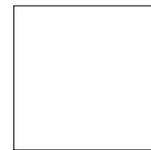


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Jason Hefner, Editor
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524



September 2015 Volume 55 Number 6

Next Meeting 09/27

THE
ROCKFINDER

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

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

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S. 29th St.,
South Bend, IN.
Please see the map to the right.

Doors usually open at 1:30 for meet & greet time.

Regular meeting exceptions include May (third Sunday), July (Club Picnic), August (Club Show) and the November/December meeting and Christmas party.

Board meetings are held before the monthly meetings. The annual club show is in late August.



DUES

Yearly Membership Dues are payable by December 15th of each year. Please choose type of membership below.

- Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00
- Junior \$1.00 Subscriber \$7.50

Please indicate areas of special interest.

- General Geology Gems & Minerals
- Fossils Micro mounts
- Crystals Field Trips
- Cabochons Faceting
- Carving Beads
- Jewelry Making

Name(s) _____
 Street _____
 City, ST, Zip _____
 Phone(s) _____
 Email _____

Please send your dues and the bottom half of this form to:



Please read and sign this section

With my signature I hereby release the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., and its individual members and the owners of any premises upon which I enter under permit granted to the society, absolutely free of any liability whatsoever, to my person or property, and further I will respect the equipment and property of the aforesaid owners.

Signed _____ Date _____
 Signed _____ Date _____

Family Information:

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

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

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 55 Number 6
September 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 is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies <http://www.amfed.org/mw/> 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.



President's Message - President Bill Foreman

Well, summer is about over and winter is coming up quick...our family has been trying to clean up, sort, and store everything we have collected through the spring and summer. Everything from small little fossilized crinoids to hundred-pound shattercones need to be packed up and stored away to work on over the winter season. Wish I had the resolve to high-grade better and work on one batch before I bring home another, but, you know, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak!

My personal thank-you goes out to all those dedicated members who put in their effort into working this year's annual Show and Sale. Responses from the vendors were all very positive, turnout was great, we will be tallying up all the numbers for the September meeting. Aside from a few small speed bumps, I feel this was a very successful show. Credit should be given to John Davis (Show Chairman), as vendors were very pleased with the early set-up times. I received several positive comments from vendors about the quality of the new display cases we are using as well as the small changes in layout that seemed to make a big impact
Continued on Page 2

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: September 27, 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:

Refreshments after program

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: Danielle Wilborn
574-344-3385

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: Bill Foreman
574-233-9178

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

Thanks also to Joe Perry, Tom Noe and Josh Armstrong (and their crew) at the Silent Auction, all the Demonstrators, Kitchen Crew, and all those that came in Club shirts to show their support. Active members make for a successful show and a healthy club. Next year's show welcoming the Midwest Federation will require the effort of all to make it a memorable event.

If you didn't make it to the Corydon Quarry dig, you missed out on the biggest turnout I have yet seen for a quarry event. I estimate at least 50 people if not more from more than a half-dozen clubs attended. We had to split into two groups, one at each site, to accommodate everyone. Nancy and I found pink dolomite, great calcite specimens as well as some fluorite, pyrite, and brachiopods. Some folks scored some huge, dogtooth calcite filled vugs lined with dolomite. I found one boulder with at least a dozen pink dolomite/calcite vugs from six inches to almost eighteen inches in length. These would not be removeable without lots of effort and maybe nitroglycerine, but the pieces I brought home made the trip more that worthwhile. Weather turned out great and even those who have never hunted in a quarry before found some great specimens.

We have been getting a lot of request from local school systems for speakers and demonstrators for upcoming events. They are looking for people to speak on or demonstrate anything mineralogy related, from field collecting to cab grinding, jewelry making to road trips for fee digs. I have volunteered for a couple spots but I will have to take off time from work to do it. Anyone that has a skill or interest in rocks and minerals, no matter how slight, should think about giving some time to these school requests. Catching these young people at the right time and stoking their embers of interest will pay off in the long run...this is the future of the hobby. We must find a way to make what we do relevant to a new generation of hobbyists. Sometimes we forget what it was like to be a kid and find that first geode or fossil and experience that excitement of discovery. Our club needs to be able to feed into that "buzz" and provide them with our knowledge and experience, fanning that fire before the world can extinguish it. Think about it, what do you bring to the club that might benefit others? Everyone has a skill or morsel of information that is vital to someone else.

Continued next page

President's Message Continued from previous page

Long story short, ask not what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club!
Thanks for listening, and thanks for everyone's' assistance in making my job easier...

-Bill

August 2015 Meeting Minutes by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Brief business meeting at picnic called to order by Bill Foreman, president.

New business:

John Davis, show chairman, reminded the members that the rock show will be on August 21 through 23. Dealers will be able to set up on Thursday between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm. We will be setting up tables Thursday morning at 9:00 am. Please help if you can. John has display cases for anyone who needs one. The show will open at 12:00 pm. Please help where needed. There are open spots at the entry table and kids' corner. There is a sign-up sheet for dishes to share. This is our show. Let's make it great!

Bill and Nancy Foreman introduced E Bear, the Midwest Federation traveling bear. He's been rock hunting with Bill, Nancy, and Danielle.

There are still a few emails that are being returned for bad addresses.

Please bring specimens for giveaway bags.

Let's have a great show.

New Regulations Defined for Fossil Collecting in National Forests excerpted from April-June 2015 ALAA Newsletter

Below is a link to the *ALAA Newsletter* for April-June, 2015. The rules and regulations for collecting fossils on US National Forest-managed lands have had significant changes, effective May 18, 2015. John Martin (of ALAA's Conservation and Legislation Committee) has done a really spectacular job of summarizing the new regulations in readable form. An excerpt would not do justice to the information he summarizes for us, so it's better to point you to the complete article and let you read it yourself. It's several pages of very important information for those who want to do casual collecting of fossils in our national forests. The article starts on page 5 and you can find the issue via this link: http://www.amlands.org/media//DIR_24612/DIR_402734/58269c7954016a5ffff81c3ffffe904.pdf. OR (maybe easier to manage) you can just go to www.Amlands.org, click on "Newsletters" on the left, then click on "April-June, 2015."

—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.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

A Word from the President

by Marion Roberts,
president excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 68, Number 6 – September, 2015](#)

A hardy hello to everyone. I hope your summer endeavors have all been successful and enjoyable. I can say that all of our visits to regional Federation meetings have all been very educational and fun. Everyone has been generously hospitable, making each visit a great experience.

Our stay in Cody for the Rocky Mountain Federation meeting was in a hotel that was built by William Cody and named after his daughter Irma. I was rather impressed with a building or hotel built in the 1870's, but Vivien was not as impressed since there was no elevator, micro wave, or refrigerator, but the rest of the facility, including the restaurant was very unique.

The meetings were again very interesting to me and brought out some of the short comings that I have seen in essentially all of the Federation's operations. The one most obvious is the leadership process. I am well aware that this is not an easy thing to do or correct, but it must be done. We need to start with the selection of the nomination committees.

Continued next page

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

President's Message

by James Marburger, President
excerpted from [MWF News September 2015 - Issue No. 544](#)

Hot, hot, hot. Did I say it was hot this summer? Here in Nebraska the rains came along with the hot weather to make it hot and humid, a bad combination. We have had great rains that pushed our river systems to near record flooding on some. This has been good since many of these rivers have not had a good flush for a long time. Yes, it does cause some damage but for us rock hounds, it opens up many opportunities to find treasures. I have not had a chance to go but, those who have are reporting great finds. Even our park systems' day camps for the youth had a great find while studying a stream in the park. It was a large mastodon tooth that the flood a week earlier had washed out of the bank. Now with fall in the air, maybe more field trips will happen without the fear of heat stroke.

Our Federation hosted a judging class in St. Louis, Missouri in August. It was open to other Federations as a good training for more judges. Now we should be able to provide judges for competition in the future for the shows. Please consider having competition displays at your local show. This will help with the quality of cases and interest for the public at your show.

The Fall meeting of the Midwest Federation this year is planned for September 19 and 20 in Livingston, Michigan. Please plan on attending if possible. They have been working very hard to provide an interesting show. It will be fun to see another show and share the experience with others.

Continued on next page



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

2-4—INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA: Annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Agriculture/Horticulture Bldg.; 1202 E. 38th St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5 (3-day pass), children (under 16) free; beads, pearls, gemstones, gem trees, wire wrapping, wire sculpture, silversmiths and goldsmiths, custom work and repairs while you wait, door prizes, classes available, Western jewelry; contact Van Wimmer, Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com

3-4—SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS: Annual show; Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, Illinois Building; IL State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave; Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$2.00, Seniors \$1.00, Children are Free; Mineral, fossil, gem, jewelry, geode and used equipment dealers, club member and special exhibits, live demonstrations, concessions stand, silent auction, spin and win and kid's activities, gem flume and outdoor swap; contact Ed Wagner, (309) 838-7782; e-mail: loesseditor@gmail.com; Web site: Facebook us

9-11—WARREN, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Michigan Mineralogical Society, Macomb Community College ; 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd, S. Campus Expo Center; Fri. 9:00 am-6:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-7:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$8, Seniors +62 \$5, Children ages 5-17 \$4; The 71st Annual Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show, presents one of the largest collection of gems, minerals, & fossils in the Midwest. mydirtypawdog@yahoo.com ; contact Patricia Graves-Wesolosky, 1151 Yule Rd, Leonard, MI 48367; e-mail: mmsgeograves@hotmail.com; Web site: www.michmin.org

16-18—FORT WAYNE, INDIANA: Annual show; Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society, Allen County Fairgrounds; 2726 Carroll Road; Fri. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$5.00, Seniors \$3.00, Students \$1.00, Children 12 and under free; Attractions: gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry dealers, lapidary arts demonstrations, Viking Knit classes, exhibits, geode cracker, gem sluice, kid's games, door prizes, silent auction, fluorescence room, touch 'n feel table, mineral ID, speakers (Saturday.) ; contact Russell Greim, 7619 Co. Rd. 68, Spencerville, IN 46788, (260) 403-0450; e-mail: 3riversshow@gmail.com; Web site: http://members.tripod.com/3riversgem_mineral/

A Word from the President by Marion Roberts from previous page

This group of people should be willing to screen the candidates for willingness and ability to put the time and accept the full responsibilities of the position. Just remember the adage; a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. This is so true, even in an organization leadership.

My point at this juncture is to be very selective of your nominating committee. Now, this committee cannot do it alone. It will be necessary for them to have the help of the leadership of the local societies or clubs to inform the regional and national nomination committees of these people that have proven themselves capable leaders. There is no thought in any of our minds that every local society has leadership quality people. The reverse is essential as well, the regionals have rosters to refer to for making contacts.

WOW! What does this do but take us right back to communication. If you have heard this enough times now, just do it and I will stop repeating it.

I think I have given you enough to think about and I hope to practice what I preach, so for this time around, have a great month and I will bore you a little more down the road.

President's Message from previous page

Many clubs are working on their shows for the fall; please include them in your late year's travels.

If you have any interest in helping your Federation by becoming active in its direction and sharing items with others, please step up and let it be known. We have positions and committees needing people to lead them. Remember a little help goes a long way and it is very fun to be a part of the club. I hope to see some of you at the shows this fall.

The National Gem and Mineral Show this year is in Austin, Texas on October 23-25. The Austin Gem and Mineral Society is planning a great show. Many meetings are planned, including the Uniform Rules Committee, ALAA, and S.C.R.I.B.E. Don't forget about the Awards' Banquet and Editors' & Webmasters' Breakfast.

Moh's Scale 2-2.5 by Kreigh Tomaszewski

Hardness is a very useful attribute to help with mineral identification. 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 are currently looking at minerals by hardness. At our last meeting we looked at minerals with a hardness of 2 to 2.5 on the Moh's scale.

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 we had one or more specimens of Galena, Wulfenite, Gold, Copper, Selenite, Muscovite, Silver, Stilbite, Chrysocolla, Chlorite, Sulphur, Anglesite, Cinnabar, Linerite, Accanthite, Bournonite, Torburnite, Clinocllore, Autunite, Pyragyrite, Kaolinite, Halite, Hydrozincite, Bismuthinite, Gyrolite, Chalcanthite, Carnotite, Tyuyamunite, Andersonite, Uranophane, Metatyuyamunite, copper/silver 'halfbreed', proustite, bismuth, Satin Spar, Sylvite, Gibbsite, Halite on Trona, Aurichalcite, brucite, Cyanotrichite, Chalcanthite, Caledonite, Lepidolite, Biotite, Phlogopite, Fuchsite, Melanterite, Clinoclase, Devilline (?), Lamprophyllite, Crocoite, Palygorskite, Erythrite, Coquimbite, Amber, Artinite, and Vivianite. It was a pretty amazing collection of minerals to pass around the table.

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.

NO MINERAL STUDY GROUP MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 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 continue working thru the Moh's hardness scale, looking at minerals having a hardness of 3 to 3 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 soft 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.

2015 Club show review by Jason Hefner, Editor

On the next 2 pages are just a few of the highlights from this year's show. John Davis, Show Chairman reports a great turnout and most vendors reporting very good sales. I personally was told by many people that they thought the show was great. The kids all loved the displays, silent auction, and kids' corner. Here are some photos.



Saturday was very busy



A young girl enjoying the flume where you can find treasures!

Continued next page



Everyone loved the Jurassic Park displays. What a way to bring in the public and then show them real dinosaur fossils and tell them about paleontology.



Our demonstrators seemed swamped at times. This was before opening "the calm before the storm"



Even our Junior members helped man a booth. In this case preparing for the kids at the Kids Corner.