

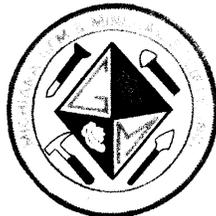
THE ROCKFINDER

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Tom Noe, Editor
305 Napoleon St.
South Bend, IN 46617



THE ROCKFINDER

FEBRUARY, 2010



MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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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, 2:00 p.m., at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 805 S. 29th St., South Bend, IN. Regular exceptions include May (third Sunday), July (no meeting), August (club picnic) and the November/December meeting and Christmas party. Board meetings are held before the monthly meetings. The annual club show is in late August.



Yearly Membership Dues (Payable by December 15)

_____ Individual \$15.00 per year
 _____ Family \$20.00 per year
 _____ Junior \$1.00 per year
 _____ Subscriber \$7.50 per year

Please indicate areas of special interest:

General Geology _____ Beads _____
 Gems & Minerals _____ Fossils _____
 Cabochons _____ Field Trips _____
 Faceting _____ Crystals _____
 Carving _____ Micromounts _____
 Other _____ Jewelry Making _____

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 Membership Marty Perry 574-295-9050
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 Show Chair Marie Crull 574-272-7209

Michiana Gem and Mineral Society (www.sauktown.com/Michiana), a not-for-profit organization, is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (www.amfed.org/midwest.htm) and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (www.amfed.org).

The Rockfinder is published monthly except July and August. Editor, Tom Noe, Co-editor, Herb Luckert (574-282-1354). Reporters: club members.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles, as long as recognition is given along with the reprint.

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 my property, and further I will respect the equipment and property of the aforesaid owners.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Additional family names:

Name _____
 Birthday _____

Name _____
 Birthday _____

Name _____
 Birthday _____

Please send your dues and this form to
 Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
 c/o, Marty Perry, 29154 Frailey Dr., Elkhart,
 IN 46514

THE ROCKFINDER

Newsletter of the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 50, Number 2

February, 2010

Next meeting: February 28
Visitors are always welcome.
Doors open at 1:30. Meeting starts at 2.

Place: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S. 29th Street (29th & Wall)
in South Bend, River Park area.

Program: Silversmithing by Doug Kile.
Doug will present a program on the basics of
working with silver.

Refreshments: Bonnie Church, Marty Perry
and Sally Peltz

UP AND COMING

- March 14:** MGMS bus trip to the Field Museum in Chicago.
- April 24:** Field trip to Alabastine Mine in Grand Rapids.
- July 18:** MGMS Annual Picnic, Potawatomi Park
- August 27-29:** Annual MGMS show at the fairgrounds.
- September 17-19:** MGMS bus field trip to southern Ohio for fossil collecting.

FEBRUARY

27-28: Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Pre-Spring Show; Har Mar Mall, Roseville, MN.

MARCH

13-14: Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc.'s 30th Annual Show; Western Illinois Univ. Student Union, Macomb, IL. dbomke@comcast.net.

5-7: Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society's Annual Show; Wayne Co. Fairgrounds, Richmond, IN. midwestchar@peoplepc.com.

20-21: Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society Show; Teamsters Hall, Cedar Rapids, IA.

APRIL

3-4: Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Show; Lancaster Event Center.

10-11: Southern Illinois Earth Science Club's Annual Show; Williamson County Pavilion, Marion, IL.

16-18: Mt. Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society Show; Roseville, MI, Recreation Ctr.

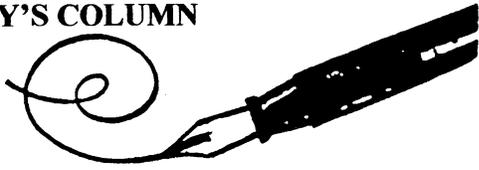
MAY

1-2: Cincinnati Mineral Society GeoFair 2010;
Cincinnati Gardens.



Happy February, Everybody!

KATHY'S COLUMN



As I write this, Bob and I are on our way to sunny Phoenix, AZ, for a family reunion at my sister Marilyn's (MGMS member). Actually, we're stuck going 5 miles an hour on Interstate I-55 near Memphis because of an ice storm--a good time to write (:).

Isn't it great to see how many members are able to make the meetings. Not only the regular attendees, but new members and guests too. I know that Vice-President David Peltz has arranged a REALLY good program for February.

During our January meeting and the excellent program of "Mystery Stones" I took some opportunity to check in on how our junior members were doing. HATS OFF to Robert LaMar, who was busy teaching interested kids to make friendship bracelets out of yarn and stone. Thank you, Robert!

I also talked to our Junior Chair Cordelia. Folks, she needs help! Some of the juniors didn't want to make bracelets, so they were not occupied during the meeting program time. There was no way Cordelia and Robert could take care of two separate groups (younger and older). Many of us have not been aware of what it is to keep 16 to 20 kids from preschool to high school occupied on a project or projects while our regular meeting and program are going on. Cordelia indicated she would prefer to work with the juniors who are interested in earning merit badges, and let someone else work with those who are not.

I think Cordelia needs to enjoy some of our meetings and programs too, so at the February meeting I'm going to have a sign-up sheet passed around for two volunteers each meeting to help with our juniors (you only have to sign up for one meeting, one time). You can be a parent, grandparent (like me), or just a member who enjoys kids. Of course, if there's a program that is interesting to our juniors, by all means they should attend that. The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is very fortunate to have someone as dedicated as Cordelia has been for our junior rockhounds.

To end this message, don't forget to send Diane Gram your recipes for the club's Recipe Book she is putting together, Diane said she needs more. This is a great fundraiser for our club. And last but not least, I hope all of you during these winter months are thinking about creating an interesting display for our annual show. Hope your Valentine's Day was **sweet!**

Rock on,
Kathy

FIELD TRIP NEWS

There's important information in this issue on the *Alabastine Mine car trip* to Wyoming, MI. Jim Daly will provide more when he returns home the first of March with a map for those going.

Chicago Field Museum bus trip. By now everyone going should have sent your group admission fee to Treasurer Marty Perry. We're all looking forward to a good time.

September 3-day Fossil Trip. Have you confirmed your motel room? I hope so; that needs to be done and I need your room confirmation number to assure a smooth check-in on arrival. I will be finalizing the prices for our Saturday meal with the Manchester Inn in ample time to let you know what it is.

More next month,
Kathy

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

The meeting was called to order January 24 by Vice-President David Peltz at 2:05. In attendance were 41 adult members, 5 guests (3 of whom joined the club!) and 15 children.

Pledge--John Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome--President Kathy Miller welcomed past MGMS presidents, guests and new members.

Secretary's report--Jason Hefner--no minutes to report due to Christmas party.

Treasurer's report--Marty Perry gave a short report and it will be filed for audit.

Liaison report--Sue Brown, Midwest Federation State Director, reported that the MWF has a lot of information on their web site. There is a link

to the MWF web site on the MGMS web site. Sue will also start placing an article into the *Rockfinder* on a regular basis. Bob Miller—American Federation President Elect, Bob did not have a report. Bob handed out a Geode Hollowness chart to interested members.

David Peltz called for committee reports.

Editor report—Tom Noe—Tom indicated that he had sent in the *Rockfinder* for the MWF bulletin contest. He had a few extra *Rockfinders* to give out.

Education report—Jessie Zeiger brought up the Science Alive exhibition February 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don Szczydrowski will be manning the table and could use some company/help. Don Church commented that Science Alive is a great activity.

Field Trip report—Kathy Miller reported that there are seven seats left for the Field Museum on 03/14/10, and 13 seats left for the Ohio fossil collecting trip in September. Please make your reservations and call Kathy.

Jim Daly has arranged for a field trip to Wyoming, MI, to collect gypsum in an underground mine. The date will be firmed up by next meeting. John Davis has made arrangements to collect at two places in NW Ohio. One spot is the Lafarge Quarry where the Hefners collected last year. There are a lot of assorted fossils. The prized finds are trilobites. John brought samples in from the StoneCo Quarry at which the club members could expect to find beautiful clear and purple fluorite among other items. Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS) is holding a FREE show to Buy, Sell, Swap, and Display Fossils March 26-28 at Western Hall of Western Illinois Univ, Macomb, Illinois. See www.midamericapaleo.org for more info.

Historian report—Ed Miller had copy of the Iowa geode trip pictures. Anyone who wants a copy needs to contact Ed. Ed donated the book *Fossils of the World* to the club library.

Hospitality report—Tom and Pat McLaughlin will be hanging up the mantle of hospitality and we are looking for volunteers to organize this part of the meeting in the future. Many thanks to Tom and Pat for their years of hard work in the past!

Junior report—Cordelia Tomasino reported that the JEWELs met Professor Peter Burn at Notre Dame and learned about crystals from an expert. Twenty-five juniors have earned badges. They are making friendship bracelets this month and will be

working on harder projects coming up.

Librarian report—Pat Bell—no report.

Membership—Marty Perry—no report.

Programs/Displays—David Peltz—upcoming programs will include mystic stones, silverwork, a program by the juniors and a silent auction.

Publicity—Joe Perry—no report.

Annual show—Joe Perry—tentatively set for 8/27 to 8/29. The contract with the fairgrounds has not been finalized.

Sunshine—Sally Peltz—Please let Sally know of anyone who might need a card of encouragement sent by the club.

Webmaster—Jim Daly—nothing to report.

Old Business:

Diane Gram still needs recipes for our club cookbook. Please make sure you pay your 2010 dues and update your address, email and phone number for our 2010 directory.

New Business:

There a lot of *Lapidary Journals* for members along with some specimens that are free for the taking, courtesy of Bob and Margaret Heinek. Kathy indicated the 2010 club picnic will be July 18 at Pavilion #1 in Potawatomi Park, which is the same place as last year. Bob Miller indicated that the MGMS may have a display table at the St Joe County 4-H Fairgrounds the week of July 4. Be thinking about this, as we will need volunteers if the club can have a table. Kathy Miller indicated that the MWF annual convention and show is the same Saturday in August as our own club show. We need a member to go represent our club at the MWF convention. MGMS will pay for expenses up to \$200. John and Mary Davis talked about their recent trip to Arkansas and Tennessee. They visited a local club member from the area and were shown some great places to collect. John and Mary brought back a 5-gallon bucket of goethite samples that they gave to club members (Thanks, John and Mary!)

Door Prizes—Don Church gave out door prizes to an adult (Patty Enos) and junior (Ashley Miller). Don also asked if members want to donate a nice door prize to please see him.

Program—David Peltz gave a very informative program about how rocks and minerals were used throughout the ages, from the ancients to the current day.

Adjournment—Don Church made a motion to adjourn. Sally Peltz seconded. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned. Snacks were enjoyed by all.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
for the Field Trip to Alabastine Gypsum Mine
Saturday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Reservations required.)**

Kreigh Tomaszewski

Please read this whole notice before responding. I have made arrangements with Professor Kevin Cole at GVSU to make another collecting trip into the former Alabastine Mine that is now owned by Grand Rapids Natural Storage. There is a wide variety of specimens to be collected. Pencil selenite and alabaster gypsum are abundant, both white and honey-colored. You may find clear selenite or satin spar gypsum. Fossil collectors may find shark coprolites, teeth or spines, and plant and wood fragments, near and in the ceiling. Mineral collectors may enjoy seeing epsomite hairs hanging from the ceilings, but should only collect those that have fallen or are growing on rubble on the floor. Safety: Everyone must sign in when entering the mine. Everyone must sign out when leaving the mine. No exceptions.

The safety list will be in the mine next to the elevator. I don't want to spend hours searching six miles of tunnels for some idiot who failed to sign out (you, and your club, won't be invited back). I will accept no excuses for failing to follow this basic safety procedure.

Please do not collect alone.

Cost: There is a \$2.00 fee per person for entering the mine. You may pay in advance, or when you arrive. You will not be allowed entry if you have not paid the fee. If paying by check, please make it out to Grand Valley State University.

Equipment: Hard hats are required. If you have extra hard hats, please bring them along (we usually have a few that do not have a hard hat, or forget theirs). Safety glasses are not required, but are always a good idea.

You must have at least two light sources. The mine tunnels we will be collecting in are not lighted. Make sure you start with new batteries, and have extras in your pocket. It is not possible to have too much light when you are 85 feet underground.

You must bring two pairs of shoes. One pair will be worn for travel in and out of the clean part of the mine that has cement floors. The second pair will be worn in the very muddy part of the mine where collecting will take place. It is strongly rec-

ommended that your second pair be boots for collecting in the drifts. It is very important to the mine owners that the finished parts of the mine remain clean because of the foods they store. We want to be able to return again, so this is an absolute requirement (unless you want to walk out barefoot, not recommended).

The mine is a constant 50-52 degrees. It is very muddy. Clearance in many tunnels is 4 feet so you will do some crawling. Please dress for the conditions. Expect to get very dirty. Gypsum/shale mud is very sticky.

Tools: Rock pick, 2-5 lb sledge, chisels. Make sure you have a bucket or collecting bag to carry out specimens. You may want some wrapping material (newspaper) for protecting your best specimens. You may want to consider a pry bar. Travel light.

Food: Mining is hard work. Bring a sack lunch and snacks. Everything you bring into the mine must be carried out. There are rest room facilities on the surface. Don't forget water.

Elevator: If you use the elevator you must leave the doors closed so it can be recalled from the surface or the mine. None of us want to be forced to use the stairs.

Insurance: You must be an AFMS-related club member to attend the trip. Identify your club on your reservation request.

Directions: Address of the mine is 1200 Judd S.W., Grand Rapids, MI. Take 131 to Burton Street West, right on Clyde Park, left on Chicago Drive, right on Judd. Or take 196 to Chicago Drive (exit 72), right to Burlingame, left onto Chicago Drive, left on Marquette, left on Judd. Use the back parking lot on the right. Please try to arrive at least 15 minutes early to sign in and pay your fee. Use Google Maps or Mapquest if you have doubts about the directions. Everyone must arrive on time, but you may leave any time you have finished collecting.

Do not hesitate to ask questions. For reservations contact Kreigh Tomaszewski at 616-243-5851 (home) or 616-787-7955 (work), or Kreigh@Tomaszewski.net. Email is preferred. Requests will be first-come, first-served.

The mine has restricted access for this date. The first 40 people who confirm reservations will be able to attend this trip. Children are welcome, but we ask that they be at least 10 years old. Please

let me know as soon as possible if you are unable to keep your reservation.

I will keep a waiting list; please include your phone number with your (emailed) request so I can contact you at the last minute if someone drops out. And yes, I am working on scheduling another date. I know that 40 is not enough to meet the demand for access to the Alabastine Mine.

Five regional clubs have been included in this invitation, so if you have recently (in the last year) been into the mine you should consider letting someone else attend this trip.



MINERALOGY CHAIR REPORT

by Kevin Ponzio

Happy New Year to everyone. 2009 has been a wonderful year with many new and exciting events. Several clubs have initiated mineral study groups. Congratulations on your efforts and successes. Keep up the good work! It is wonderful to see the renewed enthusiasm for minerals within some of the clubs.

Your club can implement a mineral study group, too. You would be surprised at how easy it is, and the rewards are fulfilling. Most individuals have a hard time waiting for the next meeting so that they can share and discuss the specimens they bring. If you would like help to initiate a group, contact me and I will share some guidelines to a successful meeting.

This is the perfect time to coordinate mineral study themes and regular meeting programs with field trips for the year. Watch the activity grow at regular meetings, when these three are in sequence. 2010 looks to be another great year.

There has been a slow trickle of photos coming in for the MidWest Federation Virtual Museum. Anyone can participate by sending me photos of minerals from the midwest. Once we have a good representation of all the states, it will become available to members. Digital photos can be sent to my e-mail address a couple at a time. If you have more than five, just put them on a CD and mail it to me (my contact information is below). Photos can be from your collection or other sources. With permission, some

show vendors will allow pictures to be taken of their specimens. Also, when on field trips, take pictures of specimens *in situ*. There are specimens in rock too large to bring home or too fragile to try to remove. This project will eventually yield the most comprehensive collection of mineral specimens in the midwest.

In other news, no requests for mineral information from the chairman of the Uniform Rules Committee or the general membership have been made since the last report. One thing to keep in mind when you are going through all the minerals you have collected in the last year is to set some aside to donate to your club and to the Federation Show silent auction. Often times when collecting in the field, you will find multiples of a mineral. After selecting the perfect one for your collection, share some extras with others. The more that participate, the more extensive everyone's collections become. I enjoy seeing the enthusiasm grow in new members when they are the recipients of these extra specimens.

Have a great year collecting minerals!

Kevin Ponzio
P.O. Box 44
Plymouth, WI. 53073
Earthprospect@verizon.net

THANKS FOR A GREAT TRIP!

By John and Mary Davis

We would like to take a moment and thank our friends at the Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society, and especially Mike and Anne Austen!

During our recent crystal hunting trip to Arkansas, Mike and Anne went out of their way to show us a good time sightseeing and collecting. On Christmas Eve we couldn't get to our hotel, due to flooded roads. Mike and Anne opened up their beautiful home to us until the roads opened back up.

It didn't stop there. During the one week that we were there, they took us fossil hunting in Leslie, Arkansas, pyrite hunting in Magnet Cove, Arkansas, crystal hunting in Mount Ida, Arkansas, and, believe it or not, we went to Walmart for fossils and goethite. We went through the Walmart parking lot to a field next to it, where we found some real nice oyster fossils and the goethite.

Then they showed us their huge and high-quality fossil and mineral collection. While admiring their collection, Mike mentioned that if I liked this, one of his fellow club members had a collection that I would really like to see. He took us to his friend Tom Sharp's house and showed us a museum quality collection, like no other that I've seen outside of a museum. You can see some of Tom's collection at www.centralarrockhound.org.

We have traveled around the entire country and it's meeting and making new friends like this that makes it most enjoyable. I would like to encourage everyone to make the effort to make connections with our fellow club members across the country. Believe me, without meeting up with Mike and Anne, this would have been a good trip, but because of their hospitality and knowledge of the area it was a great trip.

Our thanks go to Mike, Anne and the Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society.



SCIENTISTS DEBATING WHETHER EARTH ONCE HAD NO ICE

By Dale Gnidovec

The Late Cretaceous world of 90 million years ago was a world of warmth. Not only were there dinosaurs, but turtles, crocodiles and deciduous forests also occupied polar regions, and ice wasn't seen anywhere on the planet. Or was it?

In the 1980s, scientists uncovered evidence of large (80 to 130 feet) and rapid drops in sea level at that time period in places as far apart as modern-day New Jersey, Colorado, northwestern Europe and Russia. The drops are most easily explained by the presence of glaciers somewhere on the planet. Evaporation continuously takes water out of the oceans, but it then returns via streams and rivers. If large amounts of water get stuck on land in the form of ice, sea levels drop.

Further evidence for ice at that time, reported in the January 11, 2008, issue of *Science*, is an increase in the amount of oxygen 18 in the shells of ocean-dwelling, single-celled organisms called foraminifera (forams for short). Evaporation preferentially removes slightly more atoms of the lighter oxygen 16, leaving the ocean enriched in heavier oxygen 18. The evaporated water (containing excess oxygen 16) eventually falls as snow that gets incorporated in the ice of a glacier.

The resulting shift to heavier oxygen isotope ratios in seawater shows up in the calcium carbonate shells of the forams, but such changes also can be produced by changes in water temperature and salinity. The researchers ruled those out by looking at organic compounds preserved in the forams.

According to their data, the ice existed for about 200,000 years, and had a volume equal to about half the current Antarctic ice cap. The location of the Cretaceous ice sheet is unknown, but it might have been in Antarctica, where evidence for it will be hard to find — 98 percent of its land surface is covered by ice today. Other researchers are not convinced that the data indicate ice existed anywhere on the planet at that time. Only one site was analyzed, the Demerara Rise in the western Atlantic, so much more work needs to be done.

The Columbus Dispatch (May, 2008)

ROCKHOUND STATE PARK

The remote corner of New Mexico is one of the least-visited parts of the state—there are few roads or villages, barren mountain ranges, desert basins and lava deposits. Ghost towns hidden in remote places in the mountains are relics from mining activity earlier in the last century, silver, gold, manganese. This geological richness is evidenced by various minerals and semiprecious gems that still may be found across the region. One such location is the Little Florida Mountains, 11 miles southeast of Deming. Part of a hillside has been incorporated into the Rockhound State Park, an ideal overnight stop for cross-country travelers, even those not particularly interested in collecting rocks.

The park has a particularly fine campground, with good facilities, spacious sites and commanding views over a large area of flat desert land to the west. It is unusual in that visitors are encouraged to prospect and remove specimens, subject only to a 15 pound weight limit, unlike most national and state parks where removing natural objects is forbidden. Scattered about the park are mineral specimens of volcanic origin—silica minerals including quartz, chalcedony, agate and common opal. Despite the reputation of the park, it is not particularly easy to acquire **good** mineral specimens. (Ed. Note: It is far easier on the other side of the mountain, in South Canyon, but the canyon is difficult to find.) The main mineral that may be collected is jasper (chalcedony), a hard material that occurs in various colors including a red, white, pink and an attractive whitish banded agate form; the jasper is mostly found as small outcrops in solid rock and so requires lengthy chiselling to extract. Geodes, and a similar nodular variety of jasper known as thundereggs, occur in bands of softer rock, but obvious veins have been excavated to a depth of several feet; again some time and effort is necessary. One material easy to find is perlite, a shiny black glassy rock that is exposed at various locations in prominent deposits several feet thick from which it is simple to break off smaller pieces. Generally, prospectors should come equipped with a large hammer, several chisels and a spade, and be prepared to spend several hours on the hillside.

The Little Florida Mountains consist predominantly of interbedded mid-Tertiary adesitic, dacitic and rhyolitic ash-flow tuffs and lavas, and volcanic-derived fanglomerates intruded by rhyolite

domes and dikes. Erosion of the volcanic rocks began during and after the eruption. The fanglomerate of the Little Florida Mountains was the first of the deposits that formed by erosion of the volcanic rocks and is Miocene in age. Dacite flows were erupted onto the fanglomerate of Little Florida Mountains. During and after this brief period of volcanic activity, regional tectonics (i.e. mountain building by block faulting) related to the Rio Grande rift uplifted the Little Florida and the Big Florida Mountains. Geothermal ground waters were associated with the volcanic activity.

(No source available)

HINTS AND TIPS—THE WET LOOK

Good old Elmer’s Glue mixed 50/50 with warm water works wonders at maintaining that “wet look” on all types of materials, including most shells. Just brush it on and let it dry—if it gets dusty or dulled simply soak it in warm water and reapply.

Cleaning large rocks: Manual car washes are good places to clean large rock specimens that are not fragile. The hard spray cleans all the nooks and crannies.

Nature's rockhounds – One of the least known methods of finding mineral specimens is also one of the easiest and many times one of the most productive. It consists of inspecting and testing the materials which ants, gophers, prairie dogs, moles, etc. bring to the surface. Some ants tunnel down to 15 feet and spread over more than an acre. Excellent gemstones, especially red gemstones, have been found in anthills.

Cleaning petrified wood – To remove clay and ferrous oxide from the surface of petrified wood, use Mr. Clean. Do not use oxalic acid as it darkens the specimen.

T-Town Rockhound (Mar., 2009)

Junior Rockhounds' Page



JEWEL's February Activity—Field Trip to Mystic Beads:

Wednesday, February 24, 4:00 -5:30 p.m., 1048 Bell Rd., Niles, MI.

Julie Soales and her associates will tell about how they turned a love of the beauty of rocks and minerals into a business. They will introduce the JEWELs to the basic equipment needed for jewelry-making (beading and wire-wrapping), discuss the properties of the various lapidary materials, and introduce some folklore associated with various precious and semiprecious gemstones & crystals. This field trip can be used to satisfy several badge objectives (Earth Resources, Gemstone Folklore & Legends, & Field Trips).

There will be a **limit of 20 children** for this field trip, due to the size of the store. Reservations are required to attend. Please contact Cordelia Tomasino (info. below).

Congratulations!

With the help of Dr. Peter Burns and his graduate students at Notre Dame, the following juniors earned their Rocks & Minerals Badge:

Joe Comen, Grace Comen, Rose Comen, Loren Gady, Braden Huffman, Preston Huffman, Jason Jaworski, Datron Lloyd, Morgan Metzger, Abigail Mwangi, Ashley Muhlencamp, Dov Sloman, Adin Sloman, Pesach Sloman, Naomi Sloman, Schlomo Sloman, Bethany Tomasino, Teresa Tomasino, Vincent Tomasino, Christian Tucker, Hannah Tucker, Delia Wilson, Sophia Wilson, Mariah Woolley, Staci Woolley



Michiana Jr. Rockhounds February Activity—"Earth Resources" Badge Work:

This group of juniors meets during the regular monthly society meetings to work on merit badges and lapidary projects, and to learn more about earth science. Over the next few months, we'll explore the practical side of minerals, or how rocks and minerals are used in everyday life. This month we'll examine everyday objects and handle samples of the minerals out of which these items are made. Will you be able to match them up?

Note to Parents: The juniors' activities are provided for children who wish to learn more about earth sciences and the lapidary arts. If your child is not interested in participating in these projects, he or she needs to remain under your supervision at the main meeting. If a child is disruptive in the juniors' program, he or she will be sent back to the main meeting and must remain with a parent for the remainder of the meeting.

Looking Forward—March Meeting "Earth Science Fair":

All juniors will have the opportunity to present a project to the whole club for the main program at the March 28 meeting. Juniors are encouraged to put together a display or an oral presentation—for badge workers this may count toward the Showmanship or Communication Badge. Please contact Cordelia Tomasino if you are interested in presenting or need help with ideas for a presentation.



—Cordelia Tomasino, Juniors' Coordinator, tomasinos4@juno.com, or (269) 684-3454