

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



February 2015 Volume 55 Number 2

Next Meeting 02/22

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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Editor:
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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

Happy February, everyone!



I hope everyone made it through the Superbowl Snowstorm that hit the area without any problems. Luckily, we got all of the Science Alive bags stuffed the weekend before...last year the scheduled meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, and Bob and Kathy and family were left "holding the bags" so to speak. Thank you to everyone who helped stuff bags at the last meeting, many hands make light work.

Science Alive was a big success. The weather was clear and sunny enough to bring lots of families out to the Public Library to enjoy a day of fun, science-based activities. We had so many at our Club's table that we ran short on giveaway bags, finally passing out loose candy and geodes.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: February 22, 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:
Hardness and Density of Minerals

Refreshments:
Nick & Jan Pellus
Marty & Joe Perry
Babe & Jay Miller
Randy & Joan Hill

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

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Facebook: Raven Bowen
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574-232-8823

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574-498-6513

Hospitality:
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Marsha Miller 574-498-6513

Juniors: Trista McIntosh
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Librarian: Pat Bell
574-233-7352

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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

I want to thank the following people for coming in and working hard at the table: Bob and Kathy Miller, Ed Miller, Bill Nelson, Cindy Matthews, Todd/Linda/Ashley/Kaley Miller, and Mike Skoczylas. Not to forget John Davis for his generosity and Randy Hill for his loan of the coprolite (for scratch-and-sniff identification). All in all a well-attended show followed by a nice color photo in Sunday's South Bend Tribune.

Hopefully, more members will try like I will to dig through their collections and find more items we can use for next year's Science Alive. I know I have a lot of stuff I can't use that just needs to be sorted and set aside for passing out next February. We can always use more to pass along to Science Alive, to Jessie Zeiger and Mike Skoczylas for school kids, and even for the Silent Auction at this year's Show.

Remember, coming up soon will be your opportunity to get your MSHA training and certification. This is increasingly important as virtually all quarries will be requiring this for access. John Davis is working on scheduling the class with the instructor and will let us know which weekend it will be. The cost is reasonable, and the books can be kept for your next year's recertification, making the MSHA certificate real good deal. We have been lucky as a club...our safety record and well-behaved group has been well-received by the quarry's management.

Since February is a short month, I'll make this a short letter. Everybody stay warm and safe, and I will see you at our next meeting.

-Bill

January 2015 Meeting Minutes by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Members in attendance - Adults 33 Children 3 Guest 0

Call to Order: President Bill Foreman
Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

Installation of Officers – President-Bill Foreman/, Vice President-Randy Hill, Treasurer-Marty Perry, Secretary-Jan Pellus

Secretary's report – Jan Pellus / Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as printed in the Rockfinder

Treasurer's report – Marty Perry / Motion made and seconded to accept report **Please pay dues before February 10, 2015**

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January 2015 Meeting Minutes Continued from previous page

Liaison report – Bob Bell / No Report

Parliamentarian – Bob Miller / No Report

Midwest Federation-Meeting will be held in Wheaton, IL on May 25, 2015 (Memorial Day)

American Federation-No Report

American Lands Access-Tom Noe /Individuals may join the American Lands Access. Please see Tom for details.

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas /Marty Perry brought some older lapidary catalogues. John Davis brought some display cabinets the club members can use for presentations. These cabinets are filled with Indiana specimens.

Editor: Jason Hefner /No Report

Educational: Jesse Zeiger /No Report

Face Book: Raven Bowen / No Report

Field Trips: John Davis /I am working on setting up the MSHA training. MSHA certification is required at almost all dig sites.

Historian: Ed Miller /No Report

Hospitality: - Linda Miller & Marsha Miller /Thank you to Bill and Nancy Foreman, Mel and Sherril Glick, Bob and Kathy Miller, and Stan and Marcia Jacobs for our refreshments.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh / Please sign up to help Trista with the projects for the juniors. Thank you to Mel Glick for assisting this month.

Librarian: Bill Foreman / Several new books have been donated by the Luckert family. I am working on cataloguing and archiving the library. This will take a long time.

Membership: Nancy Foreman and Jennifer Thompson /No guests this month.

Programs: /No Report

Publicity: Nick Pellus /No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger /No Report

Show Chair: John Davis & Joe Perry /Waiting for contract from fair grounds.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Sympathy card to Marsha Miller for her father. Ed and Patty Enos for their son and a Get Well card to Doug Kile.

Webmaster: Joe Perry /No Report

Old Business

Science Alive will be in February. Please help if you can. This is a big event for the children of our area. We found several cook books and a couple old style tee shirts. We will use these as door prizes. Bill Foreman will look into getting club hoodies. There are great opportunities to promote our club with the South Bend 150 celebration this year. Danielle Wilborn will take charge of contacting them.

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Marion's Message by Marion Roberts, AFMS President

excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 68, Number 3 – February, 2015](#)

I am writing this between Christmas and New Year's, so I do hope you all had a very wonderful and healthy Christmas and then have a great, prosperous and healthy New Year. May all your field trip finds be genuine treasures and bring superb additions to your collections.

I can tell you that mother nature gave our valley and all of us a fair Christmas gift in that we have had a good amount of rain and a bit of snow for the mountains. Along with what we have already gotten, there is more on the way.

With that my term as president only six weeks old, there is little that has gone on, but I hope that everyone will take my suggestion to heart and make contact with someone new in another Federation or at least some one in another Society. I have really enjoyed reading all of the newsletters that we received last month and look forward to even more. It is great and interesting to see both the similarities and differences represented in the various Societies.

Our travels will start in the middle of March, when we will start toward North Carolina, and return via Ogden, Utah.

[Click on the link above to be taken to the rest of the article](#)

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

President's Message by Jim Marburger, President

excerpted from [MWF News February - Issue No. 539](#)

Here it is February already. I would like to thank all of the clubs that got their dues, membership numbers, and show dates in on time. This really helps in many ways; getting events submitted to the appropriate people (webmaster, newsletter editor, and Directory editor), having membership numbers available for insurance purposes, getting the Directory out on time, and so forth. Forms, I know, are a pain, but the reason for them is to help to get the correct listings done.

I have some great news in that we are gaining clubs and memberships this year. So far we have picked up two new clubs, one in Michigan – State Line Gem and Mineral Club with 52 adult members and 6 juniors, and one in Minnesota – the Aspen Academy Rockhounds with 2 adult members and a whopping 60 juniors in their Academy geology club. Other requests for information on becoming a member club have been received, and the information has been sent out. Maybe more good news is on the horizon. Thanks to our state directors who have been working hard to get MWF information out to non-member clubs. We have much to draw on to assist clubs with any facet of the hobby. Check out the list of Special Committees on the website or in the directory.

[Click on the link above to be taken to the rest of the article](#)



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 Fisher-Keller, 650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-7172; e-mail: pfisher-keller@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.

January 2014 Meeting Minutes

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Our club will be hosting the Midwest Federation Show in 2016. We need everyone to help make this a fantastic event. Let's make it shine!

New Business

Doug Kile thanked the club for their support during his recent illness.

Patty and Ed Enos thanked the club members for their compassion and support following the recent passing of their son, Patrick.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: Stuff bags for Science Alive

Next Meeting: February 22, 2015

Recreational Land Use Versus Government/Academic Extremism

By Jim Urbaniak, President, Oregon Agate and Mineral Society

(In the complete article, Jim voices his concerns about the dramatic increase in public-lands management in recent years and gives suggestions for private and public sectors working together. One suggestion is to invite professors and land managers to our club meetings.)

Because of my work in the federal services and my networking with professional and academic earth science people (in an effort to secure monthly lecturers for the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society), I have gotten to know many academics, fish and wildlife professionals, BLM and Forestry Service representatives. The old school folks "get" the whole thing about balancing environmental stewardship with recreational land use. What is a disturbing trend, though, is the number of new college graduates entering these services who are being taught that ALL recreational use is bad and ALL public lands should be closed off for any use whatsoever. . . .

I am a conservationist, (but) this new mentality on the part of over-exuberant environmentalists and public servants does not reflect balance at all. See "Recreational Land Use" next page

Recreational Land Use Continued from Previous page

One of the ways our local earth sciences club has approached this has been to bring the geology professors (and their students) and public servants into our meetings to give presentations. The benefit has been that they have discovered we are not a bunch of dumb hillbillies but knowledgeable and conscientious earth science enthusiasts with a real concern for lands stewardship. Here in Oregon we are really beginning to develop some high-level academic and government support through dialog and a growing mutual respect. I believe that this extremism mentality can be overcome through the amateur and academic communities engaging in building shared interest in each other's activities. We, the amateurs, learn from the academics, and they in turn realize that we are also stewards of the land and students who can be taught in the field instead of a lecture room.

—Excerpted from 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.

ALAA Promotes Rockhound Access by Tom Noe

At the January club meeting, some members wanted to know more about joining ALAA. The MGMS is already an ALAA member, but individuals can also sign up. A membership application is attached as a pdf file. You can print it out and send it in. Michiana club member Tom Noe is the Midwest Federation director of ALAA. Contact him if you want more information (574- 289-2028 or tomnoe2@gmail.com). Here is some background about the ALAA (from the ALAA website):

The American Lands Access Association, Inc. (ALAA) represents the rockhounding interests of hundreds of gem & mineral clubs/societies in 47 states and the District of Columbia. The directors of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies voted to establish ALAA in July, 1992.

The purpose of the association is to promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

ALAA is present wherever there are hobbyist and recreational users of our public lands whose interests and concerns are not being heard or are being jeopardized by proposed policy, regulation or legislation at the local, state or federal levels. From defeating the Baucus Bill to coordinating massive public protest to the proposed US Forest Service rules (withdrawn) and the Bureau of Land Management's RS 2477 Rights-of-Way (rewritten), the ALAA has earned the respect of public officials from Washington, DC, to state capitols across the country as the voice of the amateur and recreational users of public lands. The association has also formed working relationships with many other organizations fighting for private property rights and multiple use of public lands, including the Blue Ribbon Coalition as well as treasure hunters, metal detectorists, fishing and hunting enthusiasts, and mining and timber interests.

ALAA is there when there are confrontations in the field and when proposals are made for expanding federal ownership of land—such as the Heritage Corridor Act and other attempts to establish additional wilderness areas under federal control.

ALAA is a 501(c)(4)(non-profit) organization, which means that all moneys raised by the association can legally go toward lobbying activity. Donations and memberships to ALAA are not tax-deductible.

Twinned Crystals 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. For the end of our review of the crystal systems we decided to look at twinned crystals.

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).

Crystals may be found individually, but they are more commonly found in groups. They may be randomly grouped, with no relation between crystals, they may grow in parallel, or they may be twinned. Twins occur when two or more crystals of the same mineral are inter-grown so that one half is an image of the other by reflection in a plane, or rotation about a axis (typically 180, 120, or 90 degrees). Not all crystals twin, but those that do tend to form rapidly.

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 Twinned minerals including examples of Contact, Reflection, Rotation, and Penetration twins. We got to hand examine specimens of Titanite (Sphene), Staurolite, Gypsum (Selenite), Rutile, Quartz, Epidote, Alexandrite, Mangan-Neptunite, Fluorite, Silver, Calcite, Pyromorphite, Wulfenite, Martite, Ferberite, Apatite, Celestite, Azurite, Stilbite, Thalite, Tourmaline, Diopside, Huebnerite, Danburite, Andradite, Prehnite, Apophyllite, and Kyanite (sorry if any of these are misspelled). Everyone who came had at least one example to share, so we had multiples of many of the species.

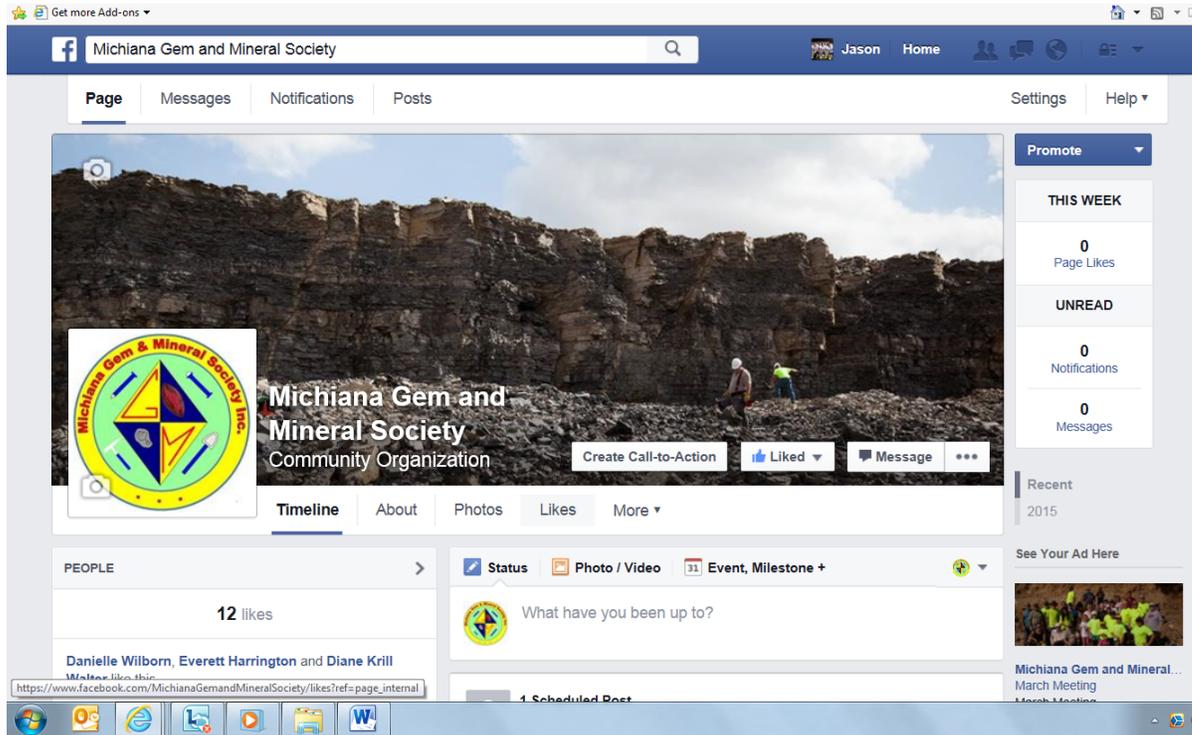
It is one thing to look at the pretty pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold a specimen and look at it thru a lens (feel the heft, shine a bright light on it, look at it under black light, etc.). And then look at another specimen of the same mineral (and 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 during our sharing.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, March 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 review physical identification techniques such as hardness, streak, specific gravity and other common tests for hand identification. The specimens you need to bring are the ones you are not sure about so we can try to identify them and get some practice with common tests.

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).

MGMS Internet Presence by Jason Hefner

Danielle Wilborn is taking over the Club's Facebook page. Please get on Facebook and like the page. Send the page to friends and ask them to like the page as well. The more people the like our page the more "visible" it becomes on Facebook and the more people will see the page. This should lead to more visitors and more members!! Just take a peek at the new page.



When was the last time you went to our website? Do you remember the address? It is www.michianagms.org Simply click on the link (blue underlined web address) to the left and take a look. Check out the "Members area" it is awesome. Our thanks to Joe Perry for being our webmaster.



Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

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Home

About Us

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.

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, a not-for-profit organization, is affiliated with the [Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#) and with the [American Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#).

As a club we welcome friends, families, anyone whom has an interest in the fields of geology, mineralogy, lapidary arts, or earth sciences in general. There is a little something for everyone.

Meetings

General meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of each month, 2:00 PM EST in the basement of [Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 805 S. 29th St., South Bend, IN](#). Doors open at 1:30 PM, use the Wall Street door. Program begins about 2:45 PM. Guests are always welcome.