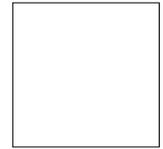


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Jason Hefner, Editor
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524



October 2014 Volume 54 Number 8

Next Meeting 10/26
Bring in something
you can give to the
kids at Science Alive

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 _____
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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

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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

On October 1st Bob and I celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary. Of the 54 years together we have been members of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society for 38 years. Our children Robin and Todd and their families, my sisters, brother and parents also were and are members. What is my point? This "rockhound" hobby and our club is great for a lifetime regarding family, individuals and friendships.

We have watched our club grow over the past few years. It is fun to see the youth stray from electronics and get into rocks, fossils and minerals. This is knowledge they will retain as they grow into adults.

Now I have a favor to ask of all of you in this message. During your (and my) collecting trips this year, please assess your finds and put aside any not good keepers that we can share with the children attending Science Alive this coming February 7, 2015.

Continued on Page 2

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: October 26, 2014 Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 1:30 and the meeting starts at 2:00.

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

Program:
Dinosaurs
Mr. Mark Tarnier
SB Chocolate Company

Refreshments:
Annette Freel, Sherry Kobie,
Raven Bowen, & Linda 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: 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

Many of these kids never see any neat things, only the cement they walk on. We are sharing our earth science with them. Bob and I are culling through our sunstones, crystals, fossils and calcite from the field trip quarries and small geodes from the Keokuk area. We have many bags to fill. If you have any small display (2 or 3 inch) zip bags to share we could really use those too, to put the specimens in. You can bring your donations to the October meeting or the club Christmas party. It's a real joy to see the expressions on the children's faces when they receive their free bags from our club.

The October 26th meeting is the last meeting for this year. Our next get together for our "forever family" will be the Christmas Party on December 7th. I will have a sign-up sheet prepared at the October meeting. Please sign if you are coming to the party. It is REALLY important if you are bringing any youth up to 18 years and how many! It would be awful if Santa didn't have enough presents for all of them. The party is a potluck, lots of fun, and a chance to be together, since the next time won't be until the end of January.

The October meeting, I believe, will have a super program for everyone. Now I also would like to take time to give Trista McIntosh a grateful thank you as she came prepared at the September meeting to keep 15 young Junior members occupied during the regular business meeting. Thank you, Thank you Trista! And to John Jaworski (assistant Jason) for the fine program he put on called "Star Wars". We had a large crowd and John's program was very informative for all those attending. Thank you John!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you October 26.

ROCK ON  **Kathy**

Dig, Dig, Dig
Happy,
Happy, Happy



BUS TRIP REPORT by Kathy Miller, President

WOW! What a fantastic weekend, we couldn't have asked for better weather, beautiful scenery, and bountiful collecting. OK, maybe a little warm, but our 5 year old Junior member, Vivian Green showed us how to cool off by taking a swim (fully clothed) in the creeks. This is one thing the Juniors enjoy, they can get wet, dirty and parents don't mind, it's part of our hobby! Most of us collected full buckets of geodes that felt like 100 pounds when we carried the buckets back to the bus/car. We had not only our bus but individual members who drove and joined us too. In fact a non member who attended the Geofest took a picture of our bus and our people because she was so amazed to see a busload of people attend the occasion. That's us, when we rock, WE ROCK!

Now my thanks for this weekend...

Julie Wieger, who made up a first aid kit that contains everything for everything! Thankfully we never had to use it (or) Julie's services (she is a Doctor and was on the trip) but, we are prepared and the kit will travel with us on all field trips and at our club meetings.

John and Mary Davis our trail blazers. John arrived before us, got us registered and led our bus to the designated areas, plus supplied extra buckets and tools when needed. He's an awesome Fieldtrip Chairman. And to Mary who rides "shotgun" for John.

Nick Pellus as connector/communicator between bus and John, *people retriever*, bus and update info during our days travel.

Danielle Wilborn our photographer for the group shots on this trip. Don't forget Danielle will have a showing of her photo talents exhibited at the Buchanan Art Center from October 8 through November 15 at 117 W. Front Street, Buchanan, MI.

Linda Miller and Jessie Zeiger. Linda provided all the trash bags and the individual bags of full candy to pass out and Jessie had boxes of raisins and candy as well to pass out.. Honestly we all ate very well.

Last but certainly not least our Junior helpers, Ashley, Kaley, Maddy, Cameron, Braden, Patrick, Brady, Ella and Chole who distributed all the food and disposable gloves, you did a great job!

I hope I have not inadvertently forgotten anyone else, you were all the best to travel with!

Kathy



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

From My Desk to Yours by Richard Jaeger, President

excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 67, Number 6 - October, 2014](#)

I really enjoyed attending the South Central Federation Show & Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana as well as the Northwest Federation Show & Convention in Hermiston, Oregon in August. Both federations can be proud of the work they are doing and both have excellent incoming officers. I'm also looking forward to attending the upcoming shows of the Midwest and Southeast Federations.

One of the concerns of many in our hobby is the loss of collecting areas. Sometimes, government regulations which may be unwise, confusing, or unevenly enforced are a real problem. This has certainly been pointed out by Mike Nelson in his excellent articles in the AFMS Newsletters. However, sometimes, we ourselves are our own worst enemies in regards to the loss of collecting opportunities. I want to give some examples of situations of which I am aware.

Over the years I have heard a number of rockhounds from area clubs, including my own, brag about bringing back a thousand pounds of material when, in fact, they might only use five or ten pounds the rest of their life. After a while those collecting sites are exhausted and there is little or nothing left for future generations of rockhounds to collect and enjoy.

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

PRESIDENT'S NOTE FROM THE SPRING

MEETING

by Tony Kapta, President excerpted from [MWF News June 2014](#)

[- Issue No. 534](#)

..... Apparently there are some people and clubs who are forgetting about the Code of Ethics that we, as rockhounds, should be following.....

We were informed that there are people ignoring the first rule of the Code of Ethics as well as the rules of common courtesy, particularly in the State of Michigan copper district in the Upper Peninsula. Most, if not all, of the old mines in the U.P. are located on private property. Because of the trespassing, people who do properly ask permission to collect minerals on these properties are not being allowed back on the areas.

We have all complained about losing areas at which to collect, and we have supported the American Land Access Association to try and help remedy this loss. People who trespass are giving all of us a black eye by ignoring the simple rules of ethics and common sense.

If you are planning a field trip to anywhere, please get permission to collect on that land. If you do not know who owns the land, contact the local rock club in the area and find out if they know who to contact to get permission.

If you cannot get permission, DO NOT GO!



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

OCTOBER

10-12 October 2014: Warren, Michigan (Detroit area)

70th Annual Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show

Organized by: [Michigan Mineralogical Society](#)
Macomb Community College Expo Center,
South Campus (12 Mile Road & Hayes Road)

18-19 October 2014: Chicago Heights, Illinois
Annual Rock, Mineral, Jewelry, Gem and Fossil Show

Organized by: South Suburban Earth Science Club and Prairie State College Natural Science Department
Prairie State College gymnasium (202 South Halsted Street)

25 October 2014: Ultraviolation - Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania

25th annual fluorescent-only mineral show / swap / sell ("If your rocks don't glow, you're at the wrong show")

Organized by: Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County
First United Methodist Church (840 Trenton Road)

NOVEMBER

1-2 November 2014: Midland, Michigan
20th Annual Rock Show

Organized by: [Mid-Michigan Rock Club](#)
Midland Resort Hotel & Convention Center
(1500 W. Wackerly Street)

Grasslands Wilderness—A Dire Warning

By: Name withheld by author's request

As a former federal land manager and avid rockhouser I am deeply alarmed by efforts to turn National Grasslands into wilderness areas (See <http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/otherresources/> dispatch-from-the-buffalo-gap-national-grassland-85899426728). This effort is being driven by the special interest of a selfish group of do-gooders. Unfortunately, once these efforts begin to gain momentum they are all but unstoppable. Unless rockhounding clubs stand together with a common voice against this effort there will be little chance of being heard by decision-makers.

May I suggest that clubs focus attention on their legislative representatives to get this move stopped dead in its tracks. If folks think they are going to get anywhere with the Forest Service they are dead wrong. The Forest Service will ramrod this designation unless stopped by Congress. I know, I have been there and seen it done and it is most likely that the decision in favor of wilderness has already been made internally within the Forest Service. They can accomplish off-road vehicle management without a wilderness designation, and I believe this to be the real issue driving this effort. Again, to stop this it must be accomplished through legislative intervention. You will be wasting your time trying to talk sense to the Forest Service!

--From the *ALAA Newsletter* (Apr.-June, 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.

**Mmmm
Geodes**

Photos at Renards during Geodefest
2014 Photo by Jim Daly



Meeting Minutes September 21, 2014

by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Members in attendance / Adults_47__ Children_15__ Guest_4__

Call to Order & Welcome: President Kathy Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary report – Jan Pellus / Correction to May minutes – Minutes stated that Randy Hill asked to be replaced instead of stating that he was absent from the meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes.

Treasurer's report – Marty Perry / No Report

Liaison report – Bob Bell /The following shows will be held in October: Jackson, AR; Springfield. IL; Three Rivers, Fort Wayne, IN; Jefferson, WI; Warren, MI; Mason, MI; Jehovah Falls, OH For more details contact Bob Bell

Parliamentarian – Bob Miller / Bob and Kathy plan to attend the Midwest Federation meeting in Des Moines, IA , and the American Federation meeting in Tulsa, OK.

American Lands Access-Tom Noe / No Report

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas / Nick Pellus brought several examples of creative ways to display our rocks and minerals. Todd Miller brought a brown calcite rock that was collected on a field trip. Ed Miller brought geodes. Dawn Green brought some treasures that she and her family found during a recent trip to the UP. Ashleigh and Andy Pellow shared some finds from the LaFarge trip. Danielle Wilborn shared her finds from the LaFarge trip as well as many treasures from UP beaches. Bob Miller shared his trilobite, the second smallest John Davis has seen.

Editor: Jason Hefner / Send stories

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / Put a new display in the school. Working on the display for Edison School. Thank you for the additional specimens. I will send a list to Jason for the Rock Finder.

Face Book: Raven Bowen / No Report

Field Trips: John Davis / There was great collecting on the trip to LaFarge quarry. The manager was not going to allow children into the quarry, but since we were already there, he relented. After watching our club members and especially the children's conduct, he stated that he would allow only our club's children in to collect. That's a great tribute to our club members and especially the junior members. Kathy sent him a thank you letter.

Historian: Ed Miller / I picked up a new book on geodes and found that Everett Harrington was listed as a contributor. A new spineasaurus skeleton has been found and is being recovered. Continued next page

Meeting Minutes September 21, 2014

Hospitality: - Linda Miller & Marsha Miller / Thank you to Linda Miller, Kathy Miller, Patty Enos, Ed and Marsha Miller, Celia Harrington. Please pick up dishes that were left at the show

Juniors: Trista McIntosh/ Please sign up to assist Trista with the junior members projects.

Librarian: Bill Foreman / Three boxes of material has been donated to the library by the Luckert family in memoriam. Bob and Kathy Miller donated booklets and maps. I am organizing the library files and hope to have the digital files available on line soon.

Membership: Nancy Foreman and Jennifer Thompson/ The following guests joined our meeting: Ella Davis, Jr, Dee Waggoner, Craig Hosterman, and Sheila Gorem.

Programs: Rev. Larry Calhoun/ We are still looking for someone to take over the program chair.

Publicity: Nick Pellus / The Elkhart Truth changed its contact information. I will get that straightened out.

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No Report

Show Chair: Marie Crull & Joe Perry / The show was a great success. We had over 1,000 people in attendance. Thank you to all who helped. Teamwork is the glue that makes it work. Club members gave Marie a round of applause in appreciation of her years of hard work as show chair. John Davis will be taking over as chair next year. Good luck John.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Sympathy- Marsha Miller for her sister and Joan Hill for her father. Get Well- Sue Brown, Jennifer Zarembka, and Dennis Horall Thinking of you-Sister Jean

Webmaster: Joe Perry / No Report

Old Business

We enjoyed a wonderful picnic at the Bertrand Center. The facilities were clean, and we had lots of room. Bill and Nancy will reserve the Center for next year's picnic.

New Business

Jesse Zeiger would like to have pictures of your landscaping projects using rocks for her upcoming program on the subject.

Sign up sheets will be available at the next meeting for the Christmas party, assisting Trista with juniors, putting together Science Alive bags, and the refreshment schedule for 2015.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded. Next Meeting: October 26, 2014

Program: Why we are made of stars presented by John Jaworski

LaFarge Quarry field trip report by John Davis, Fieldtrip Chair

Saturday September 13th was a beautiful day. The temps had cooled and the rain clouds disappeared. The best thing was it was our field trip day to LaFarge Quarry in Paulding, Ohio. The day started with everyone meeting in the parking lot. We met plenty early so there was plenty of time for conversing and meeting new people as there were several guest and new members.

But things were not all good in Paulding on that beautiful day. When our contact from the quarry Ben Johnson came out, he informed us that he would allow the children that came that day to collect, but in the future, no children under the age of 16 would be allowed to collect. To say the least, this was very disappointing. We have so few places that we can take our Juniors as it is and to lose one more was not good.

Anyway we proceeded to the quarry and as always, LaFarge quarry did not disappoint us. It seemed like the ordinary fossils weren't as abundant, but I've never seen so many trilobites found. I know of many of the group that found multiple whole trilobites. John Jaworski for a small plate with 3 whole trilobites on it and Julie Wieger found the largest trilobite I've ever seen come from this quarry.

The best part of the day was that I was talking to Ben Johnson and told him how disappointed we were about not being able to bring the juniors with us anymore. During the conversation, he told me about how well behaved our kids were and that as long as we kept our junior size to about where it was on that day, he would allow our club only to bring in the kids. So we need to give our juniors a huge shout out, for setting such a good example in their representation of our club. He told me nightmare stories of other kids from other groups who came in and was very happy with our group in general.

Although I don't think the ordinary fossils were as abundant, I believe everyone found plenty of them and hopefully most everyone found nice trilobites as well.

This was the last regular field trip of the year, but by the time you get this report in your rock finder, we'll have completed the trip to Keokuk Iowa for geodes. We can only hope this trip goes as well as the LaFarge trip went. I want to thank everyone who attended this trip for your professionalism in the quarry. It was because of the way our club in general handled themselves in the quarry that Mr. Johnson reversed his decision on allowing our juniors to collect there. You were all a perfect representation of how rock hounders should act in public.

Thanks again, John Davis

Editor's 2 cents – if you were paying attention, the President of the MWF just said we are losing collecting opportunities as people are not abiding by the AFMS Code of Ethics. Our group follows that code and we have lots of members that have MSHA training as well. All in all we behave and follow the rules and get invited back! Way to go everyone! Keep watching out for each other.