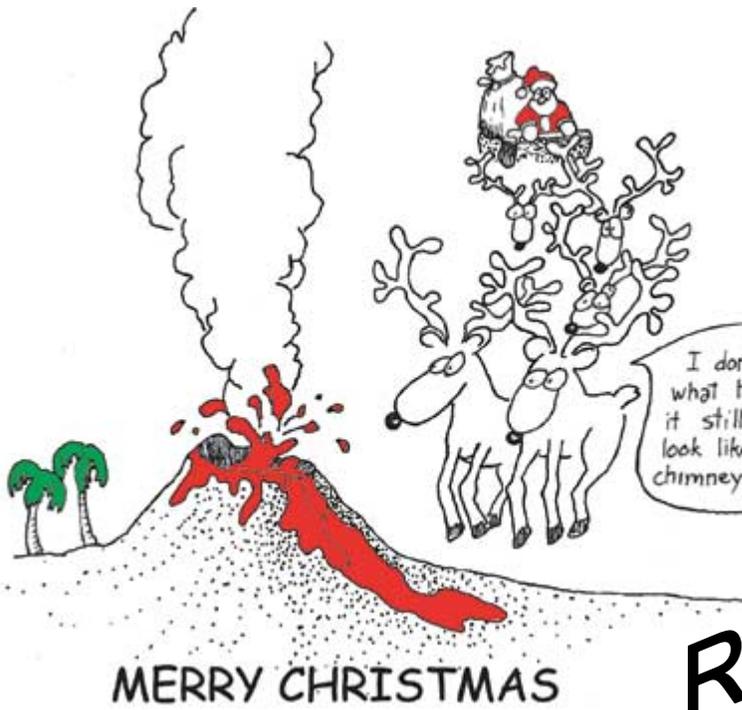


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Jason Hefner, Editor  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524



Nov 2025

Volume 65 Number 7



# 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.

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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.



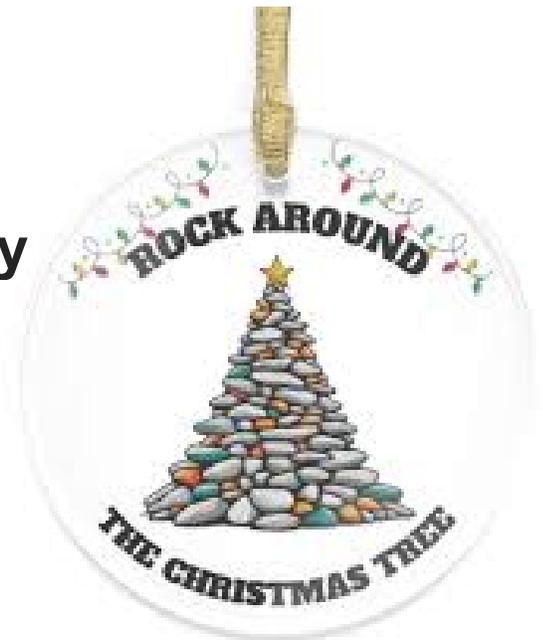
## 2026 Officers from Jason Hefner, Editor

At the last meeting we presented the following slate of officers for next year. We will vote to approve or deny the slate at the Dec 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you have any concerns make sure you are in attendance.

President – Jason Hefner  
Vice President – Stephanie Hughes  
Secretary – Kathy Wallace  
Treasurer – Lynn Zeiger

## Up & Coming Next Meeting: Christmas Party Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

Remember  
No meeting  
in November



Doors open at 12:30pm  
There will be a short business meeting and then time to enjoy yourselves

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

# October Meeting minutes

By Stephanie Hughes &

Kathy Wallace

Meeting Minutes: October 26th, 2025

Members in attendance: 20 adults

1 guest- Kendall

1 new member- Tristan

Past Presidents: Kathy, Ross, Jason

Treasurers Report: \$6,000 in expenses due to Silent Auction checks

Show & Tell: Jason brought in a Breccia UV reactive specimen from Quebec

Ross brought watermelon chalcedony from South Dakota

New Business: Elections

Ross nominated Jason Hefner for President

Stephanie Hughes for VP

Lynn for Treasurer

Kathy Wallace for Secretary

December 7th is the Christmas Party at the church at 1 p.m. Eastern time!

The club is buying chicken for the party so bring a side dish or dessert if you're going to attend.

## From the Desk of the President JC Moore, AFMS President [Volume 78, Number 7 — October 2025](#)

As I begin the final months of my term as President, I will admit that I was not fully prepared for this year's schedule for the seven conventions. Usually there are some breaks in the scheduling of the conventions, but this year the schedule has two conventions back-to-back, then in September three conventions are held back-to-back-to-back. So instead of the conventions taking place over three or four months, five conventions are completed in two months. Even with this schedule this has been one of the busiest and most enjoyable parts of being the President. The camaraderie, dedication and hospitality that I have experienced these last two years is something I will always cherish. Without the support and guidance from the Federation Board and committee chairs this position would be impossible. Then there are all the Past Presidents who have set the standard so high that maintaining that standard seems to be out of reach, try as I might.

One item that I had hoped to accomplish during my term as President was to appoint chairs in all vacant positions. Unfortunately, I still have two open positions — Judges Training and Media Director. As I have one month left, I hope to twist some arms to get them filled and will help President Elect Ronna Watkins to fill these positions as well as any chair that may become vacant during her term. Click the link to read the entire article.

## Fall Meeting Donna Moore, MWF Secretary excerpted from [November 2025 - Issue No. 644](#)

People have been collecting rocks and minerals long before history began. Over those millennia, interest in rocks and minerals has not declined, as some may have recently thought.

My own journey began chasing behind a rock sled for a local farmer trying to clear his field of those pesky stones. Over time I was able to amass quite a collection. Of course, I didn't really understand what I was doing but I knew what I liked. My mother, on the other hand, didn't have the same appreciation for my hobby and often asked, "What are you going to do with all those rocks?" As it happens, I had become a Boy Scout and my answer was simple. I'm going to earn the Rock Collecting Merit Badge.

I quickly discovered that I could do a great many things with those rocks. Thanks to my Scouting Field Book and the local library, I was able to organize my collection and determine which rocks were of general interest, like fossils, and which were of greater value historically and commercially.

I also discovered that I could cut and polish many rocks to make them more interesting to other collectors and people who just liked pretty stones. I'm sure that many of you have a similar story on how you first became aware of rockhounding and its many facets.

Click the link above to read the entire article.



### 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)

# September Meeting minutes

By Kathy Wallace, Secretary

**Meeting Minutes** – Date: Sept 28, 2025

**Members in Attendance** - Adults 31 Children 0  
New Members 0 Guests 1

**Call to Order** - Jason Hefner

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Jason Hefner

**Welcome** - Jason Hefner

**Past Presidents** - Kathy, Jason, Bob

**Secretary Report** - Read and approved

**Treasurer's Report** – Read and approved

**Parliamentarian** – Jason Hefner

Midwest Federation –

American Federation –

American Lands Access –

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Show & Tell** –

**Editor** – Jason Hefner

**Educational** –

**Facebook** – Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Krafter – Stephanie Hughes. !

**Field Trips** – 2026 field trips now that it's so late in the season. Still waiting on Auglaze (sp?) and Michigan quarry

**Historian** –

**Hospitality** – Eva Jakab

**Juniors** – Kathy Chidister

**Membership** – Deb Longworth - Deb reported that we had 19 people sign up from the show and ½ of them are families.

**Programs** –

**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** - Lyn thanked everyone for helping and making the show a success! Paid attendance was \$13,475 with 2700 people in attendance. We had approx. 300 kids collect the vendor cards this year and the biggest “prize” wanted were the geodes. Glenn let the kids crack their own (with his help) and they really enjoyed that! Total kids for the show with wristbands was 328 which was up from last year slightly.

The plinko & wheel were big hits again this year for the kids and adults! Stephanie collected the “how we did” sheets from the vendors and they were very pleased with everything. Only suggestion was to shorten the hours on Friday from 10 am to 6 pm and add an hour on Sunday from 9 am to 4 pm.

Continued next page

## September Meeting minutes, continued from previous page

Most vendors said this year was better and more organized than previous years for set up. Quite a few of the kids and parents told us they were disappointed that we didn't have a Kids auction again. Maybe we can do a "buy it now" area with set prices for kids next year.

**NEW BUSINESS** - LaGrange County highway dept. quarry trip to collect rocks. The bus holds 14 people. No date set as of the meeting, seeing if there are enough interested. Field trip to South Dakota again next year in virgin territory with jasper, agate, etc available. We will be needing officers for next year! President and possibly vice-president. Come to the Christmas dinner/party or be voted in : ) Really, we need someone to step up and take over for Ross and possibly Stephanie.

We will be needing more vendor cards for next year. Bill and Nancy may have the pdf/vector files for the cards. We will have to get some quotes from some printers.

When the show was over I (Kathy) did an inventory of what was left over so I'd know what we would need for next year. I am missing 1/2 box of fools gold. Does ANYONE know where it's at? I had 3 other people helping me look and we didn't find it in the basement. If you borrowed it, please put it back or if you know where it is, please let me know.

**Adjournment** – Motion made & seconded

**Programs** –

**Next Meeting** - Sunday, October 26

**Upcoming dates** - Sunday, December 7 starting @ 1 pm eastern time. Bring salad, dessert, etc., as meat will be provided,