

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



Apr 2025

Volume 65 Number 4



[Photo credit](#)

Were you born in April? If so, the
Diamond is your birth stone!

Check out the “Tiffany Diamond”!

**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, 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

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 **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:
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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.



Volunteers from Jason Hefner, Editor

We need volunteers to make the show work!. If you have never volunteered, don't worry it is not a hard job (unless you are setting up or tearing down). We need folks at many different tables to interact with the public.

- Do you like to work with kids, play games, and hand out prizes – well the kids korner might be for you.
- Do you like to say hi to everyone you meet? Can you add basic numbers? Do you like to let people know how things work? – the door table might be for you.
- Do have knowledge you like to share when people want to know about the club? Can you help identify rocks? - the club table might be the place to be.
- How about working in a fast paced sales ring? - the silent auction might suit you.
- There are lots of other opportunities as well. Please sign up to volunteer!

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: April 27, 2025

Doors open at 1:30pm
Meeting starts at 2:00pm

Place:
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
29th & Wall
South Bend, IN. (This is in River Park area)

Board of Directors

President: Open

Vice-President: Stephanie Hughes
574-847-9749

Secretary: Kathy Wallace

Treasurer: Lyn Zeiger
574-259-5944

Liaison: Jason Hefner
574-354-0478

Past President: Ross Fergerson
574-850-6208

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
Fergerson

Historian: Open

Hospitality: Open

Juniors:

Librarian:

Membership: Deb Longworth
574-250-2825

Programs:

Publicity: Josh Klosinski
574-274-8714

Safety: Jennifer Hefner
574-858-9837

Show Chair: Ross Fergerson
574-850-6208 & Stephanie Hughes
574-847-9749

Sunshine: Sarah Lane
574-276-7554

Webmaster: Joe Perry
574-295-9050

March Meeting minutes By Kathy Wallace, Secretary

Meeting Minutes – Date: March 23, 2025

Members in Attendance - Adults 40 Children 3
New Members 0 Guests 0

Call to Order - Jason Hefner

Pledge of Allegiance - Jason Hefner

Welcome - Jason Hefner

Past Presidents - Jason, Ross, Kathy

Secretary Report - Read and approved

Parliamentarian – Ross Fergerson
Midwest Federation –
American Federation –
American Lands Access –

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Show & Tell –

Editor – Jason Hefner

Educational –

Facebook – Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Kraftor – Stephanie
Hughes

Field Trips –

Historian –

Hospitality – Eva Jakab

Juniors – Kathy Chidister

Membership – Deb Longworth

Programs – MSHA Hazardous Recognition Training for all led by Jason
Hefner

Publicity –

Safety – Jennifer Hefner & Julie Wieger

Show Chair – Ross Fergerson & Stephanie Hughes

Sunshine – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to:

Get well card to:

Webmaster – Joe Perry

OLD BUSINESS - 24 new vendors so far. We are waiting on the contract from the fairgrounds. Next month we'll have the volunteer sheets out for all to sign!! By-laws state that you need to be involved in/volunteer in 3 events in order to go on field trips. VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER!!

We will have a guide from the Riverton Gem and Mineral Society take us to some new places as he is familiar with the area!

During this trip we maybe adding additional side trips. Let Ross know if you're going to go on this trip.

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From the desk of the President JC Moore, AFMS

President [Volume 78, Number 4 — May 2025](#)



Thank you to the Catawba Valley. Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. for hosting the AFMS/EFMLS Convention in Hickory, North Carolina. The Convention was a great success with many vendors, a wonderful kids area, one beautiful competitive exhibit (submitted by a first time exhibitor who earned a score high enough to earn a trophy) as well as several other exhibits. Our meetings were well attended and had great interaction in the decisions. After discussions last year in Ventura about converting the newsletter to an electronic version, a resolution was approved to transition this year to an electronic version. Currently 1540 newsletters are mailed, each club receives 3 copies with a yearly cost of \$16,000.00. In the remaining months, details will be finalized so that the newsletter will be readily available to a larger portion of our membership. During the Uniform Rules meeting, it was determined that the OP for the Judges Training committee is outdated, and a committee was established to update the Operating Procedure for the position. It will be presented at next year's convention.

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

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President's Message

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

excerpted from [April 2025 - Issue No. 641](#)

Alice Morse Earle, an American historian, wrote, "Every day may not be good, but there's something good in every day." How true! There are some days that you feel are better than others. Perhaps you weren't feeling great or work was too crazy or something happened in your home – or perhaps it was the weather.



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

So you may have been stuck in your home. That may not have been too good for you, but then again perhaps you had the time to read a book, catch up on a hobby, or just enjoy the day doing nothing! If so, the not-so-good day had something good in it! Personally I find that, as I am getting older, every once in a while, doing nothing is very appealing.

Use the link to read the rest of the article.

March Meeting minutes continued from page 2

NEW BUSINESS - We will be suspending the Juniors until more kids come to it. We are not getting rid of it. We will vote on lowering dues to \$10 for single person.
There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting to clean the bathrooms after our meetings. It might take 10 minutes to do this. Please sign up!!

Adjournment – Motion made & seconded

Program - MSHA

Next Meeting - Sunday, April 27, 2025

From the desk of the President continued from page 3

After attending the AFMS Convention in Hickory North Carolina we returned home on Monday night and then on Tuesday we began packing for the Midwest Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska beginning on Thursday April 3. Being the AFMS President sometime feels like you're meeting yourself coming and going.

The weekend following the AFMS Convention, the Midwest Federation held their convention at the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's 65th Annual show. While this was their 65th show, the club was organized 70 years ago and had 70 display cases with a theme of petrified wood to commemorate their 70 years as a club.

As the show season is now in full swing, I hope that all the clubs are enjoying successful shows with great attendance. When you're not attending a show, I hope that you are out collecting your favorite specimens.