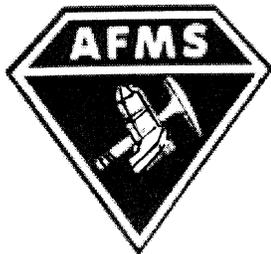
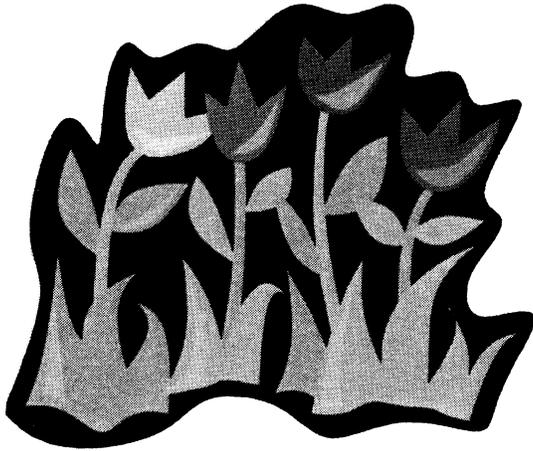


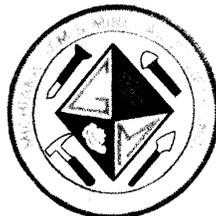
# **THE ROCKFINDER**

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Tom Noe, Editor  
305 Napoleon St.  
South Bend, IN 46617



# **THE ROCKFINDER**

MAY, 2010



# MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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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.

General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month, 2:00 p.m., at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 805 S. 29th St., South Bend, IN. Regular exceptions include May (third Sunday), July (no meeting), August (club picnic) and the November/December meeting and Christmas party. Board meetings are held before the monthly meetings. The annual club show is in late August.



Yearly Membership Dues (Payable by December 15)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$15.00 per year  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$20.00 per year  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \$1.00 per year  
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Please indicate areas of special interest:  
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Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles, as long as recognition is given along with the reprint.

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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 my property, and further I will respect the equipment and property of the aforesaid owners.

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 IN 46514

# THE ROCKFINDER

Newsletter of the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 50, Number 5

May, 2010

**Next meeting:** May 23

Visitors are always welcome.

Doors open at 1:30. Meeting starts at 2.

*(no meeting in June!)*

**Place:** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
805 S. 29th Street (29th & Wall)  
in South Bend, River Park area.

**Program:** Show off all your recent field trip finds! Bring stories, yarns, tales, rocks, fossils, etc.

**Refreshments:** Pat Bell, Sr. Jeanne Finske,  
Marsha Miller

**Note, no meeting in June. The June Rockfinder may be late for vacation reasons.**



## UP AND COMING

### *Michiana Gem & Mineral Society events:*

**July 3-10: MGMS display at the St. Joe County 4-H Fair.**

**July 18: MGMS Annual Picnic, Potawatomi Park.**

**August 27-29: Annual MGMS show at the fairgrounds.**

**September 17-19: MGMS bus field trip to southern Ohio for fossil collecting.**

### *Other area events:*

#### **APRIL**

24-25: St. Joseph, MI. Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society Swap 'n' Sell; St. Joseph/Lincoln Senior Center, Sat. and Sun. 10-4.

30-May 2: Kalamazoo, MI. Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society; Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street; Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5.

### *Federation Conventions and Shows:*

American (& California) Federation, June 18-20, La Habre, CA

Midwest Federation, August 27-9, Peoria, IL.

Northwest Federation, September 17-20, Hillsboro, OR.

Rocky Mountain Federation, April 23-5, Wichita, KS.

South Central Federation, December 11-2,  
DeRidder, LA.

KATHY'S COLUMN



We just returned home from our week at Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina. It was a wonderful experience to be with other earth science friends for a week of lapidary art workshops. The scenery was gorgeous, the food fantastic and the weather COLD. Bob and I did get out in a one-day field trip, and we found lots of garden rock and material for our juniors, but no big chunks of aquamarine, beryl, aventurine or garnets as we had hoped. I will tell you about our trip home under my field trip report. Bob and I will bring in a display of some of our garden rock; it's pretty!

I talked to our daughter-in-law Linda this morning and she said the April meeting went well. I hope the silent auction was fun and profitable. Linda said there was a good report on field trips. I am, of course, jealous that Bob and I can't go on any of them. We will be attending the MWF spring meeting on May 8. I hope all you field-trippers have been or will be collecting good stuff. Bring your finds to the May meeting.

Linda said the signup sheet has been started for the July picnic, this is great! Don't forget: *May 23 is the last official meeting until the end of September*, so there will be signup sheets again for the picnic and also for the annual club show in August.

I had hoped there would be messages on our phone from members volunteering to help staff the MGMS exhibit at the St. Joe County Fair on July 8, but nothing yet. This is a good chance for some of you going on the fall bus trip to jump in and help with a club project. You only have to work for an hour or so, and you get a free entrance pass to enjoy the fair.

The weather is so nice now, do I want to scrub my new garden rocks, clean the house, catch up on laundry, or—you're right! I am going to clean rocks!

See you at the May meeting.  
Rock On.  
Kathy

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by David Peltz at 2:05. In attendance were 46 adult members, 2 guests and 15 children.

Pledge – Joe Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome – Vice-President David Peltz welcomed past club presidents, guests and new members.

Secretary report – Jason Hefner – Sally Peltz motioned that the minutes from the March meeting be accepted as published. Motion seconded by Patty Enos and carried.

Treasurer's report – Marty Perry – Club financials were reported.

Liaison report – Sue Brown, Midwest Federation State Director--no report. American Federation – no report.

David Peltz called for committee reports.

Editor report – Tom Noe – Tom was working with the juniors, no report.

Education report – No report.

Field Trip report – Sign-up sheet for May 8 Paulding, Ohio, trip was on front table. Need help for 4-H Fair, so please sign up to volunteer during the May meeting.

Historian report – Ed Miller. Two new books for club library were presented. *Fossils of Ohio* and a book on trilobites.

Hospitality report – Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie – Need members to sign up for club picnic.

Juniors report – Cordelia Tomasino – No report.

Librarian report – Pat Bell – nothing to report.

Membership Report – Randy Hill – Directories are on the back table. Please pick up your directory.

Programs/Displays – David Peltz – silent auction will be held after the business meeting.

Publicity – Joe Perry – nothing to report.

Show – Joe Perry – The club show is set for August 27 through 29. Fifteen of 16 dealers have registered so far.

Sunshine – Sally Peltz – no report.

Webmaster – Jim Daly – nothing new to report. The Alabastine Mine trip field trip report will be on the web site soon.

Old Business – Still need recipes for our club cookbook. Contact Diane Gram.

New Business – It was suggested that the club acquire a banner for shows.

Door Prizes – Pat McLoughlin and Matthew Hefner received a prize.

Adjournment – Don Church made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Patty Enos. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Program – Silent auction, which was especially enjoyed by the kids.

Snacks were enjoyed by all as well.

Submitted by Jason Hefner, Secretary

### Field Trip Report

#### Bus Trip to Southern Ohio in September

By Kathy Miller, Field Trip Chair

On our trip home from North Carolina, Bob and I decided to take an extra day when we left our motel in Kentucky and take the route that our 3-day September bus trip would be on.

**Stop #1: Caesar Creek State Park.** They have a great park office loaded with all kinds of info and goodies to look at, plus the naturalists were very accommodating to speak with. We picked up our free permit for the hunting areas. We only gave ourselves 15 minutes since we had other places to go. At Caesar Creek you cannot use tools, and the ground is flat walking. You cannot go near the walls. Someone disregarded the rules a few weeks ago, got into a wall and it collapsed on him. This is a big no-no. You also can only collect fossils as big as the palm of your hand, hmmm . . . I have a VERY big palm! I would suggest you bring a spray bottle of water or a bigger bottle (gallon size) to loosen soil, and for both state parks a scrub brush to clean the fossil off.

**Stop #2: Quality Inn.** The owner and wife were very accommodating. They have a mid-priced motel, pool big enough to please all ages, no hot tub, but tables and chairs around the pool area. The motel has a lounging room off the eating area where they serve a hot breakfast. We did not check the rooms, but overall the place seemed fine.

*We were told they will accept a few more reservations now through the first of June at our block room rate under our club name. BUT, if you*

*decide you can go either by car or bus, I have to know since there's only a few seats left on the bus for seating and for the Saturday night meal. Look up the motel's phone and prices in the February or March newsletter or see me at the May meeting.*

**Stop #3: Middletown Historic Inn.** We were given a mini-tour of the inn and the room we are eating in on Saturday night. It's *really* a lovely place, you will like it!

**Stop #4:** Actually we were going to check out **Traders World Flea Market**, a few miles down the road from the motel on I-75, but time was against us, so we decided to head toward . . .

**Stop #5: Hueston Woods State Park.** This is another collecting area that is similar to Hunter Creek in Brown County. We park by a small bridge, cross the bridge, walk down steps to the creek and *behold, fossil material all along the shore.* This creek is about the size of Sugar Creek near Crawfordsville, IN. Let's hope it doesn't rain and raise this creek! I do advise bringing boots or shoes that will not be slippery on rocks, which can get dirty and wet. Some of the rocks toward the water have algae which can be slippery, but also contain good fossils (hence the scrub brush). At this park you can collect any size, and use any equipment and no restrictions.

We are going to bring some fossils from both state parks to the next meeting. They certainly are not the best, but we only stayed 15 minutes at each collecting site and just grabbed some to give you an idea or hint of what the places offer.

For the June newsletter, I'll suggest what to bring, especially for the new members, plus reiterate getting your Saturday night dinner money to Marty our treasurer. This should be a great field trip for everyone (pray for sun ☺).



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES****CODE OF ETHICS**

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind--fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material--matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project HELP (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the Golden Rule, will use good outdoor manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

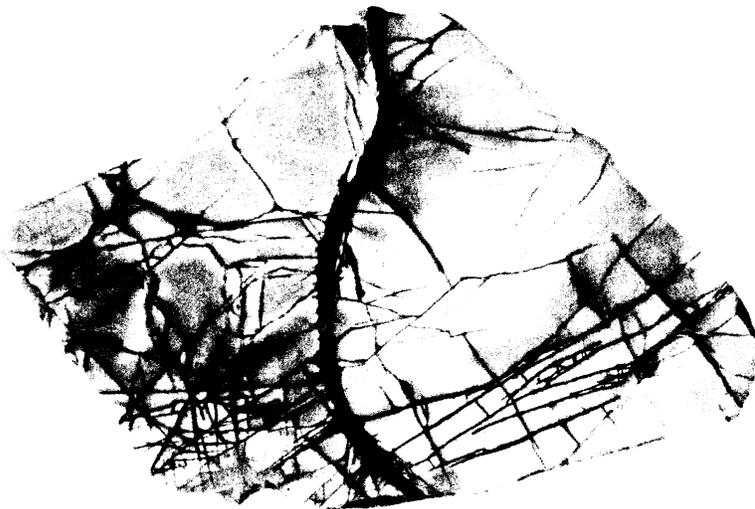
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The Glacial Drifter, Vol. 52, No. 9 December 2009

## Why do you like the cabs that you like?

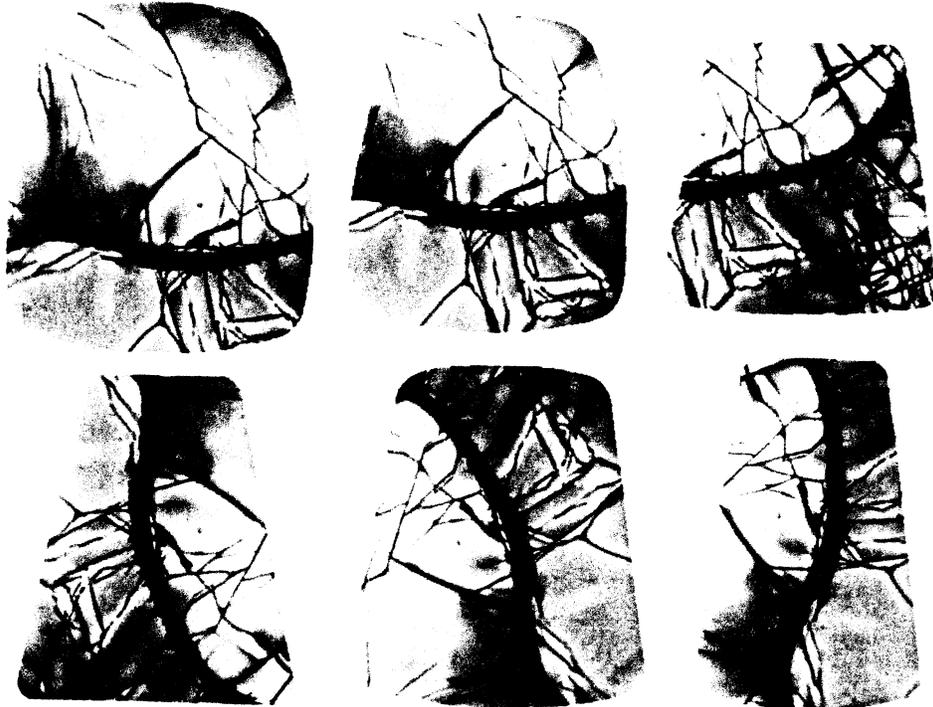
By: Daniel Bontempo, TGMS Member

Do you cut? How do you decide exactly what shape and where to cut it from the slab? Just a buyer or admirer, what would you say goes into picking your favorite? Lots of elements come together: the shape, the finish, possibly the fame of the material. But what role does color and pattern play? Once the cab is made, it is to like or not to like. But for the lapidary cutter the decision about the shape has to be followed by a decision about composition. This generally happens while sliding and rotating a template across the face of a slab. Even if a scene or specific elements (e.g., orb, line) are targeted from the get-go, there is generally more than one way to frame or even orient things. How does the cabber decide? There is a psychological science of aesthetics. Some principals vary if an aesthetic judgment is being made about a face, a picture, a landscape, or a building. Horizons are important in landscapes, proportion is key in architecture; symmetry is paramount in facial attractiveness. Are there design principles that play out in cabochons? Below is a nice 4"x2" slab of Cherry Creek jasper from China. (Come see this great blue & khaki slab with its dark red center line in full color at the Jan meeting.) The bold line and fine spider-web pattern offer many design choices. What shape and what composition will yield the best possible cab? Admittedly, it loses something in gray-scale xerox, but perhaps still a bit of fun to be had.



Maybe composing a good photo is the closest thing to composing a good cab. There are no books or web pages that go deeply into cab composition, but many books and web pages can be found on the elements of design in photo composition. Understanding elements of visual design and how they can affect our emotions can also help us make our images more effective. No guideline can ever guarantee success because a successful composition depends on lots of things that must come together. It is likely that many artists carry out design intuitively and arrange elements so they "feel right." Common aesthetic principles of photo composition include: line, shape, balance, rhythm, and proportion. A line is an effective element of design because it can lead the viewer's eye. Lines imply motion and can suggest direction or even feelings: horizontal lines imply tranquility and rest, vertical lines imply power and strength; oblique lines imply movement, action and change; curved lines or S-shaped lines imply quiet, calm, and sensual feelings; lines that converge imply depth, scale, and distance. Basic geometric shapes within images often appeal to the eye. Balance is complex; it can be a balance of color, foreground and background, or even positive and negative space. Together balance and color can create dominant and subordinate elements. Large objects dominate smaller ones and warm colored objects dominate cooler pale colored objects. A centrally located object will draw more attention than one at the periphery. However the center is not the best place to position the most dominant element - usually just to one side of the center is more effective. Rhythm refers to the regular repeating occurrence of elements in the scene. Rhythm is soothing and our eyes beg to follow rhythmic patterns.

Consider the images below. Each is an alternative bolo that might be cut from the Cherry Creek slab. Which would you cut? Do you think any design principles are driving your choice? Remember the darker areas are cool steel blue and the lighter areas are khaki-orange. The center line is dark red. Thin web lines are mostly black.



Do you get a sensual vibe from the wavy lines? Do the cabs at either end of the top row have more balance? This jasper is known for its dense spider-web network of lines, so does bottom left get points for best representing the material? The denser lines, especially on the cooler blue background do give a sense of depth behind the spider web. But I also think the lines look a bit too much like cracks. Maybe that's why I am not generally a big Cherry Creek jasper fan. I'm leaning toward the top left. The S-shaped line gives a sensual feeling. The placement in the center gives each side equal yin-yang balance, and the fact that each side has blue and khaki (criss-crossed) adds to the balance – at least that's how I see it. How about you?

If you've read this far, regrettably there are no clear instructions. Hopefully you found the journey itself thought provoking and enjoyable. Remember, most folks do not consciously keep these concepts in the front of their mind; rather the "best" cab usually pops out as the template is moved about. But, it's an interesting idea that there may be general principles leading to some agreement about what is best, that it may not be totally random and idiosyncratic.

If there is enough interest I'd be happy to lead a meeting program where everyone draws their cab choices on pictures of slabs. Folks vote on the best cab composition, and winner wins the real slab. Seeing the different choices folks make can be real interesting. Several clubs in Oregon really liked this Virtual Cabbing program. Mention it to a club officer if you think this would make for a fun meeting program.

**CARBONATITES PROVE ROCKS NOT ALWAYS EASILY CLASSIFIABLE**

By Dale Gnidovec

Rocks generally are divided into three types: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.

Igneous rocks are those formed when either magma (molten rock below ground) or lava (molten rock above ground) cools sufficiently to freeze or harden. Sedimentary rocks are those formed either by the accumulation of broken and eroded bits and pieces of preexisting rocks or by the precipitation, or "undissolving," of dissolved materials.

Metamorphic rocks are those that started as other kinds but were changed by heat and pressure.

Most rocks can be easily placed in one of those three categories, and only one of those three. Sandstone almost always is sedimentary; granite almost always is igneous, and so on. Take limestone, for example. Ohio has a lot of it: The Statehouse is constructed largely of limestone, and the limestone around Cincinnati is famous the world over for its fossils.

Those limestone deposits were formed by the precipitation of calcium carbonate from seawater or by the settling of particles of calcium carbonate. That makes them sedimentary rocks.

But can you have igneous limestone? The answer is yes. If the molten rock (magma or lava) is made up mainly of calcium carbonate, and that hardens or freezes into rock, you have igneous limestone. Such stones are called carbonatites.

Carbonatites are not common, so it is always interesting when a new one is discovered. Recently, a new one was described in *Lithos*, a journal devoted largely to igneous rocks. Discovered in northwestern Manitoba, Canada, the new carbonatite is part of a pluton, a large body of igneous rock that hardened deep underground.

The pluton was dated at 1.85 billion years and probably formed when pieces of ancient continents crashed together to form a supercontinent. The carbonatite itself wasn't dated, but it intruded into the older rocks and is estimated to have formed 114 billion years ago during continental fragmentation.

Unlike most carbonatites, which are thought to form when components of magma separate because they are incompatible, like oil and water, the

Manitoban carbonatite is thought to have formed by the melting of preexisting continental rocks.

Dale Gnidovec is curator of the Orton Geological Museum at Ohio State University. [gnidovec.1@osu.edu](mailto:gnidovec.1@osu.edu)

*The Columbus Dispatch* (Jan., 2009)

**FOSSIL FIND IN COLOMBIA IS ONE MONSTER OF A SNAKE! SERPENT WAS 45 FEET LONG AND WEIGHED 2,500 POUNDS**

*Associated Press*

New York: Never mind the 40-foot snake that menaced Jennifer Lopez in the 1997 movie *Anaconda*. Not even Hollywood could match a new discovery from the ancient world.

Fossils from northeastern Colombia reveal the biggest snake ever discovered: a behemoth that stretched 42 to 45 feet long, reaching more than 2,500 pounds.

"This thing weighs more than a bison and is longer than a city bus," enthused snake expert Jack Conrad of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, who was familiar with the find.

"It could easily eat something the size of a cow. A human would just be toast immediately."

"If it tried to enter my office to eat me, it would have a hard time squeezing through the door," reckoned paleontologist Jason Head of the University of Toronto Missisauga.

Actually, the beast probably munched on ancient relatives of crocodiles in its rainforest home some 58 million to 60 million years ago, he said. Head is senior author of a report on the find in today's issue of the journal *Nature*.

The discoverers of the snake named it *Titanoboa cerrejonensis* meaning "titanic boa from Cerrejon." While related to modern boa constrictors, it behaved more like an anaconda and mostly spent time in water.

Conrad, who wasn't involved in the discovery, called the find "just unbelievable.... It mocks your preconceptions about how big a snake can get."

*The Chiseler* (Apr., 2009)

## Junior Rockhounds' Page

### Michiana Junior Rockhounds, May 23 Meeting: Exploring Mining

Club members Mike Skoczylas and Tom McLaughlin will talk about two different types of mines. Mike will speak about his recent, first-time experience going down in a gypsum mine and lead a discussion with the kids who also went on that field trip. Tom will explain the mining of iron ore, a major industry in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Large specimens of iron ore have been donated by Ed Enos for the juniors attending the meeting this month.



### JEWELs News:

Co-leader Valerie Boruff will be moving to Kokomo, IN, at the end of May due to a change in employment. Her leadership has been deeply appreciated, and especially her work in helping the children connect with Dr. Peter Burns at Notre Dame. She will be greatly missed!

*Thank  
You*

*A special thank you to Tom Noe who, at last month's meeting, brought his fossil hunting gear for the Michiana Junior Rockhounds to see and numerous fossils for them to examine. We now have a group of kids who would love to go to Montana in search of their own fossils! Thank you also to John Jaworski for collecting and giving each child a large specimen of gypsum. Also a belated thank you to Margaret Heinek for the beautiful brachiopod fossils she presented to each child who displayed a project at the March meeting, and to John Davis for donating many prizes to hand out to the juniors.*

—Cordelia Tomasino, Juniors' Coordinator, tomasinos4@juno.com, or (269) 684-3454.