

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



October 2013 Volume 53 Number 8

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/mwf/> 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.

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

Fall is here, rain, leaves and walnuts all coming down in large amounts. I keep trying to keep our garden rocks uncovered because they are so nice to view, but that project seems hopeless. As I am seeing more fall decorations in our neighborhood, it is a reminder that our field trips will soon be coming to a close for this year. I do wish we will be able to get in a few more before the snow starts falling.

By the time of our October 27 meeting, I hope to have a destination report on where we will be going on our 3 day bus field trip next year and the dates. Stay tuned! It is also quite possible that the South Bend Library committee from Science Alive will be in touch with us for next year's participation in this community project held on Saturday, February 1, 2014. Our club was a major part of that event. If so, I will be asking for volunteers for that day. It's fun and the day goes by very fast.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: October 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 29th Street
(29th & Wall)
South Bend, IN.
This is in River Park.

Program:

Dr. Jeremy Fine
Iron of the Upper
Peninsula

Refreshments:

Linda Miller
Annette Freel
Sherrie Kobie



Image Credit: [Khol-y](#) on flickr.

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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

Speaking of our club meeting, did I ever make a faux pas blunder at the last meeting. My apologies to Nick Pellus for passing him over for the day's program. Oops in a BIG way. I spoke with Nick after the meeting and he graciously laughed and said no problem. I think this is the first time I ever did that!

You will notice on the upcoming meeting agenda of changes in Chair people. I thank all of our Chairmen, past and present for stepping in and taking responsibility to keep our club going. By working together we establish a solid bas for our earth science hobby.

Don't forget we will have a Christmas holiday party sign-up sheet at this October meeting. If you are bringing any members 17 or under, please make a point to sign this sheet, we always have something special for our young people.

The October meeting is the last of this year. November we do not meet because Thanksgiving is so close to our meeting date. We will come together again for our Christmas holiday party on December 1st, and the next meeting will not be until the end of January.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the October meeting.

ROCK ON - Kathy

Any guess what this is???? Hint – something collected from Kentland IN - Jason



September Meeting Minutes

by Jan Pellus, Secretary, Pro-tem
Meeting Minutes Date September 22, 2013

Members in attendance: Adults: 34 Children: 13 Guest: 7

Call to Order by President Kathy Miller

Pledge

Welcome

Secretary report – Jan Pellus pro tem – May minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's report – Marty Perry – financials reported

Liaison report – Bob Bell – Presented upcoming show information. For details, contact him.

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas – John Davis presented the displays in Mike's absence.

Editor: Jason Hefner – 3 flashlights left. October 25 there will be a field trip to Kentland, IN. It is the only world working quarry for meteor impact. Jason will be contacting everyone with details.

Educational: Jesse Zeiger – Displays are in school.

Field Trips: John Davis – We are hoping to set up one more field trip to LaFarge Quarry.

Historian: Ed Miller – No Report

Hospitality: - Thank you to Patty Enos, Kathy Miller, and Lynn Miller for snacks.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh – Making rock candy.

Librarian: Pat Bell – Purchased Encyclopedia of Minerals and Gems for library.

Membership: Joan Hill – No Report

Programs: Rev. Larry Calhoun – No program scheduled.

Publicity: Nick Pellus – No Report

Show Chair: Marie Crull – Thank you to all who helped with the show. Thank you to Joe Perry for organizing the dealers. We had 1,100 adults attend the show. John Davis won the tree raffle. The show dates for next year are August 22, 23, and 24th. Thank you to Marie Crull for a great show.

Continued next page

September Meeting Minutes Continued from previous page

Sunshine: - Several cards were sent to members: Jim Daly, illness; Stan Jacobs., illness; Randy Hill, loss of his mother; Sherry Kobie, kidney stone.

Webmaster: Jim Daly – Joe Perry will take on the duties of webmaster.

Old Business

John Davis will set up next year's picnic at the Buchanan Community Center. Dates to be announced.

New Business

Officer elections will be held at the October meeting. Randy Hill will no longer be able to hold the office of MWF Indiana State Director. Would some else from our club be interested in filling this position?

Dave Peltz presented programs to a couple Boy Scout groups. The boys enjoyed sent the programs and sent thank you notes to Dave.

Program- none

Adjournment

Kentland IN Trip – Oct 25th – 10am EST b Jason Hefner

The trip to The Newton County Stone quarry is scheduled for Friday October 25 at **9:00 am CST. That is 10:00 am South Bend time.** Transportation is not provided by the club so please make your own arrangements. The address is 235 East US Highway 24 Kentland, IN 47951. Please plan on arriving 10 minutes prior so we can get together.

Newton County quarry is believed to be the only meteorite impact site in the United States that is also a commercial mining operation. The quarry has many visitors, from all over the world, who are interested in geological history and in studying the various types and layers of stone. The quarry contains the oldest exposed stone in Indiana, dating from the Ordovician age of the Earth's history.

You will NOT find meteorites here. This is an educational experience with the chance to find shattercone formations, which are evidence of the impact. We will tour the quarry, weather permitting, and search for shattercones in either the quarry or piles of material brought out of the quarry.

HARD HATS, SAFETY GLASSES, HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING and SAFETY SHOES ARE REQUIRED to go down into the quarry. The quarry has some hard hats and vests for visitors, but not many. Bring your own.

PLEASE note the time to meet is 9:50 EST (South Bend time) at the quarry and don't forget to email Jason Hefner if you plan on attending!!!

Mineral Identification – Black Minerals by Kreigh Tomaszewski

Color is not generally 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 this past year and go thru the colors of the rainbow. We ended the study with a 'fade to black' before going on summer break.

Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we really 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 (and doing some homework on its physical properties). 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 (and you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated).

The concept behind our color study theme 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 an interesting collection of black minerals, of various shades, and a few of them were quite outstanding specimens (especially under magnification). I know the names are not all going to be spelled correctly, and I know I missed writing down at least a dozen specimens, but we got to hand examine specimens of Ferberite, Gandefruyite, native iron, graphite, smoky quartz, pargasite, basalt, aegerine, obsidion, arfvedsonite, neptunite, deerite, hypersthene, babingtonite, lorenzite, hornblende, richterite, howieite, augite, romonechite, biotite, cassiterite, black opal, tantalite, alexandrite, melanite, and ilvite. Several of the specimens were type locality specimens (they came from where the mineral was first discovered).

It is one thing to look at the pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold a specimen and look at it thru a lens (feel the heft, shine a bright light on it, etc.). And then look at another specimen of the same mineral (and maybe another). And then look at something else that is close but different. Some homework was done, and we learned a bit about the tungstates, borates, elements, silicates, inosilicates, oxides, nesosilicates, and sorosilicates we studied.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We are going to study the clear/colorless minerals for our return from the summer break. Everyone should have a few transparent minerals in their collection they can bring to talk about and pass around (bonus points for luster and crystal form), so there is no excuse for not participating in our first study of the club season.

We try to start (and end) on time; please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (and everyone gets thrown out at 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about your clear minerals, and bring some of the specimens from the sparkling side of your collection (yes, diamonds count). 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 colorless 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 (and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds).

AFMS Code of Ethics - [AFMS Newsletter October 2013](#)

It has been a while since we last re-printed the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics and we have many new members who may not have had a chance to review this. Please review and obey this code to help preserve our ability to go out and enjoy this wonderful world we live on.

The Editor

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

The Way I See It!

By Don Monroe, President [AFMS Newsletter October 2013](#)

I am sure that all of us at one time or another are surprised (I call it blindsided) by things in our life. My most recent occurrence was when I realized that not only is my term of office as your president ending very soon, but this would be my last opportunity to communicate with all of you in the AFMS Newsletter. There is so much I want to say and so many of you I want to thank for all you have done to make my term so pleasant. Well I am going to have to address you in person at the upcoming Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL and other times when we wind up together.

In all of this there is a very bright spot. Your new president will be sworn in at the Annual Meeting and he will do an absolutely outstanding job. I will not be so presumptuous to say that I have trained him, but I will say that Richard Jaeger and I have spent much time discussing how I could have done things better and how he will do things better and how he will have a great group of folks to help him during his term and I will always be available for him if he needs me.

It's been a pleasure serving as your president this past year. I wish each of you many pleasant hours pursuing our wonderful hobby.

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Presidents Message

by Dennis Westman [MWF News October 2013](#)

I am 69 years old and have been interested in rocks most of my life. Maybe it is time to get with my buddies and kick back. We can shoot the breeze about our experiences collecting rocks, cutting cabs, traveling, and meeting some of the most colorful people one can imagine. Then I thought to myself, "I don't think so."

Rockhounding is a way of life. The meaning of fun and education is the same thing. I love collecting and being out in nature with interesting people. There are no two places or people alike, so learning is an adventure.

Forget kicking back! The first field trip of 2013 was at the Lincoln, Nebraska Show/MWF Convention. Did you know Nebraska has rolling hills filled with huge clam fossils? One river we collected frequently has buffalo skulls eroding out of its banks. Education, Yes! Fun, yes!

Now I really need to forget about kicking back. Trip #2 was Morocco. ZRS Fossils of Minneapolis has been organizing field trips to many of the collecting areas in Morocco. After debating for months on end, I decided to go for it. The geology of Morocco is amazing.



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

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Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

18-20: FORT WAYNE, IN. Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society's 52nd Annual Rock, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, and Lapidary Show and Sale and MWF Fall Meeting; Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Road, Fort Wayne; Fri. 10-7; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 11-5; Contact: Michele Yamanaka, 260.427.2196, yamanakam@cs.com, Website: http://members.tripod.com/3riversgem_mineral/annualshow-sale/.

19-20: CLIO, MI. Flint Rock & Gem Club's Earth's Natural Wonders; Carter Middle School, Rogers Lane Dr.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Ed Hearn, 810.687.2339, edleo324@att.net.

19-20: DES MOINES, IA. Des Moines Lapidary Society's & the Central Iowa Mineral Society's, Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center, Iowa State Fairgrounds, East University Ave. Gate; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Steve Cunningham, 515.262.4578, steverv@mchsi.com.

25-27: MASON, MI. Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society's 48th Annual Show; Ingham County Fairgrounds Main Arena; Fri. 6-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; Contact: Roger Laylin, 517.349.3249, l.r.laylin@gmail.com, michrocks.org.

26-27: CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH. Summit Lapidary Club's and Akron Mineral Society's Fall 2013 Rock, Mineral and Gemstone Show; Emidio's & Sons Expo, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Evelyn Tryon, 330.673.9664; Gemboree76@yahoo.com, <http://www.lapidaryclubofohio.org>.

26-27: 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: Kellie Moore, 563.445.3034, kalsinean1@aol.com, blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com.

26-27: EVANSVILLE, IN. Evansville Lapidary Society's 47th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show; Washington Square Mall, Green River Road; Sat. 10-9, Sun. 12-5; Contact: Sara Rappee, 812.589.3079, sararappee@yahoo.com.

NOVEMBER

1-3: CLEVELAND, OH. Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Micromineral Symposium; Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Dr.; Fri. 7:30-9:30, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3:30; Contact: Dick Green, 330.929.2395, jgreen2@neo.rr.com.

2-3: MIDLAND, MI. Mid-Michigan Rock Club's Annual Show; Midland Resort and Convention Center, 1500 W. Wackerly St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Deb Acord, 989.689.4840, jackdanred1@aol.com.

MWF Presidents Message from page 7

This part of the world was under water, so most of the fossils are sea creatures like Mosasaur fossils 10 feet long, trilobites, fossil shark's teeth, and crinoid stems with heads. Minerals include barite, vanadinite, quartz, azurite, and many more. We also visited historical sites (14th century and older); petroglyphs, market places, and much more. The trip rates as one of my biggest adventures ever. I will tell you more later with an article about the trip.

Education, yes! Fun, yes! This is what rockhounding is about



This could be your star.
All you have to do is
send me (the Editor)
your stories, pictures,
filed trip reports and I
will place them in the
newsletter. Any help is
appreciated.