

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



June 2014 Volume 54 Number 6

Don't forget the picnic
Is August 3rd at the Bertrand
Township Community Center
3835 Buffalo Rd, Buchanan MI

**THE
ROCKFINDER**

We're on the Web! See us at: www.MichianaGMS.org

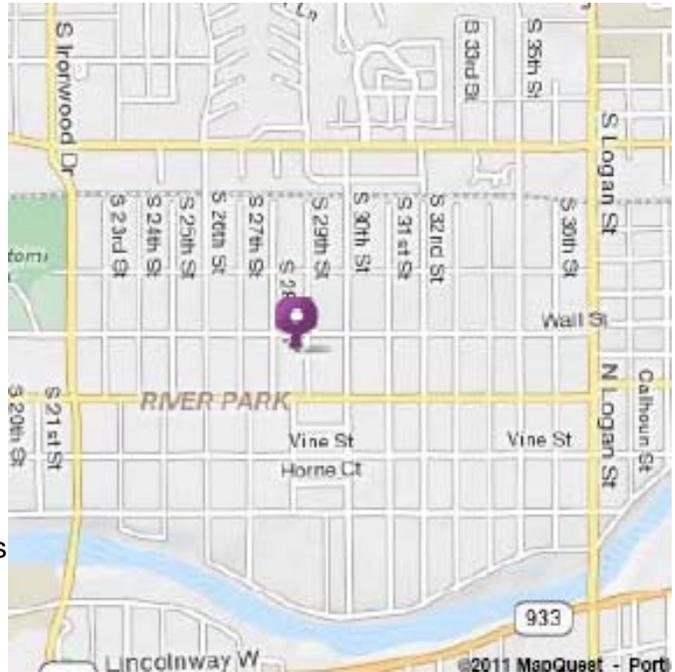
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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: _____
 Name: _____ Birthday: _____
 Name: _____ Birthday: _____
 Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
 c/o Marty Perry
 29154 Frailey Dr
 Elkhart, IN 46514

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 54 Number 6
June 2014

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.MichianaGMS.org, is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies <http://www.amfed.org/mwfi/> 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.

REMEMBER – Items in The Rockfinder that are **BLUE & UNDERLINED** are links to the internet or email addresses. Just click on them for more information.



Kathy's Column - President Kathy Miller

What a great meeting we had in May! There were so many members new and old, plus juniors and guests. MGM is doing well.

Time for THANKS...to Everett Harrington and Jason Hefner. Everett supplied the Geode program for the meeting and Jason ran and narrated it on our new club projector. THANKS ...to Bill Foreman for assuming the Chairmanship of Club Librarian. I just received the 2014 Midwest Federation Directory to give Bill for the Library. This is very helpful for us on information of all the Midwest clubs, their contacts, shows, and has club programs that could be useful to us. It is worth looking at. THANKS...to Pat Bell who had been our Librarian, but had to relinquish her duties due to family matters. THANKS...to Linda Miller our Co-Host Chairman and the month's hostess's plus extra members who brought in so many goodies for the refreshment time after the meeting.

It is going to be a busy summer for most of us, so I am reminding you to put on your calendar Sunday, August 3, 2014 for our club picnic

Continued on Page 2

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: September 21, 2014 Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 1:30 and the meeting starts at 2:00.

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

Program:

Refreshments:

Linda, Todd Miller & girls, Patty & Ed Enos, Marsha & Ed Miller, Kathy & Bob Miller

Board of Directors

President: Kathy Miller
574-291-0332

Vice-President: Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Secretary Jan Pellus
574-264-4772

Treasurer: Marty Perry
574-295-9050

Liaison: Bob Bell
574-233-7352

Committee Chairs

Displays: Mike Skoczylas
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner
574-858-9837

Educational: Jesse Zeiger
574-259-5944

Facebook: Raven Bowen
269-279-1827

Field Trips: John Davis
574-232-8823

Historian: Ed Miller
574-498-6513

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

Juniors: Trista McIntosh
574-780-1162

Librarian: Pat Bell
574-233-7352

Membership: Nancy Foreman 574-233-9178 & Jennifer Thompson 574-360-9886

Programs: Rev Larry Calhoun
574-631-1887

Publicity: Nick Pellus
574-264-4772

Safety: Julie Wieger 574-291-2597
Jennifer Hefner 574-858-9837

Show Chair: Marie Crull 574-272-7209,
John Davis 574-232-8823

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

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

Directions to our new picnic site are in your 2014 Directory or in this [Rockfinder](#), and August 22, 23, 24 for our annual club show.

John Davis has some exciting summer field trips planned, which are always a highlight for all of us. Stayed tuned – the dates scheduled are June 28, August 16, and September 13. This is everyone's chance to collect "Good Stuff"! This summer our club, thanks to Nick and Jan Pellus will participate in the Elkhart Envirofest. Check it out it is Friday, July 11, 2014 from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m., located at Wellfield Botanic Gardens, 1011 N. Main Street, Elkhart, IN.

I do have one special request; we need a PROGRAM CHAIRMAN or two people to serve as CO-CHAIRS for this fall and through 2015. Please come forward and volunteer, the programs are the highlights of our meetings, everyone enjoys them. Our bus trip is looking good for this September that is always something to look forward to in the fall.

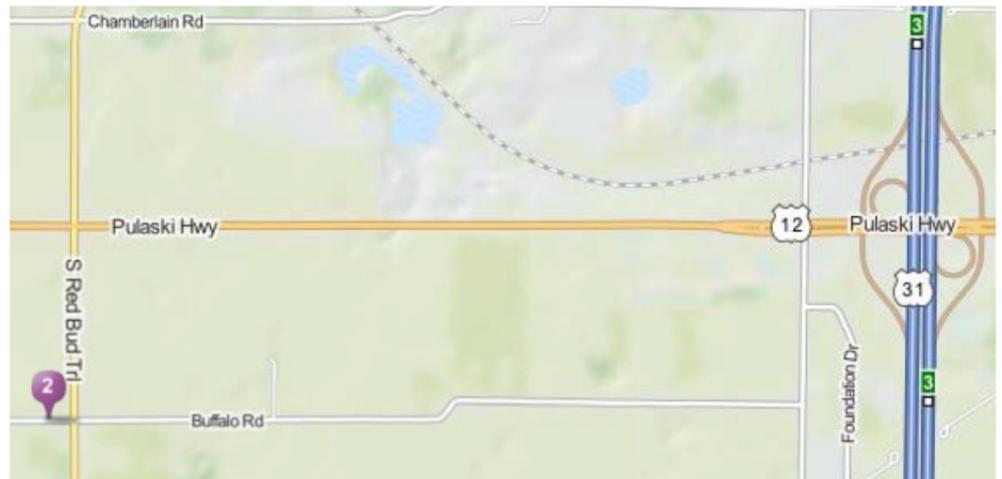
Bob and I are looking forward to seeing all of you at the August 3rd picnic or one of the upcoming field trips. Have a wonderful collecting summer!

ROCK ON - Kathy

Club Picnic August 3rd – by John Davis

The Bertrand Township Community Center is at 3835 Buffalo Rd, Buchanan Mich. The best way to get there is to take the 31 bypass to US 12 in Niles and turn left (or turn west) however you want to look at it.

Go approximately 2 miles to the stop light, this is Red Bud trail. Turn left, or south and go to the first cross road. The community building is on the south west corner of this intersection. Looks like an old church.



Meeting Minutes Date: May 18, 2014

Members in attendance / Adults_43__

Children__13__

Guest_8__

Call to Order: President Kathy Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

Secretary report – Jan Pellus / Motion made by Marie Crull and seconded by Rev Larry Calhoun to accept minutes

Treasurer's report – Marty Perry

Liaison report – Bob Bell / Michigan Geology, Kalamazoo, June 7-8; Central Michigan, Mason, Mi, June 7; Rockhound Weekend, Monroe, MI, June 7-8; Ozark Swap, Springfield, MO, June 7-8; Park Hills, MO, June 13-15; Bedford, IN, June 27-28

Parliamentarian – Bob Miller / No Report. Still looking for a delegate for the national meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. If interested, contact Bob or Kathy Miller.

American Lands Access - Tom Noe / No Report

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas / Bob Miller, Nick Pellus, Holly Kraftor brought geodes from Mexico, Indiana, Utah and Iowa. Bill Foreman, Todd Miller and Jason Hefner brought specimens collected from Pipestone Creek. Joe Sikorski and Mike Skoczylas brought in rocks to be identified. Rev Larry Calhoun brought in rock magazines for members to take. John Jaworski brought in fulgurites to share with club members.

Editor: Jason Hefner / If you are not getting the Rockfinder by email, check to be sure I have the correct address. We would welcome more articles for the Rockfinder.

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / No Report. We will be taking down the school displays for the summer. We present classes with items for discussion, which the children are then allowed to take home. If you have 20 or 30 like items, we would welcome the donations.

Face Book: Raven Bowen / I am in the process of updating our face book page. If you have any photos that you would like to post on face book, please send them to me.

Field Trips: John Davis / No Report

Historian: Ed Miller / No Report

Hospitality: - Linda Miller & Marsha Miller / Thank you to Sue Brown, Dave and Sally Peltz, Jim Daly, Marcia and Stan Jacobs, Nick and Jan Pellus for today's refreshments.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh / Juniors are having a good time.

Librarian: Pat Bell / No Report

Membership: Nancy Forman and Jennifer Thompson / Please remember to return your name badges after the meeting. There are still a few directories that have not been picked up.

Continued on page 5

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

From My Desk to Yours by Richard Jaeger, President

excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 67, Number 6 – May, June, July, 2014](#)

Click on the link above to read the rest of the article.

One thing I have been surprised by during my time as AFMS President is being asked on a number of occasions to intervene in disputes involving rockhounds. These have been a variety of disagreements between clubs and their regional federation or between individuals and their clubs or federation. The AFMS is not set up to settle disputes between individuals with their club or regional federation! We cannot dictate the policies of individual clubs or federations. This went so far in one case as to an individual wanting the AFMS to provide them with legal counsel so they could sue their club's board of directors! At least two other cases were equally absurd.

There are always going to be disagreements on what is best for a club, or for any level of organization within the AFMS. Clubs or federations should be open and fair in their deliberations. Usually a controversial issue has two sides, both of which have valid arguments; I know I sometimes disagree with actions taken by own club. But, once a decision is made, let's pull together, get along, move forward, and not hold grudges; don't get mad and drop out. I know of one case in the Rocky Mountain Federation

where a large club split into two clubs over a dispute; now both clubs have folded. In another case a very successful club split into two clubs; only one still exists and it is no longer part of the federation. Please don't let disagreements destroy or weaken your organization; it ends up benefitting no one and certainly not our hobby!

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Presidents Message

by Tony Kapta, MWF President excerpted from [MWF News June 2014 - Issue No. 534](#) Click on the link to read the rest of the article.

Finally! I think we can safely say that winter is over in Central Illinois, at least at the beginning of May when this letter is being composed. That may not be the case in the more northern reaches of the MWF. Take hope that the end of winter is near for you, also.

There have been many shows around us for the last two months already. I am just sorry I cannot afford the money and/or time to travel to each and every show. That would be great. I hope you all had a great show.

I am going to continue the history of the MWF this month as it has seemed to stimulate some interest in learning what has gone on in the MWF over the years. As I have stated before, this will help us to plan for the future.

These quotes come from the MWF's 50th Anniversary Book, put out by the MWF at its 50th convention. This history was compiled by the people who put this book together, one of whom was Diane Dare, a past president of the MWF, among many other positions in the MWF and AFMS. We have these people to thank for putting together the history of the MWF.

Finish the rest of the story by clicking on the link above



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

Upcoming Events

JUNE

7 MONROE CITY, MO. Gem City Rock Club's Annual Show; Boudreaux Visitor Center, Mark Twain Lake, Rt. J; Sat. 10-4; Contact: Jeanne Smith, 573.439.5890, jsmith45@marktwain.net.

7-8 KALAMZOO, MI. Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society's 9th Annual Rockhound Weekend; Western Michigan University, Rood Hall near W. Michigan Ave. and Rankin Ave.; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4; mgags.org.

7-8 MANSFIELD, OH. Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society's Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show; Richland County Fairgrounds, Arts and Crafts Building, 750 N. Home Road; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Contact: Tom Kottyan, 419.562.1152, www.rls.webs.com.

7-8 SPRINGFIELD, MO. Ozarks Mountain Gem & Mineral Society's Rock Swap; River Bluff Cave, Missouri Institute of Natural Science, 2327 W. Farm Rd. 190; Sat. 8-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Eddie Maples, 417.725.3001.

13-15 PARK HILLS, MO. Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society's Missouri Mines Rock Swap; Missouri Mines State Historic Site, 4000 State Hwy. 32; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; Contact: Bona Hensley, 573.760.0488, mojellybean63@yahoo.com.

27-29 BEDFORD, IN. Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc.'s 49th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show; Lawrence County Fairgrounds; Fri. 10-6:30, Sat. 9-6:30, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Dave Treffinger, 812.295.3463, lawrencecountyrocksclub.org.

May Meeting Minutes Continued from page 3

Welcome guests Tamara Baker, Mitchell Baker-Beek, Dawn Green, John Boyer, Ron Harper, Laura Flaim, Tony Sikorski and Joe Sikorski.

Programs: Rev. Larry Calhoun / Today's program is a power point presentation on geodes.

Publicity: Nick Pellus / No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No Report

Show Chair: Marie Crull & Joe Perry / Marie advised the club members that sign up sheets for the show are on the table. All club members are encouraged to participate in the show. Joe reported that all contracts have been signed and received.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Sympathy- Get Well - Thinking of you-Phyllis Luckert for recent illness

Webmaster: Joe Perry / All is well.

Old Business

MSHA class was well attended. There were guests from Michigan and Ohio. Most quarries require this training to be admitted for collecting. We must always follow their rules when collecting. Everyone enjoyed the Pipestone Creek trip. Many specimens were brought home. The Envirofest will be held July 11, 2014 at the Wellfield Botanic Gardens in Elkhart. Assistance from club members would be appreciated, contact Nick or Jan Pellus.

New Business

Our next meeting will be held on the 3rd week of September because of the club bus trip. The club picnic will be held August 3rd, sign-up sheets are on the table. Jason will be our grill master.

The board approved spending \$50.00 to complete our First Aide/Safety kit. Pat Bell has asked to be replaced as Librarian. She is unable to continue due to family obligations. Bill Foreman volunteered to replace her. Thank you, Bill. Randy Hill and Rev Larry Calhoun have also asked to be replaced as Vice President and Program chair. We would like to see 2 persons take the program position. We are all asked to actively participate in the club by helping at the show, being a chairperson, or presenting a program. We all have something to contribute whether it is refreshments, door prize, assisting with the juniors, assisting at various public venues, or presenting a program. This is our club. It takes all members to make it a fun and exciting way to share our love of rocks and fossils with our community.

Adjournment – Motion made by Patti Enos and seconded by Nancy Foreman.

Program: Power point presentation on geodes by Everett Harrington

Next Meeting: September 21, 2014

Getting Involved in the BLM's Special Recreation Permit System

By Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

Following a fatal accident during commercial racing competition in Johnson Valley (California) a few years ago, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) established a subgroup to review their process of issuing Special Recreation Permits (SRP) and to create a new booklet for use with respect to competitive events. That process is now complete, and the focus is now on Special Recreation Permits for noncompetitive events. Because this would encompass rock/gem/mineral field trips, I have been very concerned and expressed my interest in being involved, and I offered to chair the subgroup when the previous chair stepped down.

Dee Holland and I attended the Desert Advisory Council subcommittee meeting in December, 2013. First on the agenda was to consider permits for "others" using the California desert. (The commercial permits have been finalized and now they are searching for "others" to control and contain.) The contents of their recreation permit proposal are taken from one written for Moab, Utah (they didn't even write their own), but it was easily adapted to cover the California desert.

While rockhounds in the past have been lumped under "recreation, casual use, and casual rock collecting," the proposal suggested that we now come under "special permits." So, instead of going to the desert whenever we want, we'd have to apply for a permit 60 to 90 days ahead of time and, after jumping through all the many hoops listed, we could be turned down by the BLM for any number of reasons. Also, we were told on a number of occasions during that meeting, by the BLM district manager, that using our public lands "is a privilege, not a right," and a group has been defined as "one or more." If this is to pass, the days of field trips to the southern California desert by clubs from anywhere would seriously be jeopardized.

--Edited and excerpted from the ALAA Newsletter (Jan-Mar, 2014)

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped. (Entire newsletter is available at amlands.org)

September Show & Tell by Nick Pellus

Remember to bring in your finds and new displays from your summer collecting for the September meeting. This is a great time to share our finds and ways to display specimens. You will be helping out those who need to know how to properly display specimens and you may learn of a new way to display a specimen as well!

Prairie Home Companion Show item by Tom Noe

Here's a link to a Prairie Home Companion show. Brad Paisley singing a country song about geology!! (Click on "Geology" in the list.) <http://prairiehome.publicradio.org/listen/?date=2014/05/10>

Hexagonal Division by Kreigh Tomaszewski

The crystal form of a mineral is a visible clue to the fundamental atomic arrangement of the elements that make up a mineral. Knowing the crystal form of an unknown specimen gets you a long way down the path to identifying the mineral. There are six crystal systems, isometric, hexagonal, tetragonal, orthorhombic, monoclinic, and triclinic, in order of declining symmetry. Within these six systems there are 32 crystal classes that represent the possible symmetries of crystal faces. We started with isometric, and this month moved to the hexagonal division of the Hexagonal System and its seven crystal classes.

Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we really want to learn to hand identify them. Hand identification is a skill you learn from holding and studying many different specimens of a given mineral (and doing some homework on its physical properties). We try to do our homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral (class or group) of the month, but we also dig through our collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. Searching MinDat.org by crystal class is a great way to identify candidate minerals. We really do learn from each other (and you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated). It was a small group again this month, but some unusual crystals. We had specimens originally from the Smithsonian and the collection of John Sinkankas.

The concept behind our crystal class study theme was to have as many different minerals of a given class, to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish between them as we also learn to identify the class from multiple examples. Our group came up with an reasonable collection of Hexagonal habit minerals. We got to hand examine specimens of Pyromorphite, Apatite, Mimetite, Fluorapatite, Vanadinite var. Endlichite. Vanadinite, Covelite, Cacoxenite, Bestanasite, Tellurium, Sugilite, Gaspeite, Hanksite, Rutheburudismine, Nepheline, Beryl, Emerald, Graphite, and Benetoite.

Thanks to Kevin Ponzio, who convinced me to start the group, we had a fine specimen of Cacoxenite as a door prize that went to Wesley Kent.

It is one thing to look at the pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold a specimen and look at it thru a lens (feel the heft, shine a bright light on it, etc.). And then look at another specimen of the same mineral (and maybe another). And then look at something else that is close but different. Some homework was done, and we learned a bit about the specimens we studied.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2014, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We are going to study Hexagonal minerals that are in the Trigonal Division and its five crystal classes.

We try to start (and end) on time; please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (and everyone gets thrown out by 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about Trigonal minerals, and bring some representative specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (but you are always welcome even if you can't bring any specimens).

We usually have some time at the end to look at some unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are getting better at identifying minerals). We think this month's unknown was moldavite. Hope you can join us for the next meeting (and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated).

2013 Dinosaur Hunt by Lyn Zeiger

Our search this summer to find a dinosaur began at Cedar Point in Sandusky Ohio. In order to know what a dinosaur looked like we visited the “Dinosaurs Alive” exhibit they were housing. This exhibit is really worth seeing, especially at Cedar Point where it was located on its own wooded island. At each turn there were different animated dinosaur replicas. Each display has them shown in real-life situations and habitats with unique sounds for each group. Most impressive were the 50 life-size dinosaurs. Wow! Some were really big but, alas, none of the dinosaurs at Sandusky were alive. We did, however, hear a rumor of sightings out west.

Our next stop in our quest to find a dinosaur found us at Dinosaur Ridge which is located outside of Denver, Co. near Red Rocks. Stegosaurus, Colorado’s State Fossil, was first discovered there in 1877. Some of the bones can still be seen imbedded in the sandstone there today. After browsing in the Visitor Center, which included many very reasonably priced rocks and minerals, we took the bus tour up the mountain. The driver was very informative and the stops to see and touch dinosaur tracks, footprints, and bones were great. Most interesting was the Dinosaur Tracksite. This mountainside excavation, approximately 50’ x20’, contains over 300 footprints left by several different dinosaurs. One gets the Impression that almost anywhere on this ridge more footprints could be discovered. But, alas, we found no live dinosaurs here either. Our quest to find a dinosaur this summer had failed. It turns out that we were about 100 million years too late, but we did have lots of fun!

