

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



September 2011 Volume 51 Number 7



Some origins of Labor Day

THE ROCKFINDER



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

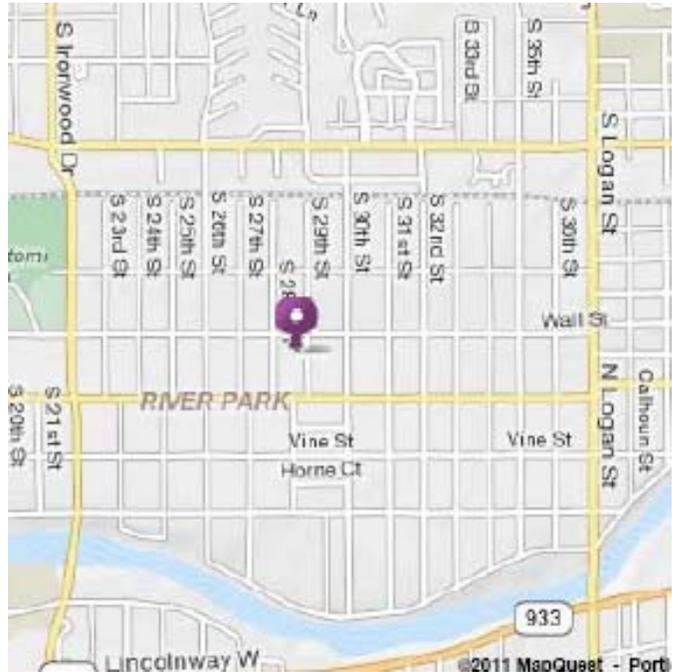
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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/mwf/> 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

This is one of the hardest President's messages I've had to write. There is such a limited space to tell you how proud I am to be a member of this Society.

The day of our club picnic was super with every table occupied, seeing members visiting and enjoying each other's company, plus getting charged up for our annual show. This was so gratifying to me.

The show...holy Toledo!! You "rockhounds" are awesome! The time and energy you put into your efforts gave our club one of the best attended shows ever. There are so many of you to thank. Marie (and Bill) Crull along with Joe Perry are a fantastic team as Show and Dealer Chairs, you're the best!

[Continued on Page 2](#)

Up & Coming

Next Meeting:
September 25, 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.

Program:
Jeff Hand
Making wild game calls from exotic materials including rocks and minerals!!

Refreshments:
Patty Enos
Annette Freel
Sherry Kobie

Board of Directors

President:

Kathy Miller
574-291-0332

Vice-President:

Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Secretary:

Michelle Winters
574-267-6127

Treasurer:

Marty Perry
574-295-9050

Liaison:

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765-592-3409

Past President:

Diane Gram
574-272-6885

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Displays: Mike Skoczylas
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner
574-858-9837

Educational: Jesse Zeiger
574-259-5944

Field Trips: John Davis
574-232-8823

Historian: Ed Miller
574-498-6513

Hospitality:

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Carrie Brown 574-266-0150

Juniors: Trista McIntosh
574-780-1162

Librarian: Pat Bell
574-233-7352

Membership: Joan Hill
269-465-5814

Programs: Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Publicity: Joe Perry
574-295-9050

Show Chair: Marie Crull
574-272-7209

Sunshine: Sally Peltz
269-683-4088

Webmaster: Jim Daly
219-778-2196

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

Marie's team of Chairmen had excellent organization in their areas of expertise and enabled many of our members a chance to be involved. From door to floor (Exhibits, Club Booth, Silent Auction, Kids Korner, Demonstrations, Door Table) all were busy. With your cooperation the kitchen was like a gourmet restaurant from all the tasty dishes and treats you brought in. The Kitchen crew kept busy just displaying it all 😊. Really, I love you guys – Thank you! Thank you!

On to upcoming events with our next meeting September 25. Vice President Randy Hill has promised a great program and this is a nice start to our fall season for any new members and guests as a first time experience with our club. Trista McIntosh, Junior Leader is doing the same with the younger Junior members.

During the show most of the Board was able to meet on Sunday for a brief meeting. Marie Crull and Joe Perry were asked to stay on as Show and Dealer Chairmen for 2012. A voice vote was taken and they graciously accepted. Thank you Marie and Joe. It was also decided and voted upon to have a three day coach bus trip next year after our annual show. Plans are being put into motion and more information will be available at the September meeting. Signup for the bus trip will have some requirements for anyone wishing to go. These will be listed in future Rockfinders. This is **not** replacing John Davis's field trips. He is still our Field Trip Chairman and I know we will have many fine trips coming up for us.

Jason Hefner is hoping to have a gentleman come in to teach members a safety course class in the late fall to get us MSHA certified which helps with entry into quarries for collecting. More on that when he has all the details.

Jason will continue to send out The Rockfinder by email and only a few "snail" mail copies. This is a huge savings for our club and less stress on Jason. So **READ your emails**, Jason does a fine job as our Editor-in-Chief!

In closing, just a reminder, if you did (and I hope so) any collecting this summer, please bring some of your great finds in for the display table. I was really impressed with the exhibits you put in at our show. Visitors and members always like to view your treasures.

That's it for now, see you at the meeting.

**Rock on,
Kathy**

Dealer Chair Report on MGMS 2011 Annual Club Show

The Michiana Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show was held August 26, 27, and 28, 2010. I was the Show Dealer Chair and Marie Crull was Show Chair. We planned for sixteen dealers: twelve full-size booths and four half-size booths. Unfortunately, one dealer had to drop out only a few days before the show for family reasons and we weren't able to find a replacement. One dealer was new to us this year.

At the end of the show the dealers were solicited for comments. All wished to return next year.

Some of the dealer comments were:

"Excellent as always"

"Thanks again for all your hard work and the food (it was really delicious)"

"We love the food and drinks and the kind and living atmosphere"

"We had another great show - love our customers & the club"

"Security is very good"

"Members very helpful moving in and during show hours"

Thanks to all the MGMS Club members for your help and participation in the show. The dealers appreciate your efforts in again making it a success.

The tentative date for the 2012 show is August 24, 25, & 26.

- Joe Perry -



Working the Club Table.....



Kids Korner.....



Working the Silent Auction !!!

More Club show pictures



Early Saturday morning....the “calm before the storm” What a great show.



The display areas were enjoyed by everyone who attended as well as the members displaying their skills,

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Missed It? by Bob Miller, President

If you did not or were not able to attend the combined EFMLS/AFMS convention at Syracuse NY this past July you missed a really great time.

From the convenient location of the meetings and the banquet, the great accommodations, meals and a very relaxing educational cracker barrel picnic with rides on the historic Erie Canal to the following field trips for the hard won "hard rock" Herkimer Diamonds all was well organized by the friendly members of the Syracuse Gem and Mineral club.

On the behalf of myself and the officers, directors and committee chairs of AFMS I would like to thank the Syracuse club for the many hours they put into this to host a great convention.

Bob

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

What does the MWF do for you??? By Dennis Westman, 2nd Vice President, MWF

An important resource is the MWF web site (www.amfed.org/mwf). It is loaded with goodies. The web site compliments the MWF directory as the web site is updated constantly. Do you need a last minute idea for a program? See the web site. Do you wonder what literature is available? Check it out. For example, the MWF has a new Youth Handbook. Need pins & patches? The web site pictures them. All supplies are sold at current cost..

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

Home About Us Calendar States Convention Resources

Resources

Before contacting any of the professional identification sources, you should have as much information as possible about your mineral, rock, or fossil: where it was found (road cut, mine or quarry, county, state, level or depth, etc.), when it was found, what others have called it, and so on.

You should first check with members of your club and other clubs in your area, with fellow collectors who collect at the same site, with amateur collectors of note, with your MWF State Director, and in the classic reference books. Midwest Federation committee members [pages W-14 onward] may be able to suggest other sources in your area. You should call on a professional only after exhausting local resources.

State Geological Surveys will almost all do "eyeball" identification if possible, but because of limited staff time or lack of mineral and rock testing equipment, they should be asked only when all other local sources have failed. Most request that only specimens from their own state be considered. However, some State Geological Surveys are able to do x-ray or spectrographic examination, and (rarely) prepare thin sections for microscopic study. While most will try to identify fossils, they do not attempt to give the genera or species unless preservation of the specimen is excellent. In addition to the services offered by the State Geological Survey, the Geology Department in any university is likely to have equipment to identify an unknown mineral.

Any specimen sent to an outside source should be non-retainable or have sufficient money or postage sent to cover the cost of returning it. Send along a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the results.

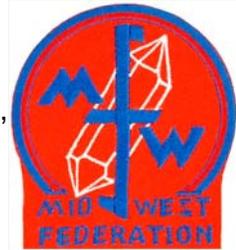
Some institutions may charge a fee for this service. Write or call before sending your specimen to be certain.



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.

www.amfed.org



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.

www.amfed.org/mwf

Coming Events

October

1-2: ROSEVILLE, MN. Fall Show, Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club, Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling, Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun Noon-5:00, Contact Martha Miss, 8445 Gramge Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016, (651) 459-0343, info@rock-biz.biz

1-2: JACKSONVILLE, AR, 39th Annual Show, Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society, Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Dr, Sat, Sun 9:00 -5:00 , Contact David Murray, 218 Old Hwy 11 S, Hazen, AR 72064, (870) 255-3679, davidmur99@hotmail.com

1-2: SPRINGFIELD, IL, Annual Show, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, Illinois Bldg, Illinois State Fair Grounds, Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact John Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Rd, Rochester, IL 62563, (217) 498-7713, jwashburn3@att.net

14-16: WARREN, MI, Annual Greater Detroit Show, Michigan Mineralogical Society, South Macomb Community College, Expo Center, Bldg P, 14500 12 Mile Rd , Fri 9:00-7:00, Sat 10:00-7:00, Sun 11:00-5:00, Contact: Carol Werner, 3401 Briarhill Rd, Hartland, MI 48353, (248) 887-3906, briarhillwerner@comcast.net

15-16: CHICAGO HTS, IL, 42nd Annual Show, South Suburban Earth Science Club, Prairie State College, 202 S Halsted St, Sat, Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact Jan Podbielski, PO Box 911, Peotone, IL 60450, (708) 258-3791, ssescus@yahoo.com

15-16: DES MOINES, IA, Annual Show, Des Moines Lapidary Society, Paul Knapp Animal Learning Ctr Iowa State Fairgrounds, E University Av Gate, Sat 10:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00, Contact Steve Cunningham, (515) 262-4578, steverv@mchsi.com

15-16: COTTAGE GROVE, MN, Annual Show, Minnesota Mineral Club, National Guard Training & Community Ctr, 8180 Belden Blvd, Sat 10:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00, Contact: Sandy, info@minnesotamineralclub.org, or Rita (651) 457-4285

15-16: CLIO, MI, 44th Annual Show, Flint Rock & Gem Club, Carter Middle School, Rogers Lodge Dr, Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact Ed Hearn, 10395 Ataberry Dr, Clio, MI 48420, (810) 687-2339, edleo324@comcast.net

21-23: FT WAYNE, IN, 50th Annual Show, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society, Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Rd, Fri & Sat 10:00-7:00, Sun 11:00-5:00, Contact: Michele Yamanaka, 4336 Charter Ln, Ft Wayne, IN 46815, (260) 424-5070, yamanakam@cs.com

22-23: CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH, Semi-annual Gemboree, Akron Mineral Society & Summit Lapidary Club, Emido Expo Center, 48 E Bath Rd, 10:00-6:00, Contact Evelyn Tryon, 2028 Tallmadge Rd, Kent, OH 44240, (330) 673-9664, gemboree76@yahoo.com, lapidaryclubofohio.org

Yet more show pictures.



Several club members went together and purchased a spot to set up shop. They enjoyed a brisk business at the show.



Normally camera shy, these young rockhounds totally ignored the camera and played the many games in the kids corner to their hearts content.

Zinc Ores — by Kreigh Tomaszewski

This month we wrapped up our sequence of the major ore groups by studying the ores of zinc. To be considered an ore, a mineral must be extractable and processed at a cost that allows the miner to make a profit. There are about 235 minerals containing zinc as an essential ingredient, but only Sphalerite, wurtzite, smithsonite, and hemimorphite are significant ores; minor ores include zincite, franklinite, willemite, and hydrozincite.

Zinc is a blueish white crystalline metal that melts at 419C. It malleable and ductile at 150C, but it changes rapidly after 180C, and by 205C it is easily powdered. Pure metal is extracted from ore by either an Electrolytic or Imperial Smelting process. Zinc is an essential trace element needed for the growth of both plants and animals. Zinc is the 23rd most common element in the Earth's crust.

55% of zinc production is used in galvanizing metals to protect them from corrosion. 28% of zinc production is used in die castings. 14% of zinc production is used in making brass. The remainder of zinc production is used in a wide variety of products such as paints, plastics, cosmetics, soaps, batteries, tv screens, printing inks, pharmaceuticals, floor coverings, rubber, electronics, and fluorescent light bulbs.

Zinc ores are fairly common. Sphalerite, the principal ore, is found in a variety of replacement environments in limestones and dolomites, metamorphic environments, and even in granites and coal deposits. Zinc ores almost always have traces of rare metals like Cadmium, Gallium, and Indium in them. Sphalerite is an ore collectors are likely to run across in the field. Many of the zinc ores glow under black light.

We had specimens of all but one of the zinc ores to hold and study. Hand identification is never perfect, but by holding and studying enough specimens you can easily learn to identify the most common 10% of minerals. Several of the zinc ores are very easy to recognize, especially when you hold them and feel the density. By sharing our specimens and a little research we are learning from each other.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, from 7pm to 9pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We will be studying the Tourmaline group (Buergerite, Chromdravite, Dravite, Elbaite, Feruvite, Fluor-dravite, Fluor-feruvite, Fluor-liddicoatite, Fluor-schorl, Foitite, IMA2009-088, Liddicoatite, Luinaite-(OH), Magnesiofoitite, Olenite, Oxy-dravite, Oxy-rossmanite, Oxy-schorl, Povondraite, Rossmanite, Schorl, Unnamed (F-analogue of Elbaite), Unnamed (Mn-dominant tourmaline), Unnamed (Pb-dominant tourmaline), Uvite, and Vanadiumdravite).

We try to start (and end) on time (though we often finish a little early); please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early. All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about the topic mineral(s), and bring along specimens of the topic mineral(s) to let others look at (the more, the merrier, but please feel free to come even if you can't bring a specimen). We hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other.

Do not hesitate to ask questions. Contact (IMRMC) is Kreigh Tomaszewski at 616-243-5851 (home) or 616-787-7955 (work), or Kreigh@Tomaszewski.net (email). Email is preferred. Complete requests will be first-come, first-served.

Field Trip Announcement

Field Trip to the Alabastine Gypsum Mine
(Michigan Natural Storage Co.)
1200 Judd S.W., Grand Rapids, MI
Saturday, October 29, 2011, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

I have made arrangements with the mine owner 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/salmon colored. You may find clear selenite or satin spar gypsum. Fossil collectors may find shark coprolites, teeth, or spines, and plant and wood fragments, in the shale near the dolomite ceiling. Ceiling collecting is strongly discouraged as a safety issue (and prohibited for petrified wood). Mineral collectors may enjoy seeing epsomite hairs hanging from the ceilings, but should only collect those that have fallen or that are growing on rubble on the floor.

The first 40 people who confirm reservations with me will be able to attend this trip. Children are welcome, but we ask that they be at least 8 years old. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are unable to keep your reservation. If registering a (family) group, please provide the name of each person.

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. People on the waiting list from the last trip always have the first opportunity to sign up for the next trip (if they provided an email address).

Read the other attachment with your emailed RockFinder or pick it up at the next club meeting on how to register.

Condolences

Margaret Heinek March 30, 1921 – August 22, 2011

Club member, Past MGM President, Past MWF President, Past AFMS President, 4H Geology Leader, avid collector, but most of all, our good friend. Margaret has gone from life to LIFE with a Memorial Celebration for her on September 25th, 3:00 p.m. at the New Carlisle Library for any of those wishing to attend. We keep Bob and son Rob in our thoughts and prayers.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies 2011 Bulletin Editors Contest results

Honorable Mention

The Rockfinder, 10/10
Tom Noe, Editor
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
South Bend, IN (MWF)

Way to go Tom and thanks for all the hard work and help...



Browsing the show.....