

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



April 2015 Volume 55 Number 4

**Next Meeting 04/26**

THE  
ROCKFINDER



# THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 55 Number 4  
April 2015

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](http://www.MichianaGMS.org) is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/> and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies [www.amfed.org](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. This means that the due date for the March Issue will be February 5<sup>th</sup>. Advance items are appreciated. Material may be e-mailed to [hefner\\_family@hotmail.com](mailto:hefner_family@hotmail.com) or submitted via the U.S. Mail.

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

First of all, I want to thank Jason Hefner for arranging our little Spring Break trip to Kentucky. For those who didn't get the chance to attend, we met up with Steve Garza, a club friend from Corydon, Indiana. He is one of the most informed mineral collectors I have met, with a broad knowledge of the rock and mineral deposits of the neighboring states. He took us on a full day and a half of field collecting, seeking red pyrite, yellow fluorite, alabaster-filled geodes, crinoid and coral fossils, and calcite/quartz/dolomite filled vugs. We not only collected, but gained quite an education about the formation of these minerals, their history, and their relationship to the geology of the Midwest

During that trip, I learned something to pass along to others. We all have to pay close attention to our limitations due to age or infirmity. I am not a kid anymore, so I have to pay close attention to my breathing, heart rate, and aging joints. While collecting, we may not be paying enough attention to keeping ourselves safe and healthy.

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## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: April 26, 2015** Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 1:30. Meeting starts at 2:00.

### Place:

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
(29<sup>th</sup> & Wall)  
South Bend, IN.  
This is in River Park.

### Program:

### Refreshments:

Bob & Pat Bell  
Diane Gram  
Phyllis Smallwood  
Everett Harrington  
and Celia Mason

## Board of Directors

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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

Make sure you know your lifting limits, don't be brave (or stupid) trying to get to those attractive but dangerous to reach specimens. There are younger, healthier members in the club that would love to help you obtain that tempting sample. Pace yourselves, take a break, keep watch on one another for signs of overexertion or danger. We are all responsible for one another as members of our Club Family.

On another note, I have had a few inquiries about club shirts. Since John Davis has sent out the field trip itinerary, some have asked whether we can have shirts before the first digs in June. I will check with my production people to see if we can get some produced by the June digs. It may be possible to split our shirt order into two groups without an charge for second run. I won't guarantee anything, but will do what I can to try and satisfy those who need them quickly. Nonetheless, get your requests to me ASAP so that we can have our Club's production run scheduled in advance.

Lastly, I spoke with a couple who joined a few months ago, but have only attended one dig and have not returned since. They complained that they were approached by a few members who wanted to sell them some specimens and supplies. I explained that these members were probably trying to be helpful to new members, and their offers were misinterpreted. This makes me wonder if we should have some sort of "classifieds" listing on our website or in the Rockfinder. We could offer up our unneeded specimens, supplies, or hardware or even post our needs for others to fill. I think this may be a useful tool that would help members offer their wares without making some newer members feel pressured. If anyone thinks this would be helpful, please let me know what you think.

As always, keep me informed of how I can improve my performance as President, or things that could be of benefit to our Club as a whole.

Collect safely everyone...Bill

## Kentucky Trip Report by Jason Hefner, Editor

Attached to this issue is a field trip report.

## March 2015 Meeting Minutes by Jan Pellus, Secretary

**Members in attendance / Adults\_48\_\_ Children\_\_4\_\_ Guest\_3\_\_**

**Call to Order:** President Bill Foreman

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Continued on next Page

# March 2015 Meeting Minutes

Continued from previous page

## Welcome

**Secretary 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

**Liaison report:** Bob Bell / There is a list of upcoming 2015 rock shows at the front table. March 28 there will be a show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Parliamentarian:** Bob Miller / No Report

Midwest Federation- The MF meeting will be in Wheaton, IL on Memorial day weekend.

American Federation- The AF meeting will be in Austin, Texas in July.

**American Lands Access:** Tom Noe / No Report

## Committee Reports

**Displays:** Mike Skoczylas / A guest, Mr. Weeks, brought his collection to sell. John Davis brought some geode samples, and Jesse Zeiger brought some shatter cone examples.

**Editor:** Jason Hefner / If you have not received your copy of the Rockfinder, please be sure we have your correct address in the membership files. We had a couple returned because of wrong addresses.

**Educational:** Jesse Zeiger / No Report

**Face Book:** Danielle Wilborn / We are working with SB150. If you have any ideas, please contact me.

**Field Trips:** John Davis / MSHA class will be April 25 starting at 10:00am. We'll have a "carry in" for lunch. Sign-up sheets are available at the front table. If you plan on going on field trips, you must have MSHA certification. Jason Hefner has a field trip planned for March 28, to Kentucky and southern Indiana to collect minerals and geodes.

**Historian:** Ed Miller / Ed brought a copy of "Stone Crazy" for door prize. He recommends checking the Roadside Geology of Indiana for collecting sites. He also mentioned that Michigan has a website for Michigan state mineral puzzles.

**Hospitality:** Linda Miller & Marsha Miller / Thank you for the refreshments to Holly and Dennis Krafter, Jesse and Lynn Zeiger, Betty and Allen Gearhart, and Carolyn Gargis.

**Juniors:** Trista McIntosh / In Trista's absence, Diane Gram worked with the juniors on an activity from juniors activity book. Please sign up to help Trista with these activities.

**Librarian:** Bill Foreman / Several DVDs have been donated to the library by Everett Harrington.

**Membership:** Nancy Foreman and Jennifer Thompson / There are 48 adult members, 4 juniors, and 3 guests in attendance. Welcome guests, Mr. Weeks, Betty and Herman Kersey.

**Programs:** /No Report

**Publicity:** Nick Pellus /No Report

**Safety:** Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger /MSHA class will outline safety measures that must be observed when collecting in the field. Safety gear should include helmets, boots, and safety green or orange shirts.

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## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### A Word from the President

by Marion Roberts,

president excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 68, Number 5 – April, 2015](#)

Hello to everyone across our country. I know that almost every state has experienced cold, snowy, icy and nasty weather and I do hope that all of you are safe, comfortable and well.

I also hope that no one else had to go through the serious bronchitis and infection Vivien and I both had this past month. I was down for about three weeks and Vivien a bit over a week. It was no fun at all!

We are both back in fair shape and getting better daily. If anyone else is having problems, we wish for your speedy recovery. I have, for a long time wanted to meet the individual who came up with the terminology "golden years" because I am very sure he did not see 80 years old. My golden years were a long time ago.

In the past year or so we have received a lot of new and different club bulletins. Some have come by e-mail and others as hard copy. Each has proven to be very interesting in many ways with the most interesting to me the realization that every club seems to have similar goals, many have different ways of achieving them.

Click on the link above to be taken to the rest of the article

## Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### 2015 MWF's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silent

**Auction** by Susan Stanforth, Silent Auction Chairman excerpted from

[MWF News March - Issue No. 540](#)

I am so very excited, enthused, and pleased as punch to be chairing the MWF Silent Auction on Sunday, May 24th at the CGMA show in Wheaton, IL. But no matter how happy I am to help with this, your donations make or break it. SO ... I hope you can donate a worthy specimen or two. I hope you will ask the members of your club to provide auction materials.

If you live close by (northern Illinois or southern Wisconsin), call me and I will be glad to pick them up. I also attend most of the mineral shows in the area, so call me at 815.229.4009 or e-mail me at [sstanforth123@yahoo.com](mailto:sstanforth123@yahoo.com) to make arrangements for a handoff. Or, you can mail them via priority flat rate mail to S. Stanforth, 850 Palau Pkwy., Rockford, Illinois 61108. You can also just bring them to the show and drop them off. It would be helpful to have the bid sheets filled out. They can be found on the MWF website.

I will be forever grateful for your contributions. Stop by the Silent Auction booth at the show so I can personally thank you.



#### 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](http://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](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)

## Upcoming Events April

**18-19—DECATUR, ILLINOIS:** Annual show; Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club, Progress City - Lester Building; One College Park; Sat. 9 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-4 pm; Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Students under 15 are free, Children are free; The 64th Annual Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show will be April 18-19th at a new location this year! The show will be at the Lester Building in Progress City, north of the campus of Richland Community College, in Decatur, from 9 am to 6 pm on Saturday, and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Merchants will showcase jewelry, gemstones, beads, fossils and mineral specimens, along with demonstrations and exhibits. Free activities for kids include a fossil dig and silent auctions will run all weekend. Admission is \$5.00, and is good both days. Seniors 59 and up are \$3.00 Children under 15 are FREE and military persons in uniform are free. Parking is FREE. For information call 217-233-1164 or [cigmc@comcast.net](mailto:cigmc@comcast.net); contact Tony Kapta, 1483 E Wood St, Decatur, IL 62521, (217) 233-1164; e-mail: [cigmc@comcast.net](mailto:cigmc@comcast.net); Web site: [www.cigmc.earthinsync.com](http://www.cigmc.earthinsync.com)

**21-23—IRVINE, KENTUCKY:** Annual Kentucky Agate Hunt; Mountain Mushroom Festival, Estell County School's Central Office Gym; 253 Main St.; Tue. 9-4, Wed. 9-4, Thu. 9-4; \$10 per day; all-day Kentucky agate hunt, easy- or rough-terrain trips each day; contact Francine Bonny, Irvine City Hall, 101 Chestnut St., Irvine, KY 40336, (606) 723-1233; e-mail: [mushroomfestival@irvineonline.com](mailto:mushroomfestival@irvineonline.com); Web site: [www.mountainmushroomfestival.org](http://www.mountainmushroomfestival.org)

**24-26—IRVINE, KENTUCKY:** Annual show; Mountain Mushroom Festival, Agate, Gem & Mineral Show

**25-26—TROY, OHIO:** Annual show; Brukner Gem & Mineral Club, Miami County Fairgrounds; 650 N. Co. Road 25A; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, students and children free; dealers, grab bags, demonstrations, gold panning demonstrations, gem sluice, crystals, jewelry, rocks, fossils, silent auction; contact Judy Burton, 912 Kent Lane, Troy, OH 45373, (937) 339-1966; e-mail: [jleeburton@woh.rr.com](mailto:jleeburton@woh.rr.com); Web site: [www.bruknergemandmineralclub.com](http://www.bruknergemandmineralclub.com)

**25-26—CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO:** Semi-annual show; Akron Mineral Society, Summit Lapidary Club, Emidio & Sons Expo Center; 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors and students \$4, children (under 6) and Scouts in uniform free; 30 dealers, geodes, minerals, jewelry, beads, findings, slab material, lapidary equipment, silversmith work, gold findings, children's activities, gem tree making, gem mine, kaleidoscope, treasure hunt, demonstrations, gem ID, wire wrapping, cutting and polishing stones, faceting, displays, Ohio flint, member projects, Geo Juniors displays, silent auction, door prizes; contact Joyce Kish, 3014 Clarkmill Rd., Norton, OH 44203, (330) 753-7081; e-mail: [gemboree@outlook.com](mailto:gemboree@outlook.com)

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## March 2015 Meeting Minutes

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**Show Chair:** John Davis & Joe Perry /John stated that the contract for the fairgrounds is not ready, but we have the site reserved. Joe reported that 7 dealer contracts have been returned. Todd Miller will be in charge of display cases this year.

**Sunshine:** - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / No Report

**Webmaster:** Joe Perry /Please be sure we have correct address information.

### Old Business

Samples of club tee shirts and hoodies are on the display table. Please check them out. A sign-up sheet is available to order them.

Ed Miller reminded the members that we are all club ambassadors. We need to share our time and knowledge with the public.

### New Business

**Adjournment – Motion made and seconded**

**Program: Rocks in our Gardens by Lynn and Jesse Zieger**

**Next Meeting: April 26**

## How the Silent Auction at Our Annual Club Show Works

By Tom Noe, member

The August MGMS show at the County Fairgrounds is our big fundraising effort of the year, and the silent auction is part of that. The club treasury receives a percentage of the price of all items that are sold or auctioned off—20% of the price for items from club members, and 50% for items from nonmembers. So, members will take home 80% of the selling price, and nonmembers 50%. The auction is an easy way you can pass along rock-related items that you don't use or don't want in your collection anymore.

How does it work? The silent auction runs throughout the three days of the show. Bring your rock-related items to the auction table anytime, but the earlier the better. Machinery is always very welcome. It's also very helpful if your specimens are identified by location and type of rock (something like "petrified wood from Oregon" because "brown rock from my basement" just isn't as helpful).

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# Two Pennsylvania Collecting Sites Closed

Excerpted from: Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Newsletter (March, 2015)  
By Scott Peters

First, **Rossville malachite/azurite location in northern York County, Pennsylvania**, well-known to collectors and well-advertised in books and articles, has become dangerous due to overcollecting. **IF ANYONE IS SEEN AT THE SITE, THE OWNERS WILL NOTIFY PROPER AUTHORITIES.**

Second, the **St. Clair, Pennsylvania fern fossil location is now closed to collecting.** A representative for the owners said “overzealous collectors began bringing in power tools to collect, posting their trips and selling the fossils via the internet.” The owners will prosecute any individuals they find collecting on their property.

Please do not attempt to collect at these locations unless you receive express (current written) permission from the owners of these properties. You will risk prosecution and may cause the loss of any possibility of reopening these sites.

If you know of any other collecting sites that have been closed, or are in danger of closing, or any laws that may restrict our collecting activities, please email me at: [slipgapdms@aol.com](mailto:slipgapdms@aol.com). I will pass the information on in future EFMLS Newsletters and also via ALAA website [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org) and Facebook [www.facebook.com/American-Lands-Access-Association](http://www.facebook.com/American-Lands-Access-Association).

## How the Silent Auction at Our Annual Club Show Works

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You have two options: consign them to be auctioned off or sell them for a flat fee. You set the price yourself, in consultation with the staff. You can pick the price the auction will start at, and your item might bring more than that price. Or, you can pick a firm selling price, and whoever gets there first can buy it at that price. You can also leave all the pricing decisions up to the staff.

Another option is to donate your items to the club via the silent auction. Then 100% of the selling price goes into the club treasury. Or, you can sell some for yourself and donate the rest to the club—we're flexible!

If you have a lot of items and no way to move them, contact me *ahead of time* and we'll figure out something. You must pick up your unsold items at the close of the show on Sunday, unless you make other arrangements. You'll receive a check with your proceeds a few weeks later.

Also, stop by the silent auction and bid! Even if you're outbid, it adds money to the club treasury because the final price of the item ends up higher.

The silent auction table will be in a different place this year, but it's always a busy place once the people start coming in. This year we'll have plenty of space and we're never too busy for your items. Bring 'em in!

Contact me if you have any questions or if you want to spend a few hours as part of our courteous, bright-eyed and good-looking staff: [tomnoe2@gmail.com](mailto:tomnoe2@gmail.com) or 574-289-2028. See you at the show!

# MSHA, MSHA, MSHA

by Jason Hefner, Editor

**I cannot stress how important it is for you to take an MSHA safety class.** If you want to go on collecting trips, most (95 %+ ) places require you to take the MSHA class. John Davis has been able to line up an instructor for us again to take the class at our normal meeting place. The details are below.

## **SOUTH BEND, INDIANA - SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2015**

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society of South Bend, IN will be hosting a MSHA class this year. The class will be instructed by Joel Vicary on Saturday April 25th, 2015 from 10am to 4pm. An instruction book is included in the course. The cost of the course is \$30 if you don't have a book, \$15 if you have the book. The location is, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 805 S. 29th St. South Bend, IN.

## **Physical Identification** by Kreigh Tomaszewski

A mineral is usually defined as a naturally occurring inorganic solid with a definite chemical composition and a definite crystalline structure. 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). This month we looked at some of the identification methods involving physical properties of minerals.

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. We really do learn from each other (but you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated). This month people brought specimens they were not sure about and we tried to identify them.

Crystal forms are one physical property we recently studied. This month we looked at other tests of physical properties. Streak is the identification of a mineral by the color it has when powdered. Taking silver hematite and rubbing it on a porcelain streak plate gives a characteristic red color. Hardness is also useful, and we had a Moh's hardness kit so everyone could learn to test and identify hardness to a half step. This is one of those skills best learned by doing.

We had a black light, and a geiger counter. We talked about flame chemistry and what you could do with a bunsen burner, a blowpipe, and a few common chemicals. You get a hint or this when you spill salty water while cooking and the flame under your pot turns yellow from the sodium. We even tested for specific gravity and got results that were close enough to be useful in mineral identification.

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 -- people came with specimens they were unsure about.

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# Physical Identification

by Kreigh Tomaszewski

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 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 start working thru the Moh's hardness scale, beginning with minerals having a hardness of 1 to 1 1/2.

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).

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). Hope you can join us for the next meeting and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated.

## Upcoming Events

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### MAY

**1-3—KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN:** Annual show; Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society, Kalamazoo County Expo Centre; 2900 Lake St.; Fri. 4:00 pm-8:00 pm, Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm; Admission = \$3, Children under 12 free; 15 dealers, crystals, lapidary tools, rocks, slabs, minerals, jewelry, beads, cabochons, agates and meteorites. Demonstrators in silver smithing, faceting, beading and wire-wrapping. Show includes geode cracking, informational displays, silent auctions, specimen tables, mineral mine, free Petoskey stone polishing, participation from WMU and the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society, hourly door prizes and a grand prize drawing. Great family fun and learning for everyone from youth to senior!! Proceeds go to scholarships for WMU Geology students.; contact Jerry VanNocker, (269) 979 3348; e-mail: [jerry@travelinginspain.com](mailto:jerry@travelinginspain.com); Web site: [KalamazooRockClub.org](http://KalamazooRockClub.org)

**2-3—CINCINNATI, OHIO:** Wholesale and retail show; Cincinnati Mineral Society, Sharonville Convention Center; 11355 Chester Road; Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$9.00, Children \$3.00; \$2 off admission coupon available at [www.geofair.com](http://www.geofair.com); contact Bill Heimbrock, OH; e-mail: [billheim@cinci.rr.com](mailto:billheim@cinci.rr.com); Web site: [www.geofair.com](http://www.geofair.com)

**16-17—NORTH OLMSTED, OHIO:** Show and sale; Parma Lapidary Club, Soccer Sportsplex; 31515 Lorain Rd.; Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Admission \$6.00, Children under 12, and Scouts in uniform Free!; Demonstrations, Kid's Corner, Chinese/Silent Auction, Exhibits Free Parking; contact Martha Lamparyk, 1012 Chippewa Street, Grafton, OH 44044, (440) 926-3680; e-mail: [jmlampa@gmail.com](mailto:jmlampa@gmail.com)

**23-24—WHEATON, ILLINOIS:** Wholesale and retail show; Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association (CGMA), DuPage County Fairgrounds; 2015 W. Manchester Rd.; Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm; Adults \$5, Seniors age 60+ \$3, Students ages 13-17 \$13, Children ages 12 and under FREE; 39th Annual Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association (CGMA) Show and 75th Anniversary Convention of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies hosted by seven Chicagoland area clubs — More than 30 nationally known dealers, amazing exhibits by museums and private collectors, guest speakers, lapidary demonstrations, silent auctions, door prizes, and Kids' Room. Wholesale room (requires current state tax ID) open till 3 p.m. Sun. Special tours to Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art and Wheaton College – Home of the Mastodon. Shop for rocks, gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, handmade jewelry, beads, tools and supplies, books, findings, and more. See live demonstrations of gold panning, geode cracking, jewelry making, opal cutting, metalsmithing, glass fusing, wire-wrapping, fossil preparation, cabochon making, faceting, and more. Air-conditioned. Food available. Camping. Free parking. ; contact Jeanine N. Mielecki, (312) 623-1554; e-mail: [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com); Web site: [www.chicagolandgemshow.org](http://www.chicagolandgemshow.org)

**29-31—WAUSEON, OHIO:** Annual show; State Line Gem & Mineral Society, Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair Building; 8514 SR 108; Fri. 12:00 pm-7:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-7:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-4:00 pm; Adults \$3.00, Seniors \$2.00, Children under 12 free; contact Doris Brzezicki, 419 N Broad St, Adrian, MI 49221, (517) 263-1669; e-mail: [rychard@tc3net.com](mailto:rychard@tc3net.com); Web site: [statelinegms.com](http://statelinegms.com)

## Spring Break 2015 by Jason Hefner, photos by Jason Hefner, Editor MGMS

On Saturday & Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> a group of people from the club meet up with Steve Garza in Kentucky. We spent the days climbing road cuts and walking over hills and valleys to collect the treasures lying at our feet or in a wall next to us. Some simply walked around picking up what nature had already provided, while other spent considerable time prying specimens out of the rock. We found beautiful geodes (some fluorescent) containing quartz, alabaster, and selenite. Hopefully one of the unbroken ones will contain aragonite! At one spot we literally picked up bucket loads of crinoid stems along with, bivalves, horn corals, etc. Another locale had huge coral heads that easily exceeded 300 pounds. The largest coral head collected was about 100 pounds walked back to the truck by my intrepid 16 year old. We found yellow fluorite crystals at one spot and red pyrite at another. There was so much to see and learn. Steve took the time to explain how he found the locations and what makes them special. He explained the geology and local history making for a mildly refrigerated trip. (If you know Steve you get the reference). If you're like me you want to see the pictures and not read about the trip, so enjoy the photos below.



An early (and cold) start in Kentucky



Top of the world!



Lots of geodes in matrix!



Corals.....**BIG** Corals



Alabaster geode collecting....for the young and in shape.



This glows a dark pink under shortwave. Others glow yellow and orange. I have yet to get a good picture under shortwave UV though.



Lots of pretty (wife's term) quartz geodes.



Echinoderm (?) fossil



Geode with calcite inclusions. Main portion of geode is fluorescent!



Literally handfuls of crinoids.