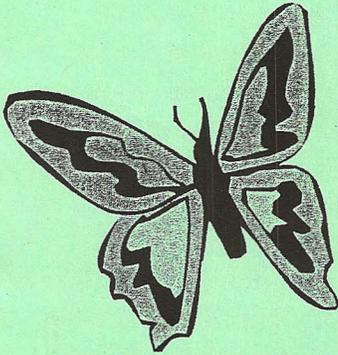
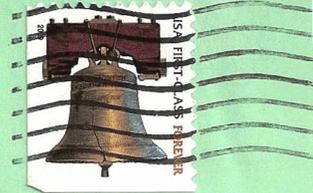


THE ROCKFINDER

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



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THE ROCKFINDER

APRIL, 2010

MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kathy Miller 574-291-0332
 Vice-Pres.: David Peltz 269-683-4088
 Secretary: Jason Hefner 574-858-9837
 Treasurer: Marty Perry 574-295-9050
 Liaison: Sue Brown 574-271-5126
 Past Pres.: Diane Gram 574-272-6885

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 _____

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City, ST., Zip _____

E-mail (opt.) _____

Phone _____

HEADS OF COMMITTEES

Programs David Peltz 269-683-4088
 Hospitality Sherry Kobie & Annette Freel
 Educational Jesse Zeiger 574-259-5944
 Librarian Pat Bell 574-233-7352
 Historian Ed Miller 574-498-6513
 Sunshine Sally Peltz 269-683-4088
 Publicity Joe Perry 574-295-9050
 Membership Marty Perry 574-295-9050
 Field Trips Bob Miller 574-291-0332
 Jr Activities Cordelia Tomasino 269-684-3454
 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 4

April, 2010

Next meeting: April 25
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: Silent auction! This is always lots of fun, and a good way to move your extra items in a way that benefits both you and the club. Bring several rock and gem items you want to sell at auction. Fill out a bid slip with the starting price, and let others bid for your items while you bid on theirs. Members receive 80% with 20% to club. Others split 50/50 with the club. All sales are CASH ONLY. The auction will last approximately 1/2 hour and follow the business meeting. See you at the April meeting!

Refreshments: Lois Krillenberger, Shawn Waters, Michelle Winters and Jessie Zeiger.

DIRECTORY CHANGES-- Welcome, New Members!

Josh Armstrong and Linda Groning
30371 N. Meadow Brook Ln.
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-264-4619

Sharon Lundy
806 S. 29th Street
South Bend, IN 46615
574-233-7163

Please make these email address changes in your 2010 directories:

Randy and Joan Hill
hillrw@csinet.net 269-465-5814
Sr. Jeanne Finske
jfinske@cscsisters.org
Sherry Kobie
pharmtec62@aol.com
Virginia Steele
vesteele@aol.com

UP AND COMING

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society events:

April 24: MGMS Field trip to Alabastine Mine near Grand Rapids.

May 8: Fossil hunting trip to LaFarge Quarry near Paulding, OH.

July 3-10: MGMS display at the St. Joe County 4-H Fair.

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.

Other area events:

APRIL

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

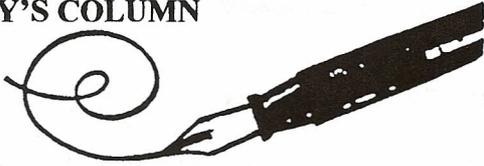
17-18: Columbus, OH. Columbus Rock & Mineral Society Show; Veterans Memorial.

17-18: Eau Claire, WI. Chippewa Valley Show; Eau Claire County Expo Center.

23-25: Decatur, IL. Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club Show; Macon County Fair Grounds.

24-25: St. Joseph, MI. Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society Swap 'n' Sell; St. Joseph/Lincoln Senior Center, Sat. and Sun. 10-4.

KATHY'S COLUMN



Wasn't last month's program given by our juniors really neat! Hats off to Cordelia, the juniors' leader, and to Vincent, Teresa, Bethany, Datron and Michael for their presentations.

I wish that Bob and I could be at the April meeting for the silent auction, but we will be at a lapidary workshop in North Carolina that week. The silent auction is always fun for everyone.

To those going on the Saturday, April 24, field trip to the mine in Wyoming, MI, and the field trips to Kentucky, be sure to bring in some of the results of your collecting to the meeting on April 25 for display. Members always enjoy viewing field trip collections.

A **BIG** thank-you to Randy and Joan Hill for offering to be membership cochairs. We appreciate their taking on that responsibility.

I finally was able to speak with the person running the Nature Center at the St. Joseph County 4H Fairgrounds. He assured me that our group will have table space during this year's 4H Fair, July 3 to 10. We will be able to set up on Monday, July 5. Our club only needs to have volunteers available on Thursday, July 8, from 4 to 9:00 p.m. Other organizations who also have displays take turns during the rest of the week. He will give our club free passes for the volunteers. We will have a display, flyers for our show and some free handouts for the public. This is good PR for our club. Bob and I will put in and take down the display and provide rock-related items for handout, BUT I would like some volunteers for that Thursday afternoon and evening. Please check your calendar and get back to me.

Marie and Bill Crull will be home in time for the April meeting. I am sure between them and Joe Perry a good update on our annual show will be given. Our new members will find out how exciting our shows are, a real highlight of the year. They will experience a pulling together of all the members of Michiana Gem & Mineral Society to make a successful earth science venture both for the hobby and public awareness of what we are.

We still have more meetings, picnic, show, field trips, and lots of fellowship ahead for 2010. Be

sure to include yourself in it all. Remember, we folks . . .

Rock On,
Kathy

Upcoming Field Trips

I hope Jim Daly can be at the April meeting and report how the Wyoming, MI, field trip was, and Jason Hefner and John Davis on the fluorite trip to Kentucky.

John Davis will give an oral report on the upcoming May 8 field trip to Paulding, OH, for fossils.

The following information is for the three-day bus trip to Ohio in September.

There are a few seats left on the bus (remember, the bus is free), you pay for the Saturday night buffet and 2 nights at the motel. I spoke with the people at the motel and was told they probably had a few more rooms (Quality Inn) that they could give us at the block room rate of \$67.49 per night, but you would have to reserve soon. If you are interested, I have to know ASAP!

I have also talked to the sales manager at the Manchester Inn (a historic building), regarding our Saturday night meal on September 18. We have a private room and a buffet meal. The buffet consists of: mixed salad w/2 dressings, kaleidoscope of fresh fruit, pasta salad, chicken almondine, honey ginger baked ham, roasted redskin potatoes, country style green beans, rolls, butter, coffee, tea, assorted desserts. ***Pasta primavera for Vegans.

The cost (including gratuity and tax) is: Adults \$26.28, Child 10 and under \$17.54. **START SAVING YOUR MONEY.** I think after a full day of collecting and lots of fresh air we will do justice to that meal! You need to get your check or money for the meal in to our treasurer, Marty Perry, early. Please indicate how many adults/children with your payment.

Marty has to let the Manchester Inn know how many adults and children will be served and we need to pay them in advance. I also need to know how many, especially you from folks driving separately, who will be joining us for the meal too.

Marty has to send them ONE check to cover all of us. Be sure to make your check out to Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, not to Manchester Inn. All payments should be to Marty no later than the

last of August!

Next month I will include what to bring, wear, etc. It should be a great collecting weekend, rain OH N(☹) or shine (☺).

Kathy

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by David Peltz at 2:05. In attendance were 37 adult members, 4 guests and 11 children.

Pledge – Jason Hefner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome – MGMS President Kathy Miller welcomed past club presidents, guests and new members. Don Church encouraged the guests and members to use the club members as resources.

Secretary report – Jason Hefner – Tom Noe motioned that the minutes from the February meeting be accepted as published. Motion seconded by Nick Pellus and carried.

Treasurer's report – Marty Perry – Club financials were reported.

Liaison report – Sue Brown, Midwest Federation State Director - no report.

Bob Miller – American Federation President Elect. Bob indicated that there was no news to report.

David Peltz called for committee reports and indicated there was an article of interest on the front table for people to pick up.

Editor report – Tom Noe – Tom had a few extra copies of *The Rockfinder* which he gave to our guests. Tom also placed the Tulip City club newsletter on the front table for people to review.

Education report – No report.

Field Trip report – Kathy Miller – The main meal for our September trip is set. The cost will be \$26.28 for an adult and \$17.54 for those 10 and under. The money will be due to Marty Perry by September 1, since she has to pay the restaurant in advance. There was a sign-up sheet placed on the front table for the Paulding, Ohio, fossil field trip for either May 8 or 15. Jason Hefner elaborated on the trip conditions and requirements, which are: hard-soled leather shoes/boots, a safety vest and a hard hat. Harbor Freight at Town & Country on McKinley has hard hats for \$7 and vests for \$3. Menard's and Lowe's also carry hard hats and

vests, but they are more expensive. Jim Daly indicated that he placed samples of what you can expect to collect at the Alabastine Mine trip in April on the back table for people to see. If you are going, remember, hard hats are required, as well as two light sources with extra batteries for each, as well as a change of shoes to keep the paved portions of the mine clean. Recommended are rubber boots and extra socks.

Historian report – Ed Miller - no report.

Hospitality report – Annette Freel and Sherry Kobie – Annette and Sherry thanked those who helped last month and this month with snacks and beverages. To those of you who helped, many thanks!

Juniors report – Cordelia Tomasino – No report. The juniors put on the program at the end of the meeting and did an outstanding job.

Librarian report – Pat Bell – nothing to report.

Membership Report – Marty Perry – Two of our guests joined the club after the meeting! Please welcome Josh Armstrong and Linda Groning at the next meeting.

Programs/Displays – David Peltz – The program for April's meeting will be a silent auction, so bring in the items you want someone else to take home. The club receives 20% of the final auction price and club members receive 80%. The commission is 50% for nonmembers. David also reminded everyone that we need volunteers for new officers for the fall, so be thinking about volunteering.

Publicity – Joe Perry – nothing to report.

Show – Joe Perry – The club show is set for August 27 through 29. Ten dealers have paid their booth fees so far.

Sunshine – Sally Peltz – The club sent a card to Pat Bell, who was sick.

Webmaster – Jim Daly – nothing new to report.

Old Business – We still need recipes for our club cookbook and this meeting was the last to get them to Diane Gram. Diane finished the 2010 Club Directory. The directories were handed out. MANY thanks to Diane for getting these updated. Kathy reminded everyone that the club picnic will be at the same location as last year on July 18. Kathy announced that Sue Brown volunteered to represent

the club at the Midwest Federation Convention on August 28. Another reminder was given that April's program will be a silent auction.

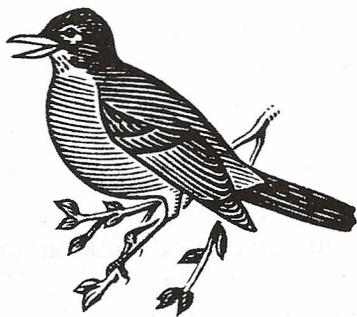
New Business – The board asked for a volunteer to be a Membership Chair. This person(s) would set up badges, directories, sign-in sheets, make badges, etc. Randy and Joan Hill volunteered! The invitation to participate in the Elkhart Environmental Center Envirofest project was tabled. The MGMS is still trying to arrange for a table at the St. Joe County 4-H fair.

Door Prizes – Mike Skoczylas and Nick Pelus received prizes and one of our guests, Sharon Lundy, also received a prize.

Adjournment – Sally Peltz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Randy Hill. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Program – Vincent Tomasino, Teresa Tomasino, Bethany Tomasino, Datron Lloyd and Michael Hefner presented their junior projects/displays for the club members. They all did a great job!

Snacks were enjoyed by all.



LaFarge Quarry near Paulding, Ohio Fossil Hunting Trip

By John Davis

The date for the LaFarge trip is set for May 8, 2010. We will meet Mike Miller, the coordinator for LaFarge, at their main gate at 7:45 a.m., going into the quarry at 8:00.

There are a few rules that you will need to know. Hard hats, safety glasses and safety vests are required at all times while in the quarry. No open-toed shoes will be permitted. Also, warmer weather will be here, so you need to know long pants are required, preferably blue jeans. Kids of all ages are welcome, but they are there to collect fossils, not to run around throwing rocks. They must be under control.

While talking with Mike, I was fortunate to be invited to join a group from Fort Wayne on their trip. so I can give you an idea of what to expect. You will be climbing over large boulders and chipping fossils from these rocks. You will find a lot of great brachiopods, horn corals and some real nice trilobites. If you want to work to get them out, you can get horn corals up to 10" long. There are also many other fossils, but I can't tell you what they are. You will need a rock hammer, chisel, small hammer that you can chisel with, and a bucket for your treasures. I would also advise you to bring some newspaper to wrap any good fossils that you will find.

I will hand out maps at the April meeting, and also answer any questions you may have. My truck will haul up to three more people comfortably if anyone wants to hitch a ride with me.

Federation Conventions and Shows:

American (& California) Federation, June 18-20, La Habre, CA

Midwest Federation, August 27-9, Peoria, IL.

Northwest Federation, September 17-20, Hillsboro, OR.

Rocky Mountain Federation, April 23-5, Wichita, KS.

South Central Federation, December 11-2, DeRidder, LA.



June Culp Zeitner

February 7, 1916 – October 11, 2009

By Carolyn Weinberger

The First Lady of rockhounding has died at the age of 93 after a lengthy illness. Probably best known through her monthly articles in *Lapidary Journal* and *Rock & Gem*, June Culp Zeitner was also the author of ten books, the recipient of both the AFMS Recognition Award (2003) and the Carnegie Mineralogical Award (2005), a frequent speaker at club shows and federation conventions and one of the best boosters for our hobby.

Born in Michigan, one of five girls, her father insisted that each receive a college education—something rare at that time. In 1937 she moved to Mission, SD, where she began her career as an English teacher and later became superintendent of the local high school. It was in Mission that she met Albert Zeitner, whom she married. Albert's family owned a hardware store and natural history museum in Mission and June soon was hooked. Early in their marriage, the couple set off on a one-year cross-country trip to visit several collecting sites. That trip turned into a 30-year adventure during which they visited almost every locality. June turned her adventures into books (numerous *Gem Trails* volumes, *Gem and Mineral Materials for Cutters, Collectors and Jewelers*, etc.). June also wrote a monthly column for *Lapidary Journal* in which she answered questions about the hobby from readers.

Later she wrote articles about her adventures in *Rock & Gem Magazine*. Arthritis and failing health forced her to give up the monthly column about three or four years ago. Indefatigable, she was instrumental in founding the State Stone Program, encouraging each state to adopt an official gem, mineral and fossil. She was responsible for heading up the AFMS 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Smithsonian and obtaining at least one polished cabochon from every state to display on a giant birthday cake. These were on display in the gem hall until the renovation in 1997.

She was also honored as The First Lady of Gems in 1976 by the International Gem Show and crowned during a ceremony at the White House with a custom-made tiara that included one gem from each of the states. June's idea of honoring notables in the hobby resulted in the establishment of the Rockhound Hall of Fame, now housed in Murdo, SD. Nominations from the rockhound community each year result in the selection of an individual to honor in the fields of lapidary, minerals, fossils, metalcraft, education and memorial tribute. June herself was inducted in 1992 for her work in education. Much of June's personal collection of rocks, gems and minerals is on display at the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City, SD, at the Black Hills Museum of Natural History, at the Black Hills Institute in Hill City, SD, and at the Rockhound Hall of Fame in Murdo, SD.

Many in the AFMS community have countless stories to tell about June. Kitty and Marve Starbuck met June via the Midwest Federation and instantly became friends. When hunting for agates in South Dakota, June would put them in contact with a friend who would lead them to a favorite collecting spot. It was Kitty's idea to begin a "card shower" for June when she became quite ill a few years ago. June's sister reported that all those cards from all over the US really helped perk up June's spirits. On a personal note, June was a friend. I first met her at an AFMS convention about 25 years ago. I was editing my club bulletin (still am) and June, after seeing my name on my badge, came over to introduce herself and comment about the bulletin. We immediately became friends and she would

send me various tidbits to include from time to time. Over the years we saw one another at succeeding conventions and in Tucson, and exchanged newsy notes at holiday time.

In 2003, when the AFMS decided to create the Recognition Award, June was the overwhelming choice to receive the first one. She was not present when the award was presented, so Steve and I decided to drive home from the convention in California via Rapid City and present it to her personally. It was a very hot summer day and we had our dog with us. Knocking on her door, we had no idea if our dog Barkley would be welcomed or not, but he was. We had invited June and her sister to lunch, and when it was time to leave for the restaurant June insisted that Barkley remain in her home. She was delighted to see him looking out the front window as he heard our car return. After that her phone calls always began with "and how's my little dog?"

What a font of knowledge she was! What a good friend to so many. She'll be missed! Contributions in June's memory can be made to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, c/o your regional federation coordinator.

AFMS Newsletter (Dec., 2009-Jan., 2010)

Here is Tom Loomis's list of some of June's accomplishments, from Dakotamatrix.com:

Nearly a thousand articles on the subject. Her first article appeared in Dake's *Mineralogist*, later in *Gems and Minerals*, *Rocks and Minerals* and *Lapidary Journal*.

Author of:

Midwest Gem Trails

Midwest Gem Trails: The Great Lakes States

Midwest Gem Trails: The Prairies States

Appalachian Mineral and Gem Trails

Southwest Mineral and Gem Trails

South Dakota, Borlum's Unfinished Dream

How to Carve Jade and Gems

Gem and Lapidary Materials

Geodes

Recipient of the 2005 Carnegie Award.

Founded a dozen gem and mineral clubs.

Founded the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame.

Founded the State Stone Program.

Crowned First Lady of Gems and received a Bicentennial tiara on the White House lawn.

Special Assistant Editor for *Lapidary Journal*.

Contributing Editor of *Earth Science*.

Assembled a collection of 1,309 gemstones for the Smithsonian.

Lectured at over 200 regional, national and international conventions.

Honored as South Dakota Woman of Achievement.

Chair for the American Cancer Society, twice raising more annual donations than any representative in the country.

Had the largest gem emerald found in the US named after her: "The Zeitner Emerald."

First honorary member of the Midwest Federation in 1963.

State Vice-President and later President for the Midwest Federation (AFMS).

Public Relations Chair for the American Federation.

Associate Editor of the *American Federation Newsletter*.

Assembled probably the largest mineralogical field trip ever in Murdo, SD, in 1970, in which 2,000 collectors participated.

(Note from Tom Noe: June had local connections. In a letter she told me how her father had been born near Goshen, and she had several uncles and cousins in Elkhart and Goshen. Years ago, one of her uncles had a barber shop in South Bend.)

SCIENTISTS FIND OCTOPUS FOSSILS

Dick Fuchs of the Freie University Berlin and his colleagues Giacomo Bracchi and Robert Weis have identified three new species of octopuses from five fossil specimens found in Cretaceous Period rocks in Lebanon. One would not expect a soft-bodied creature like an octopus to be well-preserved in the fossil record, but under the right conditions — falling to the sea floor where there is no oxygen, not being eaten by a scavenger and being covered quickly by sediment—it can happen. The 95-million-year-old fossil octopuses had eight arms, just like their modern counterparts. This pushes back the origins of the modern octopus by tens of millions of years. The new fossils exhibited both muscles and suckers.

FINDING NEEDLES IN THE DESERT

By Dick Shields

Bess and I feel very privileged. As of this month, our Arizona mining friends have honored us with the right to sell wulfenite needles and "fuzzy tabs" from the Purple Passion Mine. These are extremely rare forms of wulfenite, known to occur only here and in France.

Bill Gardner and Ed Davis named the claim for the purple fluorite that gives a distinct hue to the country rock. Wulfenite collecting is a popular hobby in Arizona (and among mineral collectors worldwide). Wulfenite occurs normally as distinctive flat tabs of yellow to red-orange translucent crystals, and good examples of those can be found at Purple Passion. Some are water-clear, but the mineral is soft (2 1/2 to 3 on the Mohs scale) and very rarely are the crystals large enough to yield facetable material. The largest tabby wulfies at Purple Passion Mine are less than an inch long, but who can say what still lurks below the ground? Another distinctive feature of Purple Passion wulfenite is that some opaque tabs fluoresce a dull orange under long wave UV light!

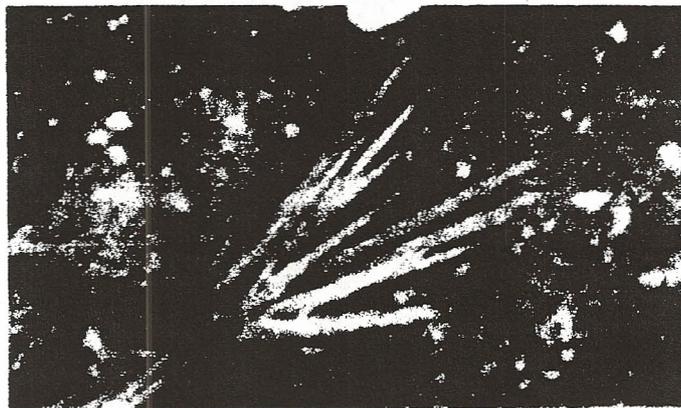
"Acicular crystals" is the proper name for the needle form, shown enlarged 30 times in this picture from my microscopic digital camera.

Bess and Bill spent an entire day last week examining material that Bill stockpiled at his house over the years of collecting at Purple Passion. I couldn't be there to hear the giggles of delight, so I called several times to Bess's cell phone and she put me on speaker so I could share in the fun!

Wulfenite, a lead molybdenum crystalline mineral, is named for its discoverer, Franz Xavier Wulfen, an Austrian Jesuit mineralogist who lived from 1728-1805. The type locale is in the Karnische Alps in Austria. The only other location from which we have found descriptions of needle and fuzzy tab wulfenites is Rhone, France, at Lantignie Mine.

You can find numerous examples of the tabby wulfies on the web, so I won't print any of the showy ones here. Instead, I'll give you one example that I confirmed glows orange under LW UV light. From this angle, it resembles one of Ralph's science experiments or a pig that took the cheese bait!

The other unusual crystal from Purple Passion is the "fuzzy tab" type, or "epitaxial wulfenite on wulfenite." They are the result of a later generation of crystals growing as needles on the C faces of existing blades. Bill has some photographs on his web site that demonstrate how it looks (Web Sites of Note). Here is an example:



The secondary growth can develop into full-blown needles and become a bristle brush-like crystal. Bill showed me several excellent examples of the needles growing into a vug that resembles a forest like this one magnified 30 times. We didn't have a tripod, so I put my hand on the-table near-the specimen, and rested the camera (as steadily as I could) with the other. What a result!

Bill and Ed have authorized us to market these specimens on our web site and on eBay. So, if you are interested in seeing (through a stereo microscope or high power camera) some "from the wild," give us a jingle (do phones do that any more?) or drop us a note at dick@rmsgraphics.net.

Bess is thoroughly enjoying the process of discovery - she's like a kid in a candy store!

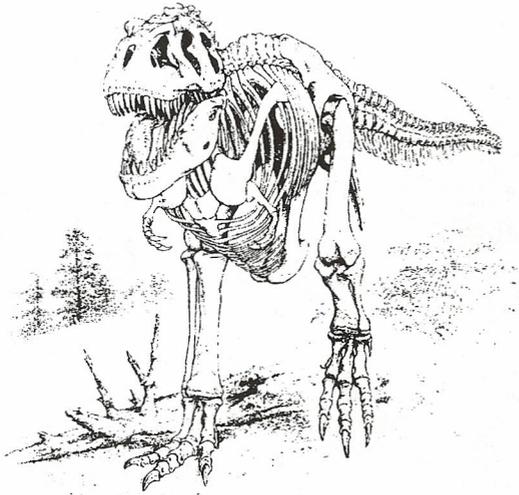
Ore Cutts (Apr., 2005)

HINTS & TIPS

A good way to tell how solid a slab is, is to heat it in hot water. The surface will dry immediately. If there are holes or fractures in the slab, every one will soon be lined with water. These can then be marked with a pencil and used to orient the cab you want.

Junior Rockhounds' Page

Michiana Junior Rockhounds, April 25 Meeting: Fossil Hunting



Ready yourself for stories of dinosaur hunting in Montana and Eocene mammal hunting in Nebraska. Club member Tom Noe will bring specimens from his collection and teach you what you need to do to find your own fossils. He will explain to you what kinds of gear you'll need and how to prepare the fossils in the field for safe transport home.

Once you've got your fossil finds at home, you might like to prepare them for display. Mr. Noe will demonstrate how to remove invertebrate fossils from their surrounding matrix—using fossils he collected in South Dakota.

J.E.W.E.L.s (Juniors Exploring Wonderful Earth Sciences and Lapidary Arts):

We've been busy this month. On April 17 we visited Don & Yvonne Church's museum and rock garden. The group toured Don's displays of rocks & minerals, his lapidary shop, and his delightful treasure bins of rocks outside in the yard. The kids were treated to some rockhounder's classic stories and to Don & Yvonne's hospitality.

Father Larry Calhoun hosted a curious crew in his workshop and helped the kids learn the basics of the lapidary art of wire-wrapping. The kids learned basic wire cutting, crimping, and wrapping techniques and got hands-on experience with the tools and stones generously provided by Father Calhoun.

*Thank
You*

A special thank you to Don Church, who last month entertained with his stories while explaining to the Michiana Jr. Rockhounds how rocks & minerals became a successful business for him ...and to Don & Yvonne for hosting a crew out at their home. Thank you to Father Calhoun for showing his craft to the children and helping them experience the joy of creating their own lapidary project. Thank you to Patty Enos for being an adult helper in the classroom at last month's club meeting.

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