

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



Nov/Dec 2023

Volume 63 Number 7



**THE  
ROCKFINDER**

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

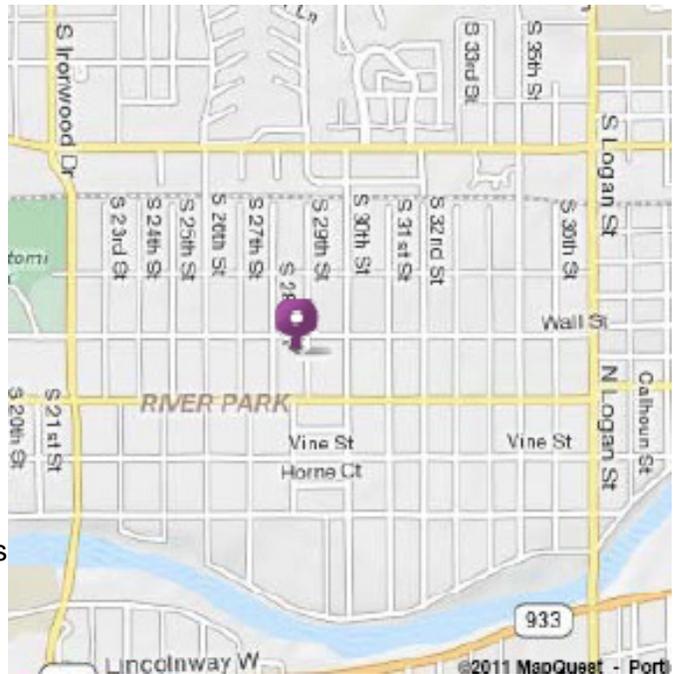
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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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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 Ferguson, President

Fall is here and so are the leaves! Hope everyone is getting in their last rock hunting trips before the snow flies. Please remember any pictures you take please get them to Holly Kraftor, Stephanie Hughes, Nancy Foreman, or Josh Klosinski.

I'm so looking forward to the Christmas party on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with the meeting and election of officers at 12:30. We have decided to go back to potluck having everyone contribute a dish. Like Bill Nelson's baked beans hint hint. The club will be purchasing the chicken both fried and grilled along with a few sides and all utensils. We will also be doing the gift drawing. I have over 70 cigar boxes with treasures for both young and not so young. Please contact Jan Pellus [npellus@hotmail.com](mailto:npellus@hotmail.com) if you are planning on coming.

I am looking forward to December 9<sup>th</sup> weather permitting going on my last rock hunt for geodes and fossils. Please let me know if you are in. I will give everyone the address prior to the 9<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 10am and go from there. The late start allows members to drive down in the morning (4 hours) and return home afterwards. The area is just south of Gnow Bone IN.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: December 3, 2023**

**Doors open at 12:15 pm  
Meeting starts at 12:30pm**

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

## Election of officers & Christmas Party

## Board of Directors

President: Ross Ferguson  
574-850-6208

Vice-President: Nick Pellus  
574-264-4772

Secretary: Jan Pellus  
574-264-4772

Treasurer: Lyn Zeiger  
574-259-5944

Liaison:

## 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  
Ferguson

Historian:

Hospitality:

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:

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

# October Meeting minutes

By Jason Hefner, Editor

Meeting Minutes Date: October 22, 2023

Members in attendance / Adults 20 Children      New  
Members      Guests 8

Call to Order: President Ross Ferguson

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome – Ross reviewed the last field trip

PAST PRESIDENTS: Kathy Miller, Jason Hefner

Secretary report: Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as printed in the Rockfinder.

Treasurer's report: Lynn Zeiger / Motion made and seconded to accept report. Need someone to review the books. This is not an audit, but something that needs to be completed.

Parliamentarian: Ross Ferguson

Midwest Federation/ open

American Federation/ open

American Lands Access/ open

Committee Reports

Show & Tell - members showcased their treasures.

Editor: Jason Hefner / Please send stories. Would like to have any information by the 5th.

Educational: Jesse Zeiger -Diane Gram presented a 4 week program in Granger

Face Book: Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Kraftor/ Send stories

Field Trips: Ross reviewed recent trip and discussed South Dakota agate beds.

Continued on page 4



Nate Grossman brought a Mammoth femur!

## AFMS President's Message — Roger Burford

AFMS President 2023-2024 excerpted from [Volume 76, Number 8 — November 2023](#)

First let me say what an honor it is to be selected to be the new President of such a great organization.

Now a little about myself. I was born in Mississippi but only lived there for about a year. At the time, my father was a student at Ole Miss. We moved to Illinois for him to get his Ph.D., which took about two years, and then to Georgia where he taught at Georgia State. Four years later my father got an invite to come check out LSU, and we moved to Baton Rouge in 1964. I consider Baton Rouge, Louisiana my home. I made the mistake of getting married right out of high school, was divorced three years later, made another mistake, and married again. When that one started going downhill fast, I decided I had better get out of town and enlisted in the Navy.

I was in the Navy for 20 years and moved around a bit -- Boot Camp in Orlando, School in Millington, Tennessee to study advanced Aviation Electronics, and then my first duty station was the USS Saratoga CV60. They were already deployed, so I flew to Rota, Spain to meet the ship. It was a short cruise, and we ended up in the yards in Philadelphia for two and a half years. Continued here . [Volume 76, Number 8 — November 2023](#)

## President's Message Sandy Fuller, MWF President

excerpted from [December 2023 - Issue No. 627](#)

The holiday season is here, and it's time for celebration and gatherings with family and friends. As we visit with fellow rockhounds we recall fond memories made over the past years, whether it's that special time during a club show, an extraordinary find during a field trip, or just the new friendships solidified by working together.

To me, the special thing about my rock club is the people I can now call friends. Some are into fossils. Some are superb rock artists. Others appreciate crystals, colorful minerals or special effects like fluorescence. Still others get excited when they see agates. Whatever the specialty, we share a passion . . . for rocks and camaraderie.

So I hope you will join me during this holiday season in connecting with our passion and with our friends and family who share our passion. It's a great time to recollect and share again our passion.

In preparation for our annual show, I got an inquiry asking if our show might be the right place for a couple who love agates and would like to meet some like-minded folks. They had never been to a rock show and "weren't aware of any other folks like us." We assured them that they had finally connected, and welcomed them to join us. Yet, I wonder, how many others out there don't know that we exist?

Continued here [December 2023 - Issue No. 627](#)



### 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)

# October Meeting minutes

continued from page 2

Historian: / position open

Juniors: Kathy Chidaster/ no juniors at the meeting

Membership: Nancy Foreman / talk to folks. You never know who might be interested. Ross said you should give them his email.

Programs: position open

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / no report

Show Chair: Bob Chapa – Went to the Detroit show to what we might do to help our show. Lots of discussion followed.

Sunshine: - position open

Webmaster: Joe Perry / We are in the process of redesigning and updating our web site.

Old Business

New Business

Slate of Officers 2024 –

Ross Ferguson – President

Stephanie Hughes – Vice President

Secretary – Kathy Wallace

Lynn Zeiger – Treasurer

We will vote on the Slate of officers at the December meeting.

Field trip December 9<sup>th</sup> in Southern Indiana. Ross sent a separate email.

Discussed educational program requests. Need a few more kits and train folks on how to present the material.

Science Alive was discussed. We might need to pre-buy item to hand out to the kids.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded.

## Special message from the President, by Ross Fergerson

For all of you that could not make it to the meeting, here is a brief synopsis of what was discussed: The Christmas Party was discussed, and it will be held on December 3rd at 1:00pm. There will be a brief meeting at 12:30 for the election of officers for 2024.

We have decided to make the Christmas Party a potluck affair. Everyone please bring a side dish or dessert to be shared with everyone. The club will supply Martin's chicken. Please contact Lyn or Jess Zeiger via email [limdulk2@aol.com](mailto:limdulk2@aol.com) so that they know how much chicken to buy. The club will also supply plates, utensils, and paper products. The meal will be followed with a cigar box gift exchange much like last year.

The nomination of officers are as follows:

Ross Fergerson President

Stephanie Hughes Vice President

Lyn Zeiger Treasurer

Kathy Wallace Secretary

If anyone would like to nominate someone or themselves, please contact me.

Also discussed was the need for educational outreach volunteers. Holly Kraftor is drawing up a plan so that we can better cover the area served by our club. What will be needed is club members to attend various educational institutions and present a program on behalf of the club. Once Holly completes the plan it will be shared at a future meeting.

We discussed reinstating the scholarship program that the club participated in in the past. We will be working with Professor Dr. Peter Burns from Notre Dame on the selection and awarding of scholarships for advanced degree students working in the area of geology. We are following the guidelines set forth by the American and Midwest Federations.

The program has been turned over to the club board of directors to determine the number and monetary value of the scholarships. Once that is completed it will be brought before the club as a whole for discussion and voting at a future meeting.

We have looked at all committees and are reevaluating the necessity and possibility of combining. We are also evaluating committee chairs and which ones need to be filled or a change of leadership has become necessary.

Several club members participated in a field trip last weekend to the Rogers Quarry in Mitchell Indiana. We were treated to a tour of the quarry and were allowed to collect specimens. Several of the attendees brought samples of their finds to the club meeting. Among the specimens were solid quartz horned coral, geodes, conglomerate pyrite, cube pyrite, calcite, selenite (they had just opened an area and found thick selenite of which several members acquired large plates. Pretty exciting as we were the first club to hunt this area.).

I was touring an area on Friday for geode hunting and the landowner invited me to bring other members along. Five of us were treated to walking up a creek bed where everywhere one looked was geodes. We collected numerous geodes along with horned coral and a complete arrowhead.

We have been invited back as a club to hunt the area. Following the hunt, we were taken back to his lay down area where we saw amazing geodes in all shapes and sizes. Some were as big as basketballs. We also saw geodes that have been split with amazing interiors. We were allowed to purchase these geodes at a very good price. Continued next page.

## Special message from the President, from previous page

The landowner has invited the club to come down on December 9th for a day of hunting. The weather could be an issue. His response was to dress warmly and once we commit the hunt will go on. Nothing has been set. Please let me know if you are interested. If we get enough people willing to brave the elements, then it will be game on. I will be the first one to say I am in. The collecting area is 4 hours from South Bend. We will not start until 10am allowing people to leave in the morning. Hunt for a couple of hours and then return home. I know it is a long drive broken in half, but the time spent there, and the possible finds make it well worthwhile. Please let me know if you are interested. As always, any questions please feel free to contact me. If I have left anything out let me know.

## Rogers Quarry Trip & creek, pictures by Jason Hefner



Group photo with our hosts – picture by Kevin Shake – quarry Manager



Pyrite after cleaning



Huge slabs of Selenite



BIG TRUCK!!!



Quarry view



Loading a big truck



Collecting pyrite.



Pyrite....lots of pyrite



Hauling geodes.