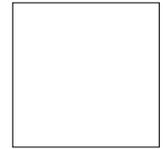


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Jason Hefner, Editor
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524



April 2016 Volume 56 Number 4

Next Meeting 04/24

THE ROCKFINDER

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

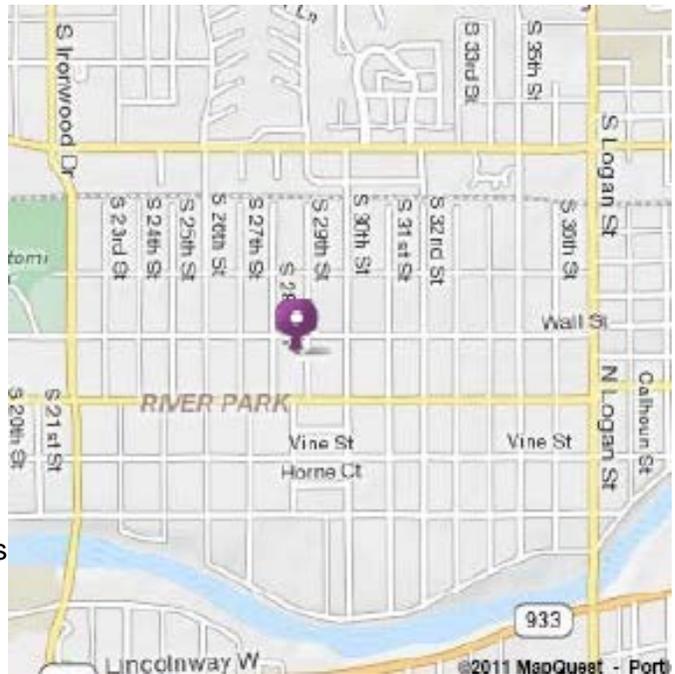
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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 Diane Gram
 16301 Wild Cherry Dr
 Granger, IN 46530

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 56 Number 4
April 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/mwff/> 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

Hello everyone!

I have been reading a lot of books and websites to try and locate some new rock and mineral hunting locales. Most of the places I found have been fee digging locations, or spots that have been over collected over the years, leaving very little good material to be found. People online that I have spoken with have been pretty protective of their best collecting spots. I had hoped to find areas that I could do a little research on, checking out the profile maps of the surrounding geography and soil types.

What I seem to find is that the areas I want are public lands, ones that I can freely travel looking for undiscovered deposits...agates, jaspers, maybe a rich pegmatite area that I could discover those fabulous vugs of crystals that I have seen on TV. Now, I know that is asking a lot, since I have no real training or geological background. But with the information available online, combined with a little self-education, it seems possible that the average Joe should still be able to find new hunting areas. Continued on Page 2

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: April 24, 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: John Jaworski

Host & Hostess(s) : Allen/Betty Gearhart, Marie/Bill Crull, Cindy Imlen

Board of Directors

President: Bill Foreman
574-233-9178

Vice-President: Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Secretary Jan Pellus
574-264-4772

Treasurer: Diane Gram
574-588-2665

Liaison: Bob Bell
574-233-7352

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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: open

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

Programs: Kathy Miller (Interim)
574-291-0332

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

However, even with GPS and area maps of private properties, it seems that the most likely areas to be hunted are rapidly becoming off-limits to the average American. Once you travel west of the Mississippi, the bulk of undeveloped property most likely to contain mineral deposits is owned by the US Government. On the face of it, you would think that that is a good thing...that the government would preserve that land for our use like the US National Parks System. Well, it seems that the way things are going now, we may never have access to this land. Many of the locations that were good collecting areas are being closed or made inaccessible to rockhounds. Now, most mineral hunters I have met are very particular about how they hunt an area. They don't damage a location, don't leave huge ruts or holes to injure animals or impede access. They only collect what they need, leaving the rest untouched for another collector to find. Most even collect whatever trash they come across, leaving the site better than they found it. Why would the government want to keep hobbyists like that out of an area? Now it seems that the only access to these lands may be to corporations that would like to develop these places for their own profit. Oil, coal, metals...anything that can be pulled from the earth and turned into dollars.

We have seen what this type of development will mean to the environment. Look at what has happened in the coal-rich areas of the US or the prime petroleum areas of our country. The land is never the same, animals lose their needed habitat, even with attempted repair of the landscape it takes many generations for the land to recover. Do you think that conscientious collecting of mineral samples is going to harm the environment to the extent that corporations do? We need to let our government know that these lands are Public lands, owned by the American People, and it should be our decision how we allow these lands to be used. Bringing mineral samples out of the ground allows all people to see what lies beneath their feet, what treasures are hidden just out of sight, waiting for someone to uncover. This type of development allows us to learn the science of our planet and encourages all of us to appreciate our lands. A great sample collected properly can be seen by thousands of people, igniting their imaginations and inspiring them to learn a little something about mineralogy.

Let us all try to remind our government representatives whom they work for and why we should have primary access to the Public Lands that we as taxpayers own.

Continued on Page 3

President's Message Continued from page 2

Regardless of your political persuasion, we as Americans must remain vigilant about our rights. Silence on our part will be seen as giving the government a green light to sell this land to the highest bidder. Our hobby depends on being able to travel freely over the lands that we own together. The greatest discoveries have always come the average person following his/her scientific curiosity. Read about this problem, find out about the American Lands Access issues and see how you can have a say. Our club has one member, Tom Noe, who is on top of this issue and cares deeply about it. Speak to him at a meeting or send him an email to see what you can do to help.

That's my rant for the month, thanks for reading...

Bill Foreman (President, Michiana Gem and Mineral Society)

March 2016 Meeting Minutes by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Members in attendance / Adults_60___ Children_9___ Guest__0__

Call to Order: President Bill Foreman

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

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

Treasurer's report: Diane Gram / Motion made and seconded to accept report

Liaison report: Bob Bell / No Report

Parliamentarian: Bob Miller / No Report

Midwest Federation/ No Report

American Federation/ No Report

American Lands Access: Tom Noe / No Report. Bill Foreman reminded the members that access to public lands for rock collecting is being limited and we should contact our representatives to stop taking away our rights. A member asked if we should present a petition as a club. We were reminded that could cause us to lose our not for profit status. The best way to make our plea is to write individual letters to our representatives and to join the ALA as individuals. We will try to put a sample letter in the Rockfinder.

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas / Jesse Zeiger brought Easter eggs from Turkey. Bill Nelson brought in an article on the Tully Monster from Mazon Creek. Hopefully we can bring some home from the club trip. Mike Skoczylas brought in a rock from a student he is working with to be identified. John Jaworski brought some dinosaur bone slabs.

Editor: Jason Hefner / Please check your e mail address if you are not getting the Rockfinder.

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / We recently received some wine cap mushroom spores. For more information, see Jesse.

Face Book: Danielle Wilborn / No Report

Continued on Page 5

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

AFMS Land Use Policy excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume](#)

[69, Number 4 – March, 2016](#)

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rulemaking, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

[Read the rest here](#)

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News President's Message by David

Rich, MWF President, excerpted from [MWF News April 2016 - Issue No. 551](#)

April may bring showers to Ohio, but hopefully it will also bring many of you to the Midwest Federation's spring meeting. All members in our federation are invited to attend the general meeting on Saturday, April 23.

You are also invited to attend a special field trip to dig for Ohio Flint at Nethers Farm on Friday, April 22, before the meeting. Don't miss an opportunity to acquire some beautiful Ohio flint.

On Saturday, after the meeting at our clubhouse in Cuyahoga Falls, we can all head over to our club's Gemboree Show. It is our 40th Anniversary this year! The Gemboree is sponsored by two clubs, the Akron Mineral Club and Summit Lapidary Club. We have 25+ vendors at our show, and I received an update from Akron Mineral Club President, Joe Spohn, that the Gemboree committee has planned some special exhibits and fun for the whole family.

See the article on page 2 for planned MWF events at the Spring Meeting. Come and see us in Ohio! Don't forget that the Youth Poster Contest deadline for "Amazing Agates" is coming up April 15, and entries must be postmarked by that date. Judges Rosemary and Tom McLaughlin of the Summit Lapidary Club are eagerly awaiting entries.

The Convention will be here sooner than you think. Mark the dates on your calendar for South Bend, Indiana, August 20 and 21. Why not get a group from your club or state to travel together to this enjoyable event?

I look forward to seeing many of you in both Ohio and Indiana this year.



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

23-24 April 2016: Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio (Akron area) Semi Annual Gemboree - Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show Organized by: Akron Mineral Society and [Summit Lapidary Club](#) Emidio & Sons Expo Center (48 East Bath Road, Cuyahoga Falls)

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)

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)

May

14-15—NORTH OLMSTED, OHIO: Annual show; Parma Lapidary, Soccer Sportsplex; 31515 Lorain Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$6; Join us as the Parma Lapidary Club hosts its 48th Annual Cleveland Gems and Jewelry Show! Tickets are good for both Saturday and Sunday. The show will include jewelry arts, gems, minerals, fossils, geodes, custom & handmade jewelry, and beads available for purchase. There will also be exhibits, live demo's, kid's corner, silent auctions and much more. On Sunday (1p to 3p) an expert in vintage jewelry will identify and give you a verbal est. of value for your jewelry pieces for free!; contact Karl Creed, 273 Finchfield Circle, Macedonia, OH 44056, (330)-840-9422; e-mail: cjm101@hotmail.com; Web site: www.parmalapidary.com

14-15—ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN: Show and sale; Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society, Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School; 3165 Washington Ave.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 12-6; Free Admission; contact Nancy Wolfe, (269)-983-4900

February Minutes continued from page 3

Field Trips: John Davis / Kathy Miller will have a sign up sheet for the club trip to Mazon Creek. It will be a one day bus trip. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Please be sure you can attend if you sign up.

Historian: / No Report

Hospitality: Linda Miller & Marsha Miller / Thank you for the refreshments to Bill and Nancy Foreman, Danielle Wilborn, Mel and Sherrill Glick, Rachel Sutton, and Jessica Alstott.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh / No Report

Librarian: Bill Foreman / We have many books, pamphlets, and DVDs available to the members. Come see me.

Membership: Nancy Foreman / There are four new member families joining us today. Welcome to all. Please pick up your new directory if you haven't already. There is an error in the directory on page 4 regarding the hospitality dates. The dates should read as follows:

February 28, 2016

May 22, 2016

March 20, 2016

September 25, 2016

April 24, 2016

October 23, 2016

A motion was made and seconded that the corrections be put in the Rockfinder.

Programs: April's program will be given by John Jaworski. May's program will focus on the Midwest Federation. Show in August September's program will be given by Everett Harrington

Publicity: Nick Pellus / No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No Report

Show Chair: John Davis & Joe Perry / We have received several signed show contracts.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Get Well to Randy Hill

Webmaster: Joe Perry / No Report

Old Business

We received a thank you letter for Science Alive. We also received a thank you letter from Bertrand Township for rock specimens that Bill Foreman donated to them.

New Business

Bill Foreman brought a 750 ct garnet that he got in Idaho. Beautiful! Jason Hefner offered to do a "make up" MSHA class for those who missed the first class. Please see Jason. Midwest Federation has a free children's poster on line. Nancy Foreman will email information.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: Dennis and Holly Kraftor on the Tucson shows

Next Meeting: April 24, 2016

Rockhound Soapbox

By John Martin, ALAA Webmaster

excerpted from the Oct.-Dec., 2015, *ALAA Newsletter*

Grass roots! Those two words are now the most important words in the rockhound vocabulary. Without the grass roots efforts of rockhounds and fossil and mineral collectors, collecting areas will soon be swallowed up in wilderness, national monuments and environmental study areas and maybe even in wind and solar generating facilities.

Rockhounding organizations (like ALAA) do not have the financial resources, personnel or legal representation needed to wage the legal struggle against the groups opposing mixed-use access to public lands. The only way to keep collecting areas open is with grass roots efforts by all rockhounds who may collect or have collected in these areas. The voice of the rockhound needs to be heard—and as loud as possible. If our voices are not heard in the places where laws and regulations are made, we, the amateur collectors of rocks, minerals and fossils, will lose access now and for future rockhounds.

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.

More Upcoming Events

May 28-29—WHEATON, ILLINOIS: Annual show; Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association (CGMA), DuPage County Fairgrounds; 2015 Manchester Rd.; Sat. 10 -6 , Sun. 10 -5 ; Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Students \$3, Children under 13 free; Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association (CGMA) 40th Anniversary Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show. Our Ruby Jubilee! Over 30 retail and wholesale dealers, special exhibits, gold panning, silent auction, door prizes, Kids Korner, demonstrations of jewelry making, silversmithing, wire-wrapping, cabochon-making, opal cutting, gem trees, faceting, and more. Air-conditioned. Food available. Special block of hotel rooms at discounted rates through May 6.; contact Jeanine Mielecki, (312)-623-1554; e-mail: jaynine9@aol.com or cgma@sbcglobal.net; Web site: www.cgma.squarespace.com

June 3-5—WAUSEON, OHIO: Annual show; State Line Gem & Mineral Society, Fulton County Fair Jr Fair Bldg; 1814 SR 108, Exit 34 off Oh Turnpike; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; Adults \$4, Seniors \$3, Students \$3, Children 12 & under free; Come join us at the Fulton County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building in Wauseon, OH for our 55th Annual Show. We are proud of our show boasting with demonstrations, silent auction, door prizes, mine safety class by Joel Vicary, soap stone carving class by Sandy Cline, and homemade food available at reasonable prices. We will be giving demonstrations on cutting and shaping cabochons, wire wrapping, kids activities, and geode cracking with geodes from Indiana and Mexico. There will be rough material for those who start from scratch, cabs and beads who just put there personal touch on their art, and finished pieces for those who just appreciate the finished pieces of jewelry.; contact Glenda Gafner, 3720 Britton Hwy, Britton, MI 49229, (517)-403-6310; e-mail: ggafner@frontier.com; Web site: www.statelinegms.com

June 4-5—MARION, KENTUCKY: Annual show; Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum, Fohs Hall; 201 N. Walker Street; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Admission with donations; The 11th Annual Ben E. Clement Gem, Mineral, Fossil, And Jewelry Show with Digs. We will have vendor tables, hourly door prizes, an Indian artifact display, silent auctions, children's activities, and a Ky. Geological Survey Booth. There will be museum tours featuring minerals from the famous Ky/IL Fluorspar District. There will be digs to local mines where you can collect fluorite and related minerals.; contact Tina Walker, P.O Box 391, Marion, KY 42064, (270)-965-4263; e-mail: beclement@att.net; Web site: www.clementmineralmuseum.org

Moh's Scale 7 - 7.5 (but not quartz) by Kreigh Tomaszewski

Hardness is a very useful attribute to help with mineral identification and is often the first test done on an unknown. Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we also 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 reviewing minerals by hardness. At our March meeting we looked at minerals with a hardness of 7 to 7.5 on the Moh's scale, excluding Quartz.

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. And occasionally someone has extras and we all get to go home with a new specimen for our collection.

This month we had one or more specimens of Elbaite, Schorl, Zircon, Almandine, Dravite, Clinozoisite, Danburite, Uvite, Cordierite, Forsterite, Euclase, Boracite, Jeremejevite, Fayalite, Narsarsukite, Pyrope, Zunyite, Hereynite, Sapphirine, Lawsonite, Chamersite, Kimzeyite, Galaxite, Liddicoatite, Beryl, Staurolite, Indicolite, Hessonite, Goshenite, Grossularite, Andradite, Uvarovite, and Dumortierite. We also had one man-made specimen, elemental Silicon from Dow.

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 density, shine a bright light on it, look at it under black light, etc.). And then examine 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. Some people came with specimens they were unsure about and we tried to identify them while we waited for everyone to arrive.

The next monthly meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 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 7 to 7 1/2 but only quartz in all of its forms.

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 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.

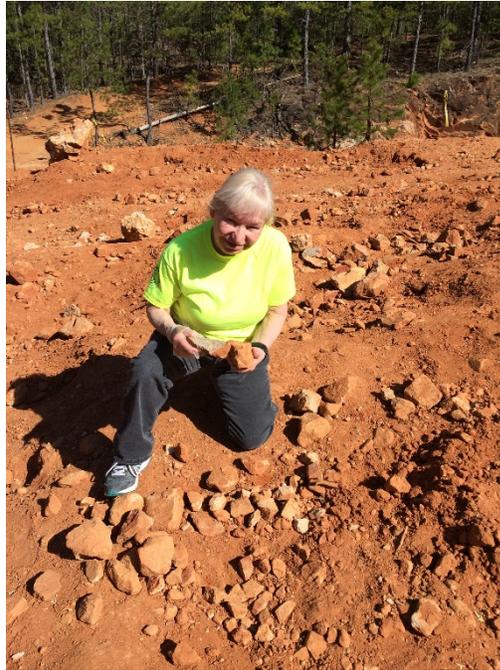
On the road again

by Lynn & Jessie Zeiger MGMS members

Just some photos from our Arkansas trip. Lots of fun!! Wearing the club T-shirt.



Crater of Diamonds State Park



Mt. Ida Quartz



Lots of cleaning to do when we get home. Darn it, no diamonds!!!

