

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



November & December 2016 Volume 56 Number 8



**We're on the Web! See us at: [www.MichianaGMS.org](http://www.MichianaGMS.org)**

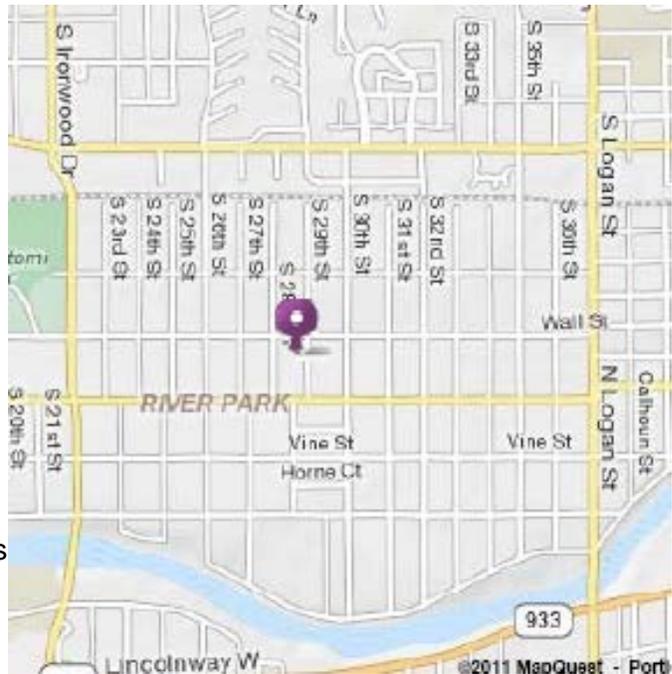
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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 Nancy Foreman  
 58456 Kimberly Ct.  
 South Bend, IN 46619

# THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 56 Number 8  
November & December  
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](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:  
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.



## From the Editor - Jason Hefner

The November & December issues have been combined to make one full newsletter. I hope to see everyone this Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 for the Christmas party.

### **Dues are due** – Nancy Foreman, Membership

2017 club dues are due by 12-15-16. Please bring check or exact cash with your new completed application form to me at our Christmas Pot Luck or mail them to Bill & Nancy Foreman, 58456 Kimberly Ct., South Bend, IN 46619. You can find the applications on our website or in the *Rockfinder*. If you are new members who signed up during or after our Club Gem Show in August your membership dues are paid up for 2017.

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: December 4, 2016** Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 12:30. Meeting starts at 1:00.

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

**Program:** Christmas party

**Host & Hostesses:** Everyone bring a dish to pass

## 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

## 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: open

Hospitality:  
Linda Miller 574-291-5027  
Marsha Miller 574-498-6513

Juniors: Trista McIntosh  
574-780-1162

Librarian: Mel Glick

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

## October Meeting minutes Jan Pellus Secretary

**Members in attendance** / Adults\_42\_\_\_ Children\_2\_\_\_  
Guests\_\_2\_\_

**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 Correction on number of new members. Should be 16, not 26 as reported.

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

**Liaison report:** Bob Bell / There will be a show in Evansville October 29 and 30. Please check for more upcoming shows.

**Parliamentarian:** Bob Miller / No Report

**Midwest Federation/** There is a copy of the latest Federation available on the display table.

**American Federation/** No Report

**American Lands Access: Bob Miller** / Be aware of possible changes due to the current election. Please contact our representatives to protect our right to collect.

### Committee Reports

**Displays:** Mike Skoczylas / Jim Daly brought in many specimens for members. Mike Skoczylas brought in a specimen for a friend to be identified. Larry Hall brought in specimens from North Carolina.

**Editor:** Jason Hefner / Please try to send submissions for the Rockfinder early in the month. Thank you.

**Educational:** Jesse Zeiger / No Report

**Face Book:** Danielle Wilborn / No Report

**Field Trips:** John Davis / If you have not received your MSHA certification, please see me. John would like to have someone to assist him with field trips due to health issues. The club is planning a field trip to Keokuk Iowa in 2017. More information will be available later. See Kathy Miller.

**Historian:** / No Report

**Hospitality:** Linda Miller /Thank you for the refreshments to Mel and Sherrill Glick; Randy and Joan Hill; Marcia Jacobs; Bill and Nancy Foreman; Annette Freel; Sherrie Kobie; Diane Kendig; Diane Gonsorek; and Saya Tspavcevich.

A sign up sheet for the Christmas party is on the front table. You may bring canned foods for St. Vincent's to be placed under the Christmas tree. Continued next page

## **October Meeting minutes** from previous page

**Juniors:** Trista McIntosh / No Report

**Librarian:** Bill Foreman / No Report. Mel Glick has volunteered to take over as librarian. Thank you, Mel.

**Membership:** Nancy Foreman / Dues are due for 2017. Please send dues to me along with a completed application. There are still membership books to be picked up.

**Programs:** / December will be the Christmas party. Please sign up.

**Publicity:** Nick Pellus / No Report. Josh will take over publicity. Thank you, Josh.

**Safety:** Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No Report

**Show Chair:** John Davis & Joe Perry / Nothing new to report on the show. We did have a record attendance.

**Sunshine:** - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / No Report. Please let us know if someone needs a card. We don't want to miss anyone. Thank you.

**Webmaster:** Joe Perry / Website is up to date and the Rockfinder is included.

### **Old Business**

No Report

### **New Business**

**Science Alive will be February 4, 2017. During the January meeting we will stuff 500 give away bags. Please help if you can.**

**Board elections will be next month. Please let us know if you are interested in filling one of these positions. Rachel Sutton will take over as secretary. We still need someone to fill the treasurer position.**

**Adjournment – Motion made and seconded**

**Program: Video on digging out crystals.**

**Next Meeting: December 4, 2016 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### A Word from the President excerpted from [AFMS](#)

[Newsletter Volume 70, Number 1 – November, 2016](#)

For the second time I am taking this position and again I have some big shoes to fill (no offense intended, Matt!) I'm following some very capable presidents who have done much to help bring all the federations together and I will try to continue with this work.

Many of you may know me from various shows around the country. For those who don't, I am a member of three clubs in the South Central Federation and I enjoy collecting minerals (although I appreciate fossils and gemstones too) and visiting shows all over. In the coming year, I hope to attend each regional federation convention and become better acquainted with the folks in all seven federations, starting with the Southeast Federation show in Marietta, Georgia in November. The coming year will have conventions all around the U.S. so I will have the chance to travel and visit places I haven't been before.

One thing Matt encouraged during his presidency and I do also, is for all our members, no matter where you live, to get involved with your clubs and federations. Every club has numerous jobs it needs to fill, and the willing volunteers who fill them are the backbone of the clubs and federations. Also, if you see something that you think needs improving or could be done better, speak up and tell someone about it. And don't be afraid to do something to help improve things if needed. Here's looking forward to a great year and I hope to meet many of you in person.

### Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News President's Message

by Tom Whitlatch, MWF President, excerpted from [MWF News December 2016 - Issue No. 557](#)  
Merry Christmas to all and happy rock hunting. As I write this the old man Jack Frost has only visited a few times so far. However, I would think many in the northern states would be seeing snow by the time this is read.....

So many of you are working inside dusting off your projects that have been there for the summer waiting for the time that it is too cold to be outside rock hunting. When you are doing so, I would like to take a moment to remind you to think safety, both you and your equipment. Take a few minutes to review the safety recommendations and procedures for what you are doing. Then go get those tools that you were adding to your collection during that nice weather we had this year. Check them over and sharpen, as well as debur, them so they will be ready for the next season when the time comes to get back out and rockhound again....

It is also time to look at your club members and choose your nomination for AFMS scholarship award nominee. This could be anyone that has given time or effort to make your club better. Please take a few moments to choose someone. Then submit their name and a brief biography and picture of them to the MWF's Scholarship Committee; this can be found in your directory.

[Read the rest here](#)



#### 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

### 17-19 February 2017:

GeoFest - Indianapolis, Indiana  
15th Annual Indiana State Museum  
Fossil, Gem & Mineral Show  
Organized by: [Indiana State Museum](#)  
Indiana State Museum (650 West  
Washington Street, Indianapolis)

### 17-19 February 2017:

Kirkwood, Missouri (St. Louis area)  
Annual Gem, Jewelry, Rock, Mineral and  
Fossil Show  
Organized by: Cabin Fever Productions  
Kirkwood Community Center (111 South  
Geyer Road, Kirkwood)

### 17-19 March 2017:

Jackson, Michigan  
Michigan Gem & Mineral Society 55th  
Annual Show  
Organized by: [Michigan Gem & Mineral  
Society](#)  
Theme: *We Will Rock You*  
Jackson County Fairgrounds - American  
One Event Center (200 West Ganson  
Street)

### 2-4 June 2017: Wauseon, Ohio (Toledo area)

56th Annual Gem, Jewelry, Bead, Rock &  
Mineral Show  
Organized by: [State Line Gem & Mineral  
Society](#)  
Fulton County Fairgrounds - Junior Fair  
Building (8514 State Highway 108,  
Wauseon)

## 2017 Bus Trip by Kathy Miller

We're on the road! Transportation is via a 56 passenger Cardinal Motor Coach payed by the club in the amount of \$4,000 (this includes bus driver's room for 2 nights) for September 22 through September 24, 2017. We will be going back and forth over the Mississippi River in pursuit of the famous beautiful Keokuk geodes (and some fossils) found in the area. We are very pleased to hear more collecting sites have been opened up on private lands for us to collect. This is the 15th year for the Geode Fest and in talking to the coordinator, he said folks from National Geographic came this past year to participate. We are noticed, how can you miss a 56 passenger bus full of "rockhounds". This Geode Fest attracts people from all over the USA. We will be collecting at 2 sites on Saturday the 23rd, and 1 site the morning of the 24th before starting home. This trip is open to active members who take time to participate in attending meetings, or helping at our show, Science Alive, picnic, or any other club activity. It's great for kids and no one needs to have Mine Safety training credentials. This trip fills up fast since so many collecting sites have been closed to us these past few years. DO NOT in all fairness sign up if there is any doubt of another commitment you may have for that weekend. I DO NOT keep a stand by list and if you were to back out even a few weeks before, the rest of the folks would lose the block room rate at the motel and our restaurant for Saturday night would have to raise their prices for the meals.

The following is a brief itinerary for those going on this weekend field trip. It is rain or shine, lots of fun and good collecting..

Friday, September 22nd we meet at Meijer's Store located at S.R. 331 S. (Union St.), Mishawaka, IN 46544. We board at 3:45 p.m. and leave promptly at 4:00 p.m. There will be one quick stop on the way to Keokuk where our motel is located, arrival time between 9 and 10:00 p.m.

Saturday we board the bus at 6:45 a.m. (Remember the time change), to report to the Chaney Creek Access area across the River to register in at 7:00 a.m. At 8:00 a.m. we are on our way for a full day of collecting. Late afternoon we return to our motel to rest up or go swimming in the motel's heated pool, then cleanup for dinner.

Reservations have been made for a private dining room at the Hawkeye Restaurant (where we have been before) for 7:00 p.m.

Continued on next page

## 2017 Bus Trip continued from previous page

It is only 2 blocks from our motel, so some of you may even wish to walk it if you still have energy and it's a nice night. If not our bus driver will take you.

sunday we board the bus at 8:00 a.m. and we're off collecting at 9:00 a.m. After a good morning of collecting we head back home. Arrival time is approximately 6:00 p.m.

**YOUR COST:** We are staying at the Hampton Inn. I have reserved 20 rooms at block room rate. The cost for your 2 nights is \$266.56 (this includes tax). As I spoke with the manager the price has gone up these past few years, but every motel is sold out and all prices in all motels have gone up. We are lucky to get a block of rooms with a group price break. The Hampton is only 10 years old, serve a hot and cold breakfast with a variety of food and an indoor swimming pool. The block of rooms have 2 queen beds to a room.

Their phone number is 1-319-524-6700. You must tell them to put your room under Michiana Mineral Group for the block and rate. Please try to do this by the end of February. When you get your reservation, let me know your confirmation number.

The Hawkeye Restaurant-with private dining offers us a buffet dinner consisting of 2 entrees; cat fish and fried chicken, comes with a full salad bar, mashed potatoes & brown gravy, green beans, dinner rolls, dessert, coffee, water, tea. The price is \$18 adults, 12 and under \$8.75, under 3 free. They have asked that I collect ahead and pay full when we arrive to avoid the confusion that happened before when everyone paid individually. I can take check or cash, make check out to Bob or myself. **NO CREDIT CARDS.** The food is great and the fellowship together wonderful.

(I have been asked to tell all going to pay prior to going a \$5.00 bus seat fee (this will be given to the bus driver at the end of the trip for his tip. The drivers are always accommodating.

No refunds on that if you cancel) Remember if you cancel someone else may have to pay more if block room rate isn't met, or restaurant price met.

The Geode Fest registration remains the same as in past years. \$20 (single person) or \$30 (family fee) for hunting. Some of the sites are on private property not normally open to general public for geode hunting.

An additional fee of \$20 / 5 gallon bucket will be collected at each site. **YOU** have to provide the buckets. **BE PICKY, YOUR LOOKING FOR LIGHT WEIGHT GEODES THAT ARE HOLLOW INSIDE!** Also since we are so close to the Mississippi River, there are fossils in the area.

I will have printed up copies of the Registration forms for members going to fill out which we will have ready on arrival at the Geode Fest Access on Saturday morning. All of us who have gone to this before have never been disappointed and came home with "gooood stuff"!

Continued next page

## 2017 Bus Trip continued from previous page

### WHAT TO BRING:

Food Brown bag dinner for Friday night unless you grab a quick fast food when we make our pit stop along the way. A brown bag lunch for Saturday, we will eat at the sites. Snacks for on the bus or in your motel room. A small cooler for on the bus to fit under the seat for pop, water. Regular shoes for the bus that are not your collecting shoes or boots We are responsible for not trashing the bus with muddy shoes or boots. Collecting shoes/boots and clothes that are comfortable to collect in. Be aware of the weather. Buckets for your geodes, rock collecting tools, gloves, eyeglasses.

SPACE IS LIMITED BECAUSE OF WEIGHT AND STORAGE. Do not get carried away with a whole bunch of extra stuff, 1 small cooler per person or medium per family, limit chairs, no tables, etc. Let's leave more room for what we came to collect GEODES!!

Sign up for bus starts at our Christmas party. Start saving your pennies!

## Hello Fellow Rockhound Activists

On behalf of American Lands Access Association, I would like to remind you 2017 Membership Dues are due January 1, 2017. Attached is a Membership Application for your convenience. If you have already sent in your 2017 membership dues, please disregard this notice.

Now more than ever, ALAA needs your support. More and more public land is being declared for conservation and green energy projects, both of which adversely affect recreational access. Your nominal membership fees help to promote and ensure the right of the amateur hobby collector and recreational prospector/miner. It also helps to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

Please send in your completed application and dues at your earliest convenience. Club recipients, please remind your board it is time to get the club dues paid for 2017.

Be sure to visit the American Lands Access Association website regularly to see what is at issue where you recreate and what you can do to help.

<http://amlands.org/6601.html>

Thank you for your anticipated continued support in our efforts.

Ruth Hidalgo

American Lands Access Association

Membership Chair



# AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

## NEW MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

(Must be postmarked or received by December 31 each year)

Member/Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different than above)

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Residence Primary Business (if any)

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Address

Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Completed form with renewal Dues to: Dues are: \$25.00 for individual/couple  
\$50.00 for a club or society

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ (✓) Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ (✓)

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

American Lands Access Association

C/O Membership Chairman

ALAA Newsletter by Email \_\_\_\_\_ (✓) or Snail Mail \_\_\_\_\_ (✓)

P O BOX 54398

San Jose, CA 95154

For more information or questions on membership Email to: [membership@amlands.org](mailto:membership@amlands.org)

Make Checks payable to: American Lands Access Association (ALAA)

**A grassroots 501-C-4 Educational, non-profit organization dedicated to keeping public lands multiple use for all.**