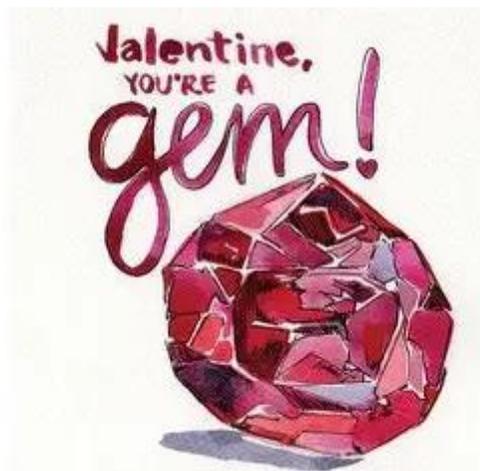


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Jason Hefner, Editor  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524



Feb 2026

Volume 66 Number 1



[Photo credit](#)

**THE  
ROCKFINDER**

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

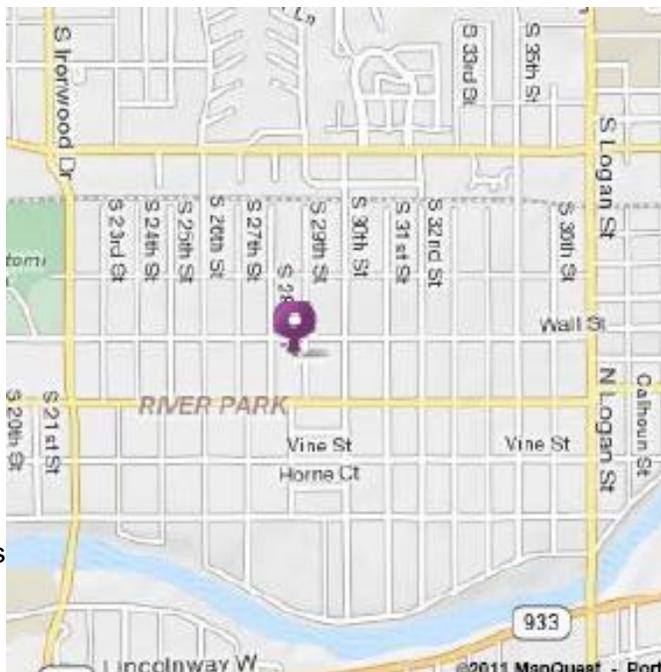
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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 \$10.00      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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
 c/o Deb Longworth  
 7415 East 900 North  
 New Carlisle, IN 46552

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:  
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.



## President's Message, Jason Hefner, President

Here we go. New Year new President. New goals.

The board is updating the clubs' bylaws to match what we currently charge for membership and we will be implementing rules around field trips and the show based upon levels of participation. It has been extremely difficult to get field trips and being an active member needs to be rewarded. Now is the time to prepare for the show if you plan to have a few items on the silent auction table. Maybe look through a few buckets that have been sitting around since last year (or even 30 years ago)

If you would like to be more active with the club and just do not know what you might be able to do, please give me a call. I guarantee everyone can help us grow whether behind the scenes or dealing with the public. Maybe you enjoy talking to kids, or have a knack of talking quarry owners into letting people have a field trip in their quarry, we can find something for you.

Speaking of field trips, I have spoken with 6 quarries and have a few more to speak with to try and get field trips scheduled for next year. I truly hope we can get 2-3 field trips set for the year, so wish me luck!

## Up & Coming

Next Meeting: February 22, 2026

Doors open at 1:30 pm  
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: Jason Hefner  
574-354-0478

Vice-President: Stephanie Hughes  
574-847-9749

Secretary: Kathy Wallace  
219-380-1252

Treasurer: Lyn Zeiger  
574-259-5944

Liaison: Open

Past President: Ross Ferguson  
574-850-6208

## Committee Chairs

Displays: Kathy Miller  
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner  
574-354-0478

Educational: Jesse Zeiger  
574-259-5944

Facebook: Jason Hefner

Field Trips: Jason Hefner, Ross  
Ferguson

Historian: Open

Hospitality: Open

Juniors: Kathy Chidister  
574-202-3864

Librarian:

Membership: Deb Longworth  
574-250-2825

Programs:

Publicity: Josh Klosinski  
574-274-8714

Show Chair: Ross R & Stephanie H

Sunshine: Sarah Lane  
574-276-7554

Webmaster: Joe Perry  
574-295-9050

## Dec Meeting minutes By Kathy Wallace, Secretary

Members in Attendance - Adults 46 Children 4

New Members 0 Guests 6

Call to Order - Ross Ferguson

Pledge of Allegiance - Ross Ferguson

Welcome - Ross Ferguson

Past Presidents -

Secretary Report - Read and approved

Parliamentarian – Ross Ferguson

Midwest Federation –

American Federation –

American Lands Access –

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Show & Tell –

Editor – Jason Hefner

Educational –

Facebook – Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Kraftor – Stephanie  
Hughes , Jason Hefner

Field Trips –

Historian –

Hospitality – Eva Jakob

Juniors – Kathy Chidister Kids meeting @ 1:00 pm starting in January so  
kids can join us at our regular meeting.

Membership – Nancy Foreman

Programs -

Publicity –

Safety – Jennifer Hefner

Show Chair – Ross Fergersen & Stephanie Hughes splitting the  
responsibility

## Public Relations

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair excerpted from [Volume 77, Number 9 — December 2024](#)

Last month, I talked about the distinction between public relations and publicity, and I provided a couple examples of public relations in action from recent goodwill efforts of the Oklahoma Gem & Mineral Society and the South Orange County Gem & Mineral Society—efforts that drew attention to the societies via actions that benefited their broader communities. What specific steps might your club take toward crafting a plan of public relations?

To expand on where I left off last month, consider first: What is your club's wheelhouse? Most clubs are generalized, with varied member interests: mineral collectors, field trippers, fossil collectors, lapidary artists and jewelry makers, etc. However, some clubs specialize. For instance, within the California Federation, one focuses on opals while at least two focus on fossils and paleontology. Several focus on gold prospecting and metal detecting while one is composed entirely of faceting buffs. One is a Friends of Mineralogy chapter, and another is a juniors-only club. Even clubs that are generalized tend to have a focus. When I joined the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society some 25 years ago, members dabbled in many things, but a large number collected fossils. Today, lapidary enthusiasts dominate. What is your club's focus and strengths? And how might you draw upon your expertise and connections to best benefit your larger community while raising your club's public profile beyond your annual show? Use link to see rest of article.

## President's Message

Cheryl Neary, MWF President excerpted from [January 2025 - Issue No. 638](#)

Intolerable, tolerable, acceptable, delightful, gorgeous – just some of the adjectives we use to describe how we feel about the weather. The adjective is used to describe how you feel about the weather conditions – and it is subjective.

Some may say it's too cold or too hot – you may say that it isn't cold enough or hot enough. It also depends on what you are planning for the day. If you are planning on skiing, you don't want it too warm to melt the snow. If you are planning on a day at the beach, you don't want it to rain. Weather is the mix of various events that occur each day in our atmosphere. Weather is different in various parts of the world. Weather constantly changes over time and is controlled by changes in air pressure.

Our rock clubs are like the weather! How people see the club is subjective. If you are having a meeting that is hands-on, members who enjoy crafting would say that it is a great meeting, while people who are not interested in creating a project find the meeting uneventful. The same person who loved one hands-on project may find another one not so inviting.

What is the point of this article? Find out...follow the link above.



### 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)

# December Meeting minutes continued from page 2

Sunshine – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to:

Get well card to:

Webmaster – Joe Perry

OLD BUSINESS - Scholarships – Two ladies hopefully coming in February to our meeting

Lander, WY still on from June 2 -6 !! Blue Forest, Jade mining, agate flats w/maybe a night hunt, Wind River Iris agate, etc, etc. Meeting at Twin Pines Campground.

NEW BUSINESS - Rock Show August 15, 16 & 17. Maybe stop Sundays @ 4:00 pm so vendors can get packed up earlier/easier.

Kids Korner in August: Kathy & Glenn and Jim & Penni are doing the games. No silent Kids auction this year. We will be doing copper for the educational part. PLEASE don't take the copper that's in the buckets and if you took the big piece, please bring it back!

Elections: Kathy, Stepanie & Lynn are still doing their same jobs for the club. Jason Hefner president.

Adjournment – Motion made & seconded

Program - Christmas Surprise !!

Next Meeting - Sunday, January 26 @ 2:00 et

Few pictures from our Christmas party – Thanks Kathy Wallace!

