

FREDERICK C. NIEBAUER
174 E. Cleveland Road
South Bend, Indiana 46637

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE ROCKFINDER

JAN 1977



MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC.
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THE MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC., a non-profit organization, is affiliated with the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES and with the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

REGULAR MEETINGS

TIME: 2:00 P.M.	PLACE: Nature Center
Fourth Sunday of Each Month	Rum Village Park
June - Field Trip Meeting	2626 So. Gertrude Street
July - No Meeting	South Bend, Indiana
August - Annual Picnic	

DUES

Individual - \$3.00 per year Family - \$5.00 per year Junior - \$0.50 per year

ROCKFINDER STAFF

Editor.....	Fred Niebauer	174 E. Cleveland Rd., So. Bend, Ind.	46637
Asst. Editor..	Sherry Russell	27911 North St., No. Liberty, Ind.	46554
Staff Members.	Club Members		

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 5th of each month of publication.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER, provided due recognition is given.

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 17 Number 1 January 1977
Published by Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc. South Bend, Indiana

Regular Meeting:

January 23, 1977

Time: Doors Open 1:30 PM, EST
 Meeting 2:00 PM, EST

Place: Nature Center
 Rum Village Park
 2626 So. Gertrude St.
 South Bend, Indiana

Program:

Business Meeting

Film - Rock Formation and
 How Gems are formed

Hospitality:

Larry & Catherine McHugh
Jim & Sherry Russell
John & Roberta Bohdan

Educational Meetings:

Time: 7:00 P.M., EST

Place: First Bank Basement
 Corner of U.S. 31 North
 & Cleveland Rd., South Bend

Program: Friday, January 28, 1977
 Fossil identification. Bring
 your specimens.

Program: Friday, February 11, 1977
 To be announced at regular
 meeting.



WINTER

IT SOON WILL BE OVER
Dues Are Due

If you forgot to pay your dues
or subscribe to a rock magazine
that you wanted, do so at the Jan-
uary meeting or send your check to:

Merl Lechlitner
1409 Penn Avenue
Mishawaka, Indiana 46544

Calendar

- March 5-6 Blossomland Gem & Min-
eral Society Show.
Stevensville, Mich.
March 30 - April 2 Indian Mounds
Rock and Mineral Club
Show. Grand Rapids, Mich.
April 1-3 Flint Rock and Gem Club
Show, Flint, Michigan

From Your Rocky Leader

HI there fellow Rockhounds. Well, here it is January 1977, the start of another great year of rock-hunting for all of us.

I would like to express my thanks to the Club for electing me President for this year, and I will do my best to do a good job for you, as I feel that with the Board you have elected to work with me, we will be able to do it along with the 100% help from the Membership.

Even though we have had a lot of SNOW, which does not make for good rock hunting, we can still enjoy our hobby in our shops at home. Soon we will be back out in the field, where we can enjoy our hobby at its best. So with this happy thought in mind, I am sure that your field tripper, Bill Crull, is planning some great field trips for this year. If anyone has any suggestions for field trips, I know that Bill will be glad to hear from you, so give him a call.

At the Christmas Party, the question was put out to the membership on having a show in 1977, and at that time all were in favor of it. The Board will be open to suggestions for making our show a bigger and better show. The show in 1976 was a great success, but with a little more work each year, we can always make our shows better.

I have talked with Bob and Margaret Heinek, who will be handling the Friday night Educational Meetings. They are open for suggestions. The main purpose of an Educational meeting is to become more educated about our hobby, to be able to understand rocks, gems and minerals, and to know how to do things with them. So with your suggestions I'm sure the Heineks will have good sessions of learning for you.

At this time I would like to express my thanks to the members of last years' Board for all the hard work that they did in the year of 1976. It is my hope that they will continue to help the club as much in 1977 as they did in 1976.

From Your Rocky Leader (Continued)

There are several things that we will be talking about as the year goes along, so here's hoping to see you at our regular meetings and on our Education nights.

Your Rocky Leader,

Jim

Great Salt Lake Rising

The waters of Great Salt Lake Utah, "America's Dead Sea," are rising. The Summer of 1976 found the level of the lake the highest for 50 years. Only a decade ago the lake had nearly receded to a muddy pond, and during these years of low water many developments were constructed near the lake. Now the water is lapping on the edges of the International Airport and against the Interstate Highway, a railroad causeway, and several chemical companies, a serious threat to all.

Because of damage and potential damage from the water, Utah's Great Salt Lake Advisory Board has drafted plans to pump up to 1.5 million acre feet of the briny water into a new lake on the barren mud flats of western Utah. The "Lesser Salt Lake" would handle the excess water. The Board says that if the present trend continues, the lake could raise another 14 feet by the end of the century and cause astronomical damage. The Army Corps of Engineers is conferring with the Advisory Board.

Also threatened are the salt marshes on the perimeter of the lake which are the habitat of wildlife, including thousands of ducks.

The National Gem and Mineral Show will be held in Ogden, Utah, near Great Salt Lake and the salt flats, August 18-21.

From AFMS Newsletter

First Bank Display

After January 20th you may stop in at the Main and Jefferson Street First Bank and see your rock display.

All the rocks have been collected and at this time we are making up the layout and information needed for the display case.

Your rocks will be returned to you as soon as possible after the display is removed.

Thanks again for everyone's generous cooperation in this project.

Fred Niebauer

December Minutes

Minutes of the December meeting and Christmas party were published in the December Rockfinder.

Tumbling Procedure For Red Mediteranean Coral

Coral is very soft and can be nicked or smoothed with a file or corundum cloth. Preform to avoid waste by rounding ends and cutting to a desired length or shape. Tumble with broken glass or clean by using a stiff brush with soap and water. For tumbling use the following procedure:

Grinding - 4F or 400 or 500 grit with broken glass.

Prepolish with broken shell and tripoli powder.

Polish with broken shell and cerium oxide.

Treat coral as pearls or any other calcium carbonate product. If you wish to polish a piece at a time, use your muslin buff with tripoli for a prepolish, and another with rouge to polish.

From Chips & Facets
Via Ozark Earth Science News &
The Geode

Historians May Take Another Look At Who Discovered America

A few crude rock carvings on the craggy coast of Monhegan Island could force historians to take another look at who discovered America and where the American Indians came from.

The carvings known as the Monhegan Inscription have been studied since 1855, but they and other carvings in New England have taken on new meaning to archeologists and linguists in the past few years. And they may indicate that the New England coast was a busy trade center for Phoenician sailors as long ago as 2000 B.C.

For many years the inscriptions - along with inscriptions in Bourne, Mass. and elsewhere in the region - have been thought to be the work of Norse sailors. The theory was that the Norsemen discovered America several hundred years before Columbus.

But now some archeologists including James P. Whittall, director of archeology for the Early Sites Research Society in Boston, feel the inscription is written in Ogam script, used by the Celts in the Iberian peninsula as long ago as 2000 B.C.

From AFMS Newsletter

To Make Jewelry From Fossils

Clean fossils very thoroughly. Dry out slowly using low heat. (This prevents air bubbles later.) While still warm, coat the fossil with Epoxy 220 in which you have put a tiny amount of dry color such as gray, blue or ochre.

Bake in oven 20 minutes or air dry overnight. The treatment with Epoxy will give the fossil strength and bring out color and pattern. Glue on findings.

From Serendipity Gems Via The
Template and The Geode

To Color Agate

Here are some ways to color agate. Use only finished material, which has been cleaned to remove oil, and dry thoroughly. Since some of the chemicals used in coloring are poisonous, all should be handled with care. Avoid inhalation of fumes or contact with the skin or clothes.

Always use in well-ventilated area. Use only glass or porcelain containers. KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN.

- Red - Soak overnight in a warm solution of ferric chloride dissolved in water. Then place in potassium thiocyanate solution for several hours.
- Blue - Soak in potassium ferrocyanide for seven (7) days. Dry and place in ferrous sulfate solution for seven (7) days. Keep solutions warm.
- Green - Soak overnight in a warm copper sulfate solution, then in chromium trioxide for several hours.

Via Gem Time and others

Tip

To tell the difference between turquoise and chrysocolla put a drop of hydrochloric acid on the specimen (carefully of course). If no reaction, chances are excellent that it is good to high quality turquoise.

If it fumes and changes color, it is probably azurite or malachite, other minerals will react with coloration or fuming also.

Muriatic acid is diluted (32%) hydrochloric and it should be almost colorless for good testing.

From: The Prospecting and Treasure Hunting Group from Exanimo - Segunde, Colo.

Submitted by Dewey J. Hassler

Helpful Hint

Do your soldering in a dim light for then you can watch the color of the work as it is being heated.

The first visible red shows that the work is at about 900°F.

Dull red is around 1200°F.

Cherry red indicates 1400°F.

Medium hard silver solder is fluid at 1400°F and silver is molten at 1641°F.

Via Pebble Patter and Peso-Odical

Michigan Lapidary Finds New Canadian Gem

According to the Bay City, Michigan "Times", Harry Courtney, a Michigan rockhound, has found an interesting new stone on St. Joseph Island in Lake Huron. The stone, which takes a beautiful polish, was common enough on the island to be kicked by Harry as a "nuisance rock."

Gray and covered with splotches of green moss, the stone was bypassed by Harry in favor of the colorful "puddingstone" of the island. But finally Harry picked up some of the rocks to get a better look at the moss, and to his surprise it wasn't moss at all, but a flower-like mineral pattern in the rock, which was even greener and more attractive after being cut. Although "green flower" has been suggested as a name for the cutting material, Courtney is not quite satisfied with it and is still looking for a name.

St. Joseph Island belongs to Ontario. The International Boundary run between Sugar Island and Neebish Island of the United States and St. Joseph. So far none of the stones have been reported from the other islands.

From AFMS Newsletter

THIS IS YOUR LAND! KEEP IT CLEAN!

Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER



Published monthly except July and August as a service to members clubs.
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication
should be sent to the Editor, Haydon Peterson, Parrot Printing, 2125 Forest, Des Moines, Ia. 50311

January 1977 - Issue No. 171

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, HAZEL KUNTZ

1977 - A YEAR FOR PROGRESS

We've this whole new year before us, and so many things can be done with it. What are your plans? During these winter months you are probably promising yourselves that you'll get all the materials accumulated during the spring, summer and fall months into their proper order and place and that you are going to get a lot of work done in the lapidary field, too. If you are like me, you'll find that there isn't as much extra time in the winter as you thought there'd be, and it's hard to get everything you want to do squeezed in.

In the area of our Federation association there are some items that should certainly be given prompt attention. By this time the State Directors will have sent out the Directory forms to all clubs. Now is the time to get those forms completed and sent to Jean Reynolds by January 10. Don't forget to send with it your check for membership dues based on your club membership as it stands on December 31, 1976. If those of you in each club who are responsible for getting these forms in will really get on the ball and complete this job, it will surely make the work of preparing the Directory much easier for the committee in charge and speed the delivery date. So, let's get this material in on time so that we can report a full and complete club membership in the Federation with no delinquent clubs. **THANK YOU!!!**

Our Directory is probably the most important book we produce for club and every member use. There are so many advantages to having it. It is a must for interclub use, as it contains a listing of all clubs with the name of the president, liaison officer and bulletin editor if a bulletin is published, also, time and place of regular monthly meeting, so that, if you are in the area, you may attend the meeting or contact someone for area hobby information. There is a listing of materials and programs available with information for obtaining them. The calendar of events section is useful in determining dates and places for shows, swaps, etc., in your area or along your vacation route. Names and addresses of all officers and committee chairmen are included whom you may wish to contact for special information in their line.

Two directories are sent free to each club at the time of publication. These should be made available to all members of the club for their reference. Or, if you would like your own copy, it can be purchased from the Director of Supplies, Clinton Heckert, or at the Midwest Federation booth at shows. So, won't you please help our committee put out a fine and complete Directory and then use it. Again **THANK YOU!**

Continued... Please turn to back page...

WELCOME NEW CLUB

Geology Society of Brunswick High School
President, Cathy Klesta
Adult Sponsor, Mr. R. W. Fabiel
141 E. Sprague Rd.
Seven Hills, Ohio 44131

CARL BOXELL

has been named as Assistant State Director
for the state of Indiana. Carl lives at 513 W.
Elm St., Hartford City, Indiana 47348.

MERIT AWARD TIME

There are many reasons for entering the ALL AMERICAN and MERIT AWARDS program of AFMS and Midwest, but the main one is that it helps you. Your club should analyze what it has done each year, so it can keep track of its history and so it can see where it is headed. It should let the Federation officers and the other clubs know what it is doing. The members should be reminded that they are important to the club and that their club is important in the Federation.

Every club cannot get an award, although many more deserve awards than we are able to give. Sometimes your club may feel they are equal to many of the award winners and that is probably true. But isn't it a good feeling to know that your group is just as active, and involved and successful as the winners? Perhaps your club was the inspiration for the winner. This could be your year! The judges have an unenviable job trying to choose, and of course their choices must be made from what you report you are, which may be understated! While perhaps your neighbor has overstated his report.

All clubs which enter are awarded certificates, since AFMS considers the All American a worthy program, and hopes for high participation. Midwest traditionally has the highest participation, and this has been a "feather in our cap." Midwest will also honor the state with the highest participation.

Please get the person in your club who has the best knowledge of your club's activities, and the person who has the best way with words, and a few other leaders together and fill out the All American blank from the November AFMS Newsletter. This is also the Midwest Merit Award blank. Just the blank will do - and your bulletin - but the more we know about you, the better your chance to be a "club of the year." If you can't find a blank, or have any questions, write June Zeitner, 2205 S. 281, Edinburg, Tx. 78539. Phone (512) 383-3163.

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION: PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year November 1, 1975 to October 31, 1976

Thanks to the wonderful support the Foundation continues to receive from the AFMS membership, the Fund has made substantial growth again this past year. This growth is manifest by the fact that we were able to increase the regular grants from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00 per student per year, and were also able to provide three special one-year "Wild Card" grants. These special grants, made for the 1976-77 school year, were for \$750.00 each. In addition, we will be providing a one-year "Wild Card" grant of \$1,000.00 for the 1977-78 school year.

Many of our Societies have now reached percentage heights which would have been considered practically impossible just a few years ago. This past year we not only issued three 2000% Plaques and three for 2500%, but recognized two achievements which merit special mention: the Glendale Lapidary & Gem Society of California reached 3500% and the Foothill Gem & Mineral Society of LaCanada, California reached 3600%. That represents a total contribution of \$35 and \$36 by each member of those Societies!

Regular Grants for the 1976-77 school year are all for \$1,000.00 while the other Grants are all for \$750.00. This brings to 64 the total number of students receiving assistance from the Foundation since 1965.

The Officers of the Foundation would again like to thank all the members who made this possible. And my special thanks to the Society Chairmen and Editors, and especially the Regional Chairmen, upon whose support and untiring effort our success depends. *Glenn Lee, AFMS Scholarship Foundation President.*

OZARK EARTH SCIENCE CLUB

of Mountain Home, Arkansas celebrated its tenth anniversary as a member of the Midwest Federation last month. This Arkansas club is also a 500%er in the Scholarship Foundation. Mrs. H. B. Irby is President

President's message... continued from page 1

There are two other projects that require your prompt attention, the Bulletin Editor's Contest has a deadline of December 31, 1977. We urge all of you who publish bulletins to try for these awards. This year there are three categories: large, 6 sheets, 12 or more pages; small, 5 sheets, 4 to 10 pages; mini, 2 sheets, 4 or less pages. The rules and suggestions for this are printed in the November 1976 AFMS Newsletter. The other project is the All American Federation Club Award Contest. The Application Form for this is in the AFMS November Newsletter. Please enter this. Last year we were tops in the number sent in by any federation and more than half of those sent in by all federations. Let's keep it that way. This deadline is March 31 in the Award Committee's hands.

I would also remind all committee chairmen to send the complete list of their assistants, name and address to Charlotte Ferguson as soon as possible, so that she may complete those pages of the new Directory. Again, I would thank all of you for your sincere efforts in helping make 1977 a banner year for the Midwest Federation.

IN PREPARATION: NEW UNIFORM RULES BOOK

After a three year moratorium and a year's period with new rules, the 4th edition of the rules book is now in preparation and scheduled for distribution in January. It will supercede the orange book issued in 1973 and the supplement used in 1976. The revised rules are to be used at all Federation Shows in 1977.

The more important changes adopted at the Uniform Rules Committee meeting at Austin are described below. This should give advance help to exhibitors planning to enter at Dayton or the AFMS Show at Ogden, Utah.

Two new classes for traditional domed cabachons were added, one for cabs of one material, the other for cabs of more than one material. Classes CC-1 through CC-5 remain for "Modern" cabs. The minimum number of cabachons to be shown has been reduced to 25.

In the Mineral Division, the restricted classes, B-3X to B-11Y, will newly require a minimum of 20 specimens. Inspection of micromount minerals has returned to the traditional 10 mounts rather than all specimens.

The Jewelry and Art Metalcraft Division added a new class, D-7, for jewelry using lapidary material not necessarily cut by the exhibitor.

The rules for educational exhibits were completely rewritten. Exhibitors should study them carefully in preparing their displays.

In an effort to induce more exhibits of faceted stones the minimum number has been lowered from 30 to 20.

For some time conscientious exhibitors have been bothered by seeing other exhibitors win ribbons or even trophies although the applicable requirements were not met - such as fewer specimens than the minimum called for. This was possible because the penalty for duplication or out of class was only 2 points per specimen. Under the new rules 5 points will be deducted from the total score for each duplication or out of class specimen. All exhibitors should make sure they know the requirements of the class they enter!

Two new AFMS Trophies were approved: one for Minerals - Restricted Classes B-3X to B-11Y, and the other a Junior Trophy for Jewelry and Art Metalcraft. There is also good news for those juniors who have already won an AFMS Trophy - now they may compete for the same trophy without having to wait three years as long as they enter a different subdivision than the one in which they won the trophy.

When the new books are received each club will receive a copy and announcement made as to ordering, READ THE RULES CAREFULLY. The summary above is not intended to substitute for the complete book. If you have any questions on the rules, write to the MWF Uniform Rules Chairman, Calvin George, 5 S. 144 Webster St., Naperville, Illinois 60540.

FRED LABANN

has been named the new Historian and Archives Committee chairman. Fred's wife, Esther, will be his assistant. The Labann's live at 4420 Jean Street, Alsip, Illinois.
