

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



July 2023

Volume 63 Number 4



**THE  
ROCKFINDER**



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 usually 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:  
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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.



## Meeting minutes, by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Meeting Minutes Date: March 26, 2023

Call to Order: President Ross Ferguson

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

PAST PRESIDENTS: Diane Gram

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

Treasurer's report:

Parliamentarian: Ross Ferguson

Midwest Federation/ No report

American Federation/

American Lands Access/

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: July 23, 2023**

**Picnic at 12:30 pm**

**The Res  
13950 Scout Lane  
Mishawaka IN 46544**

## Board of Directors

President: Ross Ferguson  
574-850-6208

Vice-President: Nick Pellus  
574-264-4772

Secretary: Jan Pellus  
574-264-4772

Treasurer: Lyn Zeiger  
574-259-5944

Liaison: Bob Bell  
574-233-7352

## Committee Chairs

Displays: Kathy Miller  
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner  
574-354-0478

Educational: Jesse Zeiger  
574-259-5944

Facebook: Holly Kraftor, Nancy Foreman,  
Jason Hefner

Field Trips: Jason Hefner, Ross  
Ferguson

Historian:

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

Juniors: Kathy Chidister  
574-202-3864

Librarian:

Membership: Nancy Foreman  
574-233-9178

Programs:

Publicity: Josh Klosinski  
574-274-8714

Safety: Jennifer Hefner  
574-858-9837

Show Chair: Bob Chapa  
989-392-2501

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

## Minutes

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### Committee Reports

Show & Tell/ Nick Pellus – Tom Noe brought some recent specimens he collected – Visitor, Nate, brought various specimens he has collected – Andrew brought a type of coral to share - Blue brought a specimen of tangerine fluorite from Brazil – Nick brought some display pieces to show some examples ways to display specimens using picture frames.

Editor: Jason Hefner / No Report

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / No Report

Face Book: Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Kraftor/ Post stories and pictures.

Field Trips: / Tom Noe shared information on a trip to Montana. Ross is looking into some field trip possibilities for the club.

Historian: Jim Daly/ No Report

Juniors: Kathy Chidaster / There are no juniors for today.

Membership: Nancy Foreman / Members in Attendance: Adults 37  
Children 0 New Members 4 Guests 3

Programs: / Need someone to take charge

Publicity: Josh Klosinski/ No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No Report

Show Chair: Bob Chopa/ We have received a few contracts from vendors. New show flyers have been ordered. Joe brought copies of the floor map for the show. Many options were discussed, including adding a silent auction for kids. We are still looking into food options for members and vendors. All members working the show will be required to wear yellow member shirts so that vendors can identify us.

Sunshine: - / No Report

Webmaster: Joe Perry / Joe will email information on logging in to the members section.

### Old Business

A motion was made and seconded to reduce the membership dues for individuals to \$10.00 beginning January 2024. The members are reminded that the meeting for May will be the 21st because of Memorial Day. Nancy will be placing an order for member tee shirts.

## AFMS President's Message — Cheryl Neary, 2022-23

AFMS President excerpted from [Volume 76, Number 5 — July 2023](#)

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."  
~Winston Churchill In another president's message I quoted Dolly Parton.  
This time - Winston Churchill. We earn money so we are able to buy things that are necessary for our lives. This is living, something we do to create the life we want. Giving of our time or money to help better another is also part of life.

Volunteering includes giving of time, knowledge, energy, and at times money. Why volunteer?

I am sure many of you have very busy lives and believe there is little time to volunteer for a position within your club or federation. However, for both clubs and federations to succeed, we need volunteers. The stronger the volunteer base, the stronger the club and/or federation.

There are benefits to volunteering! You can form new friendships. You have the opportunity to network with others and learn new skills. I recently read that it is also possible to protect your mental and physical health through volunteering.

How is that possible? Doesn't meeting deadlines increase stress levels? (i.e.: writing a report, creating monthly bulletins/newsletters, juggling everything you do) On the other hand, meeting deadlines keeps you mentally stimulated (ah, those new skills?) and provides a sense of purpose. These are things that may reduce stress, combat depression, and boost your self-esteem.

## President's Message

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, MWF President  
excerpted from [June 2023 - Issue No. 623](#)

June will be here when you are reading this message and I hope that you and your clubs will be planning rock hunting trips or lapidary classes and maybe a club summer picnic.

Our newsletter will take a summer break for two months, and we thank our editor Valerie J. Meyers and wish her lots of summer fun.

When we resume it will be time to head to Howell, Michigan for our convention. Thank you to the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society for hosting MWF. It sounds like a great show and convention, they have worked very hard to plan this event. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Articles about the convention are in this issue; registration forms were in the May issue, and will soon be online at [mwfed.org](http://mwfed.org). Deadline for registration is August 16th. Happy summer rock hunting to all!



### 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)

## March Minutes continued from Page 2

### New Business

Ross has reserved space in Galesburg, Mi on May 6 at the K-Zoo show for selling rocks. If interested in joining him, let him know.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program- Ross presented a program on copper

Next Meeting: April 23, 2023

## April Minutes

### Meeting Minutes Date: April 23, 2023

Members in attendance / Adults 34 Children 1 New Members      Guests     

Call to Order: President Ross Ferguson

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

PAST PRESIDENTS: Kathy Miller, Don Church, Jason Hefner

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

Treasurer's report: Lynn Zeiger / Motion made and seconded to accept report

Parliamentarian: Ross Ferguson

Midwest Federation/ Ross participated in a zoom meeting with 5 area rock club presidents. Those present decided that incoming new club presidents should receive a packet to help them with their duties. Because field trips are becoming more difficult to arrange, the area clubs have decided to work together and invite other club members to join them on field trips.

American Federation/ American Lands Access/

### Committee Reports

Show & Tell/ Nick Pellus Fred Swartzendruber brought some examples of ceramics that he is creating with rock inlays. Ross brought a few examples of stromatolites.

Editor: Jason Hefner / All is good

Educational: Jesse Zeiger /Retiring soon, removed rock display from Edison school.

Face Book: Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Kraftor/ No report

Field Trips: /A couple schools will be visiting the Kraftors rock store on field trips. There has been no contact from Ethos. Ross went hunting in a Nashville Target store parking lot. [interesting] Dennis and Holly Kraftor are planning a trip to Haunted Ridge.

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## **April Minutes** continued from previous page

Historian: Jim Daly/ No Report

Juniors: Kathy Chidaster/ Working with one junior member.

Membership: Nancy Foreman / 34 members and one junior member

Programs: No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / Stay safe

Show Chair: Bob Chopa/ No Report

Sunshine: - /

Webmaster: Joe Perry / Updating information. Kim will be working to update the member list.

### Old Business

For the show we will provide the dealers with vouchers to be used at food trucks, instead of club members providing food. [We must first check the contract for food provision.] We will set up a tent area for breaks. We are checking the map lay out for the possibility of moving the kids corner and silent auction to the far end. Wrist bands will be used instead of tickets. They will be color coded for each day for adults and kids, as well as pre-numbered. We would like to get a large clock for the silent auction. For our buyers convenience we will be looking into using “squares” instead of an ATM machine. This should make sales easier.

### New Business

A faceting machine has been donated to the club from Father Anthony Spanely. A thank you card is on the back table.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: John Jaworski presented a program about stromatolites and shared interesting facts and samples.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2023

## **May Minutes**

Meeting Minutes Date: May 21, 2023

Members in attendance / Adults\_\_11\_\_Children\_\_3 New Members\_\_Guests\_\_\_\_\_

Call to Order: President Ross Ferguson

Pledge of Allegiance & Welcome

PAST PRESIDENTS: Kathy Miller

Secretary report: Jan Pellus/ Rockfinder not available

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## May Minutes

continued from previous page

Treasurer's report: Lynn Zeiger / Motion made and seconded to accept report

Parliamentarian: Ross Ferguson/ No Report

American Federation/ No Report

American Lands Access/ No Report

Committee Reports

Show & Tell/ Nick Pellus/ Lapidary Journals available on table. Please take one or two or three.

Editor: Jason Hefner / No Report

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / No Report

Face Book: Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Kraftor/ No report

Field Trips: / No Report

Historian: Jim Daly/ No Report

Juniors: Kathy Chidaster/ No Report

Membership: Nancy Foreman / 11 members and three junior members

Programs: No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / Stay safe

Show Chair: Bob Chapa/ Sign up sheets will be available at next meeting. Money from dealers coming in. Still checking on food and "squares". July 23 picnic and meeting is the last meeting before the show. Save your egg cartons for the Kid's Corner. We need "all hands on deck."

Sunshine: - / No Report

Webmaster: Joe Perry / No Report

Old Business

New Business

Ross is looking into obtaining an auditor for the club books. This should be done on a regular basis.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program:

Next Meeting: JUNE 25, 2023

## June Minutes

Meeting Minutes Date: June 25, 2023

Members in attendance / Adults 32\_\_ Children \_\_2\_\_ New Members\_\_ Guests\_\_1\_\_

Call to Order: President Ross Ferguson

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

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# June Minutes

continued from previous page

PAST PRESIDENTS: Kathy Miller, Jason Hefner

Secretary report: Jan Pellus/ Rockfinder not available – minutes available on request

Treasurer's report: Lynn Zeiger / Motion made and seconded to accept report

Parliamentarian: Ross Fergerson

Midwest Federation/ No Report

American Federation/ No Report

American Lands Access/ No Report

Committee Reports

Show & Tell/ Nick Pellus- Dennis and Holly brought fossil specimens they collected from the south east Indiana Richmond area. Jason brought sodalite specimens he collected in Ontario that fluoresce bright orange. Another member brought sodalite specimens he collected from the Kewana area that also fluoresce. He used a 'pinpoint' metal detector to find specimens that contain copper.

Editor: Jason Hefner / The Rockfinder has not been out due to time constraints

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / retired

Face Book: Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Kraftor/ There have been many questions about the show. Please continue sending in tidbits.

Field Trips: Several members went to Keokuk. Hunting was disappointing.

Historian: Jim Daly/ Sadly Jim passed recently. Jason Hefner has been in contact with his family. They will try to bring his collection to the show for the silent auction.

Juniors: Kathy Chidaster/ No Report

Membership: Nancy Foreman / The club will pay for one tee shirt per member working the club show. Club tee shirts must be worn by club members working the show. Please order through Nancy.

Programs: No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No Report

Show Chair: Bob Chapa- No Report. Several concerns were raised regarding the show.

Sunshine: - / Sympathy card to Jim Daly's family

Webmaster: Joe Perry / No Report

Old Business

Dennis and Holly have placed sign up sheets on the table for the Kid's Corner. There is an explanation for each job on the sheets. They will show workers what to do if unsure. There will be lots of games and activities for kids. Please help. Dennis and Holly also advised the club that they will be closing their shop at the end of the year.

Watch for sign up sheets for the club show at the picnic. That is our last meeting before the show. We hope to have another great year. We need as many volunteers as possible.

There is a sign up sheet on the table for the picnic. Please sign the sheet or contact Nancy Foreman by July 9. Nancy will order the food and Lyn will pick it up. The picnic will be held at the Rez starting at 12:30 pm.

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# June Minutes continued from previous page

## New Business

The question was asked if the club is checking on current interest rates for our investments. Lyn reassured everyone that he is keeping an eye on things. The club is checking on name tags.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: John Jaworski

Next Meeting: PICNIC July 23 @ The Res

