

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



February 2012 Volume 52 Number 2



Don't Forget your Valentine

# THE ROCKFINDER





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](http://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](http://www.amfed.org)

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Please note that all items for a given issue of the *Rockfinder* are due to the **Editor** no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:hefner_family@hotmail.com) or submitted via the U.S. Mail.

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## Kathy's Column - President Kathy Miller

I am writing my column to you on February 5. It is always the longest month of the year for me. I am grateful the sun is out with warm degrees forecast for the next few days. As you can tell, I am ready for spring and so happy the daylight hours are longer!

This past week I had opportunity to talk to our Show Chairman, Marie Crull. As most of you know Marie and Bill are wintering in Florida, to be back by the April meeting. Marie emphasized the importance or need for more club member displays to be exhibited at our annual show in August.

February and March are perfect months to start preparing your displays before we all get into the collecting season. Without displays, show visitors really would not know what our society is all about.

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## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting:** February 26, 2012

**Place:**  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
805 S 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
(29<sup>th</sup> & Wall)  
South Bend, IN.  
This is in the River Park area.

**Refreshments:**  
Carrie Brown  
Jessie Zeiger  
Florie Schuler

**Program:**  
To be announced



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## Kathy's Column continued from Page 1

I am grateful for the Demonstrators who volunteer showing what can be done by their special interest in the hobby, the Kids Corner who fire up youngsters who could become our "Rockhounds" of the future, the Silent Auction where visitors can purchase all sorts of various rocks, fossils, minerals, etc., and dealers who bring in cash flow for us. Still, our exhibits really enlighten and cover a major part of our hobby on earth sciences. With all combined, it could generate an interest to become new members of our Society.

So when John Davis, Exhibit Chairman calls you to display this year, please say YES to him! If you have never exhibited before, I am sure John will give you helpful ideas on how to, it is fun, need not be expensive, and you can show the public what your special interest is all about. We need you as a club member participant.

Enough said, it's great to see our Society has been steadily growing, and how we all interact with each other. Our group is made up of "good stuff" and I thank you for that.

Rock on,  
Kathy

## 3 Day Bus Field Trip reminder

For all those going on the September 28-30, 2012 bus field trip to Corydon, IN, I do need you to get your motel reservations called in A.S.A.P. When you have done so, please let me know your confirmation number. This will save a lot of hassle when we arrive and check in. I want to make sure everyone has a room!

In the March and April Rockfinder I will again remind you about the Saturday night group meal at the Overlook Restaurant. We were told (and this is the way for most restaurants now) that we have to pay ahead by credit card for the group. Bob and I are using our credit card, but want to be paid in advance before we go for the members who are planning eating with us as a group. This is really a neat way for our members to get together and enjoy a great meal and good company. We will have our own banquet room, excellent buffet meal, and a gorgeous view overlooking the Ohio River. For those who have eaten there before can appreciate what I am telling you.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Kathy

## Science Alive Report by Kathy Miller

A Report on “Science Alive”, a South Bend Library Community Event

Even though our Society has been involved for many years with this program, starting with Margaret and Bob Heinek, Bob and I have never gone to it. We usually are out of town that weekend.

This year being home we committed to help our club members Don Szczodrowski, who exhibits his Jurassic Park Dinosaur display, covering 2 6 ½ ft. tables and Mike Skoczylas with another 6 ft. table.

The afternoon before Bob & I, Mike and Don took in prepared bags (200) with color books, mazes, Collecting Rocks & Fossil kid books and many assorted specimen size ziplock bags with fossils, sharks teeth, pyrite, halite, etc. and a few wrapped candies. We also had 300 large mineral and crystal posters, individual bagged, labeled crinoids, large bag of wrapped candy, colorful postcards of assorted dinosaurs, pamphlets on various fossils and dinosaurs. A bucket of Keokuk geodes and petrified wood.

On the 6ft table we put down our club table covering so Bob could place the very large specimens for children K-8th grade to touch and examine. On the ½ table next to Don’s display we had hand out information on our club and the pamphlets and postcards.

Saturday “Science Alive” ran from 10:00 am.-4:00 p.m. We all arrived early for parking space. Our area was located on the main floor. Three floors all were occupied by over 36 exhibitors and special programs. I asked Mike how steady the crowd would be, he just smiled, said “it varies from year to year, but be prepared”. Now we had chairs to sit on so I did, thinking this is no big deal, in fact I took time to (thank goodness) grab a bottle of water provided by the Library. They also gave exhibitors a nice breakfast and super lunch. (More on that later).

10:00 a.m. – I head a bell and an announcement, the program began, doors opened. Holy Toledo! The kids, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, high school and college geology students came at us in (dare I say herds)! It really was fun to even see some of our club members and their kids, but couldn’t really visit. Bob, Mike, Don and myself between handing out goodies,

te we never sat down the entire day!  
O ke time to visit the other exhibits  
but came back to help us give  
handouts and educate the visitors  
too. [Continued next page](#)



## Science Alive



I never made it to lunch, no time, so it's a good thing I am not a lunch person. Bob and Todd took Kaley. When I had a chance to look up there was no end in sight to the lines coming at us. About 12:30-1:00p.m. I asked Mike, "when does all this slow down", he again smiled and said "it doesn't"! WOW, the expression teen-ages use sure fits, we were hit, hammered! By 3:30pm we had run out of bags, posters, geodes, petrified wood, pamphlets, post cards and down to candy and a few crinoids. Mike had taken a short break earlier in the day and on another floor heard kids talking about our neat booth and what we had to offer! 4:00 pm. Show over-not so, the folks who didn't get to us on the way in stopped on the way out. 4:30 pm. We're done, we were told the attendance ran between 3 to 4,000 people.



Needless to say, Sub sandwich for dinner and no conversation for the Millers this night!

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## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

From The Top... by Lauren Williams, President

[AFMS Newsletter Volume 65, Number 3, February 2012](#)

Competitive competitor. Competitive competition is a tool for your learning experience. Maybe you had a hard time seeing that flat spot, no polish next to the edges, minor ding on your mineral specimen, etc., but the judges will be happy to point this out to you so that you can learn and fix it for the following years competition.

If you want a higher score next year, fix what the judges told/wrote what was wrong this year. **Too many people keep doing the same thing over and over again and expect different results.** It ain't gonna happen!

- If you want different results you have to do something different.

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## Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Presidents Message by Cindy Root

[MWF News February 2012 - ISSUE NO. 509](#)

The holidays are past us and its time to gear up for the new year ahead. There always seems to be a sort of letdown after the holidays and I'm not certain why. It certainly doesn't seem like winter, at least not here. There have been days when I wonder why I even bother with a winter coat.

But let's get excited about the upcoming months. What big plans do you have for the year? Going on any field trips? Tell us about them. Coming to the convention in Minnesota this July? We'd love to see you there! Is this the year your club will put together a book for the All American Award? I know people who would love to hear from you. By the time you see this, the deadline will have passed for the website contest. The lack of participation always disappoints me. The majority of clubs with websites have some great looking on-line material. Consider an entry for 2013—the deadline is always January 15.

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### 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](http://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](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)

## Coming Events

### February

**12: LINCOLN, NE.** Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Geology Day; Pioneer Park Nature Center, Coddington & W. Van Dorn; Sun. 1-4; CONTACT: Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, jna@inetnebr.com, www.lincolngemmineralclub.org.

**25-26: ROSEVILLE, MN.** Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Pre-Spring Show; Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; CONTACT: Martha Miss, 8445 Grange Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN, 55016, (651) 459-0343, [info@rock-biz.biz](mailto:info@rock-biz.biz).

### March

**3-4: LIVONIA, MI.** Roamin' Club's 40th Annual Silent & Verbal Auctions; Schoolcraft College, Visatech Center Bldg., 18600 Haggerty Rd.; Sat. 11-6, Sun. 12-6; CONTACT: Don Brown (734) 421-8159 or Todd Gall (248) 348-5093.

**10: SKOKIE, IL.** Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society's 63rd Annual Silent Auction of Rocks, Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Treasures; St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave. (across from the public library on Oakton); Sat. 6-9 p.m.; CONTACT: Jeanine N. Mielecki, (773) 774-2054 or jaynine9@aol.com.

**10-11: MACOMB, IL.** Geodeland Earth Science Clubs' 32nd Annual Show; Student Union Ballroom, Western Illinois University; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Regina Kapta, 1483 E. Wood St., Decatur, IL 62521, (309) 830-6516, cigmc@comcast.net.

**23-25: BRIDGETON, MO.** Rock Hobby Club's 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show; Machinists' Hall Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Rd, Bridgeton; Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Vickie Corley, 1727 Parkway Acres Ct., St. Louis, MO 63043, 314-439-5556, sales@butterfliesbygod.com.

## From The Top... continued from Page 5

- Too many people think that next year a different set of judges will give you a different score. Judges, especially those at the regional or national federation level, know their field of expertise and therefore know what's good and what needs improving.
- If you want a higher score next year fix what was found this year.

One of the biggest disfavours that a local club or regional federation judge can do for you is to be too lenient or forgiving and then when you get to the AFMS competition you curse and swear at the AFMS judges for being too strict, etc; 'how can this score be so different from what my regional judges gave me'.

Make sure that you have the latest copy of the rules book, it keeps changing every year and the latest issue of what is in the rule book is what you will be judged against.

- If you want a low score in competition put your case together at the last minute.
- A good competitive case takes time to put together with the liners, labels and material.
- Owning your own case will help greatly especially with the liners fitting every time and place that you set up.

Enter Competition!

Lauren

## MWF- Presidents Message continued from Page 5

Let me know what you're doing. Send me an e-mail so I can share with the rest of the Federation. Let's face it, you don't want to hear about rock tumbling every month! (Sadly, my 50 year-old Sears & Roebuck double tumbler recently went to its reward. I'm considering talking "somebody" into seeing if they can fix it.)

Remember to check the website to make certain your club and show information is correct. Let me know if something needs to be changed. Share your hobby with the people around you. You'll find many of them get as excited about the topic as we do.

## Science Alive continued from page 4

I do want to give a special thanks to the following people:

Don and Bonnie Church for the beautiful banner honoring Bonnie's birthday that they contributed, it really made our touch table stand out.

Don Szczodrowski for his amazing Dinosaur exhibit, educating, club information material and helping all around.

Mike Skoczylas for his help time, educating, passing out many the supplies and providing all the material he received from the Black Hills Institute.

Todd Miller for donating the large fossil plate from Crawfordsville, Sugar creek area, it drew lots of comments and general conversation. Also for all the individual crinoids he supplied.

Linda Miller for all the many bags she provided and we needed, plus the large amount of individual wrapped candies that the kids (and adults) enjoyed.

Kaley Miller for insisting on staying there until we left, handing out candy, posters and goodie bags.

Randy and Joan Hill for the very large Coprolite (a huge success) among kids and adults.

John Davis for the big bucket of golf ball size geodes from Keokuk, IA and the small chunks of petrified wood.

Jason Hefner who came up with the idea of florescent green field trip T shirts. We glowed at our booth.

I know this is a lengthy report but we made the first section of the South Bend Tribune on Sunday morning. Yaaa, a great way to publicize our Society and hobby.

Hmmmm not sure how we can handle this next year!

Kathy

**[Hands-on science draws thousands](#)** Click on the Title to view the entire story

By HEIDI PRESCOTT South Bend Tribune

*5:47 p.m. EST, February 4, 2012*

Excerpt from article

Bob and Kathy Miller handed out posters picturing crystals and gems, or offered a goodie bag of rocks and fossils with a piece of petrified wood and a geode to the long line of children at the popular Michiana Gem & Mineral Society exhibit.

"It's educational, and we like to spread the hobby around," Bob Miller said.

## Native Elements by Kreigh Tomaszewski

### Native Elements (and natural metal alloys)

This month we looked at the Native Elements. Minerals are all about chemistry, and it does not get more basic than looking at elements. There are 92 natural elements and most of them never occur outside of a combination with at least one other element.

We all know about gold nuggets. We all know about the two forms of carbon, graphite and diamond. We live in Michigan and know about the unusual native copper (and silver).

But we also had specimens of native Aluminum, Antimony, Arsenic, Bismuth, Iron, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Platinum, Selenium, Sulphur, and Tellurium to look at and hold in hand.

We got to see man made specimens of Bismuth, Nickel, and Silicon.

And we got to hold alloy specimens of native Brass, Cohenite, Dyscrasite, Electrum, Rutheniridosmine, Mohawkite, and Schreibersite.

Everyone had something interesting to share as we learned from each other. We are blessed in Michigan with some of the best native copper in the world.

We have decided on devoting the February and March meetings to sharing how to do physical identification of minerals, so you may want to pencil the second Tuesday of those months on your calendar. It starts with hardness and streak, but we want to take a much deeper dive. We need to talk about how you identify minerals.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, from 7pm to 9pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507.

We try to start (and end) on time (we may 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 mineral identification; bring an unidentified specimen. We hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other.

Kreigh

