

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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

# THE ROCKFINDER

JUN 1978



MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC.  
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Junior Activities...			
	Joe Charles	26863 New Road, North Liberty, Ind.	46554
	Germaine Lifke	620 E. Marion St., Mishawaka, Ind.	46544

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 Street, 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 18  
Published by Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc.

Number 6

June, 1978  
South Bend, Indiana

## Regular Meeting:

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Club Picnic

When: August 27, 1978

Time: 1:00 PM, EST

Place: Bourissa Park,  
New Carlisle, Indiana

Bring a passing dish for each 2 people in your family, your table service. The Club will furnish the drinks, rolls, butter and beef.



## Educational Meetings:

Time: 7:30 PM, EST

Place: First Bank Basement,  
Corner of U.S. 31 North  
and Cleveland Road  
South Bend, Indiana

Dates: Friday, July 14, 1978  
Friday, July 28, 1978  
Friday, August 11, 1978  
Friday, August 25, 1978

Program: Making articles for our Show. If you have any ideas for the Club Booth, call Catherine Mc Hugh. 288-5945

Sept. 8, 1978 - Set up for our Show at the 4-H Fairgrounds after 8:00 AM.

## Calendar of Events:

- Aug. 4-6 Lawrence County Rock Club  
Rock Swap, 4H Fairgrounds  
Bedford, Ind.
- Aug. 10-13 MWF Show & Convention,  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Aug. 16-17 Blossomland Gem & Mineral  
Society Swap & Sell, Camp  
Warren, 8 miles north of  
Benton Harbor & St. Joseph.
- Sept. 9-10 Michiana Rock & Gem Club  
Show, 4H Fairgrounds,  
South Bend, Indiana
- Sept. 17 Field Trip to Pugh Quarry  
for dogtooth calcite,  
brown fluorite & blue  
celestite.



FROM YOUR ROCKY LEADER

HELLO FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS. Before we get to the meat of this message, I would like to say that it was very unfortunate that the May meeting had to be called off. We tried to call everyone - but I hear we missed a few. Sure sorry that this happened.

Show time is getting closer and closer every day. At the time of the writing of this message, the 15th, there are only 86 days left. I hope that all of you are planning your displays for the show. Merl is starting on the new display cases, which will be ready by our August picnic. We are still in need of materials for the Silent Auction, Grab Bags, Kiddies Corner, Sand Box, and the Club Booth. I would like to thank the Niebauers, Wises, Kelsheimers, Elwells, McHughes, and the members of my family for the great job they did in bagging stones and making labels for the grab bags.

I cannot stress the fact hard enough, that this is your club and your show, and that it is necessary that you put your 100% effort into making the Michiana Rock and Gem Club the best Club and the Best Show in the area.

In case you have forgotten who the chairpeople are for our Show, here they are again:

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Dealers          | Fred Niebauer     |
| Door             | Chris Shoemaker   |
|                  | Betty Jordan      |
| Silent Auction   | Sherry Russell    |
| Kiddies Corner   | Kathy Miller      |
| Identification   | George Kelsheimer |
| Information      | Fred Niebauer     |
|                  | Addie Niebauer    |
| Grab Bags        | Larry Mc Hugh     |
|                  | Frank Elwell      |
| Working Displays | Merl Lechlitrer   |
|                  | Joe Charles       |
|                  | Russ Randolph     |
| Camping          | Carlton Pletcher  |
| Club Booth       | Catherine Mc Hugh |
| Special Displays | Margaret Heinek   |
|                  | Bob Heinek        |
| Food             | Jerry Lifke       |
|                  | Junior Members    |

Set Up & Take Down	Entire Club
Electric	Joe Charles
	Jessie Jordan

I will make contact with all of you before or at our August picnic.

On April 29th, I appeared at the Executive Meeting of the MWF, at which time I spoke on our bid for the 1981 Show and Convention. The response that was received from those present was really great. I am hoping that it will be just as great in Cedar Rapids.

I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that Rene Blondia is home and doing just great after his recent stay in the hospital. Rene has asked me to tell all of you Club Members thanks for the flowers and many cards he received and the visits that he had from all of you. He has promised me that he will be back in full swing come Show Time. The bad news is that word has been received that the Chesnuts are moving from our area. We are sorry to see them go, but wish them the best in their new location, which is Tennessee. All we ask is that you keep in touch.

Before rocking out for the summer, I hope that all of you will have a good and safe vacation this summer. Remember when collecting, it's one for me and one for the Club. See all of you on August 27th at our annual picnic.

Your Rocky Leader,  
Jim

Charter Member Leaving

Nelvin and Virginia Chesnut are leaving South Bend to make their home in Spring City, Tennessee. They plan to make the move about August 1st.

We regret to see them go. They have been very active in the club for many years, when the club was formed and as an officer and faithful workers.

Good luck to both of you, the club is going to miss you.

Fred Niebauer



MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING

The annual Quarry Field Trip meeting was called to order by the President on Sunday, June 11, at Rensselear. There were no minutes to be read at that time, and no Treasurers report was given.

There was no old business and no new business to discuss at that time.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting for the express purpose of rock collecting. Motion was carried after being seconded.

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Flood were guests at this field trip-picnic rock hunt, and also had guests with them. Mr. Flood is an assistant State Director.

A total of 25 Club Members and 4 guests attended this outing.

Secretary Pro Tem  
Sherry Russell

Field Trip Notes

On the trip to Morgan Monroe State Forest, a total of 26 Club Members attended the two-day event. Good collecting was had by all. There were some problems in all of us getting together at first but everything worked out and a good time was had by all.

There was this one club member whose initials are G.S. that really had a rockin good time. He got down in them there creek beds and the rest of us had a hard time getting him out. Dewey took us on a great trip over by Morgantown where we were able to pan for Gold. No one found that big hunk they were looking for.

On the field trip to Rensselear a total of 29 people took part in the trip.

Many fine specimens of pyrite, marcasite, crystals and some fossils were found. Bill Crull found some real great specimens. We asked his wife where he was and she stated that he was playing Indian on top of the rock pile, what she meant by that we never did find out. Bob Miller found a pocket of crystals and boy were

they nice. That same guy with the G.S. initials had another field day as did the rest of his family.

When we started out to rock hunt, something funny happened to Catherine Mc Hugh. She was looking for Larry and when she found him, he was working along the wall of the quarry. So away she went right into some nice sticky mud. First she got stuck and then she lost her shoe, but believe it or not, she got out. Later in the day Rick Shoemaker got stuck in the same mud and had to be pulled out. As the day was coming to an end, Catherine got into the mud again, got free from it, and sat right down on her end, got all wet and Larry and everyone else broke out with laughter.

All and all, everyone had a good time. If you have not been on a field trip with the Club, plan to go on the next one. As you can see, fun is had by one and all.

Jim Russell

The Premier Rose

A high quality diamond weighing 353.9 carats has been discovered at a mine near Johannesburg, South Africa. It is said to be worth \$11,000,000, more than any other gem discovered in 73 years. Called the Premier Rose and been purchased by an unidentified diamond cutter in Johannesburg.

The owner reportedly plans to cut the diamond into a major piece of about 100 carats and several smaller stones.

From Grit  
Submitted by Lucy Miller

We Did It Again!

The Rockfinder has been judged as one of the top three bulletins in the Bulletin Editors' Contest for 1978.

We will get our official standing and award at the Editors' Breakfast on August 11, 1978.

Editor





Rockhounding at Rensselaer, A  
Sticky Situation:

The day was perfect, warm but a lovely breeze was blowing. Our caravan left at 8:15 AM and we were rarin to go. The drive down was truly pleasant, the country side so green with gardens and fields of corn in all directions. The peonies were especially beautiful, and it was a treat not to drive on the super highways.

We did make one "pit stop" and didn't we pick the one rest room(???) that had just been freshly painted black, even to the door knob! Yuck-oh well my old port in a storm.

Frank and Molly singing, the mini home like a home away from home, and it seemed in no time at all until we were there.

Our Rocky Leader gathered us around for a short business session and we were off.

It had been a wet spring. What looked like moist sand was actually goeey mud -- so deceptive looking that the first thing I did was barge across a patch and was in over my ankles! I stepped out of my shoes, sloshed thru, and the heck with skirting around the pools of water. I rinsed out my shoes, put them back on and tried to find Larry.

I do believe that he hides from me. I finally found him after climbing like a mountain goat. He was in seventh heaven (if you can call a hole in the side of the cliff that) up to his shoulders digging out pyrite. I was sure it would cave in on him. Bill and Marie were working like beavers in the same place, Bill chortling over some prize specimens and Marie looking great even after hours in the hot sun.

I managed to get Larry off of the cliff for lunch, then cajoled him into going on the opposite side of the quarry for calcite for the childrens' wheel.

Next column please

Rockhounding (continued)

We started across what I thought was the same kind of mud we had been going thru. Surprise! It wasn't. It was much deeper and just like soft dough.

I was really stuck this time. Larry made it to firm ground, but I was like glued and couldn't raise either foot! What a predicament. I lost my balance and sat down - no, plopped down, and then for sure I was stuck.

My dearly beloved was so overcome with laughter that all he could manage to say was "if I only had a camera." I could have decked him! Try as I might I couldn't raise myself out of the mud. (The ten lbs. I gained didn't help) So I put both arms in the mud and pushed and heaved my way up. Again I rescued my shoes. Larry threw flat pieces of rock for me to get out on.

I was dripping with oozing mud not a shred of dignity left and Larry was having hysterics. I found a pool of clean water, dunked myself up and down and gave up for the day.

Marie, bless her, came to my rescue with a dry pair of jeans.

A hot bath for my 206 aching bones and I did get all of the oil off my feet - and as for the rest of me - who can tell?

It was a fun day.

Catherine Mc Hugh

Our May Meeting:

The Michiana Rock and Gem Club did not meet as scheduled on May 28, 1978.

We were informed that the Nature Center would not be open that weekend due to Memorial Day on Monday. This information was obtained too late to make arrangements for another meeting place.

Editor



# 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 Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311

June 1978 - Issue No. 186

## *Time growing short to make Cedar Rapids show plans*

If you have not already made plans to attend the Midwest Federation's 1978 show and convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, August 10-13, better do so immediately.

Time is growing short and Norman Brown, Show Chairman, suggests you make reservations as soon as possible for motel, hotel or camping accommodations as well as for the other activities. The show is being hosted by the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society and will be held at Hawkeye Downs on South Highway US218. There is ample parking space as Hawkeye Downs is the site of the annual All Iowa Fair. And it is only a short distance from downtown Cedar Rapids and other business areas.

The show committee will have working displays in addition to programs by nationally and state known speakers. An Editor's Breakfast, a banquet, and meetings of the Midwest Executive Committee and delegates meetings have been scheduled.

The popular "Hall of States" feature, inaugurated in Dayton, Ohio last year will be a feature of the 1978 show and convention in Cedar Rapids.

For additional information and complete show schedules, write to Show Chairman, Norman Brown, 360 Tonga Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

### PROGRAM CORRECTIONS

In our April issue we reported a new program, "Alpena County Fossils" and we misspelled the author's name. The program is by Bob and Pat Rutkowski, Taylor, Mich. Also the area referred to in the program is in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

In the same issue a program titled "Close-up Photography" is by Norm Hanschu.

### FRUITFUL SPRING MEETING

A very interesting and fruitful spring Executive Committee meeting was held on Saturday, April 29 in Highland, Indiana. President Paul Good reports much was accomplished and complete reports of the meeting will be sent to all member clubs by the Secretary as soon as possible.

### 1978 DIRECTORIES READY

The 1978 Midwest Directories have been delivered by the printer and copies are being sent to all clubs and individuals on the official mailing list. If you do not receive your copies, or wish additional copies, write to the Midwest Director of Supplies and Information, Clinton Heckert, 725 Stewart Ave., Elgin, Ill. 60120

*PLEASE... DON'T BE A LITTER BUG!*

### WILMA BONAR

The Midwest Federation is sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Henry (Wilma) Bonar, Odessa, Florida. Wilma died on May 3 in Odessa after a lengthy illness. Services were held at the Keystone United Methodist Church near Odessa.

She was a Past President of the Eastern Federation, a Past Editor of the American Federation Newsletter, and was active in numerous organizations and in the rock and mineral hobby. She was instrumental in starting the Eastern Federation yearly workshop at Wildacres.

Wilma is survived by her husband Henry who is a Regional Vice President of the American Federation, five children and 12 grandchildren.

### CB CHANNELS

Here is a list of CB channels that Woodall's RV Travel Magazine has listed as in use for various groups.

Channel 9, Emergency; channel 10, First Aid; channel 11, Contact; channel 12, RV to RV, RV to campground. channel 14, RV Rally Control; channel 19, Eighteen Wheelers, Primary Channel; channel 21, Eighteen Wheelers.

It must be remembered that the FCC does not assign or recognize any channels for CB with the exception of channel 9, the emergency channel.

# Scholarship Honorary Award Winner



Another excellent group of Earth Scientists has been selected by the Regional Federations as Honorary Award Winners for 1978. These Honorees will be choosing the schools and students who will receive grants from the Foundation for the next two years as they pursue their advanced degrees in Earth Science. The grants will again be for \$1000.00 yearly for each student in this, the fourteenth year the Foundation has provided grants.

The Midwest has selected Prof. Donald R. Peacor, Professor of Geology & Mineralogy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

A native of Somerville, Mass., Dr. Peacor received his B.S. from Tufts and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Crystallography from M.I.T. He has been at the Univ. of Michigan since 1962, and Professor since 1971. Special interests include structural crystallography, especially crystal structure at high temperatures; silicate crystal chemistry; and high temperature X-ray diffraction. Affiliations include the Mineral Society of America and American Crystallography Association. Dr. Peacor is on the Mineralogical Record staff and will be organizing the Mineral-

## MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA MEMBER WRITING PAPER ON HAZARDOUS MINERALS

We have often read where Malachite is highly poisonous. One should never lick it and should use great caution when working and polishing malachite as the dust is hazardous. We have been given methods of being able to tell that you are inhaling the material when, if you smoke, you begin to have a sweet taste in your mouth, "because the copper oxide dust mixes with the moisture in your mouth. The combination reacts on the tar of the tobacco, turning it into saccharin". But, in a brief study of the mineral, we cannot find in the chemical composition of malachite that it would be poisonous. This is not to say that you should disregard any action, as caution should be taken when working on handling any minerals, but still we wonder why the reasoning on this.

One of our members is at present preparing a paper on "Minerals which can be hazardous to your health". If anyone has any information that would be helpful, we would appreciate your writing us. Address, Mineralogical Society of Arizona, P.O. Box 902, Phoenix, Ariz. 85018

### LAST ISSUE UNTIL SEPTEMBER

This June issue is the last issue of the Newsletter until September. We will be on our summer recess. If you have anything you think our readers would like to know, send it to your editors for fall publication.

## Gems and Minerals plans special issue

To give its readers something extra, Gems and Minerals magazine is planning a big special September issue. One of the extras of this issue will be a full year of show dates in the Coming Events section that will include show dates in September 1978 through September 1979.

Normally only four months of such show dates are carried in any one issue. Many readers, however, start planning their vacation a year ahead of time, and this should help them in checking on the coming shows that might be along their route.

Clubs having confirmed show dates should send the particulars to Gems and Minerals no later than July 15 for publication in the Coming Events section of this special issue.

Address your letters to Gems and Minerals, P. O. Box 687, Menton, California 92359.

## New items hot in gem fashion

The hottest new item in gem fashions is the revival of the old time stick pin. Used clusters on jackets, dresses, and scarves, the pins now replace tie-tacks and tie-bars for their traditional use as "tie pins". They are set with stones, and designed with contemporary and antique looks.

In better jewelry, pearls are the most popular fashion accessory. Although they have risen greatly in price over the last few years, the beautiful cultured pearls from Japan are popular accents for the more elegant look of today's styles.

Other gems in high favor now are peridots, tourmaline, and aquamarine. Brazilian opal is being hailed in the opal market. Rubies and emeralds still lead the other gems in prices, and diamonds have risen so much that Tiffany's took out an ad stating that they were overpriced. However, stones of a carat and up of gem quality are rare, and are still popular for investors. The unknown factor is that many new diamond pipes have been discovered in Russia.

In metals, yellow gold is more popular than others, and gold chains are still very much "in". Low carat gold is often used for medium priced gold jewelry, and although it is higher in price than gold-filled, it has been widely accepted.

Agate and petrified wood and other gem clocks, long popular in the hobby, are now jewelry store items.

Among synthetics, the newest diamond look-alike, cubic zirconium, heads the list of the most admired. Still in great demand are the Gilson and Chatham emeralds, and other well known synthetics such as star sapphires.