

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



April 2017

Volume 57 Number 4

**April Showers bring...mud**

**THE  
ROCKFINDER**

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

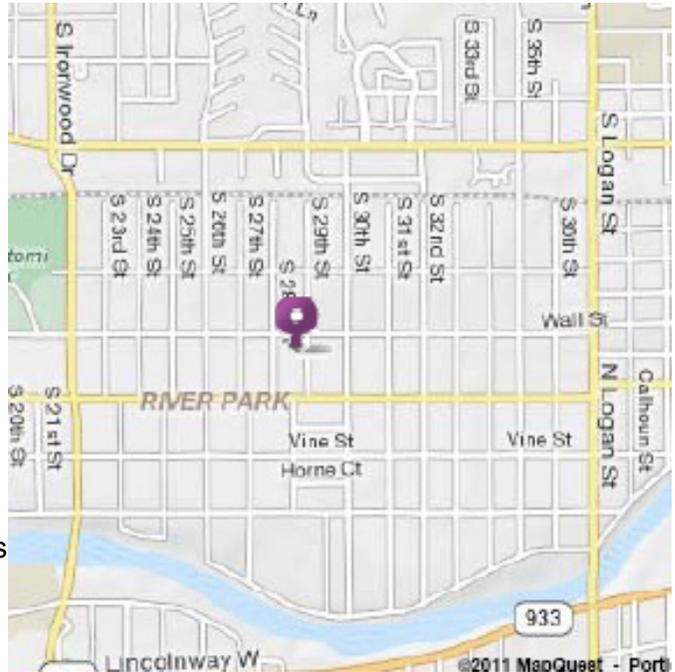
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
 c/o Nancy Foreman  
 58456 Kimberly Ct.  
 South Bend, IN 46619

# THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 57 Number 4  
April 2017

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 5th. 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.



## MSHA Class by Jason Hefner, Editor

MGMS will host MSHA training on Sunday April 23, 2017 in place of our normally scheduled meeting. Training will begin promptly as 2:00pm. We will have refreshments and a time to visit afterwards. The class is open to MGMS members and will be free.

Please plan on attending as MSHA training is required for many of the field trips. This is good training to have for when you collect any time.

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: Sunday April 23, 2017.**  
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:**  
MSHA Training

**Host & Hostesses:**

## Board of Directors

President: Bill Foreman  
574-233-9178

Vice-President: Randy Hill  
269-465-5814

Secretary Rachel Sutton

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: Jim Daly

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: Josh Klosinski

Safety: Julie Wieger 574-291-2597  
Jennifer Hefner 574-858-9837

Show Chair: John Davis 574-232-8823

Sunshine: Annette Freil 574-293-8193,  
Sherry Kobie 574-522-0189

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

## All I want for my birthday is.....rocks by

Jason Hefner, Editor

My son & I headed out for some father-son rock collecting on his spring break. We left out early on Saturday morning headed to the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge near Jet, OK. We made it to Enid OK in record time and settled in at our hotel. We were up early and off through the thick fog (light rain) to dig for Selenite crystals at the park.

When we arrived we were greeted with overcast skies and lots of mud.....

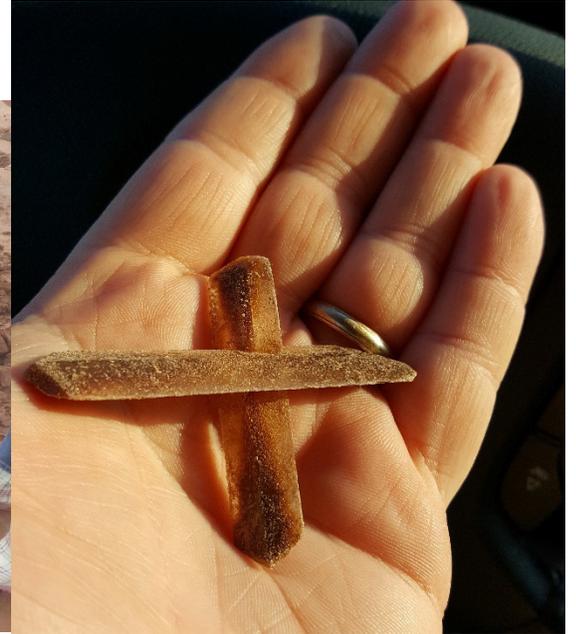


We immediately began to dig large holes, only to find nothing.... After over an hour someone else finally braved the weather. We walked over and asked if they knew what to look for and they said they were there the day before and had found a few crystals. After a few pointers Michael and I set off armed with new information. Before long (30 seconds) we were in the crystals!!! (continued next page)



## Birthday rocks continued from previous page.

We spent the next few hours digging and showing everyone else who arrived in the area how we did it. We ended up having 5 different families digging with 5 or 6 feet of each other. We all had a great time and found lots of neat crystals and made new friends.



After 8 hours we called it a day and headed back to the hotel. A hot shower, a hot dinner, and it was off to bed. The next morning we woke and headed north toward Keokuk Iowa.....

We arrived in Keokuk in the rain and made a stop at 1 location at around 6:30 pm. The mud was wonderful and we were tired from the day before, so after a bucket we stopped and headed to our hotel. We checked the weather forecast and the next day was going to be the only "good" day so we had decisions to make.

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## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### Rockhound Soap Box

by John Martin, Conservation & Legislation Chair excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 70, Number 4 – March 2017](#)

I am sure by now you have all heard or read something about the new rule or regulation being proposed by the BLM on Fossil Collecting on Public Land managed by the BLM. The Regulation is further implementation of the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA). The public comment period ended on February 6, 2017.

There was a large effort originating in California by the Southern California Paleontological Society, a member of CFMS, to draft a letter of concern and submit during the public comment period. The letter was drafted and circulated throughout the CFMS and to the other Regional Federations for review. Several good articles were written and circulated during this time period on the subject and the impact of the proposed Regulation by several federation members.

Some of the contributors of articles were Mike Nelson, Lisbet Thorsen, Andrew Hoekstra and Karol McQueary. I would like to thank them for their enormous effort they put forth in the research and documentation required to formulate the response letter. [Read the rest here](#)

### Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies A Plea from the Silent Auction

Chair Susan Stanforth, MWF Silent Auction Chair, excerpted from [MWF News April 2017 - Issue No. 561](#)

The MWF National Meeting, hosted by the Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society, is coming to Brainerd very soon, May 6th and 7th. This is my last chance to convince, cajole, plead, entreat, implore, beg for you to help make our Silent Auction the best ever. Am I sounding desperate? You bet I am. The Silent Auction benefits the MWF Endowment Fund, which is very important to keep our organization afloat.

To those who have supported me in the past, THANK YOU, and I would really appreciate your kind, generous spirit once again. For those of you who have not experienced the MWF auction before, please show up and donate specimens, rock items, fossils AND your help at the table. Don't be shy, now. The MWF auction is on Sunday, May 7th. If you have any questions, call me at 815-229-4009 or email me at [sstanforth123@yahoo.com](mailto:sstanforth123@yahoo.com).

If you have items to donate and need a pickup, I'll be at many of the rock shows in March and April in the Midwest. Just give me a call. 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

### MAY

**5-7: KALAMAZOO, MI** Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society Annual Show. Fri 4 - 8 pm; Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo. Contact Jerry Van Nolker, (269) 979-3348; [jervannocker@comcast.net](mailto:jervannocker@comcast.net)

**6: NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR** Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society Rock Swap. 9 am - 3 pm. Elder Johnson Pavilion, Burns Park, Exit 150 off I-40, North Little Rock. Contact Barbara Champagne, (501) 847-0680; [cagmagsprez@gmail.com](mailto:cagmagsprez@gmail.com)

**6-7: BRAINERD, MN** Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Crow Wing County Fairgrounds, 2000 SE 13th Street, Brainerd. Contact Sharon Smith, (218) 343-7037; [sharon@agatesrock.com](mailto:sharon@agatesrock.com)

**6-7: MARSHFIELD, WI** Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Marshfield High School Fieldhouse, 1401 Becker Rd., Marshfield. Contact Cynthia Kelman, (715) 387-8782; [kelman@tznet.com](mailto:kelman@tznet.com)

**6-7: SHARONVILLE, OH** Cincinnati Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 5 pm. Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd., Sharonville. Contact Jim & Judy Budnik, (513) 575-1990; [wisoh@msn.com](mailto:wisoh@msn.com)

**12-14: COLUMBIA, MO** Central Missouri Rock & Lapidary Club Annual Show. Fri noon - 7 pm; Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Knights of Columbus Hall, 2525 N. Stadium Blvd, Columbia. Contact Mary Wozny, (574) 999-3058; [lmwoz@msn.com](mailto:lmwoz@msn.com)

**19-21: JOPLIN, MO** Tri State Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show and Rock Swap. Fri 10 am - 6 pm; Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 3 pm. Joplin Historical & Mineral Museum, 504 Schifferdecker Ave, Joplin. Contact Chris Wiseman, (417) 623-1180; [jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net)

**20-21: ST. JOSEPH, MI** Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 6 pm; Sun 12 - 6 pm. Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School, 3165 Washington Ave, St. Joseph. Contact Nancy Wolff, (269) 983-4900; [nancyswolff@hotmail.com](mailto:nancyswolff@hotmail.com)

**27-28: ST. CHARLES, IL** Chicagoland Gems & Mineral Association Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Kane County Fairgrounds, 525 S. Randall Road, St. Charles. Contact Debby Ballot, (630) 272-8275; [demarrex1@att.net](mailto:demarrex1@att.net)

## Birthday rocks continued from page 3.

We decided to go to St Francisville, MO. The property in question had been studied for decades and has been recently purchased and opened to private digs. It was Michael's birthday so we bought a few treats at the store that morning and set out. This was a hard rock dig and we had no idea what to expect. We arrived for the day after being directed into the property via phone.

We met the owner and he had a friend walk us back to the dig area as he said he had a few things to get around. After a trek through boot deep mud and climbing a levee we saw the dig site. We soon heard a large motor and an excavator appeared over the hill.



It was at this point I realized we were in for some fun (at least my kind of fun). After clearing some overburden and water we were ready to begin. Three jack hammers were set up. Safety glasses were donned and Michael & I had our first experience with operating jack hammers. After a few hours we had collected 4-5 buckets worth and we moved to another location.

The new location was deeper, geologically speaking, and was dug out of a cliff face. After another 4 hours we had collected a few buckets worth and headed back to the entrance of the collecting area to finish up and head to the house.

Continued next page



## Birthday rocks continued from previous page.



Geodes with quartz, pink calcites, pyrite, barite, and other minerals were collected that day! 3 were filled with water!



# March Meeting minutes

by Rachael Sutton, Secretary

Members in attendance / Adults\_59

Children\_5

Guests\_1

**Call to Order:** President Bill Foreman

**Pledge of Allegiance** Led by Bob Miller

## Welcome

**Secretary report:** Rachel Sutton / Motion made by Jesse Zieger and seconded by Jorgenson to correct and accept the minutes to note the program as National Geographic Expedition to the South Pole striking North as printed in the Rockfinder.

**Treasurer's report:** Diane Gram / Jason Hefner presented by overhead projection. Noted sale of patches for \$51. Board recommends using a purchase request for any purchase over \$25.00 Jesse Zieger made the motion to accept the report and recommendation. Jorgenson seconded. Diane Gram requested someone else become treasurer. Linda Cioch volunteered.

**Liaison report:** Bob Bell / No Report

**Parliamentarian:** Bob Miller as covered by Bill Foreman, President.

**Midwest Federation** / Bob Miller/Meeting is in May

**American Federation** / Bob Miller and Kathy are involved in a project and will report later.

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

## Committee Reports

**Displays:** Mike Skoczylas requested that each person bringing items for monthly display write their name and description upon bringing it to the table. Then, when called, the person bringing the display can pick it up and present. Members discussed purchasing a wireless mic system. Displays: Bob Miller – Volcanic items from Mt. St. Helens; Bill Foreman – Nailhead Calcite; Jim Daly-Quartz Gypsum, and is requesting members bring him egg cartons; Jessie Zeiger – Petrified Wood; John Jaworski – Obsidian, Book Ends; Diann Gonsorek- Yellow Topaz

**Editor:** Jason Hefner / No Report

**Education:** Jesse Zeiger / No Report

**Social Media,** Facebook: Danielle Wilborn As covered by Bill Foreman - Please send info to post before events.

**Field Trips:** John Davis / No Report

**Historian:** / Jim Daly / No Report

**Hospitality:** Kathy Miller /Thank you for refreshments to Bill & Nancy Foreman, Paul and Saya Tepavcevich, Danielle Wilborn, Norma Cherry & Al Alstott, Wayne Falda & Ann Tideman, Jesse Zeiger, and all who contributed.

**Juniors:** Trista McIntosh / As covered by Bill Foreman / No Report

**Librarian:** Mel Glick / Library is open for business. Please return any overdue items.

**Membership:** Nancy Foreman / No Report

Continued Next Page

## Minutes continued from previous page.

**Programs:** / Kathy Miller / Nick Pellus presented “The Other White Gold” sharing the history of Ivory.

**Publicity:** Josh Klosinski / No Report

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

**Show Chair:** John Davis & Joe Perry / April 15 is the deadline. Most dealers registrations have been received.

**Sunshine:** - Kathy Miller / Sympathy card to the families of Stan Jacobs and Ed Enos on passing. Dennis Freel is ill.

**Webmaster:** Joe Perry / Please visit the website. Membership update. Please contact Nancy Foreman for any changes.

### Old Business

**MSHA Training:** Jason Hefner / Suggested the 2 hour MSHA Training be held in place of the April Meeting. Motion made by Don Church to replace the monthly meeting with MSHA Training. Second by Linda Cioch.

**Museum/shop:** Volunteers are needed to cover Saturdays. Please contact John Davis

**Buy a Book Memorial:** Bob Miller / Revisited a previously approved program to add books to the library in honor of members no longer present.

### New Business

**Purchase Request:** Diane Gram / Motion made by Bob Church to Use Approved Purchase Orders for all purchases over \$25 second by Marie Crull.

**Petty Cash Advance:** Motion Made by Bob Church to approve Petty Cash Advances for Hospitality and Child care and second by Marie Crull.

**Adjournment – Motion made by Father Larry Calhoun, and seconded by Don Church**

**Program:** There will be no regular monthly meeting in April.

## MSHA Training Will be held in place of an April Meeting on April 23, 2017

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting: May 21, 2017 at 2:00 pm**