

January 2011 Volume 51 Number 1



THE ROCKFINDER



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



Dues are due

We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.sauktown.com/Michiana>

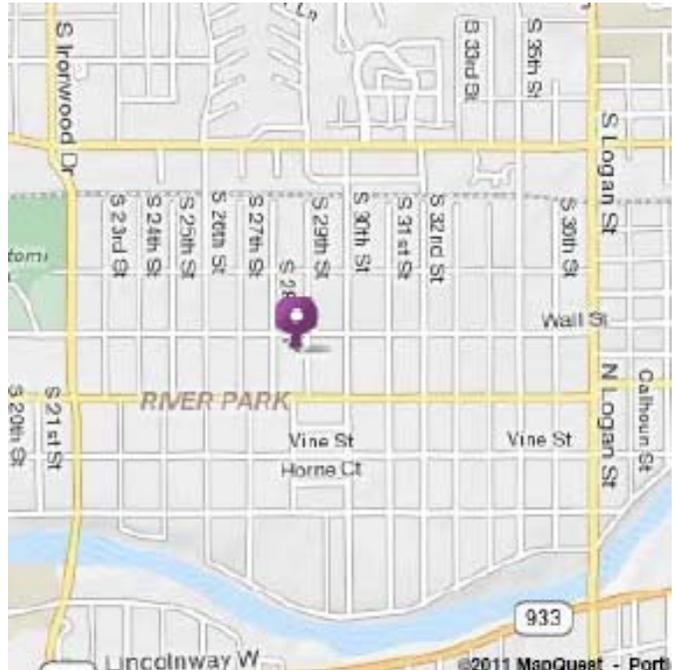
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S. 29th St.,
South Bend, IN.
Please see the map to the right.

Doors usually open at 1:30 for meet & greet time.

Regular meeting exceptions include May (third Sunday), July (Club Picnic), August (Club Show) and the November/December meeting and Christmas party.

Board meetings are held before the monthly meetings. The annual club show is in late August.



DUES

Yearly Membership Dues are payable by December 15th of each year. Please chose type of membership below.

- Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00
- Junior \$1.00 Subscriber \$7.50

Please indicate areas of special interest.

- General Geology Gems & Minerals
- Fossils Micro mounts
- Crystals Field Trips
- Cabochons Faceting
- Carving Beads
- Jewelry Making

Name(s) _____
Street _____
City, ST, Zip _____
Phone(s) _____
Email _____

Please send your dues and the bottom half of this form to:



Please read and sign this section

With my signature I hereby release the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., and its individual members and the owners of any premises upon which I enter under permit granted to the society, absolutely free of any liability whatsoever, to my person or property, and further I will respect the equipment and property of the aforesaid owners.

Signed _____ Date _____
Signed _____ Date _____

Family Information:

Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
c/o Marty Perry
29154 Frailey Dr
Elkhart, IN 46514

The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques.

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

The *Rockfinder* is published monthly except July and August.

Please note that all items for a given issue of the *Rockfinder* are due to the **Editor** no later than the 5th day of the previous month. This means that the due date for the March Issue will be February 5th. Advance items are appreciated. Material may be e-mailed to hefner_family@hotmail.com or submitted via the U.S. Mail.

Editor:
Jason Hefner
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524

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



Kathy's Column - President Kathy Miller

Happy New Year!

I always enjoy starting our first yearly newsletter by wishing everyone the very best of everything with the hope 2011 will be good to you.

We had a really good turnout for our 2010 Christmas party despite the Midwest weather. We're just happy Santa Claus is used to snow and could make his annual appearance!

With the January 23rd meeting - note: it is the 4th Sunday of the month, not the last; we have some new board and committee chairmen taking over responsibilities. As a club member don't wait to be asked to help them out, please willingly volunteer instead. You will find their names listed on the second page of the *Rockfinder*. They need your help! [Continued on Page 2](#)

***Dues are due
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Up & Coming

Next Meeting:

January 23, 2011

Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 1:30 and meeting starts at 2:00.

Place:

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S 29th Street
(29th & Wall)
South Bend, IN.
This is in the River Park area.

Refreshments:

Bob & Kathy Miller
Todd & Linda Miller
Pat & Tom McLaughlin

Program:

Fossil Forest of Danville, Illinois
Movie on DVD



Board of Directors

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574-291-0332

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574-272-7209

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Webmaster: Jim Daly

219-778-2196

Kathy's Column..... continued from Page 1

I am looking forward to all the great events for us in this year of 2011. To name just a few are the Science Alive and St. Joe County 4-H Fair (both of which we participated), monthly club programs, field trips, club picnic and annual club show. Dates will be forthcoming for all of these events.

Our club has grown both in adult and junior membership, isn't it marvelous that our hobby still generates interest in the earth sciences.

Last but certainly not least, I feel it is you, as members with your outgoing friendly manner and interest in the club are and always will be the best "PR" for us and I thank you for that! I am looking forward to serving as your President for 2011

Rock on, *Kathy*

2011 Changes - Editor Jason Hefner

SURPRISE!!!! There have been some changes to the Rockfinder. The Rockfinder is the Club's Newsletter and I want all your comments... good and bad. Rest assured the new format contains all the information that every other Rockfinder had it just may be in a different spot or be formatted differently.

I would like to thank all the people that have worked tirelessly to get the Rockfinder out in the past. This is much more difficult than it might appear. Tom Noe has done a tremendous amount of work since taking over and I have warned him I will have questions going forward. Herb Luckert made Tom's life easier by printing out all the required labels. Unfortunately, my computer does not like the DOS programs that I received from Herb and I have had to reinvent the wheel. At least I got to spend some time at Herb's house looking over his collection and swapping stories! And yes the funny cartoons will reappear going forward as I find new ones and figure how to get them from Herb's computer to mine.

Please Note - The cost to publish and mail the Rockfinder keeps going up. The club currently pays almost \$15 per year per subscription. So, if you are an individual member your dues are \$15 per year and this means your dues just cover the costs for your Rockfinder. This leaves (you guessed it) \$0.00 extra for trips, guest speakers, refreshments, publicity, and everything else the club spends money on. The plan in the near future is to deliver the Rockfinder by email to every member that has email thus saving the club money for other items.

Field Trip Report – Jason Hefner

A small group of early risers took off for Paulding Ohio on a brisk Saturday morning. After a quick stop in Etna Green to meet some more club members the caravan was off to Ohio. Our group arrived at about 7:45 am. We went through the required safety orientation and were off to collect! There were a few individual from the area that were already there when the group arrived. The kids (both big and small) raced off in different directions to see what treasures could be found as we had to leave by 11:15 am.

Milky white calcite was everywhere and some very large pieces were retrieved. Everett Harrington proceeded to demolish a large boulder into rubble while extracting double terminated clear calcite crystals.



Joan & Randy Hill with their fashionable hard hats.

John Davis stumbled upon a large rock with beautiful phantom fluorite crystals. This 300 pound rock eventually made its way into the back of John's truck after much huffing and puffing.

Some of the younger boys discovered praying mantis(s) in the weeds along one edge of the quarry and were entertained for the remainder of the day.

Several people found large clear dogtooth calcite and one person even found an almost full cube of phantom fluorite that was about 1 inch across. There were an abundance of fossils in some areas and several 1.5" diameter whorled shell fossils were retrieved.

StoneCo Quarry – Saturday June 19, 2010



View of quarry wall. Note the SUV for scale.

Most people agree this is a good trip for persons of any age or ability. You can literally drive right up to some of the rocks to collect (see picture to the left). The floor of the quarry is hard and was dry in most places. Only one area in the far corner was muddy. This is a planned trip for 2011 so be ready.

Many thanks to John Davis for making this trip possible and to those of you that did not go you missed an extraordinary day.

Jason Hefner



Michael & Matthew Hefner on a pile of rocks.

Junior Rockhound Page

Please welcome our new Junior leader Trista Lewis. This is a challenging role to fill. Trista will need all of our support to keep our Juniors growing. Here is a word find to keep the kids guessing and give the adults a chance to explain the Mohs hardness scale.



The Mohs scale of mineral hardness is based on the ability of one natural sample of matter to scratch another. The samples of matter used by Mohs are all minerals. Minerals are pure substances found in nature. Rocks are made up of one or more minerals. As the hardest known naturally occurring substance when the scale was designed, diamonds are at the top of the scale. The hardness of a material is measured against the scale by finding the hardest material that the given material can scratch, and/or the softest material that can scratch the given material. For example, if some material is scratched by apatite but not by fluorite, its hardness on the Mohs scale would fall between 4 and 5

MOH'S SCALE

W H D B J W D I A M O N D Y N Q R L Y S
 L T M L Y V E X S C S E D M U U M S J J
 Z M U K J J J Z X Z A I X T T R E S N J
 P F D L I K O A V E J H E W S R W F C F
 O L N C O M K P M F E T D K W Q T M W E
 U G U S P K B O X H I U O D Z Q J N C M
 C O R W O U B T R C E Y I X K E C F K U
 U V O W S C R G L G Q T A L C X Q E Z C
 G O C Z U I A A M N M U S P Y G Z U L J
 Z N P J I K C F E F C I W I O N Q G F R
 F H Y T H T C T I F P H A A R U Z O G J
 W Q O B T W I X C L K I Q C A N Y A H F
 T J O Z Z T V Z A M Z O T R I K K X M D
 T J F F A U N V X B U Y T I A S S O R R
 J R R P W Q F Q Z Q A Z W C E Q M J V H
 X R A E Y L D H L V Z A M R K E J H V P
 X U F Y R I D H U M C B K T G J F J Q R
 F Q R R H B W Q I R G G L L E C T H K O
 U R A S P D L E F E S A L C O H T R O
 N Q F G X O M H F D M V F L U O R I T E

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|----------|----------|
| DIAMOND | CALCITE | CORUNDUM | APATITE |
| TALC | TOPAZ | GYPSUM | FLUORITE |
| QUARTZ | ORTHOCLASE | FELDSPAR | |

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.
["Mohs Scale of Mineral Hardness"](#)

Dues are due

Junior Submissions....

This is for those of you between the ages of 1 and 101. Yes you! We need articles for Juniors and more importantly by Juniors.

So what is a Junior? If you are 16 or under you could be classified as a Junior. There will be prizes awarded to Juniors who submit articles

to the Editor for publication. You can write an article regarding any rock hound topic. Write about your favorite collecting trip, favorite item you

have made, that special rock or fossil you have found.

Contact Jason Hefner for more details.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

In June 2001, at the AFMS/SCFMS Convention, it was suggested and approved to create a traveler's guide to the rocks, minerals, and fossils along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Thus the AFMS Lewis and Clark Project was created. After much work from volunteers from all regions of the AFMS Federation, the project has been completed and can be downloaded for your enjoyment.

Two versions of this document are available. A version that is optimized for viewing on your computer, and a version that is optimized for printing on your printer.

Reference:

Collected December 20, 2010 from the AFMS website.

Visit www.amfed.org/downloads.htm to find this and many other interesting items



Contact the AFMS

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Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
AFMS Central Office Telephone:
(410) 833-7926

FOSSIL FOREST OF DANVILLE, IL by John Washburn

A DVD of the "Fossil Forest of Danville, Illinois" is now available to anyone wanting to have their very own personal copy. It is being offered as a premium for a nominal donation to the MWF Endowment Fund. As many of you know, this program was presented at the MWF Convention and Show in Peoria, Illinois this past August. It was also given out as a favor to those attending the Awards Banquet. It will, of course, be available from the MWF library, but you can purchase one for yourself or your club with a mere \$20 donation to the MWF Endowment Fund, plus \$2 for postage. Send your request; along with a \$20 check made payable to the MWF Endowment Fund, plus \$2 in cash for postage, to

John R. Washburn,
107 Deer Creek Road, Rochester, Illinois 62563.

It runs about an hour in length, but if you know about the methods of coal mining, you can fast forward the first 15 minutes or so.

Reference: MWF News
November 2010, Issue No. 496

Contact the MWF
On the Internet at:
<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/default.htm>



Purpose of the AFMS

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

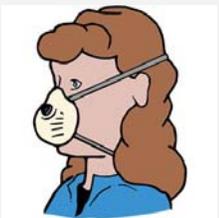
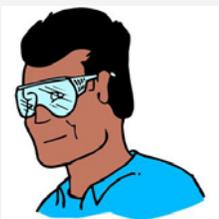


Purpose of the MWF

To promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and lapidary, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of groups interested in these fields.



Silicosis is characterized by shortness of breath, cough, fever, and cyanosis (bluish skin).



2011 Safety Resolutions by Jason Hefner

It's 2011 and time for some New Year's resolutions. For those of us getting ready for the next collecting trip or getting ready to work in our own little rock shop please take the time to do so safely this year. Protect yourself and bystanders with personal protective equipment (PPE).

First things first. Always protect your head. If you are ever out collecting and there is ANY potential for objects to fall on you wear a hardhat. Hard hats should always be required in any quarries, mines, caves, etc. When in doubt wear a hard hat.

You only get two eyes and even though medical science is getting better they cannot restore sight to the point where you would be back to 100% if something were to happen to you or someone standing near you. Safety glasses are a must for almost any rock hounding activity. Make sure the glasses are rated ANSI Z87. This will be stamped on the inside of the frame somewhere. Sunglasses and regular prescription glasses do not provide enough protection so make sure to use ANSI approved glasses.

Sturdy leather boots are a must for tromping through the great outdoors. Steel toed boots are even better and steel toe boots are now available for kids and women and can cost under \$30 a pair. I recommend saving up and splurging on a good pair of steel toe boots. Be prepared to spend \$100 or more. Go to a reputable shoe store and be fitted properly. Also check to see if they offer a decent return policy.

Next you are going to want to protect your hands. There is almost nothing more painful than smacking your finger, cutting your self with a sharp rock, pinching your finger between some rock and a tool, and the list goes on. A good pair of leather work gloves can save you hours of pain and suffering down the road.

If you are collecting in a quarry or along a road wear a reflective safety vest. These make you much more visible to vehicles and other mobile equipment. Also carry a flashlight to help you see and be seen.

Last and NOT least. If you grind, cut, or otherwise create rock dust you need to wear a dust mask. Make sure the dust mask is rated at least N95. This can help protect you against Silicosis. Silicosis is a form of lung disease caused by inhalation of crystalline silica dust and most rocks have some silica in them.

Minerals as Investments. **Not!** by John H. Betts, All Rights Reserved.

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Lately some dealers have been touting minerals as investments. Their mantra is, "Better rocks than stocks." Of course these are mineral dealers and they are hardly disinterested parties. The translation of their advice is, "It is better for mineral dealers if you buy minerals instead of stocks."

Steve Martin, the comedian, is a well-known art collector. I read that when visitors to his home admire his art collection, they frequently request advice on how to collect art. His first piece of advice is: go out and buy a painting or sculpture that you like. Then wait a week, and try and sell this it. The lesson will be learned very quickly this way that artworks are not easily sold, and rarely at a profit - especially if purchased from art dealers.

I offer the same advice to potential mineral collectors that are buying as an investment. Buy a mineral specimen that you like. Then try to sell it a week later. If minerals are a good investment, you should at least be able to get your full price back. Right?

Reality check.

In reality you will find the dealer that sold you the specimen will have experienced a sudden turn of bad luck, or the market took a quick turn down, or the dealers money is all tied up in another deal. Yeah, right. And I bet your dog ate your homework too.

Try selling your mineral specimen to another dealer. Maybe he will value the specimen more highly. But it is more likely that he will offer you about 50% of your purchase price. Try selling your new mineral specimen to another mineral collector. But how do you find other collectors? Try selling on Ebay. In theory the auction format will set the price at fair

market value. In reality the buyers on Ebay are notoriously cheap and most only buy low-end minerals that are damaged or flawed. Try selling your mineral specimen at a natural history auction like those at Bonhams & Butterfield, Stacks, or Heritage Auction Galleries. You will have to tie up the mineral for 6 months while the auction catalog is prepared, and hopefully it will not end up among the 33% that fail to meet the reserve price and go unsold. Maybe you will get your investment back. Maybe.

The bottom line is buying a mineral specimen from a dealer is not a good way to invest. And minerals are not liquid assets like Krugerrands or stocks.

As a mineral dealer, I buy many old collections and see the original prices paid for minerals over 100+ years. Almost every mineral has appreciated at a rate of about 7% over the last 50 years. That means their value doubles about every 10 years. That is not a bad rate. But the 7% appreciation was at a time when stocks and real estate appreciated much more.

It is possible to make a good investment in minerals. Buy the collection of a friend at a fair discount off full price. Or buy from a distressed dealer. My business mineral inventory was acquired by buying the mineral inventory of Astro Gallery of Gems when they files bankruptcy around 1989-1990. At an auction in Maine last summer I purchased several lots that averaged out to \$1 per specimen. But as a dealer, I have a ready outlet to sell the minerals. The average collector does not have ready access to selling to other collectors. Except via Ebay.

Continued on Page 8.

Why buy Minerals?

You should buy minerals because they are beautiful, they appeal to you, each one is unique, natural, and not man-made. Do not buy minerals as investments - unless you have 20 years to wait for a return on your investment. And definitely do not believe a mineral dealer if he advises you to invest in minerals - the only person that will realize a profit is the dealer.

This article and others can be found at Mr. Betts web site: <http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com>

A Gem Among Diamond Mines

Collected from the Internet 12/29/10 at www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com

Arkansas, The Natural State, is blessed with an abundance of geological wonders. Crater of Diamonds State Park, the only diamond-producing site in the world open to the public, stands out as a unique geological "gem" for you to explore and enjoy.

Here, you are invited to prospect in the park's diamond search area, a 37 1/2-acre plowed field that is the eroded surface of an ancient volcanic pipe that 95 million years ago, brought to the surface the diamonds and some of the semi-precious stones lucky visitors find here today.

Diamonds of all colors of the rainbow can be found here at Crater of Diamonds, but the three most common colors unearthed by park visitors are white, brown and yellow. Crater of Diamonds State Park is a rockhound's delight since, along with diamonds, more than 40 types of rocks and minerals can found here, too. These rocks and minerals include lamproite, amethyst, banded agate, jasper, peridot, garnet, quartz, calcite, barite, and hematite.

In 1906, John Huddleston, the local farmer who owned this property then, found the first diamonds near Murfreesboro, Arkansas, and started the diamond mining rush.

According to the history of Crater of Diamonds State Park, after a series of ill-fated diamond mining ventures, followed by tourist attractions, the diamond mine site became an Arkansas state park in 1972.

Diamonds come in all colors of the rainbow. The three most common colors found at the Crater of Diamonds State Park are white, brown or yellow, in that order. The largest diamond ever found by a park visitor was a 16.37-carat white diamond found in 1975 by a visitor from Texas who named his gem the Amarillo Starlight.



**Dues are Due
Will this be your last issue?**