

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



March 2013 Volume 53 Number 3



What is the Birthstone for March?

From [www.Earthsky.org](http://www.Earthsky.org)

<http://earthsky.org/earth/march-birthstone-aquamarine-bloodstone>



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:  
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.

REMEMBER – Items in The Rockfinder that are **BLUE & UNDERLINED** are links to the internet or email addresses. Just click on them for more information.



## Kathy's Column - President Kathy Miller

Hurrah for March, that for me means "Spring"! I have always enjoyed this month watching for new beginnings of flowers, plants, bushes, tree buds, a walk in Potato Creek State Park just to hear the frogs croak and out their songs. The Ides of March mean pleasure to me. It is also nice to see the rocks in our yard uncover from the snow and remember where they were collected from.

Our February meeting was so well attended that Membership Chair Joanie Hill was able to disperse many of the new club Directories to our members. We do have a few left for those of you who couldn't make the meeting. You can get yours along with your club membership cards at the March meeting. Diane Gram did a beautiful job on the Directories, adding in pertinent information on important dates, upcoming events, etc.

Speaking of March, don't forget **the next meeting is Sunday, March 24**, the fourth Sunday of the month.

Continued on Page 2

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: March 24, 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.

### Refreshments:

Marty Perry  
Jan Pellus  
Sally Peltz  
Bill & Nancy Foreman

### Program:

To be announced



Field trip season soon !!

## 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

## Committee Chairs

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:  
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

There are quite a few plans leading up to the preparation for this year's **50<sup>th</sup>** show and one of the plans is publicity. At the February meeting John Davis, Bill Foreman, Jennifer Thompson and Don Church volunteered their time to have a booth representing our club at the Earth & Arbor Fest on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 10am-3pm in South Bend.

Nick & Jan Pellus for the last few years have volunteered to be at Elkhart's EnviroFest and they said they would volunteer again this summer. I am sure they would welcome more members to help them out. Marty Perry would also like more members to help her with assisting at a Nature Museum in Elkhart, to either give a program or help with their rock collection that Marty says really needs a makeover.

At the March meeting please let Nick & Jan or Marty know if you are willing to step in with helping them out. Remember, this is YOUR club and ALL participation is needed to make it a club. Many thanks to the above folks for your contribution to our club.

It's not too long from now that field trips will be starting, look for upcoming information from Chairman John Davis. John is arranging to have a Mine Safety Class (MSHA) very soon. The date may even be in this newsletter, when you see the date be sure and put it on your calendar if you expect to collect in quarries with the rest of us on field trips.

More additional thanks – to Rev. Larry Calhoun for his jewelry program at the February meeting, it's always enjoyable to watch a "how to" in progress. He even gave us time to indulge in all the as usual fantastic goodies supplied to us by the monthly hostesses and individual members.

Thanks to – Trista McIntosh for keeping our Junior rockhounds (aided by Justin Hefner) busy with a craft during the business meeting.

Thanks to – Raven Bowen who is taking on the task of setting us up with Facebook, another boost for publicity. More information in this newsletter from our Editor Jason Hefner.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the March meeting, if you have any of your good specimens or articles you have made (share your expertise) from your favorite part of the hobby, please bring them in for the display table. Members, new members and guests always enjoy this part of the meeting, and it's part of your participation.

Yea, it's Spring!  
Rock on, **KATHY**

## February Meeting Minutes . . . . .Michelle Winters, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Miller. The meeting was attended by 40 adult members and 15 junior members and 3 guests. The January meetings minutes were accepted with no errors or corrections.

**Liaison** -Bob Bell told about a lot of up and coming shows in Indy and had pamphlets on them too.

**Parliamentarian**- had nothing to report at this time

**Midwest Federation Report** - Randy Hill nothing to report at this time

**American Federation Report**- Bob Miller - nothing to report at this time

**American Lands Access**- Tom Noe - not present

### Committee Reports-

**Displays**- Mike Skoczylas - explained to new members, guests and rest of the club how we come up with the monthly displays that are brought in

**Editor**- Jason Hefner- mentioned at the meeting that Raven Bowen is going to start a face book page for the club and maybe a twitter as well too to attract new members.

**Education**- nothing to report

**Field trip** - John Davis- is in the process of getting a hold of stone quarries for potential club trips. It is getting time again for MSHA re-certification to enter the stone quarries on field trips as a club, this is a 4 -6 hour course and John Davis will check into the dates for us (weekend) and the time and will get back with us on this too.

**Historian** - Ed Miller - is in the process of putting stuff together for the 50<sup>th</sup> annual club show in August

**Hospitality**- Linda Miller, Marsha Miller - had done a fine job again of getting members to bring in a great assortment of food for the meeting and get it all ready

**Juniors**- Trista McIntosh - was busy with the junior members and is need of some helpers with the children .. 2- 4 people to rotate helping her. If she could get 2 -4 helpers that they could do the rotations among themselves (that means they would each plan on helping out 1 time every 3 - 4 months). THE CLUB KEEPS GROWING (which means more juniors for her to manage herself) ~~ please consider donating some of her time to help in this area~

**Librarian**- Pat Bell - explained the club procedure for checking out books in our club library that is kept there for members

**Membership**- Joan Hill- has the new membership annual club member books and cards , please pick these up if not done so already

**Program**- Rev- Larry Calhoun - is in charge of the monthly club programs at the meeting and he did a fabulous display on his own jewelry making that he does himself

**Publicity**- Nick Pellus- had nothing new to report at this time

**Show Report**- Joe Perry, Marie Crull- Joe gave report that contract are in the mail to dealers for the show and not due back in until end of March

**Sunshine** - Annette Freel , Sherry Kobie - stated that a card went out to Sally Peltz for the recent loss of her mother

**Webmaster**- Jim Daly - not present

**Old Business**- Science Alive - went well and the 500 bags that were made up to hand out to the kids attending only was a huge success.

As explained above JUNIOR leader is need of help at monthly members with the attendance growing like it is she needs help to manage everything. Continued next page

## February Meeting Minutes ....continued from Page 3

### **New Business**

Past president Diane Gramm did the club directories and once again did a fabulous job ... Thanks Diane!!

**CLUB T-SHIRTS** - looking at getting club shirts for the club in a t-shirt material and may be offering a long and short sleeve style for purchase more info on this at next meeting  
Earth & Arbor Day Festival - April 20th 10-3 pm- The club voted on having a booth at this event to get the club name out in the community.

Reminder - CLUB PICNIC FOR 2013 - IS ON July 28th @ roughly 12:30 pm

Door Prizes and ADJOURNMENT - DON CHURCH motioned for the meeting to end & Nick Pellus seconded the motion.

---

## MSHA Training.....John Davis, Field Trips

**MSHA training is scheduled for Saturday 4/27/13 from 10AM till 3 PM. With a lunch break from 12 to 1. Cost is \$15 per person, plus another \$15 for the book if you don't already have one. To be admitted to most of the quarries we visit you have to complete this course. This is VERY important!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

---

### IN ALL CASES

It isn't WHAT we know; it's what we do WITH what we know.

TO LEARN IS TO LISTEN!  
TO BE INSIGHTFUL IS TO OBSERVE!  
TO UNDERSTAND IS TO QUESTION!  
TO TEACH IS TO PRESENT!  
TO LOVE IS TO GIVE AND TO FORGIVE  
TO BE IS TO BELIEVE  
TRUTH IS ALL THE ABOVE!  
HATE AND IGNORANCE IS NONE OF THE ABOVE!

Think FOR yourself not OF yourself and do not JUDGE...

Lawton F. Shank

Albert Einstein defined common sense as a summation of one's own experiences.

Common sense is only part of the equation. Thank GOD we are all our own. There is a lot that we will not know and cannot know by ourselves.

Lawton F. Shank

## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### The Way I See It! By Don Monroe, President

Some of the messages that I have received lately show me once again that emphasis placed on communication is certainly emphasis placed in the correct spot.

I really do appreciate e-mails, phone calls and letters and wish that I could get a lot more of them. I often feel that one of our shortcomings as a federation is a failure to keep our members informed. As an example I want to tell you about a recent communication from one of my closest friends in AFMS. This person and I had a long discussion about what we should be working on and if we are placing our emphasis in the right place. After we talked a while I called some other folks and we discussed the same issues.

I finally came to the conclusion that many of us need to spend more time reviewing our by-laws and our operating procedures. We have a lot of new people and a lot of people doing new jobs and I am one of them. Almost every day as I talk to our members I see other areas where I need to learn more and, in some cases, need advice from many of you that have been around for a while and can share your experience.

Continued on Page 6

## Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### GET INVOLVED IN THE MWF FEDERATION

by Dennis Westman

The Lincoln, Nebraska Show and the Midwest Federation (MWF) Convention is almost here. It will take place on April 6 and 7 at the Lancaster Event Center. There will be two field trips on April 4 and 5. Make sure your club is represented at the delegates meeting.

Did you ever ask yourself, who are these officers in the MWF? We are rockhounds just like you. The committee jobs are for three years. Each year the MWF needs good people to support our clubs. Many of the committees need leaders and assistants. How about you? Would you like to take some mini-vacations around the Midwestern States? Travel! Rocks! Become a part of the MWF and visit clubs and meet great people.

Here is another opportunity you do not want to miss. Those minerals, fossils you found or bought, and jewelry you made are not getting the attention they deserve. Think of the big Trilobite or Quartz cluster you found by yourself. Now imagine finding it with other rockhounds and everyone is crowding around to see your prize.

Continued on Page 6



### 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**  
**MARCH**

**16-17 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA:** Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society's 49th Annual Show; Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6th St. SW; Sat. 8:30-6, Sun. 9:30-5, Contact: Marvin Houg, 319.364.2868, m\_houg@yahoo.com, Sharon Sonnleitner, 319.396.4016, onnb@aol.com, Tom Whitlatch, 319-362-0684, whitlatcht@gmail.com, [www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org](http://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org)

**22-24: ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO.** Rock Hobby Club of Greater St. Louis' Annual Show; Machinist Hall Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road (Bridgeton), Fri. 4-9 p.m., Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Willis Smith, Publicity, 314.521.8896 or Roy Hurlburt, President 314.846.0711.

**23-24: DES PLAINES, IL:** Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's 48th Annual Show; Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St.; Sat. 9:30-5:00, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Lois Zima, 847.298.4653, nival42@hotmail.com.

**APRIL**

**6: LOVES PARK, IL.** Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society's Gems, Minerals, Fossils and More Open House; North Suburban Library, 6340 North 2nd St.; Sat. 11-3; Contact: Bill Horschke, 815.544.2073, whorschke@yahoo.com.

**6-7: COLUMBUS, OH.** Central Ohio Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry 39th Annual Show; Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Contact: Craig Kramer 614.436.4511, craig.kramer@wowway.com, [www.ColumbusRockAndMineralSociety.org](http://www.ColumbusRockAndMineralSociety.org).

**6-7: LINCOLN, NE.** Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s 55th Annual Show (MWF Show & Convention); Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Charles Wooldridge, 402.416.3233, charles.wooldridge@nebraska.gov, [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org).

**6-7: CANTON, OH.** Stark County Gem & Mineral Club's 46th Annual Gem & Mineral Show; Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave. NW; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Barry Heiks, 330.868.4047, bjheiks@frontier.com.

**The Way I See It!** Continued from Page 5

During my short tenure as your president I have concluded the following:

- We have so many good experienced people that we need to consult with regularly.
  - Nobody knows it all regardless of how long they have served and in what positions they have served.
- To become better we need to communicate and work more closely together. This may sound trite, but I think it is the key.

March 2013 AFMS Newsletter [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2013\\_03.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2013_03.pdf)

**Get involved in the MWF**

Continued from Page 5

It is not the same is it? The MWF has competitive displays contest. Rinse the dust off those treasures and enter them in the contest. Rules are available through the supplies section on the web site ([www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)). Now watch as fellow rockhounds are crowding around to ogle over your display. The contest has awards, too!

See you in Lincoln.

MWF News March 2013

[http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/2013-03%20MWF%20News%20\(520\).pdf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Newsletters/2013-03%20MWF%20News%20(520).pdf)



photo by C. Hefner (thanks Mom)

# MWF Mineral Study Group (Red Minerals)

by Kreigh Tomaszewski

Color is not always a reliable key for mineral identification, but it is useful enough that some field guides use it as their primary key. We decided to run with it and go thru the colors of the rainbow this year. In honor of Valentine's Day we studied red (and pink) minerals this month.

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 really do learn from each other.

The concept behind our color study is to have as many different minerals of a given color, to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish between them.

Our group came up with a lot of red minerals, of various shades, and some of them were really amazing specimens. We had many varieties of garnets, kona dolomite, agates (including lake superior), several feldspars, petrified wood, painite, cinnibar, bastnaesite-ce, spinel, serabauite, cobaltine dolomite, kutnohorite, erythrite, carminite, roselite, unikite, halite, aragonite, serandite, mexican opals and fire agates, adularia, petrified wood, pyrargyrite, proustite, bustamite, chrome slag, minium, pyroxmangite, rubellite, vanadinite, granite, ruby, copper, barite roses, rose quartz, and pipestone. There were more than a dozen that I failed to remember. And we had more than one specimen for most of the minerals (I really hope I spelled them all correctly).

It is one thing to look at the pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold the specimen and look at it thru a lens (the heft of a barite specimen is a huge clue, as an example). And then look at another specimen of the same mineral (and then another). And then look at something else that is close but different.

And the group did their homework, so we had lots of fun facts to share about the minerals we looked at. It was a really good meeting, and we ran a half hour later than usual.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 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 green minerals since it will be close to St. Patrick's Day. This will be our third study sequence based on the colors of the rainbow (Roy G Biv).

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 green minerals, and bring some green mineral specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (look up some facts even if you can't bring any specimens).

We usually have some time at the end to look at an unrelated unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are getting better at identifying minerals). Hope you can join us for the next meeting.

# A.L.A.A. 2013 – A New Year

by Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

Greetings, from your new President!

The year is just beginning and ALAA (American Lands Access Association) has had two successful events. First the Annual ALAA meeting in Quartzsite, Arizona. And second, the 1st Annual ALAA/BLM Roadside Clean-up just outside Quartzsite.

## ***ALAA has a new membership chairperson.***

Colleen McGann of California has taken on the new position of membership. Our Treasurer, Ruth Bailey had been doing both jobs for a number of years and we thought we'd give her a break and cut down her workload. So go to [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org) and get your application to join ALAA or just use the one found elsewhere on this page. It was only a couple of years ago that ALAA was on its last legs. ALAA was tired and worn out. With a new group of gung-ho members we have done great things. But we can't do it alone so we're asking you to give us a second chance and re-join. Take a look at our web site ([www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)), it's awesome. Make it a favorite and check it out frequently. We're working on a Facebook page and other exciting new ideas as well.

We've been working with some off road people who have taken the time to give us a primer in working with the Forest Service and the BLM. If you remember, many of you wondered out loud, why you should join ALAA because most of the public lands were in the west..... If you go to Google and drop in Department of Agriculture "Forest Service" you'll find there are National Forests in almost all states and it includes National Grasslands. If you happen to have one that you enjoy then you will want to know about the Travel Management Plans for each individual federal forest.

Please don't confuse them with State Forests, this is a whole other kettle of fish and you have to check your own states for information. I can tell you that in the state of California, most state forests and state parks you are not allowed to collect rocks or anything else. Watch for an ALAA meeting in the Northwest at Kennewick in April. We'll have another meeting in California in May.

More on all these exciting meetings and events in the coming issues of AFMS Newsletter. Have questions? Contact me at [president@amlands.org](mailto:president@amlands.org)

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as a charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes. From: AFMS Newsletter March 2013 [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2013\\_03.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2013_03.pdf)

**Note from the Editor** – Please use the link [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2013\\_03.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2013_03.pdf) to open up the AFMS Newsletter and scroll to the last page to find the ALAA Membership Application.



Michiana Gem & Mineral Society will soon be on Facebook.  
Many thanks to Raven Bowen.