

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



February 2016 Volume 56 Number 2

Next Meeting 02/28

THE ROCKFINDER

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Volume 56 Number 2
February 2016

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/mwf/> 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 everyone!

While spending some unexpected time in the hospital, I had a chance to catch up on reading that I got behind on. I have two hobbies that I follow, geology and astronomy. They always seemed two separate and distinct things with little in common, one dealing with close-up and familiar stuff (rocks, minerals, mountains, etc.) and the other more distant and difficult to observe (stars, planets, asteroids). After some research, it seemed that the distinction between the two is artificial and arbitrary.

All objects we can observe are made up of materials that came from the earliest, supermassive stars that lived and died billions of years ago. These unstable stars had relatively short lives, and when they exploded in their death throes scattered those heavy metallic materials that coalesced into the more familiar planets and stars we can observe.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: February 28, 2016 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: Minerals
Rick Strapple

Host & Hostess(s) : Trista McIntosh, Nick & Jan Pellus, Randy & Joan Hill, Norma Cherry, and Al Alstott

Board of Directors

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574-233-9178

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Programs: Kathy Miller (Interim)
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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

We are all indeed "star dust". The same techniques that modern geologists use today to probe the composition of the earth and learn where to find valuable minerals and rare-earth elements are essentially the same ones that astronomers use to deduce the make-up of the other planets in our solar system. We even sent geologists to the Moon decades ago to seek specific types of minerals that could pinpoint the origin of our moon...we send rolling laboratories to Mars to drill stone and vaporize materials in an effort to figure out when and how liquid water existed on the planet.

John Davis is in the process of setting up our upcoming MSHA training class. For you newer members, the MSHA certificate program educates us about mine safety and hazard awareness when collecting at active quarries. We usually have several trips to quarries in Ohio and Indiana where we get to collect mineral specimens and fossils such as fluorite, dolomite, pyrite, calcite, trilobites, brachiopods, and more. To get the most out of your club membership you need to get your MSHA certificate...quarries and collecting areas across the nation are going to be requiring collectors to be certified. Emails will go out when the classes have been confirmed, so keep an eye on your inbox.

Many of the geological processes that created our Earth have occurred and are still taking place on all of the other celestial bodies in our Universe. The same science and mathematics that apply here in our solar system also apply to the far-flung ends of existence. This shows us that when we explore our own planet, we are actually probing the same mysteries that planetary scientists and exobiologists are working on. Have you ever wondered what kinds of materials we might find on these other planets? Would geodes exist on other planets that had liquid water like Earth at one time? Would we be able to prospect for large, gemmy crystals in pockets on asteroids? I would like to think that one day, one of our club members might pull out fossil plates from some distant planet. I know that seems far-fetched, but someone is going to make these discoveries if we continue to explore Space.

These two seemingly unrelated hobbies of mine now seem to be almost one-in-the-same. This drives home the importance of the study of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. These S.T.E.M. studies need to be introduced to our children and grandchildren in a way that ignites in them a passion to explore, whether it be the Cosmos, or our still unexplored oceans.

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President's Message Continued from page 2

The only way we can continue as a species is to understand the intricacies of our Universe and to protect and respect what we have, preserving nature for the generations yet to come, while still researching the Cosmos. We may become a starfaring people, taking the seed of Humanity beyond our planet to ensure our existence in the future.

Pardon my grandiose dreams of the future, but I believe that we as a species have an innate drive to discover and explore. The future will come whether we are prepared for it or not...I just hope that the following generations of pebble-pups and rockhounds get a good foundation in the S.T.E.M. studies so that they will be good Captains of Spaceship Earth.

On Saturday, February 6, many of these scientists-to-be will be flooding our Club table at Science Alive. Some kids will be there just for the cool rocks and giveaways, but in a good number of them the flame of learning burns. We should do whatever we can for these youngsters to fan that flame and hope it stays lit through those difficult high-school years. After all, they are the future.

Thanks for reading...

Bill Foreman (President, Michiana Gem and Mineral Society)

January 2016 Meeting Minutes by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Meeting Minutes Date: January 24 2016

Members in attendance / Adults 44 Children 9 Guest

Call to Order: President Bill Foreman

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

Secretary report: Jan Pellus / Rockfinder not available.

Treasurer's report: Marty Perry / Motion made and seconded to accept report

Liaison report: Bob Bell / No Report

Parliamentarian: Bob Miller / No Report

Midwest Federation/ Getting information for Midwest Federation show packets

American Federation/No Report

American Lands Access: Tom Noe / No Report. Bob Miller reminded the members to keep in touch with ALA to protect our rights to collect. Individuals can join the ALA.

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas / Thank you to John Jaworski and John Davis for specimens donated for Schmucker School.

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

AFMS Code of Ethics excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 69, Number 2 – December 2015](#)

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

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Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News President's Message by David Rich, MWF President, excerpted from [MWF News February 2016 - Issue No. 549](#)

Thanks to all the clubs who got their dues in on time. This helps our federation in many ways. Having our MWF membership numbers available is very important to our society.

I would like to encourage our member clubs in the MWF to join our friends at the American Land Access Association, or ALAA, ([amlands.org](#)). The AMFS created ALAA at the convention in Brunswick, Ohio in 1992. AFMS voted to establish ALAA for the following purpose: To promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting, 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. The last line is the best. We have very dedicated friends in ALAA who are working for us, to ensure our voice is heard. So head on over to [amlands.org](#).



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

19-21 February 2016: **GeoFest - Indianapolis, Indiana**

14th Annual Indiana State Museum Fossil, Gem & Mineral Show

Organized by: [Indiana State Museum](#)

Indiana State Museum (650 West Washington Street, Indianapolis)

5-6 March 2016: Wheaton, Illinois 2016 ESCONI Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Organized by: Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois

DuPage County Fairgrounds (2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton)

12 March 2016: Skokie, Illinois (Chicago area) 67th Annual Silent Auction of Rocks, Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Treasures

Organized by: Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society
St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Gymnasium (8013 Laramie Avenue, across street from the public library on Oakton)

18-20 March 2016: Jackson, Michigan Michigan Gem & Mineral Society 54th Annual Show

Organized by: Michigan Gem & Mineral Society
Theme: May the Quartz Be With You.
Jackson County Fairgrounds - American One Event Center (200 West Ganson Street)

29 April - 1 May 2016: Kalamazoo, Michigan 57th Annual Rock, Gem, Fossil, Jewelry & Mineral Show

Organized by: Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society
Theme: Dinosaurs Will Rule.
Kalamazoo County Expo Center (2900 Lake Street)

January Minutes excerpted from the internet

Editor: Jason Hefner /Sorry the Rockfinder for December is late. MSHA class will be held on March 5. Must have training for collecting. Dennis and Jason will be the trainers.

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / No Report

Face Book: Danielle Wilborn / Facebook and Twitter are growing. Buchanan Art Center show will be soon. Please contact Danielle.

Field Trips: John Davis /No Report

Historian: Ed Miller / Ed has retired from the historian position. Need a volunteer to take over. Thank you Ed.

Hospitality: Linda Miller & Marsha Miller /Thank you for the refreshments to John Jaworski, Stan and Marcia Jacobs. Please remember to bring snacks to share when you sign up.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh / Juniors will be helping to stuff bags for Science Alive.

Librarian: Bill Foreman /Would like to have a volunteer to take over this position so that I can devote my time to being president.

Membership: Nancy Foreman and Jennifer Thompson / Tees for show are still available. There are also a few tees for members available. See Nancy. HAPPY BIRTHDAY NANCY!

Programs: / Several members have volunteered to provide programs in the coming months.

Publicity: Nick Pellus / No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger /No Report

Show Chair: John Davis & Joe Perry /Packets for show vendors will be sent soon.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Sympathy card for Bob Heinek, Lois Krillenberger (Jesse Zieger's mom), and Neil Silver (Pam Rubenstien's father). Get Well card to Bill Foreman.

Webmaster: Joe Perry /The 2016 calendar has been posted.

Old Business

The board of directors has passed the 2016 budget. Diane Gram is the new treasurer.

Please help with Science Alive if you can.

Dues must be paid to be listed in the club directory.

New Business

None

Will Rockhounds Still Have Access to Graveyard Point, McDermitt, Texas Springs, Davis Creek, etc.?

by Tom Noe MGMS member (Rep for ALAA)

The following sentence comes from the ALAA board minutes of October 24: "The sage grouse issue is still with us and that alone could shut down the lion's share of the West." The issue is that sage grouse and their nesting areas have to be protected, and federal regulators are now discussing which activities will be allowed on land that is considered sage grouse habitat (10 million acres). Will they allow camping in these public areas? Hiking? Rockhounding? As of now, rockhounding is NOT considered a recreational activity that will be allowed on these lands. Below are two paragraphs from a long letter that past ALAA President Shirley Leeson wrote to BLM officials in DC:

"Many of the areas that will be impacted are located in SW Idaho, SE Oregon and N Nevada, but also SC Idaho and NE Nevada. They include: Gravepoint Point, Texas Springs, McDermitt and Davis Creek, long-time rockhounding locations known throughout the US and internationally. But they are only the well-known areas, there are hundreds more. What is the economic impact on those small towns close by, and USFS and BLM camping grounds that won't be used any longer, with these areas closed to casual collecting?"

"Rockhounding as a recreational activity does not present a negative impact to the management of sage grouse and is allowed under federal law. We request that rockhounding be identified as a recreational activity in the ROD implementation plans, allowing rockhounds and the public to continue collecting rocks and minerals in sage grouse management areas."

<http://amlands.org/190534.html> has lots more information on this. If you want to write Washington about this, do it soon. If any club members want to read Shirley's letter and the letter I wrote, contact me at tomnoe2@gmail.com.

AFMS Code of Ethics continued from page 4

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere..