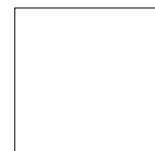


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Jason Hefner, Editor  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524



March 2026

Volume 66 Number 2

**THE  
ROCKFINDER**

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

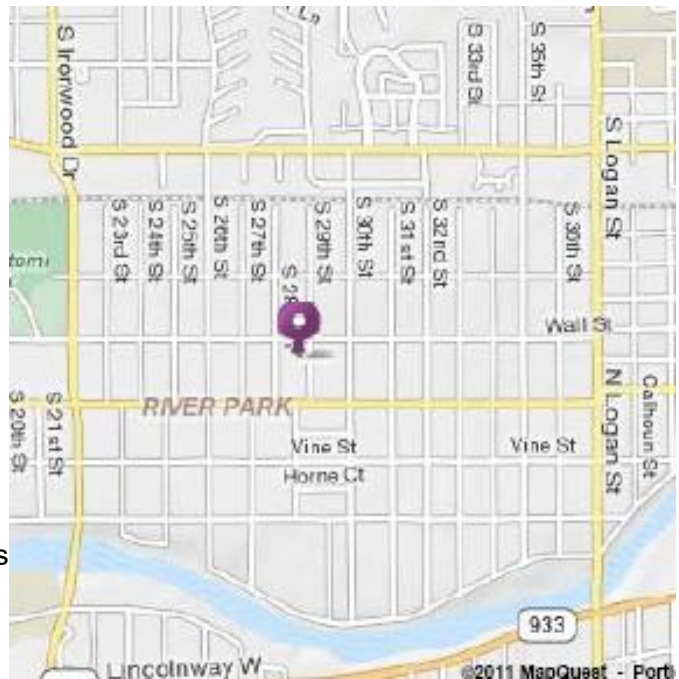
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 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

What a wonderful winter we have experienced this year. 80 degrees of temperature swings. My little thermometer had us at a high of -5 in late February and 75 degrees just a few days ago! Looking ahead we are most likely done with snow. Why do I mention this, well I do not know about you, but I want to get out and go rock hunting.

Here are some public events to think about. Moose Lake Agate Days July 18-19, Keokuk Geodefest September 25-27, and Kentucky Agate Festival April 25-26.

Speaking of Moose Lake Agate Days have you ever been? They dump agate containing gravels on the road and you can search to your hearts content. After February's meeting we had our own Agate Days event when someone tripped on their own shoelaces and dropped Eva's beautiful agates on the road. I found a few small ones, but one large one was found as well. They all made their way back to their rightful owner, but it was fun while it lasted.

Right now I would suggest heading to a beach on Lake Michigan or even head over to Ohio to hunt for space rocks!

## Up & Coming

Next Meeting: March 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

## February Meeting minutes

 By Kathy Wallace,  
Secretary

**Meeting Minutes** – Date: February 22, 2026

**Members in Attendance** - Adults 17 Children 1  
New Members 0 Guests 2

**Call to Order** - Jason Hefner

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Jason Hefner

**Welcome** - Jason Hefner

**Past Presidents** – Kathy, Ross, Jason

**Secretary Report** - Read and approved

**Treasurers 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 – Stephanie Hughes

**Field Trips** – Talking to 4 different quarries – Canada trip is possible –  
Possibly 2 or 3 out west in SD for marine fossils, dino bones, ammonite –  
Montana agate trip – Calgary Canada for ammolite

**Historian** –

**Hospitality** – Eva Jakab

**Juniors** – Kathy Chidister

**Membership** – Deb Longworth

**Programs** –

**Publicity** –

**Safety** – Jennifer Hefner & Julie Wieger

**Show Chair** – Stephanie Hughes & Ross

**Sunshine** – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to:

Get well card to:

**Webmaster** – Joe Perry Joe is going to add the dates for the August show on the calendar, August 15, 16 & 17. He's also going to add the picnic date of July 16 to the calendar.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Jason can't get on FB to answer questions, etc. He is looking into a web designer to improve, update, etc. our website.

Ross isn't going to contact B100 for the August show this year as after last year's show our numbers/followers increased to 3800!

Ross will teach cabbng to anyone who is interested in learning. Contact Ross if you would like a lesson or two!

Jason discussed the by-laws of our club and this was what was changed and presented to those present:

(Continued on Page 4)

## Public Relations

Ronna Watkins, AFMS President excerpted

from [Volume 79, Number 2 — March 2026](#)

Greetings from Tieton!

I hope this March message reaches you happily in the middle of your hobby, whether it be polishing a cabochon, tumbling rock, wire-wrapping, classifying minerals, carving or casting... There is always something to do with rocks and always something new to learn or a technique to perfect.

March 20th brings Spring with an abundance of rock & gem shows and a season full of field trips. For me, March begins my presidential travels starting with the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show and Convention presented by the Hellgate Mineral Society in Missoula, MT. The show is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn with ten rooms set aside for members and dealers.

I'll be looking for another sea fossil to add to my collection. I am excited to participate in their on-site field trips of sifting for sapphires, garnets and sunstones, and panning for gold (An excellent idea for when your show is going to be held before the weather allows you to host field digs). Then in May, I will head to Illinois for the AFMS Annual Convention. Find the information for the show in this issue and please get your registration and reservations made so we can plan on your attending. I look forward to seeing everyone. I hope you can attend.



### 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)

## President's Message

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

excerpted from [March 2026 - Issue No. 650](#)

Time, specifically geologic time, is a difficult thing to wrap one's head around. As a mentor in the Scouting America organization (formerly Boy Scouts of America), it has been my privilege to counsel youth in several merit badges as they work to earn their way towards the highest rank in Scouting, Eagle. For several years I have presented the Geology badge, given my obvious interest in rocks and minerals.

One of the most challenging concepts for a young teenager to grasp is geologic time – the idea that while time is long and deep, it, like all things, has a beginning and, while not necessarily an ending, certainly a closure or transition. Mountains rise thousands of feet from the depths of the ocean and over time are ground down, first into rocks and then into individual grains of sand that form deserts, only to be carried by the forces of nature back to the ocean whence they came. Explaining that process to even an adult is daunting.

As a result, I have been reading books and magazine articles, scrolling the internet, and watching infinite YouTube videos related to Earth's geologic past, to gain insight to its possible futures. Most of us in the rockhounding community are more or less interested in geology, if for no other reason than to understand the wonders of nature when we look into a crystal, see our reflection in a cab, or cut a slab from a stone.

Find out more ...follow the link above.



### 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)

# February Meeting minutes

continued from page 2

**Regular membership:** Only regular members shall hold office or vote at regular meetings. Each regular member shall have one vote at regular meetings.

**Family Membership:** Each parent/guardian is considered a regular member and may hold office and has one vote.

**Active member: (Single or Family) – to be classified as an active member the person or family parent/guardian(s) must attend at least 7 meetings/events and volunteer at annual show or outreach events, and/or be a member of the Board of Directors.**

The annual dues for Single Membership are changed to \$10.00 per year.

Field trips are open only to active members in good standing, with exceptions to be determined by the board.

It was voted on and carried to allow the changes to our by-laws.

**NEW BUSINESS** Discussed taking only 15% of the money people receive for selling their items at the silent auction vs. 20%. Motion was made to accept the 15% but then it was discussed that other clubs take 20% so it was tabled to either the March or April meeting.

Kathy brought up the “steam show” requests from LaVille Elementary school on Thursday, March 19 from 5:30 – 7:00. They need to know by Wednesday, February 25 if someone can do it. Her name is Holly Swartz and her number is: 574-784-2311.

Also, Earth Day Festival in Tippecanoe, IN on Wednesday, April 22 from 9 am to 2 pm. Paul Shumaker is the contact and his number is: 574-935-8597.

Glenn and Kathy have made new “steam” boards (fossil, mineral & industry) for use at the August show and any school/library functions that are requested (see above!)

**Adjournment** – Motion made & seconded

**Program** - Eva brought in her agate collection. **Awesome** collection!!!

If anyone is interested in going to the Bear Lake Agate show in Carlton, MN on July 18, let Eva know.