

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



October 2012 Volume 52 Number 8



Watch out for Trick-or-Treaters
(Kids don't want rocks either)

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), is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
<http://www.amfed.org/mw/> and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
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 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.

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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

Here we are into October, our bus trip is over and we have the last meeting of the year ahead (not counting the Christmas party).

I was so pleased that the weather on our 3 day bus trip was excellent for collecting, members had 3 opportunities to collect in different types of sites and no one came home empty handed. Even the Glass Factory and Nashville, IN shopping were fun, plus an impromptu piano recital by Jason Jaworski. Our bus driver was agreeable to members and our "guide" Steve was a fun professional different sort of person.

On behalf of Michiana Gem & Mineral Society condolences are given to Jay and Babe Miller, who were unable to attend the bus trip with the passing of Jay's mother Kathryn with a service of celebration of life to LIFE on September 28.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting:
October 28, 2012

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:
John Jaworski

Refreshments:

Dues are due

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
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Liaison:

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Displays: Mike Skoczylas
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Educational: Jesse Zeiger
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Field Trips: John Davis
574-232-8823

Historian: Ed Miller
574-498-6513

Hospitality:

Linda Miller 574-291-5027
Carrie Brown 574-266-0150

Juniors: Trista McIntosh
574-780-1162

Librarian: Pat Bell
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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

At the October 28th meeting we can look forward to a program given by club member John Jaworski, the sign-up sheet for the December 1st Christmas party, and the birthday of Kaley Miller who turns 8 yrs. old that day. Last but certainly not least, the nominations of club officers for 2013, with installation held at the Christmas party.

Our Vice-President, Randy Hill is in charge of nominations. Please, if he asks you to take a position that needs to be filled, just remember...to be a club we need a Board and Chairpeople. Being a member is fine, but there is a time to step up and give back what the club provides for you. We all love the hobby and to keep it going, growing and viable we need active participating members.

Speaking of growing, dues are due by the first of January. Treasurer Marty Perry would prefer you send her your dues now by mail or at the October meeting since she is undergoing surgery the first of November. Marty is going to try and come to the Christmas party, but let's let her enjoy it instead of worrying about receipts, etc.

In the meantime let us start thinking how we can make next year 2013 a super year with many field trips, a possible one day bus trip, annual picnic, getting our club's name out to area communities by our contributing in various ways i.e. Science Alive, displays in schools, libraries, and lots of publicity. Michiana's 50th show is next year and by all means this will be exciting for us. Imagine 50 years of inviting and showing the public what we are all about, a great earth science hobby for people of all ages!

Rock on, Kathy

Hi Everyone! It's Marty your treasurer,

At the last meeting Kathy, our President, requested that the dues be paid by December 31. Well, I'm changing that request to **October 28th**. The reason is, I am going to have a hip replacement on November 1st and would like to get the dues into the bank while I can still get around. If you cannot make it to the meeting please fill out the form in the Rockfinder and mail it to me. This will help you and me. The club dues and insurance must be paid to the Midwest Federation by January 15, 2013. Your club dues pay for this so we can have liability insurance for our field trips and the show. Also, Diane Gram who does a fantastic job of putting the directory together for us, can get them printed and to us sooner. I appreciate your corporation. Thanks a million!
Keep your eyes on the ground! **Marty Perry Treasurer**

September 2012 Meeting Minutes (Sister Jeanne & Jason Hefner)

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 2:10. Inattendance were 53 members and 2 guests. Bob Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome – President Kathy Miller welcomed past Club Presidents, guests and new members.

Secretary report – Michelle Winter – no report

Treasurer's report – Marty Perry – Club financials were reported. A show report was presented.

Liaison report – Linda Garwood - Mishawaka Penn Harris Library sent the club a Thank You for the display. The 3 Rivers Club (Fort Wayne) show is coming up Oct 19th & 20th. Starbucks sale is 9/29 & 9/30, same as our field trip

Committee Reports.

Displays – Mike Skoczylas – John & Mary Davis have a display at the Harris Library. There were also several member displays brought in to share.

Editor report – Jason Hefner – Need to have some articles from the members. The Rockfinder placed 1st at the Midwest Federation and 4th at the American Federation

Education report – Jessie Zeiger – Edison School says Thank you for the display. There is now an empty shelf, so if you want something displayed let Jessie know.

Field Trip report – John Davis, Kathy Miller – upcoming bus trip was discussed. Local requirements and privacy concerns were addressed.

Historian report – Ed Miller – Milestones of the past 50 years. We are going to put something together for the show.

Hospitality report – Linda Miller & Marsha Miller – Thanks to Sister Jeanne and Sister Mary and Marcia Jacobs. Please sign up for the Christmas party and next year's meetings.

Juniors report – Trista McIntosh - The Juniors are making ornaments today

Librarian report – Pat Bell – No report

Membership Report – Joan & Randy Hill – Nothing to report

Programs / Displays – Rev. Calhoun – This month we have a guest speaker on the metaphysical properties of Gems & Minerals, Tina Roman. Next month John Jaworski.

Publicity – Nick Pellus – Nothing to report

Show – Marie Crull – Show financials we given out.

Sunshine – Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie – several cards were sent out

Webmaster – Jim Daly – Suggest the club move forward with our own dedicated website.

Old Business – Exhibits placed in local schools. Please sign up for the Christmas Party.

New Business – 1) 50th year for the show. EVERYONE in the club is expected to show up and help for a minimum of 2 hours or more. Continued next page

September 2012 Meeting Minutes from previous page

The show will be Aug 23 – 25, 2013. 2) Nominations for office by the end of October for installation at the Christmas Party. 3) Christmas Party December 2nd. – need an accurate count of who will be attending. 4) Dues are Due. 5) Bill Crull passed out a petition for a State Fossil.

No door prizes today, the meeting was adjourned, the program was presented by Tina Roman, and snacks were enjoyed by all.

Quick Field Trip Report By Kathy Miller & Jason Hefner

Saturday morning was cool and dry as we headed to the collecting location. After a wrong turn and a brief wait for our guide the group was taken down into the collecting area. As most members of the club had taken the MSHA class a brief refresher was given by our host and then we were turned loss to find the hidden (and some not so hidden treasures). The sounds of hammers, chisels, the occasional rock saw, words of encouragement, and ripping pants were heard. See picture on Page 8



After loading down the bus and the vehicles most of the group headed to the glass factory. That evening we enjoyed a great meal at the Overlook Restraunt, while the kids found the barge the highlight of the evening.

Saturday night our guide for Sunday morning was at the hotel to show the group the fluorescent specimens that we might find on Sunday. To everyone's surprise some of the specimens collected earlier that day glowed under the black lights as well. Awesome!!

Sunday found us leaving guided by Steve Garza to a creek and roadcut to collect some very nice geodes. Steve indicated he would be willing to take the group on a trip if we desired at a later date.

Sounds like a plan to me. Field trip in the Spring anyone???

Dues are DUE!



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

From the Top by Lauren Williams, President

This year went by rather quickly! It's been an honor and privilege to serve as president of AFMS. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support and help that you have given me this the year. Without your individual support the AFMS would not be as alive and active as it is.

Bob Miller left the AFMS in excellent shape for me and as a result, I did not inherit any problems. I hope that I have done the same for Don Monroe. I ask that you give Don all the support and help that you can for his presidency beginning on November 1 and help keep the AFMS moving forward.

Support your local club, your regional federation, the juniors; attend your County Commissioners meetings, NFS meetings, BLM meetings and voice your concerns and the reason why you have those concerns. "Just because I feel" does not carry any weight at those meetings, but having supporting data does. Nothing happens until you do something!

http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012_10.pdf

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Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Presidents Message By Cindy Root

Hard to believe the end of the year is almost here. As I write this, I am preparing for the last camping trip of the year. That always seems so sad.

This is my last message as your president. Hope I haven't made you too crazy. I've had lots of fun and continue to meet wonderful members of our various clubs. We still have some spots to fill and your help is always appreciated in the various tasks we have before us every year.

Our next meeting will be October 6 in Springfield, Illinois. More details will be soon coming your way. Springfield is one of my favorite destination places. If time permits, you should really visit the Lincoln Presidential Museum and the many other Lincoln related sites.

Hope to see many of you there. Still working on my agates from Minnetonka and will bring along what I have done. You'd be disappointed if I didn't show them off.

Remember that our next convention comes quickly on the heels of the October meeting. We will be in Lincoln, Nebraska in April. Registration information is available on the web site and you know you want to be there! [http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/2012-10%20MWF%20News%20\(515\).pdf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/2012-10%20MWF%20News%20(515).pdf)



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 from MWF newsletter

October

19-21: FORT WAYNE, IN. Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society's 51st Annual Show; Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Rd.; Fri. & Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; CONTACT: Michele Yamanaka, 4336 Charter Ln., Ft. Wayne, IN 46815, 260.424.5070, yamanakam@cs.com.

20-21: CHICAGO HTS, IL. South Suburban Earth Science Club's 43rd Annual Show; Prairie State College, 202 S. Halsted St.; Sat. & Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Jan Podbielski, P.O. Box 911, Peotone, IL 60450, 708.258.3791, ssescus@yahoo.com.

20-21: CLIO, MI. The Flint Rock & Gem Club's 45th Annual Gem – Jewelry – Mineral Show and Sale; Carter Middle School, Rogers Lodge Dr.; Sat. & Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Ed Hearn, 810.687.2339, www.flintrockandgem.org.

20-21: COTTAGE GROVE, MN. Minnesota Mineral Club's Annual Show; National Guard Training & Community Center, 8180 Belden Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Sandy, info@minnesotamineralclub.org, or Phil 763.717.1641.

20-21: DES MOINES, IA. Des Moines Lapidary Society's Annual Show; William Knapp Animal Learning Center; Iowa State Fairgrounds, E. University Ave. Gate; Sat. 9-7, Sun. 9-5; CONTACT: Steve Cunningham, 6752 SE 32nd Ave., Pleasant Hill, IA, 515.262.4578, steverv@mchsi.com.

20-21: OZARK, MO. Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society's Gem & Jewelry Show; Expo Center; CONTACT: Eddie Maples, 417.725.3001.

21: ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI. Mt. Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society's Jewel, Gem & Bead Blast; Lakeshore K of C Hall, 25003 Little Mack Ave.; Sat. 9-4; CONTACT: Sue Jansen, 313.527.7001 or Ron Rolfe, 586.726.1578, yrrdfe2@wowway.com.

MWF YOUTH POSTER CONTEST

by David Rich

This year's MWF Youth Poster Contest theme has been selected: "**Fossils of the World**". The poster contest, sponsored by the MWF and Summit Lapidary Club, began September 1, 2012 and will end March 1, 2013. All entries postmarked September 1 through March 1 will be accepted. In the spirit of the Olympics, all children of the world in grades 1-8 will be eligible to enter the contest. Each grade will have a winner. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place; the 1st place winner will also receive a prize. Teachers are encouraged to submit their classroom entries in one package. Future Rockhounds of America members may enter individually or submit their entries as a club.

CONTEST RULES

- All entries must be presented on paper 12"x18".
- Include participant's name, address, age, and school grade on back of the entry.
- No three dimensional posters accepted.
- The Title may be on the front or the back.
- List the names of the Fossils and why you chose them.
- All entries become the property of the MWF and Summit Lapidary Club.
- Artwork on posters can be pen, ink, crayons, magic markers, paint or any other artist's medium.

SCALE OF POINTS

- Originality and Art Work--30 points
- Design--25 points
- Title--25 points
- Listing of fossils and reason for choosing that fossil--20 points

DEADLINE

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2013. Mail your entries to:

Jennifer Fike

PO Box 26276

Akron, OH 44319

Question may be directed to Jennifer at

slc.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com.

Hey, your dues, Oct 28th meeting, Get the drift!

MWF Mineral Study Group (Gold & Silver)

by Kreigh Tomaszewski

Last month we looked at rocks that glow in the dark (under black light). This month we looked at the metals that glisten in the sunlight, gold and silver (and their ores).

A solid solution series exists between gold and silver. Native gold often contains around 10% silver. Gold with more than 20% silver is known as Electrum. The average concentration of gold in the earth's crust is .004 ppm, and for silver it is .07 ppm. Sea water contains 4 kg of gold per cubic km.

There are more than 30 minerals that contain gold, but most gold is found in its native form in ores that contain about 10 grams per ton. Only three gold ores, Calaverite, Petzite, and Sylvanite are of economic importance.

Silver occurs in about 150 different minerals, but only 10% of them are of economic importance; Acanthite, Aurorite, Chlorargyrite, Dyscrasite, Empressite, Freibergite, Hessite, Miargyrite, Naumannite, Pearceite, Polybasite, Prousite, Pyrargyrite, Stephanite, and Stromeyerite.

Silver used to be important as a monetary metal and most coins used to contain the metal. It was also important in photography before the digital revolution; many silver minerals experience color changes on exposure to light (they also tarnish on exposure to the atmosphere). Silver in low concentrations is effective in killing bacteria.

Most gold and silver is used in jewelry today. Silver is the best conductor of electricity of all metals, and finds many uses in industry and chemistry. Gold is effectively inert chemically.

Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we also want to learn to hand identify them. Hand identification is a skill you learn from holding and studying many different specimens of a given mineral. We do our homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral of the month, but we also dig through our collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. We had a lot of interesting specimens to look at this month, and not all were gold nuggets. We ran a bit late looking at all the specimens.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012, from 7pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We are going to study minerals that contain uranium. If you have not noticed, we are on a theme looking at minerals that "glow" in various ways. Everyone will be required to wash their hands before leaving next month's mineral study as a safety precaution since we will be handling 'hot' rocks. BTW, many radioactive minerals also glow under black light.

We try to start (and end) on time (we often finish a little early); please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (everyone gets thrown out by 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about radioactive minerals, and bring some example specimens from your collection; I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (even if you can't bring any specimens). And we usually have time to look at an unrelated unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID).

From the Top

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I've received lots of help and support from many people, but I especially want to thank Steve and Carolyn Weinberger, Shirley Leeson and Dee Holland and Dr. Robert Carlson. Their support and help kept me on track this year and was invaluable to me.

Be safe! I look forward to seeing everyone next year in Jacksonville or at a local or regional federation show.

Be sure to join A.L.A.A. and have your club join as well. The more members the organization has, the more effective our voice becomes!

Do it!

Do it now!

Coming Events

Continued from Page 6

27-28: CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH. Summit Lapidary Club and Akron Mineral Society's Fall Gemboree; Emidio's Party Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Bob Powers, 440.237.6170, AkronMineralNews@aol.com.

27-28: DAVENPORT, IA. Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club's Fall Show; Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W. Locust St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-3:30; CONTACT: 563.445.3034.

27-28: EVANSVILLE, IN. Evansville Lapidary Society's 46th Annual Show; Washington Square Mall, 1138 Washington Square Mall; CONTACT: Ruth Reisinger, 5012 Harvest Ct., Evansville, IN 47711 812.424.7618, rrdr@wowway.com.

NOVEMBER

2-4: CLEVELAND, OH. Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Micromineral Symposium; Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, University Circle; Fri. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3; CONTACT: Dick Green, 1745 13th St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223, 330.929.2395, jgreen2@neo.rr.com.

3: TAYLOR, MI. Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society's Annual Auction; Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd.; Sat. 10-5; CONTACT: Leonard Swischer, 30 Orchard, River Rouge, MI 48218, 313.841.1606, skyhook1932@aol.com.

3-4: MIDLAND, MI. Mid-Michigan Rock Club's Annual Show, Midland Convention Center, 1500 W. Wackerly St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Deb Acord, 55 Star Rd., Sanford, MI 48657, 989.689.4840, jackdanred1@aol.com.

3-4: STURTEVANT, WI. Racine Geological Society's Annual Show; Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand; Sat. & Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: John Lowman, 3223 Spruce St., Racine, WI 53403, 262.554.5370.

