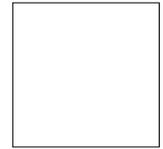


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Jason Hefner, Editor
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524



January 2015 Volume 55 Number 1

Next Meeting 01/25

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.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

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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.



President's Message - President Bill Foreman

Hello to all! My name is Bill Foreman, and I am the new President of the MGMS for 2015. I am taking over from Kathy Miller, whose leadership shoes will be hard to fill. My wife Nancy and our middle daughter Danielle have been members for several years, and have really enjoyed the fun, friendship, and fraternity of the MGMS. I personally have been struck by the willingness of the Community to welcome all new members and make them feel important and valued as individuals. I hope that all members will see their own strengths and skills and use them to work towards the betterment of the MGMS...everyone has something they can bring to the table that will make a positive difference.

With winter upon us, we have a chance to look forward to the upcoming collecting season, dreaming about those sunny days pulling treasures from the ground. I urge everyone who actively collects to take some time to check through their supplies.

Continued on Page 2

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: January 25, 2015 Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 1:30. Meeting starts at 2:00.

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

Program:
Packing bags for
Science Alive

Refreshments:
Bill & Nancy Foreman,
Mel & Sherrill Glick,
Bob and Kathy Miller

Jr. Rockhound helper for Trista is Mel Glick

Board of Directors

President: Bill Foreman
574-233-9178

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

President's Message Continued from page 1

Double-check the condition of your tools, looking for damage or wear that might require repair or replacement. Hard hats, safety glasses and other items degrade over time, and the cost of replacement is nothing compared to the long-term costs of injury. Our club has a great record of safety, and that is testament to the group's attention to each other's well-being. This ensures our being able to get into some locations that other clubs cannot. Applause to John Davis and his skill in keeping us informed and safe when digging.

My thanks to the Board members and Committee heads for their work and dedication to the club. These are the folks that take time out of their busy schedules to make things happen like clockwork. For our club to move ahead and keep up with the rapidly changing world, we need people like these...but they are dependant upon input from club members. With the 2015 show coming up and our hosting the Midwest Federation in 2016, we really need to shine. To wow the public (and the MWF people) we need to think a little out of the box. We have done well so far, but I know that the skills and talents found in our Community can make the upcoming seasons really special.

Again, as I am new to the role of President, I will be relying on assistance from the Board and Committees to be useful to the club. I am open to input from anybody and everybody that cares about our group. New members, what do you need to see to find real value in our club? Established members, is there anything we need to do to help keep you invested in the MGMS? We need to find ways to reach out to those we are missing in the area, especially those who might feel excluded in some way. I would like to reach out to those younger members who have been raised in the digital universe to help us remain relevant in this new world of Facebook, Twitter, etc.

In closing, let's all enjoy the benefits membership in the MGMS brings, but let's not forget our duty to put in our time in some way, whether it's helping Trista with the junior members, working tables or displaying at the Show, or promoting our club to the people of Michiana. I promise to do my best to work for you, and ask that you help me by bringing your best to the group.

I hope to talk to each of you individually over the coming months...

-Bill

It's Up to Everybody! (From the minutes of the ALAA meeting in Hermiston, OR, on August 16, 2014.) – Tom Noe, ALAA

ALAA President Shirley Leeson opened the meeting and stressed that it is really up to the club, and the individual, to “do something about it”—the closures and all the permits that we are now forced to buy to use Our Public Lands. ALAA does not have the manpower or budget to keep track of (or even just comment on) all that is going on in the entire United States. Though ALAA is a national organization, we pretty much operate locally. Communicate with ALAA about what is going on in your area and what you did about it, if you attended meetings and/or wrote letters about your situation.

Shirley encouraged us to “turn in” those individuals who violate the AFMS Code of Ethics, especially those who use industrial equipment to do their digging, and those who dig underneath trees and roads. They do the damage and leave the scars on the land but we, the rockhounds, get the blame. Do not dig in or next to streams, dig away from the streams so that there is no sediment going into the stream. Stay away from active logging operations. Get permission when it is needed, such as on private land.

Next Doug True talked about the closure of Lolo National Forest and Weyerhaeuser forests to rockhounds because of the scars left by individuals and showed pictures to emphasize the point. Rockhounding in any form is now prohibited in the Lolo National Forest. Weyerhaeuser and Georgia Pacific own a whole lot of forests in the Northwest and Southeast part of the United States.



—From the *ALAA Newsletter* (Oct.-Dec., 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.

Past President's Message by Kathy Miller, Past President MGMS

I am writing this message, my last as club President on New Year's Day, 2015. We have much to anticipate under the leadership and guidance of our new incoming President Bill Foreman for this year and the following 2016. Our club will be hosting the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies convention in conjunction with our annual show in 2016 and that's BIG! Lots of exciting things ahead in the next two years.

Let us as a clubs “forever family” support Bill, his Board and Committees by extending our help and talents when asked or needed, stay involved! As past President, I would like to thank the MGM Board, Committee Chairs and all members who participated in so many club events throughout the years of my term. I feel very comfortable knowing Bill is in “good hands”.

2014 ended with a absolutely successful Christmas party that almost 80 members enjoyed, this is a good sign of a healthy and happy earth science hobby. Just a note: January's program is preparing the MGM gift bags to pass out the next weekend (February 7) at Science Alive. All rock, fossil, mineral material accepted. Lots of the children attending never get up close and personal with the goodies we have and are so pleased and excited when they receive our MGM gift bags. ALL HELP IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!

Bob and I wish all of you a very joyous, healthy, blessed and happy year ahead, we are looking forward to seeing you at the January Installation meeting and your company during 2015.

Rock On, Kathy

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Marion's Message by Marion Roberts, AFMS President

excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 68, Number 2 – December, 2014-January, 2015](#)

I find it a bit difficult doing a really relevant message in that we actually write them a full month in advance of the actual date you receive them. I will do my best to keep from boring everyone to death. This message is being written just two days ahead of my deadline, due to a rather rough two weeks of a bad case of bronchitis that kept me out of it in a big way, as I have a tendency to sleep off any temperature. I can say that I am well on the mend.

Vivien and I have had the opportunity to travel to shows in areas different from our own, such as Hermiston, Washington, Billings, Montana, Jacksonville, Florida, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as well as our home shows here in California and in each we see the similarities, yet again there is always some differences. Some are subtle, and some are very noticeable. I am one who thinks it would be really great, as well as the fact that it could be even enlightening, for more people to take in a different Federation show at least a few times. I am also convinced that this kind of interaction would bring the workings of the Federation, including the A.F.M.S a closer understanding and function more understandable and helpful.

We are definitely planning to come and be a part of each Federation show in the 2015 year and we look forward to seeing old friends and meeting a lot of new ones. Until February enjoy the Holidays, be warm, eat well, and add something to your rockhound collection.

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

President's Message by Jim Marburger, President excerpted

from [MWF News January - Issue No. 538](#)

January is the start of a new year. The holidays are over so let's get ready for the NEW YEAR. Yes, it is a time for taxes, winter, short days, and planning. Planning will make this next year easier to face and allow us the time to enjoy our hobby, family, and friends.

This is the time to start sharpening our digging tools and removing any burrs on chisels that can become projectiles when used. Maybe we need to perform maintenance on our rock equipment. Yes, even that rock saw needs cleaning. What better time than now, when it is too cold to collect at our favorite spots?

Get ready for collecting season by planning for field trips. This is not only for individuals; include the field trip chairman of your club. Don't forget that our juniors also like to take part in the fun. Maybe they have some good ideas for specimens to search for or locations to check out.

Speaking of field trips, please check on the ALAA web site for what is going on with government changes and the accessibility to our collecting areas. Many of these areas are in the western United States, but there are still impacts on each and every rockhound.



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

DECEMBER

FEBRUARY 2015

20-22—INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA: Annual show; Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indiana State Museum; 650 W. Washington St.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; adults \$12, seniors \$10, children \$7; dealers, regional clubs, adult and kids' activities; contact Peggy Fisherkeller, 650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-7172; e-mail: pfisherkeller@indianamuseum.org; Web site: www.indianamuseum.org

March 2015

6-8—RICHMOND, INDIANA: Annual show; Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society, Wayne County Fairgrounds; 861 N. Salisbury Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$1, children (under 7) and Scouts and leaders in uniform free; jewelry, minerals, fossils, displays, demonstrators, silent auction, children's activities; contact John LaMont, 1271 Fairfield Ave., Brookville, IN 47012, (765) 647-4894 or (937) 339-1966

14 – Skokie, ILLINOIS Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society Announces 66th Annual Silent Auction of Rocks, Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Treasures

**Saturday, March 14, 2015
6 to 9 p.m.**

St. Peter's United Church of Christ gymnasium 8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie (across the street from the public library on Oakton)

Bid on rocks, crystals, minerals, fossils, geodes, handmade jewelry, lapidary materials, books, magazines and much more! Families with children are welcome. First table closes at 6:30 p.m. Free admission and parking. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call Jeanine N. Mielecki at (773) 774-2054 or email jaynine9@aol.com. Visit www.chicagorocks.org.

December 2014 Meeting Minutes by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Meeting Minutes Date: December 7, 2014

Members in attendance / Adults 61 Children 20 Guest 4

Call to Order: President Kathy Miller

Welcome guests: Samantha, Brian M. Jim Pendergrass; Santa Claus, and one elf

New Business

Motion was made by Bob Miller and seconded by Don Church to accept the slate of officers for 2015.

After a brief discussion a motion was made by Don Church and seconded by John Davis that we host the Midwest Federation show in 2016.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: Christmas Dinner

Next Meeting: January 25, 2015



The Christmas Party – Photo by Danielle Wilborn, member

Triclinic System by Kreigh Tomaszewski

The crystal form of a mineral is a visible clue to the basic 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. This month we decided to take both classes of the Triclinic System, Pinacoidal and Pedial.

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 (but you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated).

The Triclinic system includes all crystals that may be explained by three axes of unequal length that meet each other at oblique angles. We had more than one specimen for almost half of the minerals represented, and a larger group than usual.

The concept behind our crystal class study theme is 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 a good collection of Triclinic habit minerals. We got to hand examine crystalline specimens of Astrophyllite, Adularia, Axenite, Kyanite, Sunstone, Labrodorite, Plagioclase, Orthoclase, Microcline, Albite, Amazonite, Chalcocanthite, Turquoise, Okenite, Pectolite, Rhodonite, and Schrockingerite (sorry if any of these are misspelled). The Turquoise had both massive and crystalline specimens.

It is one thing to look at the pretty 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, look at it under black light, 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 and the crystal shapes they represented.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 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 twinned crystals.

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 twinned 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).

Triclinic System Continued from Page 6

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). Our unknown this month was pyrophyllite. Everyone went home with a specimen of Kimberlite from Lake Ellen, MI, this month. Hope you can join us for the next meeting and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated.



Amazonite Image from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazonite>



Orthoclase image from <http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com>

Please click on the link below the Orthoclase image to visit John Betts collections. They are incredible.



Picture of Kathy Miller at the Christmas party fulfilling her role as Club President for the last time.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU Kathy for the years of service.

Photo by Danielle Wilborn, member