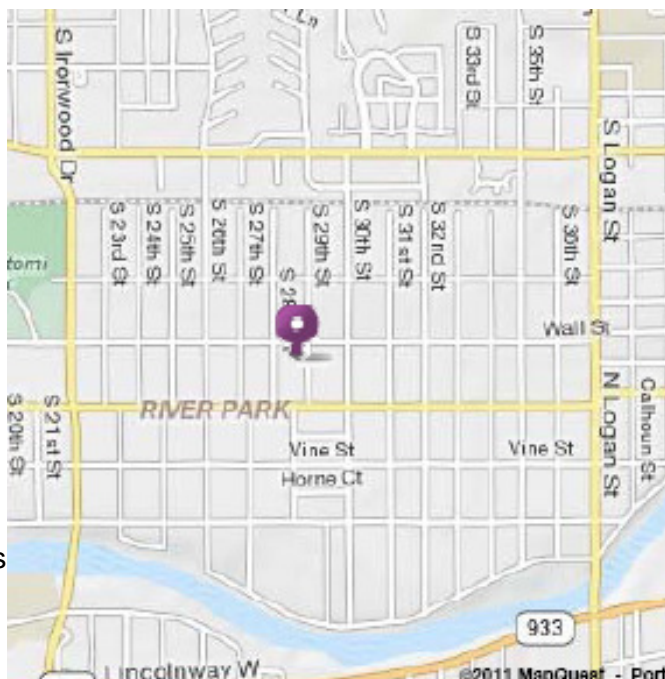
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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.



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### 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

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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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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:  
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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.



## President's Message, by Ross Fergerson, President

Summers over, but the heat continues!

We made it through another show. This was our 60<sup>th</sup> to be exact. We made money. We have a list of lessons learned, best practices, worst practices, but in the end you all pulled together and made it happen.

The attendance was down, but we made the best of the hand we were dealt. I have heard numerous opinions on why. Does it really matter, we put on a show and put our best foot forward. I am proud to be the president of the Michiana Gem and Minerals Society and to call you all friends. I know I need my head examined, but once we got rolling I had a blast and hoped all of you enjoyed it as much as I.

In talking with several other clubs, all clubs experienced about a 30-40% decrease in attendance. Sign of the times!!!!!!

Right at this moment I am packed and ready to head to Maine tomorrow morning (would say bright and early, but the other half disagrees). Will be in western Maine searching out the elusive Tourmaline, Blue Topaz, and Feldspar. I have to spend some time sea glass hunting to even the time out, I'll survive!

Stay safe and see you September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: September 24, 2023**

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

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



## 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

## 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: Jason Hefner, Ross  
Fergerson

Historian:

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

Juniors: Kathy Chidister  
574-202-3864

Librarian:

Membership: Nancy Foreman  
574-233-9178

Programs:

Publicity: Josh Klosinski  
574-274-8714

Safety: Jennifer Hefner  
574-858-9837

Show Chair: Bob Chapa  
989-392-2501

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

## Show pics!!

Just a few pictures from the show.



## AFMS President's Message — Cheryl Neary, 2022-23

AFMS President excerpted from [Volume 76, Number 6 — September 2023](#)

“Let me Entertain You” – and that is exactly what happened at the FMS/NFMS Awards Banquet held in Billings, Montana, hosted by the Billings Gem & Mineral Club. If you remember, Doug True, former AFMS president, is an active member of the club and show chairperson. The club calls him the “Rock Father.”

The “Rock Father” was the banquet master of ceremonies. As Doug was about to start the program, he was pleasantly surprised by his club members and AFMS 4th VP, Liz Thomas (RMFMS), who all had witty stories to share. Club members also provided a skit. Perhaps the best way to describe it would be as a “Godfather western cowboy,” if there is such a thing? The skit was quite humorous, which ended with Doug dancing! All in all, everyone had a great time – so thanks to Billings Gem & Mineral Club members, Liz, and to Doug! Afterwards, Doug began the program by introducing NFMS President Darrell Coyle. Darrell introduced Dr. Rob Thimas, the AFMS Scholarship Honoree. He presented one of the scholarship recipients, Michael Gray, who gave a short talk on his graduate project.

## President's Message Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, MWF

President excerpted from [June 2023 - Issue No. 623](#)

Hope your summer has provided an opportunity for collecting and/or creating beautiful objects with your rocks and gems. The first two weeks of August

were spent by your president traveling to and exploring Montana as part of the AFMS Convention.

I will be bringing back a number of AFMS awards won by individuals in our federation, which will be presented at the convention in Howell, Michigan September 16-17.

The AFMS convention was held in Billings. It was a great opportunity to meet rockhounds from all over, and to acquire some Montana Agate and local fossils. If you have never attended a national convention, you are really missing out!

Why not start by attending our federation convention in September for an opportunity to come to beautiful Michigan in the early fall, meet many rockhounds from our region and acquire some interesting finds at the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society show.

Hoping to see you there!



### 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)

