

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



June 2011 Volume 51 Number 6

Picnic Time!!!!

July 31st

12:30 pm

Potawatami Park

Pavillion 1

South Bend IN

**THE
ROCKFINDER**



We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.sauktown.com/Michiana>

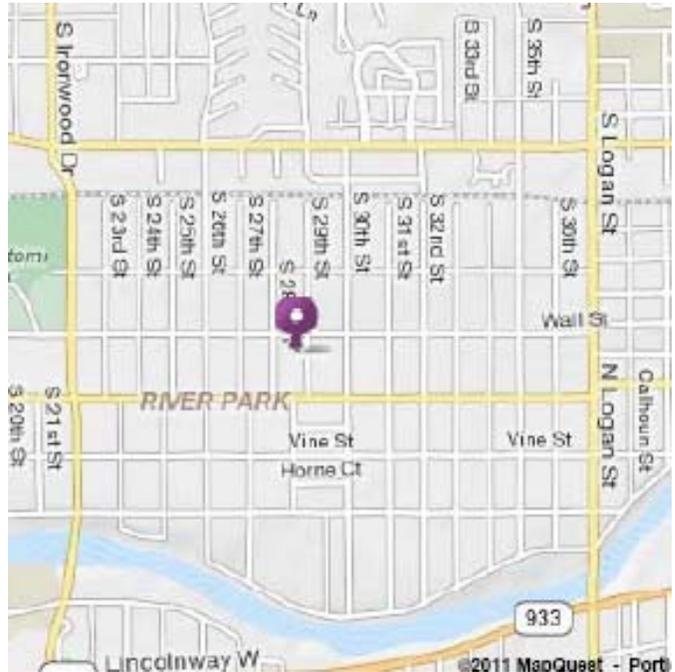
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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 chose 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 Marty Perry
29154 Frailey Dr
Elkhart, IN 46514

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 51 Number 6
June 2011

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.

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.



Kathy's Column - President Kathy Miller

I was absolutely delighted to see how many club members attended the May meeting. That is a definite indication how strong our club is as a whole.

This past week the American Federation (AFMS) June newsletter was delivered to us. In it was Bob's President's message for the month and a message from the American Lands Access (ALAA) President, Dick Pankey. Dick's message spoke highly of our own Tom Noe. An article Tom had written regarding Public Lands was also included. I hope our Editor, Jason, will be able to put that article in this newsletter. It's great having our club members mentioned in the AFMS newsletter. Congratulations Tom!

Bob, myself and grandson Rob went on a field trip to the Alabastine mine in Wyoming, MI, over Memorial weekend.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: September, 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:
Patty Enos
Annette Freel
Sherry Kobie

Program:
To be announced.

**Picnic July
31st - 12:30 pm**



Board of Directors

President:

Kathy Miller
574-291-0332

Vice-President:

Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Secretary:

Michelle Winters
574-267-6127

Treasurer:

Marty Perry
574-295-9050

Liaison:

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765-592-3409

Past President:

Diane Gram
574-272-6885

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Displays: Mike Skoczylas
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner
574-858-9837

Educational: Jesse Zeiger
574-259-5944

Field Trips: John Davis
574-232-8823

Historian: Ed Miller
574-498-6513

Hospitality:
Linda Miller 574-291-5027
Carrie Brown 574-266-0150

Juniors: Trista McIntosh
574-780-1162

Librarian: Pat Bell
574-233-7352

Membership: Joan Hill
269-465-5814

Programs: Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Publicity: Joe Perry
574-295-9050

Show Chair: Marie Crull
574-272-7209

Sunshine: Sally Peltz
269-683-4088

Webmaster: Jim Daly
219-778-2196

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

I even got an extra thrill, we stayed overnight at a motel with an indoor water park--this grandma actually went down a big indoor water slide. Along with John Davis and his grandson Alex, we had a great day collecting and exploring the many mine tunnels.

Next weekend Bob and I, with other club members (including family) are going to Duff Quarry. John Davis is doing a fantastic job in putting together field trips on a regular basis. It is exciting to be able to collect so many various types of material. Stay tuned, John may even come up with more field trips before summer is over.

Speaking of summer, we have three important functions taking place besides field trips.

1. Envirofest in Elkhart takes place on July 8, 2011. Nick and Jan Pellus have offered to arrange a booth/table for our club to pass out show flyers and club information. I am sure they would appreciate and welcome any help offered. Check your calendar, if you are free that day, please volunteer and call them. This is a good public relations for our club.

2. Summer picnic, Sunday July 31, 12:30 p.m. The picnic will be at Potowatomi Park (same pavilion). If you are able to attend and haven't already signed up you/your family, please call Hostesses, either Linda Miller 574/291-5027 or Carrie Brown 574/266-0150 to let them know. Of course it is "potluck" but we still need a guestament for hotdogs, buns, and drinks. Since the pavilion is covered, we don't have to worry about rain. This is a fun occasion and gears us up for our upcoming show.

3. THE SHOW...August 26-28. You will have opportunity at the July 31 picnic to sign up for the helping at the show if you haven't yet. Chairs are as follows:

Marie Crull / Setup and Takedown
Patty Enos / Admission and Door
Tom and Pat McLaughlin / Club Booth
John Davis / Displays
Tom Noe / Silent Auction
Bob Miller / Demonstrators
Lana Wright / Kids Corner
Kathy Miller / food donations for kitchen

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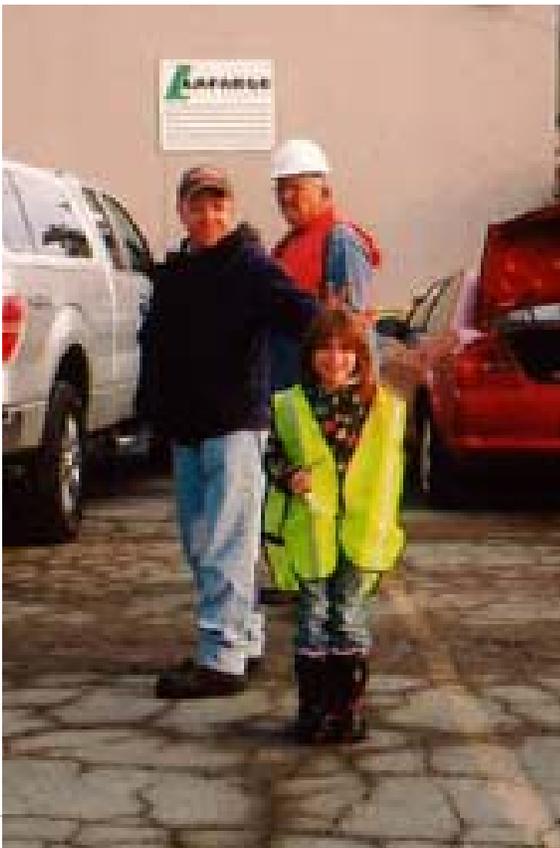
Kathy's Column..... cont from Page 2

If you don't sign up, do not be surprised if you receive a phone call, this is YOUR club. The show brings in most of our income for putting out *The Rockfinder*, holding the monthly meetings in a nice place with kitchen access, storage facility, Christmas party, and also for our educational 3 day bus field trips (hopefully again in 2012).

In other words, we have a regular budget to meet each year and our show is the major source of our income. For the newer members, (and us oldtimers) our annual show is exciting, our time to **shine** and give the public a fantastic preview of what our hobby is all about.

That's it for now, I am looking forward to sharing time with you again soon, meanwhile wishing you safe, good, and productive collecting summer.
Rock on,
Kathy

Rock on ----- Kathy



My Field Trip By Ashley Miller

Saturday, May 7, 2011 I went to Paulding, Ohio. The name of the rock quarry was Lafarge. I had to get up at 3:00A.M. and be ready by 4:00A.M. so that my grandma and grandpa wouldn't have to wait for me to get ready. After I got ready I got the stuff that I wanted to bring with me on the way there. Soon after I did that they came to my house and picked me and my dad up so we could get going.

We met at Wal-Mart, shortly after we got on the road and I fell asleep. I woke up 15 to 20 minutes after we got on the road. We had to wear our safety gear, the safety gear we had to wear was a safety helmet, hard boots, safety glasses and a safety vest. After we got our safety gear on we drove down to the rock quarry and I started off with a bad start because I couldn't find anything but an hour later like at 9:00 A.M. I started to find stuff like different kinds of coral, clam shells and neat looking crinoid stems. Mr. Mike Miller, who let us visit the quarry showed me where to look for the fossils. Before we left the quarry a man from another club gave each of us kids a trilobite.

Then at 12:00 P.M. we had to leave the rock quarry, we stopped in their parking lot to eat our lunch. When we were done eating lunch, we got on the road, a couple minutes later I wanted to listen to some music and I fell asleep for a few hours. I woke up then I listened to some more music and I fell asleep again then I woke up and we were in South Bend, IN again and we were only 10 to 20 minutes away from home.

THE END

Ashley Miller 9 1/2 years old

At left – Ashley (with Dad)

Junior Rockhounds

Make Stalactites and Stalagmites

What you'll need:

- Two glass jars
- A saucer
- Woolen thread
- Either baking soda, washing soda or Epsom salts

Instructions:

1. Fill both jars with hot water. Dissolve as much soda as you can into each one. Add food coloring if your parents allow for added “coolness”
2. Place the two jars in a warm place and put the saucer between them.
3. Twist several strands of woolen thread together before dipping the ends into the jars and letting the middle of the thread hang down above the saucer. The ends can be weighed down with various small, heavy objects to keep them in the jars.
4. The two solutions should creep along the thread until they reach the middle and then drip down onto the saucer.
5. Watch what happens to the experiment over the next few days.
6. Don't forget to wash your hands when you've finished.

What's happening?

Over a few days the dripping water will leave behind the baking soda, forming a tiny stalactite (which forms from the roof) and stalagmite (which forms from the ground). With enough time these may eventually join to create a single column. Stalactites and stalagmites are columns of stone which form in underground caves. They are made from minerals dissolved in rainwater that slowly drips from the roofs and walls.



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

From The Top! by Bob Miller, President

Summer's coming.

Mother nature has been unkind so far this year with late snows storms, tornados and cool weather, but as I see wildflowers starting to come up (and the morel mushrooms, yum!) there must be better days ahead.

This brings thoughts of being able to plan for collecting trips again and bring home the can't leave, "leave-er rites". While checking on last years tools don't forget to look for your safety glasses. A little scratched?; new ones are real inexpensive and available at many discount stores. A couple of dollars brings a real investment. An erroneous chip could make you life miserable for some time or worse permanent.

I would like to urge all of the clubs to send a delegate to the AFMS/EFMLS convention in Syracuse NY this year. This is a good way for the clubs to learn what actually goes on "behind the scenes" instead of hearing the results second hand or in small portions in the newsletters.

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Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Sharon Marburger, MWF Editor

The Executive Committee requested a volunteer to Chair the Juniors Activities when Michele Yamanaka announced her resignation, about two years ago. That plea has been repeated several times, but to date, no one has come forward. Michele did an outstanding job as Chair and she left mighty big footprints to walk in.

As Editor of this publication, I have been utilizing some of Michele's past articles and activities. I believe we can better serve our youth by utilizing some of our regional talent. There are many people out there with great ideas; wouldn't it be wonderful to share those ideas and knowledge with our young people? Our hobby seems to be declining. We need YOU to impart your knowledge and encourage our youth. The reward is the bright and eager faces of those children.

Source: **MWF News June 2011, Issue No. 503**



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



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

Coming Events

June

24-26: BLOOMINGTON, IN. 46th Annual Show & Swap, Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc., Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds, Airport Rd & Hwy 45, Fri 10:00 AM-6:30 PM(setup 8:00 A.M.), Sat 9:00 AM-6:30PM, Sun 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Contact :Dave Treffinger, 13101 E 250 N, Loogootee, IN 47553, (812) 295-3463

25: COLUMBUS, NE, Swap, Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Isaac Walton Cabin, W Hwy 30, 9:00-5:00, Contact Mary Wernhoff, PO Box 257, Platte Center, NE 68653, (402) 246-3955, wernhoffconst@plattevalley.net

25-26: OSAGE BEACH, MO, 10th Annual Show, Osage Rock & Mineral Club, The Inn at Grand Glaize, 5142 Hwy 54, 11:00 – 5:00, Contact Roger Varvel, 14354, Hwy 64, Lebanon, MO 65536, (417) 533-2788, Recorded Info (417) 532-4367, rvarvel@centurylink.net

July

9-10: ROSEVILLE, MN, Summer Show, Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club, Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling Av, Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun Noon-5:00, Contact Martha Miss, 8445 Grange Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016, (651) 459-0343, info@rock-biz.biz

11: LINCOLN, NE, Grinding Party, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc, Pioneer Park Nature Ctr, W Van Dorn & Coddington, Sun 1:00-4:00 PM, Contact Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc, PO Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, jna@inetnebr.com, www.lincolngemmineralclub.org

16-17: MOOSE LAKE, MN, Annual Agate Days, Carlton Co Gem & Mineral Club, Moose Lake High School, 413 Birch Ave, Sat 9:00-5:00, Sun 9:00-4:00, Contact: Al & Diane Hyopponen, 4902 Jean Duluth Rd, Duluth, MN 55804, (218) 525-7766, willow73@cpinternet.com

New Jersey Legislators Vote on Wyoming's Public Lands!

By Tom Noe

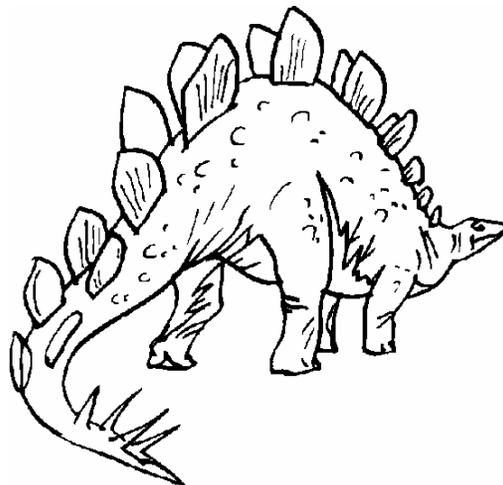
That's right, they do. And so do legislators from Rhode Island, Florida, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Kansas, South Carolina and 43 other states. They *all* vote on Wyoming's public lands. Every senator and every representative of each and every US state casts a vote on public lands legislation. That's the way Congress works. These are federal laws, not state laws. It doesn't matter that nearly all public lands are located out West. Every legislator in the US Congress votes on public land bills.

Now, let's ask ourselves: "Who gets more constituent letters about land-closing bills--NJ legislators or WY legislators?" Probably WY. How many letters do the KY legislators get? Again, probably not as many as in WY, either pro or con. Public land issues are not as newsworthy in NJ and KY. But do those NJ and KY legislators vote? Yes, they do. And do their votes count just as much as the votes of the WY legislators? Yes, their votes count just as much, exactly. And the majority rules.

We know that legislators track the input they get from constituents. Let's say the WY legislators get an extra 25 letters about some bill, but they have already received 5,000 letters on that bill. Will those 25 letters make a whole lot of difference in those WY legislators' minds? Doubtful. But consider this: What if the NJ legislators (who have only received 15 letters about that same bill) receive an extra 25 letters? Those 25 letters can make a huge difference. Those 25 letters could be vote changing letters. Those 25 letters could convince the NJ legislators that more NJ constituents want US public lands to stay open than want them to be closed off. Your constituent letters and emails from AR and NJ and AL and MO and MI and KY (yes, even HI!) can have a lot more impact than the letters of our friends in WY do.

Think about it.

Source: AFMS Newsletter – June, 2011



May Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Miller at 2 and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Perry

There were 41 adults, 8 juniors, and no guests in attendance at this meeting.

The April minutes were accepted by Don Church and Phyllis seconded it.

Tom Noe - American Lands Access - talked about contacting legislators about this (can even contact Tom about this) and he will forward e-mails regarding keeping land accessible for rock hounds to hunt.

Tom Noe got a book in memory of Herb Luckert for the club library and gave the book to Pat Bell. This month's program was Tom Noe who talked about minerals and springs at the place where George Washington spent lots of his time while growing up. Also discussed were rare earth minerals and the restrictions in mining them.

Joe Perry has the show flyers for club members can pick them up from him

Marie Crull- All dealers are back + there is some new dealers this year too (16 total dealers) Rent for the building for the club show is the same price as last year at the fairgrounds

Webmaster - Jim Daly- will be contacting the Midwest Federation IT dept. about having links from their main web site to our club website.

Sally- Peltz- sent 2 sympathy cards out as 2 club members family members had passed away Remember the Club Picnic is July 31st and there will be a sign up sheet for the club if you have not signed up already

Linda Garwood - spoke about a Gem & Mineral Show in Saginaw , Michigan on June 11- 12th please contact her if you are interested in attending this and other up and coming shows.

Environment Fair- Friday July 8th at Well Field in Elkhart - this is great public relations for club and helps in getting our name out there for new members.

Door Prizes - were won by David Peltz and for the juniors was Meghan again. Congratulations to the both of you.

Adjournment - was motioned by David Peltz and seconded by Larry Calhoun

If a committee person was not mentioned means that person was either absent or there was simply nothing to report at this time

Remember there is NO JUNE MEETING & July's is the 31st (quick meeting & picnic)

Have a wonderful short week and in exactly 2 weeks we are flying out to Albuquerque ,New Mexico for a long 2 week vacation and hopefully some awesome rock hunting. Wish us luck.

Michelle Winters

From The Top! by Bob Miller

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While you are at it why not purchase a couple of tickets for the endowment fund drawing. There are a lot of donated prizes to be given away this year. Clubs could purchase some and if won, the prizes could be used for door or other special prizes at a club meeting. Meanwhile I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention. Have a safe summer collecting and I hope you find the "special one" you are looking for.

Cheerz,
Bob

Source: AFMS Newsletter – June, 2011



Our Silent Auction Needs Donations or Consignments

Every year at our club show in August we run a silent auction to benefit the club's treasury. This is a popular part of the show and many folks look forward to it. All club members can feel free to donate or consign items to the auction. For donated items, all the money we collect goes to the club treasury. For consigned items, the owner (you) keeps 80% of the proceeds and the rest goes to the club treasury. Items must be geology- or lapidary-related, such as mineral specimens, tools, jewelry, rough rock, slabs, cabs, fossils, books, etc. We also accept consignments from nonmembers at a commission rate of 50%. Contact Tom Noe (tomnoe2@gmail.com or 574-289-2028) to talk about either donations or consignments.

Also, you can help out at the silent auction. Contact Tom if you can spend a few hours staffing the table during the show, taking money, getting items ready for auction, etc.

**Don't Forget - Club picnic is Sunday
July 31st at 12:30 pm at Potowatomi
Park. Call either Linda Miller
at 574-291-5027 or Carrie Brown
at 574-266-0150 to let them
know you are coming.**