

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



February 2014 Volume 54 Number 2



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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

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 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

What a long winter we have been having, for those of you who have managed to find warmer climates or live in an area where snow, ice, wind and cold is just something to read about, I wish you would share! By the time most of you read this, I hope signs of spring will appear somewhere nearby (or at least just a few inches of snow on the ground).

Those of us who were able to man the MGM booth at Science Alive were surprised and delighted to see the turn out, even though we were under a Winter Storm Watch. The attendance for 2013 was 3,000. This year the official record was 2,200. I heard one of the coordinators think the great attendance was because so many schools had been closed so much in January both parents and kids had cabin fever and this was a good way to burn off the energy.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: February 23, 2014

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:
TBA

Refreshments:
Sisters Mary Mulligan & Jeanne Finske
Hefner's & Perry's
Jessie Zeiger
(looks like a bunch of snacks!)

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574-272-7209

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

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

It really was a fun, fast paced day. We even had South Bend's Channel 16 pan our group with viewing on Saturday night! We seemed to get many folks who said they were interested in attending our February meeting. I certainly hope so, it would make our efforts putting the booth together worthwhile in getting possible new members.

I will have signup sheets available at the February meeting to help host our snacks during this year, and to help Trista McIntosh with the junior members. Let's be honest, it's nice to come to our meetings, visiting with our friends, take part in the business meetings, etc. BUT, it would also be nice for Trista to know what is going on at some of the meetings or have help finishing up the Junior's projects so she could enjoy the programs to instead of having to clean up after the juniors are done or need finishing up on a project with them.

Again, have you paid your dues? With no meeting in January because of the weather, I hope you have sent your dues via mail to Marty Perry.

We do have good things to come for 2014. We have already been asked to participate in South Bend's Arbor Day at Howard Park, and the Envirofest in Elkhart. School teachers, and Library folks will be contacting our club to speak with children again throughout the year.

PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIPS, COLLECTING, PICNIC, ANNUAL SHOW, 3 DAY BUS TRIP, it just couldn't get better, or if it can let's have at it!

See you February 23rd

ROCK ON  **Kathy**

A NOTE OF THANKS....from Kathy

It would be remiss of me not to thank our members who so generously took some part in making our MGM Booth such a huge success at the 22nd Annual Science Alive event. As follows:

Preparing: The John & Jen Thompson Family, Ashley & Kaley Miller, Phyllis Luckert

Bagging: Ashley & Kaley Miller, Bob Miller, John Jaworski, Marty & Joe Perry

Donations: Bob Miller, Linda Miller, John Davis, Mike Skoczylas, Phyllis Smallwood, Phyllis Luckert

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WE HAVE FORGED SOME ALLIANCES

By Shirley Leeson, ALAA

President

ALAA has been around for a number of years. During that time we've joined several organizations who have a like interest in keeping our public lands available to everyone, not just special interest groups.

You are probably familiar with Blue Ribbon Coalition, primarily a national organization of off-road vehicle users, but they are also concerned with other areas of recreation on public lands.

We joined CORVA, California Off-Road Vehicle Association. Their focus is keeping roads and trails open on public lands. Their primary concern is the BLM and Forest Service management of public lands in California.

Last year we joined the New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance, who are single-handedly keeping roads and trails open in New Mexico.

These organizations have been dealing with problems and developing strategies for many years. Many individuals in these organizations have taken their time and expertise and given freely to help ALAA understand the subtleties of commenting on the plans for public lands administered by BLM and the Forest Service.

There are other organizations who also offer their expertise, and one of these is Western Slope No Fee Coalition. We are all working together.

ALAA is a grass-roots organization like those above. We don't have the backing of environmentalist foundations with deep pockets like. All we have is the knowledge that our cause is just . . . and we need your help to be heard.

Excerpted from the Oct. to Dec., 2013, *ALAA Newsletter*

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

A Note of Thanks

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Show Flyers: Joe Perry,

Membership Forms: Jason Hefner,

MGM bags: Bill Foreman

Tom Noe: who brought Phyllis Luckert's donations, walking the distance during the Storm Warning (now that's club dedication!)

Displays and Touch Table: John Davis, Todd Miller

Booth Workers: Todd, Linda, Ashley, Kaley Miller, Bob Miller, Bill Foreman, Bill Nelson, Mike Skoczylas, Tom McLaughlin and myself.

The Event ran from 10am-4pm. We were really hopping!

You ready for GEODEFEST 2014. Have you signed up??? Maybe this will get you motivated....



Here are some of the pictures I took several years ago. We had a great time and everyone found some spectacular specimens

See you in September 2014

Jason Hefner - Editor

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

From my Desk to Yours

by Richard Jaeger, AFMS President excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 67, Number 3 – February, 2014](#)

I hope that all of you had an enjoyable holiday season and were able to spend time with family and/or friends. Linda and I had a full house at Thanksgiving with our sons coming in from Denver and Nashville and our oldest son and his family coming in from Houston. All of us gathered again in Houston for Christmas. These are the only two times of the year when our family can all be together; it is a tradition to which we look forward.

This can be an interesting time of the year for a rockhound. In the more northern parts of the country, this is the time to engage in lapidary pursuits or perhaps arrange, catalogue, and photograph your collection. If you're in the desert southwest or other southern regions, this is perhaps the best time of the year for field trips. In Oklahoma, we bounce back and forth between cold and mild periods. If the day is reasonably warm, this is my favorite time of the year to collect fossils. I don't have to worry about snakes, chiggers, or ticks and the fossils are so much easier to find with the weeds and grass having died down. Wherever you may live, there are aspects of our hobby for you to engage in throughout the year.

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Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Website information

 by you Editor

When is the last time you checked out the Midwest Federations's website? There is a lot of good information there. You can find all the back issues of the newsletter, event information, information about scholarships, and reference material for purchase. Do you need a new MWF pin or maybe a new shirt. You can find clothing and other items on the website as well.



Above are two of the pins you can find on the website. There are books and booklets for sale.

Check it out!



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

Upcoming Events

Not much going on around here due to the season unfortunately.

FEBRUARY

TUSCON!!!

More to come....

From my desk to yours Continued from Page 5

I really enjoyed reading the December-January issue of the AFMS Newsletter and want to thank all the people who contributed articles; I'm looking forward to seeing more as the year goes by. I do want to mention the Judges Training Seminar; Dee Holland and Tom Burchard have put a lot of work into arranging this opportunity for us. I am very interested in increasing interest in competitive exhibits as I truly believe they increase the overall quality of shows. When I attended the Midwest Federation Show in Lincoln, Nebraska earlier this year there was a competitive case entered which could not be scored because no qualified judge was available! We need to train additional judges so an occurrence like that doesn't get repeated. Remember, this year's seminar is in Ogden, Utah from April 10 to 13. Contact Dee Holland for more information.

Once again, I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you will have a safe and rewarding 2014.

Happy Valentine's day everyone.



Collected from the internet 02/04/14.

http://blogs.yahoo.co.jp/tokinosugiyukumamani_ai/folder/491295.html