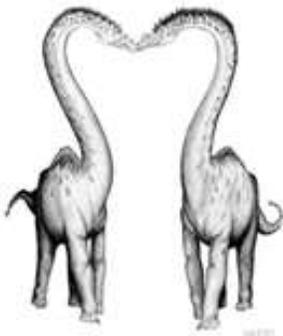


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Jason Hefner, Editor
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524



February 2011 Volume 51 Number 2



THE
ROCKFINDER



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.sauktown.com/Michiana), 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 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.

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Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles as long as recognition is given along with the reprint.



Kathy's Column - President Kathy Miller

I wish I could be like the President of the United States (any President) and give a State of the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society a wonderful Address. Well....we certainly are not divided, and we always come together just like our nation, but it's for our hobby, earth science.

What's my point? It was seeing so many of us at our January meeting, sharing ideas, visiting, bringing in displays for our enjoyment, a general feeling of good will, good food, good gosh we have it all!!

Our new board members and Chair-people made such a super transition and all of us are delighted with them. Thank you to them for volunteering, we appreciate you.

Trista McIntosh really was a hit with the Juniors, she kept them so busy they wanted to finish their project before refreshment time, that tells you how much they enjoyed their class ☺.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

Up & Coming

Next Meeting:
February 27, 2011

Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 1:30 and meeting starts at 2:00.

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

Refreshments:
Michelle Winters
Mary Davis
Marsha Miller

Program:
Splitting Geodes with John Davis – B.Y.O.G.
Bring Your Own Geode



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Kathy's Column..... continued from Page 1

I anticipate hearing about how Don Szczyrowski's day at Science Alive went on February 5. That is a wonderful community relations for our club. Speaking of community relations, don't forget to help our Education Chairman, Jessie Zeiger, who is looking for material to use when she gives talks/programs at school. This is another community outreach.

We have lots of exciting events coming up for us. Field Trip Chairman, John Davis is already looking into field trips and it sounds like he has some good collecting lined up for us this year. Oh PLEASE let this snow melt soon for our field trips to get started!

We will be discussing the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair soon for some of our members to participate for a few hours the week of the fair. Again this is good public relations for our club. I will have dates and more information in the next month or so.

For our club picnic please change your calendar date that I told you at the January meeting. The Pavilion we requested was already booked for July 24 but the SB Parks Department had Sunday, July 31 open (a week later). I immediately reserved that as reservations are hard to get at Potawatomi Park, South Bend, in the summer. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR, CLUB PICNIC - SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2011.**

Of course the annual club show is our really BIG event of the year. Marie Crull and Joe Perry will have information for us at the February meeting. Please take time during our winter, early spring months to go over your collections, hone up your skills and start thinking how you can prepare a display and/or participate at our club show this year. We need 100% participation to keep up our reputation as one of the BEST shows in the surrounding area. It's fun, it's club involvement and we get to show the public what we and our hobby are all about.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the February meeting, at that time the first day of spring will only be 22 days away YEAAA! (But who's counting?)

Rock on,

Kathy

January Minutes – Secretary Michelle Winters

President- Kathy Miller - talked about no 3-day field trip with the charter bus this year (this is in an effort to build up the money this year) and then plan on it again next year, this was motioned and seconded by the club. The display chairman for the monthly meetings is Mike Skoczylas.

Editor - Jason Hefner - talked about e-mailing the monthly newsletters to cut down on costs that the club pays out on postage . We will only send out newsletters thru the mail to members that do not have e-mail.

Education - Jessie Zeigler- is in charge of school programs is still needing rocks & supplies and she is to get us the list of what she is still needing.

Field Trips - John Davis- is in charge of the field trips and is still working on organizing a trip to Kentucky or car-pooling to other locations.

Hospitality - Linda Miller & Carrie Brown- in charge of hospitality and will have sign up sheet at next monthly meeting to sign up and bring food for the monthly meetings.

Show - Marie Crull- is hoping to sign the contract for the 2011 show.

Juniors - Leader Trista (Lewis) McIntosh recently got married - congratulations!!

New Business - SOMETHING TO WATCH - On CHANNEL 34 (WNIT) Feb. 27th - Sunday @ 9 a.m. and on March 2nd, Wednesday. @ 5:30 p.m. the program called "OUTDOOR ELEMENTS" this program will feature club member Don Szczodrowski - how exciting a celebrity in our very own club.

If you are interested in getting any type of beads Diann Gram is looking to get together a group to go to Beads & more which is located in Mishawaka on Lincolnway on a Sunday and the store hours are 10-6 p.m. This store is closing and they still have a lot of inventory , give Dianne a call if interested.

Program - the program for the Jan. 2011 meeting was The Fossil Forest of Danville Illinois

Trammel Fossil Park – from the internet

Trammel Fossil Park is named after the family who donated the 10 acres to the City of Sharonville, OH, the R.L. Trammel Family. This generous donation was made in the spirit that Sharonville would develop it into a place where schools and avid fossil hunters could come and explore for all time to come. Trammel Fossil Park is unique because there are very few places to dig for fossils in the Cincinnati area that are safe and accessible. Since the plot of Trammel Fossil Park has never been disturbed, there is a plethora of fossils in very good condition. Schools as far as New York have come to Trammel Fossil Park for exploration.



See <http://www.sharonville.org/fossilpark.aspx> for details.



Junior's Rockhound Page

On February 27th, 2011 meeting the Juniors will be learning more about fossils and make a fossil of our own. If the adult members can bring an example of the following fossils (**mold fossils, cast fossils, trace fossils, true form fossils**) that would be greatly appreciated.

A Paleontologist are people who find and study fossils. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rock for example shale, sandstone or limestone is where most fossils are preserved in. Areas where Paleontologist find the fossils are places where the sedimentary rock erode quickly. Most of the time, Paleontologist do a lot of work to find, excavate, and prepare fossils. Be prepared to be Paleontologist at our next meeting.



Some famous Paleontologists

Jack McIntosh

Dr. Jack McIntosh is currently the foremost expert on [sauropods](#). His most important contribution to paleontology was identifying the correct skull for Apatosaurus in 1975 (fifty years earlier, Marsh had put a [Camarasaurus](#) skull on the Apatosaurus' body).

James I. Kirkland

James Ian Kirkland (1954-) is an American geologist and paleontologist who has studied dinosaurs from the southwestern USA for over 20 years, discovering many new and important genera. [Kirkland](#) is an adjunct Professor of Geology at Mesa State College, Grand Junction, Colorado, a research Associate of the Denver Museum of Natural History, and a Utah State Paleontologist with the Utah Geologic Survey.

References: (enchantlearning.com)
(theroscoefund.org)

- Ammonite
- Brachiopod
- Crinoids
- Fossil
- Gastropod

- Limestone
- Petrified Wood
- Preserved
- Shale
- Trilobite



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip May 27 – 30, 2011, Hampton Butte, Oregon

The **Northwest and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies** are hosting an Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip to Central Oregon over Memorial Day Weekend 2011 for Petrified Wood, Agate and Obsidian!! And **all** AFMS society members and guests are invited.

Central Oregon is known for petrified wood, agate and thunder eggs. This Rendezvous will be to the Hampton Butte green petrified wood area, the Paulina area for pink, green and blue limb casts and to Glass Butte for a big variety of obsidian. Trip logs will be available to 8 to 10 other nearby sites for agate, thunder eggs, jasper and petrified wood for self guided collecting trips. These trips will include: Muary Mtn. jasper, Bear Creek petrified wood, Eagle Rock dendritic/moss agate, Ochoco thunder eggs, and several other petrified wood and thunder egg sites.

See http://www.amfed.org/FieldTrip2011-05_Hampton%20ButteOR.pdf for more information.

NATIONAL ROCKHOUND & LAPIDARY HALL OF FAME

Written for the *A.F.M.S. Newsletter* by Steve Weinberger

Have you heard about the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame? I hope that your response is a resounding “yes”, but if you've not, let me introduce you to it.

June Culp Zeitner, known to many as the “first lady of rockhounding”, felt that some of our fellow hobbyists should be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the field and so she created the “Hall of Fame”. Her vision was to recognize one or two individuals each year in five areas: Minerals, Lapidary, Fossils, Education, and Metalcraft. A sixth area, called “Tribute” was added to recognize individuals nominated after their passing.....

Housed at the Pioneer Auto Show building in Murdo, SD, the “Hall” features a collection of wonderful rocks, minerals, carving, jewelry etc. plus photographs of the inductees. Stopping in is well worth your time - and the auto collection in the museum is fabulous as well....

Want to learn more? Visit the “Hall of Fame” website at www.rockhoundhalloffame.org to see a complete listing of members. The website is in the process of being updated, so do check back more than once.

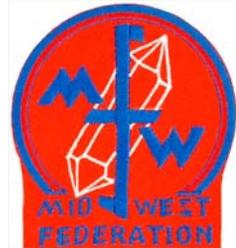
Article printed in the A.F.M.S. Newsletter, Volume 64, Number 2 – December 2010, January 2011.

To view the entire article click on the title to be taken to the MWF website.



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.



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.

Coming Events

March

4-6—RICHMOND, INDIANA: 38th annual show; Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society; Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; adults \$4, seniors (60+) \$3, students (7-18) \$1, children 6 and under free; jewelry, minerals, fossils, crystals, dealers, demonstrations, displays, silent auctions; contact John LaMont, (765) 647-4894, or Dave Straw, (765) 966-4249

12—SKOKIE, ILLINOIS: 62nd annual silent auction; Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society; St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave., across from the Skokie Public Library at Oakton; Sat. 6-9; free admission, children must be accompanied by an adult; rocks, minerals, crystals, fossils, handmade jewelry, lapidary treasures, books, magazines; contact Jeanine N. Mielecki, (773) 774-2054; e-mail: jaynine9@aol.com; Web site: www.chicagorocks.org

12-13—MACOMB, ILLINOIS: 31st annual show; Geodeland Earth Science Clubs; Western Illinois University Union Ballroom, Murray St.; Sat., 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; dealers, minerals, fossils, jewelry, equipment, displays, fluorescent minerals, geodes, meteorites, fossils, minerals, artifacts, demonstrators, shell engraving, fossil preparation, mineral identification, egg and rock painting, wire-wrapping, sphere-making, scrimshaw, geode cracking, flint knapping, glass bead making, lampwork, gemstone faceting, kids' activities; contact Regina Kapta (217) 433-9585; e-mail: cigmc@comcast.net; or Jim Travis; e-mail: boatnick@aol.com

18-20—JACKSON, MICHIGAN: 49th annual show; Michigan Gem & Mineral Society; Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganeson St.; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; jewelry, minerals, fossils, dealers, demonstrations, silent auctions, geode cracking; contact John LaMont, (765) 647-4894, or Dan Hovater, (517) 518-1045

School Display – Jessie Zeigler



Here is a list of the rocks & minerals that are on display at Edison School. If you have any other specimens you would like to share please see Jessie Zeigler.

Abalone, Agates, Alabama Paint Rock, Albaster Egypt, Amethyst, Apache Tear, Azurite, Azurite Copper, Barite Rose, Black Obsidian, Bloodstone, Blue Lace Agate, Blue Tiger Eye, Brachiopod, Brazilian Agate, Calcite, Chalk Dony Quartz Jasper, Chrysocolla, Coal, Coral, Desert Rose, Dinosaur Bone, Feldspar, Fern Fossil, Flint, Fluorite, Fluorite Turquoise, Fools Gold, Fusulinida Triticites, Galena, Garnet, Gypsum Grand, Rapids MI, hematite, Hematite Iron Ore, Horn Coral, Iron Pyrite, iron pyrite, Jade, Jasper, Lepidolite Purple, Marble, Meteorite, Mexico Geode, Obsidian, Opal Raw, Petoskey, Petrified wood, Pumice Kenya, Quartz, Crystal, Rose Quartz, Ruby Crystal, Selenite, Slate, Snail Pharkidonotus Percarinatus, Snowflake Obsidian, Spar, Iceland, Spodumene, Sulphur, Tiger Eye, Tiger Iron, Tortelia Shell Fossils, Tourmaline Black, Unikite Virginia Zirconian

Eureka Prospect & Columbia Mine Field Trip Report

Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum Marion, Kentucky April 2010 – reported by Jason Hefner

On April 2, 2010 my two eldest boys and I were able to attend a dig at the Eureka Prospect & Columbia Mine in Marion Kentucky. We met at the Ben E Clement Mineral Museum and were off for a day none of us will forget.

We took a whirlwind tour of the museum. I recommend if you are ever in the area to call the museum www.clementmineralmuseum.org at 270-965-4263 to see if they are open and then spend several hours looking through all the mineral specimens as well as the antique mining equipment.

The specimens in the museum are mainly fluorite and the other minerals associated with the mine. The calcite from the area is fluorescent and there is a large fluorescent mineral display that includes minerals collected from across the country.

Below is a cross section of the strata that held the fluorite the miners were after.



The boys had a great time in the museum and outside looking at the old mining equipment. They climbed up into the drivers seat and were transported back in time. At this point they were really ready to get out and collect something.



I had been itching to go out for days and so we caravanned to the dig site. After driving at most 5 minutes we turned down an unpaved access road covered in limestone and hard packed sand. We made our way down the road, crossed a bridge over a creek and looked to our left and saw an excavator and large piles of newly moved earth. We headed out to the site and were given the safety rules and turned loose on the site.

Continued on Page 8

Marion Kentucky 2010 continued from Page 7

At the bottom of the page is a picture of the main dig area. There are spoil banks to the left that are out of the picture that you can park adjacent to and literally take a few steps out of your car and dig for fluorite. We immediately inspected the huge amount of large pieces of fluorite in matrix that had been removed by the excavator a few days earlier. Several people, myself included, picked a large piece and carted it directly back to our vehicles before digging into the spill piles or working the hard rock at the center of the pit.

We spent the remainder of the day pulling out wonderful specimens of Fluorite as well as Calcite, Galena, Sphalerite, Smithsonite, and Greenokite on limestone matrixes. Please see the Museum's website for the 2011 dig schedule.



The Hefner crew digging in the pit.

(This was the hardest place to dig by the way.)
Picture used with permission from Mike Streeter.
Check out Mike's website at www.mcrocks.com
to find this and many more pictures of Mike's adventures across the US.

