

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



December 2012 Volume 52 Number 10



# 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/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:  
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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

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from me and all the Board Members. Enjoy this abbreviated Holiday edition of the *Rockfinder*.

Many thanks for making the Christmas party a success. Everyone had a great time.

Kathy

## Up & Coming

### Next Meeting: January 27, 2013

Visitors are always welcome.

Doors open at 1:30 and the meeting starts at 2:00.

### 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.

### Program:

To be announced

### Refreshments:

Something great!!

## Board of Directors

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## ALAA Strives to Keep Public Lands Opens for Rockhounds

By Dick Pankey, 2012 President, ALAA

There are many threats to the use and access of our public lands. Access restrictions have taken place through presidential, legislative and Land Use Plan (LUP) decisions, because we, the users, have not effectively represented our wants to political leaders, and have not participated fully in the LUP process. ALAA is the advocate and the leader for positive action to change the pattern of ever-increasing restrictions to our use and access. Apathy and not being involved are our greatest threats. . . .

Compared to the anti-access organizations, we are a small, minimally funded organization. We do not have a paid staff. We are volunteers dedicated to fighting for the rights of all rockhounds and everyone who wants to recreate on our public lands. There are many opportunities for you to be involved in our efforts to save access and retain the right to use these lands.

Does this catch your interest? Would you like to be more involved? Do you have the spark of an idea for something that you would like to do to make a difference? Find out more about us at [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org). ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

(Excerpted from the April to June, 2012, *ALAA Newsletter*)

## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### The Way I See It by Don Monroe, President

During the last several years I have written quite a few articles, some good and some bad. This has been a tough article to assemble and what you are getting is about the 3rd or 4th draft. Early attempts were too weak and did not deal with the major problems that many of us are facing.

First for the benefit of those of you that do not fully understand how our AFMS publication and communication material is put together. My deadline is the first of the month preceding publication. I certainly am not being critical, just stating how things work which is a system that I have worked under for several years. My reason for bringing this up at this time is to assure all of you that I know that the news I am bringing you is almost out of date but I still feel the need to tell you about it. Many of our members, our clubs and our federations at this moment are still reeling from the onslaught of Hurricane Sandy which is now known as Super Storm Sandy.

Continued next page

## Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### Presidents Message by Dennis Westman

Greeting fellow rockhounds,

When your club is recruiting club officers for 2013, don't forget the club's delegate to the MWF. Lincoln, Nebraska is hosting the Convention at their show on April 6 & 7, 2013. Your club is a member of the MWF. Bring questions and give us your input.

At the 2012 Convention we had a couple seminars. One was on using computers and the other on youth and a club. Did you know there is an easy to set up and use feature called Wiki, where you can use your computer to keep track of show information or schedule field trips? It is password protected and makes the information available to club members - securely. Did you know that by attracting youth you usually get the parents, too? Are you a little intimidated by computers? Add youth to your club and you now have computer experts. We will have a couple more seminars at the 2013 Convention on subjects that every club needs to know, perhaps club incorporation and MWF insurance. Meet the MWF officers and committee chairs. Meet delegates from other clubs. Whatever issue your club needs help on, I would venture a guess that there are club delegates with the answer.

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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 from MWF newsletter

### 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).

## The Way I See It from previous page

This is my guesstimate as to what the situation will be when you read this article in the A.F.M.S. Newsletter. Rescue efforts will be complete and we hope that all missing people have been found. Money will have been made available from various sources to provide everyone with a place to live.

We rockhounds will know the current situation of our comrades who live or lived on the East Coast, Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest. If things are anything like what they were after the Gulf Coast hurricanes of recent years, many of our people will have lost gem and mineral collections, reference books and the tools and equipment to continue the hobby. We also know that many if not most all of these losses will not be covered by any form of insurance.

The thrust of this message is that all of us should begin thinking now about how we can help our friends to "get back into the hobby". I ask each of you to inventory what you have that could be of assistance to those who have lost so much. Ann and I will go through our shop and make a list of equipment and supplies that we can share. Will you do likewise? If the response is what I hope it will be, your leadership at all levels can start thinking about how we can distribute the material we identify. If Rockhounds don't help fellow rockhounds, who will? Do you think we can expect assistance from any level of government or from BLM or any other organization?

Since this is the last AFMS Newsletter of the year, let me wish each of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a healthy, happy and safe 2013.

From AMFS Newsletter V66. Click on the link below to see the entire newsletter. [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012\\_12.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2012_12.pdf)

## MWF Presidents Message from previous page

There will be a fun awards banquet. Learn what other clubs and the MWF are doing, while eating and talking about our favorite subjects: rocks, minerals, fossils. Check out the MWF/AFMS literature and take home what you need. Attend a fun Lincoln show and be a tourist. There is more to Nebraska than I-80. Lincoln is the capital with its unique capital building. See the biggest feature in town, Memorial Stadium - home of the Cornhuskers. Nebraska and railroad history go hand-in-hand. But most of all, send a delegate. The MWF needs you! This is your MWF and let's grow together and spread the word about our great hobby. Make sure your club is represented in Lincoln, Nebraska in April 2013.

From MWF Newss No. 517. See the entire newsletter by clicking on the link below. [http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/2012-12%20MWF%20News%20\(517\).pdf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/2012-12%20MWF%20News%20(517).pdf)