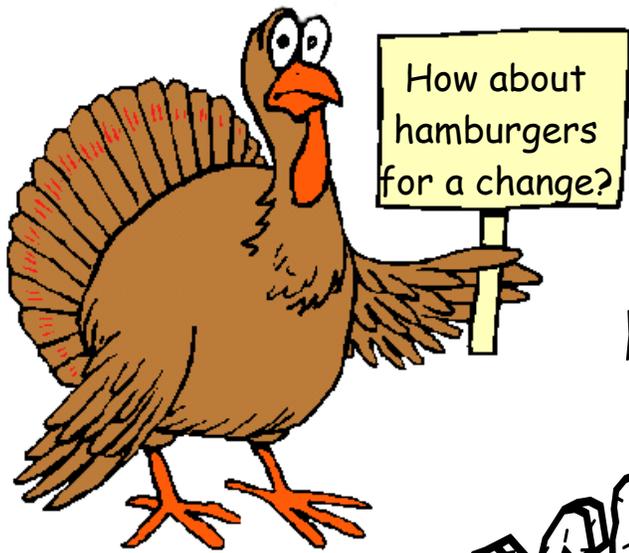


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Jason Hefner, Editor  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524



November 2012 Volume 52 Number 9



# THE ROCKFINDER



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

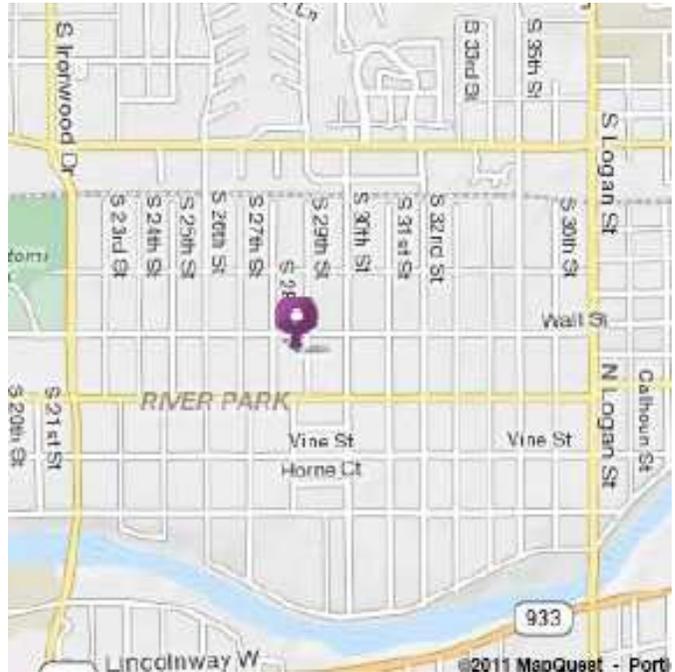
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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](http://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](http://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 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.

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

While writing this message I am looking out the window at all the bare trees, I can just imagine turkeys perched on their branches. Actually our feeders and bird bath are full of robins, sparrows, cardinals, blue jays and finches. Signs of winter coming.

The October club meeting was fun with a lot of members, excellent program and abundant snacks. It is such a good feeling to have a "full house" at every meeting this year. We had the slate of officers presented for 2013 and election with installation to be held at the annual Christmas party in December, the only course of business that day. The party is a lovely way to begin the holiday season.

Next year will be a busy one for ALL of us. I will be calling on every member to help out in some way to make the year of our 50th show outstanding. Be prepared to participate as an active member.

Continued on Page 2

## Up & Coming

### Next Meeting: **Christmas Party - December 2, 2012**

Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 12:30 and the party starts at 1:00.

#### 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: Potluck lunch**

#### Program:

Friends, Food, Fun & Santa



## 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:  
Linda Garwood  
765-592-3409

Past President:  
Diane Gram  
574-272-6885

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

Juniors: Trista McIntosh  
574-780-1162

Librarian: Pat Bell  
574-233-7352

Membership: Joan Hill  
269-465-5814

Programs: Rev Larry Calhoun  
574-631-1887

Publicity: Joe Perry  
574-295-9050

Show Chair: Marie Crull  
574-272-7209

Sunshine: Annette Freel 574-  
293-8193, Sherrie Kobie 574-  
522-0189

Webmaster: Jim Daly  
219-778-2196

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

I will be looking into some type of bus field trip next year and reiterate that rules were made some years ago that only active involved members get first choice of attending a bus field trip. Yep, it is an incentive for "pitching" in and doing your part as a club member.

Science Alive and the EnviroFest are two community activities next year to get our club's name out to the public. Science Alive is Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the downtown South Bend Library. We do have volunteers to help manpower our booth, which by the way the Library is giving us a high profile spot this year. Here is what we need....lots and lots of rock, fossils, minerals, anything related to our hobby, enough to fill 500 bags as giveaways. Please look over your collections and spare some for the kids attending the event. 2,000 folks went through the library this past February. You can bring your donations to the January 27th meeting, all will be appreciated!!!

That is it for now, I am going to put up our Thanksgiving decorations. Bob and I would like to wish all of you a delightful day of family, food, football, and parades. We are thankful for all of you as our friends. Happy Thanksgiving!

## Rock on, Kathy

## Christmas Party

Don't miss the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society's annual Christmas party held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 2, 2012. Social time is 12:30 p.m., with potluck meal at 1:00 p.m. If you haven't signed up please call to let us know if you are coming (especially if you have children and how many). Actually SANTA CLAUS would like to know.

It is potluck so you have a choice of meat, veggie, salad or dessert dish. Holiday fare is fun and so very tasty! The club supplies punch, coffee, cups, napkins - please bring your own table service (plates and utensils).

This is also a time of year for giving, if you have a non-perishable food item to put under the tree it will be given to either St. Vincent's or the Food Bank. These organizations appreciate our donations. Join members to eat, drink, and be merry. **Friends, Food, Fun!!**

**To sign up call: Kathy Miller 574-291-0332**

**Linda Miller 574-291-5027**

**Marsha Miller 574-498-6513**

**See you at the Party  
Kathy**

## October 2012 Meeting Minutes (Michelle Winters - Secretary)

The attendance of the meeting we had 47 adults , 6 juniors and 1 new guest in attendance THE Club had one guest ( Monica Sherck )

**\*\* REMEMBER THERE IS NO NOVEMBER MEETING & THE DECEMBER MEETING IS THE CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 2ND .\*\*** Please try to attend this special celebration of fun and lots of food.

**\*\* if anyone was not mentioned , they was nothing to report \*\***

Midwest federation report - Randy Hill ( not present ) but, is looking for someone to go to the Midwest show in April in Nebraska . Get with Randy if you are interested in doing this

**\*\*American Federation report- nothing to report**

**\*\* American Lands Access - Tom Noe - talked about a man who is trying to raise \$1,000 for some important documents to be able to keep the land open out west for rock hunting .**

Displays- Mike Skoczylas - not present

Editor- Jason Hefner - was sick with bronchitis ( yuck !)

Education - Jessie Zeigler- nothing to report

Field trip- John Davis - nothing to report / just everyone was happy about field trip

Historian- Ed Miller - talked about doing something special for this next year #50 show and had numerous ideas and he is to get with Marie on this

Hospitality- Linda Miller, Marsha Miller - have the Christmas party sign up for food and for next year's monthly meetings.

Juniors- Trista McIntosh - nothing to report

Librarian- Pat Bell - donated a book to the club library

Membership - Joan Hill- remember dues are due!!

Progam- Rev. Larry Calhoun (not present ) program was given by John ( Jason's dad )

Publicity- Nick Pellus - had a nice article published in south bend paper about the club.

Show Report- Marie Crull - not present

Sunshine - Annette Freel , Sherry Kobie- sending out cards and of 1 get well and 1 sympathy, keep Marie Crull's husband ( Bill ) in our prayers as well he is over in Ft. Wayne at a hospital .

## October 2012 Meeting Minutes from previous page

Webmaster- Jim Daly- not present

Old Business - the club purchased new pants for John J. ( Jason's dad ) since his were torn so badly on a rock on the trip and Kathy presented these to him ( John's face was really red and he thanked the club ) HA HA !!

~New Business - Science Alive 2013 - Saturday February 2nd and last year there was over 2,000 kids that showed up for this and it will be at the South Bend Library and 3 people from Our club volunteered to work this . \*\* Rock Donations are needed to hand out to the kids that attend this \*\*

\*\* WE have a new club Liaison ( Bob Bell ) who will replace Linda Garwood who is stepping down Annual show financials were discussed. We did very well.

\*\* David Peltz still has lots of rock equipment and rocks for sale as welll \*\* he stated he has lots to sell

### Land Closures by Management Decisions

by John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

[http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012\\_11.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012_11.pdf) Page 1

**OK you voted (or should have). Now read this important article from the AMFS November newsletter and call your Senator & Congressperson. Better yet write them regarding PUBLIC access for rock collecting on PUBLIC land - Jason Hefner you Editor.**

With the slow down in legislative action this election year the Public Land Use (Restriction) bills before congress are mostly on the back burners for the remainder of this congressional session. It does not look likely that much will be happening until after the November election. That does not leave very much time for any action on the bills that have been introduced and referred to the appropriate committees for review and recommendations. If no action has been taken the bills introduced during this session will die in committee and need to be reintroduced during the next congressional session. There is one "unless", and that "unless" is, if the Land Use Bills before congress are consolidated into one large piece of legislation and attached to some other bill, like what happened in 2008 with the "Omnibus Land Bill Act of 2008", which made it a federal felony to collect vertebrate fossils on Federal Public Lands, then there would be cause for concern.

This does not mean that all is well for Amateur Rock, Mineral and Fossil collecting on BLM and USFS managed Public Lands. These Federal Agencies, through Congressional Mandate several years ago, must provide to congress a Land Management Plan for all managed land under their jurisdiction. The creation of these plans has been in the development cycle for several years. They have been labeled Resource Management Plans (RMP) and Travel Management Plans (TMP) and through congressional mandate are required to have open public hearings and input from all stakeholders. Included in these management plans are the allowable activities and the designated roads and trails within the managed areas. All roads and trails within the management areas must be identified and publicized.

Continued on Page 8

## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### All in the Same Boat by Don Monroe, President Elect

Functioning as the President Elect of AFMS has given me the opportunity to attend the annual meetings of a couple of Federations and really given me an insight into their activities. I have learned quite a few things and I am very surprised to find out that most of us have similar problems.

All non-profit operations including our federations, as well as churches, clubs, and most of those activities we enjoy share many of the same issues. We are competing for people's entertainment dollar. At this point in our lives many of us suffer from a shortage of disposable income. In our families there is competition between the various family members for money to do those things that they want to do. In some cases there is a lack of employment opportunity or a shortage of transportation.

To draw a fine point let's focus on our clubs and our federations. Everywhere I look I see a lack of members. We particularly lack members who are willing to take jobs or positions and work for our organizations. It is not always easy to recruit new people and to attract young people is sometimes nearly impossible. I say this and yet we all feel that the future of our hobby is really dependent on young people.

Continued on Page 6

## Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### Presidents Message by Dennis Westman

It's that time of the year again, the changing of officers in the Midwest Federation. I'd like to thank Cindy Root for all the work she did over the past year as president. Piloting a federation was more complicated in 2012 than a normal year. The MWF Convention included the AFMS with their meetings, awards and additional requirements. She did an outstanding job of showing the AFMS what a great group of clubs make up our federation.

She and David rolled on the miles to their car's odometer. Fort Dodge, Iowa; Minnetonka, Minnesota; and Springfield, Illinois were the hosts of the three MWF meetings. This would be straight forward driving except for one big obstacle, Lake Michigan. They live on the opposite side of the lake. Cindy attended every meeting. Thank you, Cruise Control! Touching on Cindy's sense of humor, let's rationalize; maybe she just lives on the wrong side of the lake.

Thank you again, Cindy. Great job!

This article and the entire MWF newsletter may be found at [http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/2012-11%20MWF%20News%20\(516\).pdf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/2012-11%20MWF%20News%20(516).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](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 from MWF  
newsletter

**DECEMBER**

*If you don't see your event here, it was not timely submitted in a legible format.*

**JANUARY 2013**

**26: LINCOLN, NE.** Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Annual Mid-winter Swap; Bethany Park Shelter House, Cotner Blvd. & Vine St.; Sat. 1-5; CONTACT: Richard Peterson, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, 402.489.2996, [padr20@yahoo.com](mailto:padr20@yahoo.com), [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org).

**FEBRUARY**

**10: LINCOLN, NE.** Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Geology Day; Pioneer Park, Prairie Life Center, Coddington & West A; Sun. 1-4; CONTACT: Karen Messenger, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, 402.946.2281, [kamessenger@hotmail.com](mailto:kamessenger@hotmail.com), [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org).

**23-24: ROSEVILLE, MN.** Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Winter Show; Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling; Sat. 10-6, Sun. Noon-5; CONTACT: Martha Miss, 651.459.0343, [info@rock-biz.biz](mailto:info@rock-biz.biz).

**Dues are stil due**

## All in the Same Boat

by Don Monroe, President Elect

From previous page

Is there a solution? Do we have any ideas? I must confess that I do not have the answer and I do not see this as a new problem. For years I have pondered these issues, not only in our organizations but in the other activities that we enjoy and want to see prosper. I only have a couple of ideas that I see used at various times in various places.

My first thought is that we need to recruit workers prior to retirement. Observing what has happened to many of my friends I see that as soon as the word gets out that they may retire it is like a feeding frenzy with every organization looking for their help. Often the first vulture that gets there is the one who scores. My other thought is that we must strongly encourage our members to line up potential successors. We sometimes literally ride our horses right into the ground simply because they do a good job for us and really do not consider that we are not being fair to them. Sometimes maybe we should move our horses around and give them a different job or a change of scenery.

I know that I have not solved any of our problems but maybe I have provoked a little thought.

Don

[http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012\\_11.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012_11.pdf) follow the link to the left for the November AFMS Newsletter

**HEY YOU...YES You.** I need submissions for the monthly newsletter. You know how Kathy is telling you "you have to get involved" well submitting letters to the Editor counts as being involved. Send me stuff to put in the newsletter. If you don't get involved it is no one's



but your own. (did you guess the word from the picture?)

Jason Hefner The Editor

## MWF Mineral Study Group (Uranium)

by Kreigh Tomaszewski

The last couple months we have been looking at minerals that "glow" in various ways. This month we looked at minerals that contain the element Uranium and are radioactive.

There are over 200 minerals that contain Uranium. Concentrations range from 3 to 88%. All such minerals need to be handled with care. The biggest risk is accidental ingestion of Uranium, or exposure to mucus membranes. We washed our hands during this study more than once.

Most of the Uranium minerals are oxidation or secondary minerals derived from Uraninite, the most common primary mineral. Uraninite is found in Pegmatite, Placer, and Hydrothermal environments. The other four principal commercial ores of Uranium are Meta-Autunite (Pegmatite), M-Tyuyamunite (Pegmatite), Carnotite (Roll Front), and Tobernite (Oxidation). The minor commercial ores of Uranium are Schoepite (Oxidation), Becquerelite (Oxidation), Fourmarierite (Oxidation), and Uranophane (Roll Front).

Uranium produces about 16% of all electrical power in the US.

Many Uranium minerals are fluorescent. Uranium minerals tend to have either very bright colors, or be very drab. We had fun with a black light, but we also used a geiger counter to see how the specimens 'glowed'. A few specimens were hot enough that the collectors keep them in the garage to avoid breathing radon. Most specimens are safe because alpha and beta emissions are stopped by glass, plastic, or a few inches of air; gamma radiation is an issue, but not all radioactive specimens emit gamma radiation (it depends on the decay method).

Radioactive minerals have a half-life. Half of the isotope atoms will decay and emit radiation across some time period. The longer the time period, the safer the mineral is (because it emits less radiation per time unit). Most radioactive minerals go thru a series of radioactive decays before they reach a stable element (often lead), and some stages have very short half-lives. This half-life is the basis of Carbon-14 dating (and a variety of other alternatives) for fossils.

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 managed to collectively come up with almost 10% of all the Uranium containing minerals. We really did learn from each other.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 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 blue minerals. We have decided to start a study sequence based on the colors of the rainbow (blue was the first color mentioned - VIBGYOR).

Continued next page

## Uranium

Continued from previous page

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 blue 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 some time to look at an unrelated unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID).

## Geology Christmas Ornaments Editor

There are a few example on the internet of geologists making Christmas ornaments. Here are a few suggestions.

1. Slab ornaments – attach a string to a nice looking slab and you have an ornament.
2. Cab ornaments – attach a string to cab (whatever size you want to make) and you have an even prettier ornament.
3. Geode ornament – pick a nice looking and light geode to make a conversation piece ornament.
4. Tumbled – glue small tumbled pieces to a existing plastic ornament to create your own.

## Land Closures by Management Decisions

Continued from Page 4

These roads and trails may lead to Rockhound collecting sites. If the road to the collecting site is not on the list of approved open roads the only way to get to the collecting site is by foot. This access battle for open roads has been waged for several years now and some process is being made thanks to a few concerned Rockhounds. There are more dangers to Rockhounds in some of these RMPs and TMPs than roads. One example is in the Bakersfield Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision.

[www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/planning/caliente\\_rmp\\_revosopm/html#Draft](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/planning/caliente_rmp_revosopm/html#Draft)

This plan is in its final stage of review and is close to approval and implementation. As an example, when this plan goes into effect, it will close the collecting area known as Horse Canyon, near Tehachapi, California. The Horse Canyon Agate is unique. This is the only green tubercular agate in North America. Under this RMP access to this collecting site will be closed and so will collecting of any kind within the area of the canyon under BLM control. This type of language is appearing in many of the Land Management Plans being released for public review and comment before presentation to congress for final approval.

Even though congressional action has slowed, Rockhounding sites are in greater jeopardy of loss through internal Public Land Management review and decisions. With a stroke of the management pen collecting sites and access may be closed in the name of resource protection. It is up to Rockhounds to make their voices heard so collecting sites and amateur collecting on public lands remain a viable hobby now and for future generations to enjoy.

**John Martin**

### Example Geology Christmas Ornament

