

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



March 2014 Volume 54 Number 3

THE ROCKFINDER

We're on the Web! See us at: www.MichianaGMS.org

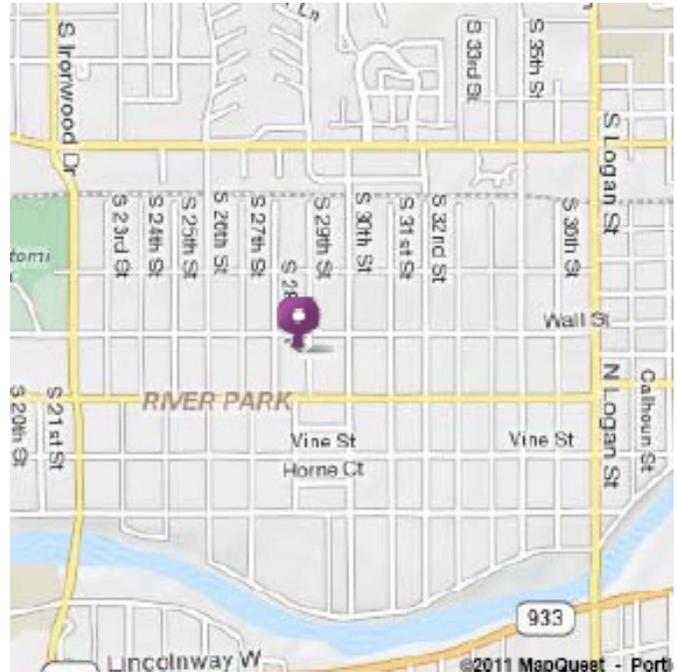
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____
Name: _____ Birthday: _____

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.MichianaGMS.org, is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies <http://www.amfed.org/mwfi/> 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.

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

Sunday, March 3rd, and 4 more inches of snow to add to our wonderful weather. Will Bob and I ever be able to clean the quartz we brought home from Arkansas! Maybe by the time you receive this *Rockfinder* spring will have arrived, at least by March 20th.

DON'T forget we meet on Sunday, March 23rd the fourth Sunday of a five week month. We had a very good meeting in February; it was nice to see such a good turnout of members. Thanks to all those who brought snacks. Jan Pellus had some information on the EnviroFest that will be held July 2014 in Elkhart. She and husband Nick represented our club last year along with Marty & Joe Perry. They estimated about 2,000 people were there. Our club will also have a booth this year at the Arbor Day festival on April 26. We are reaching out to surrounding communities.

I brought up the fact that the Midwest Federation Convention this year will be held in Des Moines, Iowa on October 18 & 19, 2014.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: March 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:
Bill & Nancy Foreman
Susan Huffman
John & Mary Davis
Randy & Joan Hill

Think
Spring!



Board of Directors

President: Kathy Miller
574-291-0332

Vice-President: Randy Hill
269-465-5814

Secretary: Jan Pellus
574-264-4772

Treasurer: Marty Perry
574-295-9050

Liaison: Bob Bell
574-233-7352

Committee Chairs

Displays: Mike Skoczylas
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner
574-858-9837

Educational: Jesse Zeiger
574-259-5944

Facebook: Raven Bowen
269-279-1827

Field Trips: John Davis
574-232-8823

Historian: Ed Miller
574-498-6513

Hospitality:
Linda Miller 574-291-5027
Marsha Miller 574-498-6513

Juniors: Trista McIntosh
574-780-1162

Librarian: Pat Bell
574-233-7352

Membership: Nancy Foreman 574-233-9178 & Jennifer Thompson 574-360-9886

Programs: Rev Larry Calhoun
574-631-1887

Publicity: Nick Pellus
574-264-4772

Safety: Julie Wieger 574-291-2597
Jennifer Hefner 574-858-9837

Show Chair: Marie Crull 574-272-7209,
John Davis 574-232-8823

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

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

They will be holding a field trip on Friday the 17th to an area gravel pit. Lakers and mammoth teeth are to be found, along with anything else that originated north of what is now Iowa. This is always a good convention, meeting, show and lots to see and do. Our club has budgeted \$300 for anyone wishing to attend as a Delegate representing Michiana Gem & Mineral Society. If you are interested, please see me and I will get the necessary information for you.

I am looking forward to the upcoming field trips that our club has. John Davis does a great job organizing these and we always find "good stuff". We also have our picnic (August 3, 2014, new area), look for the location map in future Rockfinders, annual show and bus trip to look forward to. Marie Crull, Joe Perry and John Davis gave us a good report on how well our August show is coming along. That weekend is our year's highlight to show the community on what our hobby is all about. When it is time to sign up for something to do at the show don't hesitate to take part. IT'S FUN, enjoyed by every member.

I am looking forward to seeing you in March, THINK SPRING!

ROCK ON - Kathy

Request from Bob from Bob Miller

Regarding the small old rock books that Nick Pellus gave out at the February meeting. If anyone that has them and are done with them I would like to have them. If they are willing to give them up. There is a lot of information about people who have been involved with both the American and the Mid-West Federation in them. The American Federation Historian would like to have them for her files. I got what was left and am sending them on to her. Specially would like the Earth Science ones.

Thanks Bob.

Tired of the cold??? - Editor

Check out these HOT trips for Rockhounds. Volcano tours!!!!

<http://tours.volcanodiscovery.com/adventure-travel.html>

February Meeting Minutes

by Secretary Jan Pellus

Meeting Minutes Date: Feb. 23, 2014

Members in attendance / Adults 41

Children 10

Guest 4

Call to Order President Kathy Miller

Pledge

Welcome

Secretary report – Jan Pellus / Motion made and seconded to accept minutes

Treasurer’s report – Marty Perry / Motion made and seconded to accept report

Liaison report – Bob Bell / We need a delegate for the Midwest Federation meeting in DE Moines Iowa. If interested, please contact Bob.

Parliamentarian - Bob Miller / No Report

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas / Pictures from Science Alive, Midwest Federation show in Tucson, and Christmas party. Randy Hill brought an amethyst log he acquired. Mike asks that members who have extra polished stones to share them with the Harris Library.

Editor: Jason Hefner / The Rockfinder is on the web. If you have anything you would like to submit, please email Jason.

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / Visited the display at Woodlawn Nature Center in Elkhart that was put on by “Paleo” Joe. She thought it was worth seeing. She also mentioned two sites for collecting fossils; LaFarge in Michigan and the St. Leon road cut in Southern Indiana.

Face Book: Raven Bowen / No Report

Field Trips: John Davis / We are trying to reschedule a trip to LaFarge Ohio, (must be MSHA certified). MSHA classes are coming up.

Historian: Ed Miller / Ed brought to the attention of the members that there are several TV programs on rock and fossils coming up.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh / The junior members worked on their American Federation badge for stone tools. Next month they will be bringing something from their own rock collection to share with the others. Please sign up to help with the Junior programs.

Librarian: Pat Bell / No Report

Membership: Nancy Forman / Nancy introduced four new members and four guests. Welcome to all,

Programs: Rev. Larry Calhoun / The program today is on creating wire gem trees presented by Rev. Larry Calhoun. At this time there is no program scheduled for March. All members are encouraged to present a program on their special areas.

Publicity: Nick Pellus / All is well.

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / “Be Safe”

Show Chair: Marie Crull & Joe Perry / The show is scheduled for August 22 – 24 at the St. Joe County Fair Grounds. We need to have more exhibitors for the show. We ask that all members try to participate in the show. It’s fun and exciting to share our hobby. Joe reported that the contracts had been mailed to the dealers. Three have already been received. John Davis would like to have all the display cabinets alike. He will make a proto type to present to the members to be approved.

Continued next page

February Meeting Minutes Continued from previous page

Sunshine: - **Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie** / Sympathy cards were sent to John Davis and Bill and Nancy Forman. Get well cards were sent to Marie Crull and Don Church. Our thoughts and prayers go to all.

Webmaster: Joe Perry / The web site is up and running. If you have any items to add, please contact Joe.

Old Business: Science Alive went very well, and was well attended in spite of the weather. We were busy the entire day. There are pictures on the display table. Just a reminder, dues for 2014 are due. Check with Marty if you need to pay. There is a sign-up sheet in the back for the club trip to the Keokuk Geode Fest in September. Please contact Kathy for more information.

New Business: The next club meeting will be March 23. Nick Pellus brought in old rock books for the members to look at and take with them. There is a wealth of information in them. It's also fun to look at the old ads. The club has been invited to participate in the Elkhart Envirofest. It will take place on July 11, 2014, at the Wellfield Botanic Gardens in Elkhart. Nick and Jan Pellus, and Joe and Marty Perry set up the display table. If you are interested in helping, please contact Nick or Jan. Members are reminded to be respectful during the program presentation.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded to adjourn

Program: The creating of wire jewel and gem trees.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2014

Bus Trip Update by Kathy Milller, MGMS President

We have 17 seats left on the Cardinal bus for Keokuk, Iowa, September 26, 27 & 28, 2014. The motel rooms are filling up fast. For those of you have your seats on the bus, but have not called in to reserve your room, please do. When you have reserved your room call me and let me know along with your room confirmation. Hampton Inn #1-319-524-6700 (under MICHIANA GROUP).

If you haven't signed up to go and still wish to, call me A.S.A.P. 574-291-0332. Remember, don't sign up unless you know for sure you can go. Club pays the bus, you pay motel (block room rate) and a Saturday night meal. I also need to know if you will be eating dinner with us at the Black Hawk restaurant. They would like us to pay upfront before we sit down to eat, so would like a count of how many adults and children. We have a private room for our club and have to have a certain amount of people. For those of you who didn't attend the February meeting, I have copies of our itinerary, Geode Fest information of what takes place, and the Geode Fest reservation form.

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Board met last week. It was decided because of the rising cost of bus rental & Drivers motel (in contract) that we will only have a 3 day bus trip every TWO years. Where we are going this year no one will come back without beautiful geodes or fossils. Everyone who goes has a super time.

Get cracking (sorry, couldn't help myself!)

Stan Jacobs is looking for a rock saw with a 16 inch blade or bigger to cut slabs. Contact Stan at 574-872-3849 if you have one for sale or might know where one is for sale.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

From my Desk to Yours

by Richard Jaeger, AFMS President excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 67, Number 4 – March, 2014](#)

I really enjoyed reading the February issue of the A.F.M.S. Newsletter; Carolyn Weinberger continues to do an outstanding job as editor of our federation's publication. I'm really pleased to see the excellent articles that many of our committee chairs are contributing; their interest in and dedication to our hobby is evident. There were a couple of articles on which I wish to comment.

First is the article by our All American Club Chair, Regina Kapta. Last year I believe only three clubs submitted entries for this contest; we need to do better. I know that we have excellent clubs throughout the federation which could win recognition through this contest. As Regina points out, it is time to put your entry together. Hopefully, much of the information you need can be found in your club's monthly bulletins. Jump in this year and get your feet wet; maybe you'll only get an honorable mention this year but you will learn what you need to do to achieve a higher score next year. I was in charge of submitting the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society's entry back in 1994 and 1995 and know how much work goes into doing so. At that time one of the jobs of our club historian was to submit our club's application for the All American Club Contest.

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Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Presidents Message

by Tony Kapta, MWF President excerpted from [MWF News March 2014 - Issue No. 530](#)

You will be reading this in March so I hope that the weather has finally warmed up. This winter has reminded me of living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and being so ready for spring to come every year. Hopefully it has warmed up by now and we can get out and look for some rocks.

We are coming up on the 75th anniversary of the MWF. We will be celebrating this at the MWF convention in 2015. On the 50th anniversary, a book was put together to commemorate it. We are working on putting together a similar book for the 75th anniversary, and hope to update it at least every 10 years from now on.

This has me reading the history of the MWF from that 50th anniversary book, and it is really fascinating how the MWF has grown over the years and the many mile markers that we have passed.

From that book, I learned the MWF was formed: "On December 7, 1940, about twenty delegates from five organizations met in the Art Room at Field Museum and the MID-WEST FEDERATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES became a reality.

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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



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

MARCH

7-9: KANSAS CITY, MO. Greater Kansas City Association of Earth Science Clubs' Annual Show; KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador Dr; Fri. 9-8, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Bruce Stinemetz, 816.795.5159; brucestinemetz@att.net; www.kcgemshow.org .

7-9: RICHMOND, IN. Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society's Annual Rock & Gem Show; Fri. & Sat. 10-6; Sun. 11-4; Wayne Co. Fairgrounds, 861 Salisbury Rd.; Contact: Joe Wirrig, (937) 962-2524; sunow@frontier.com. **NOTE! If Salisbury Rd is closed due to construction, take NW 5th St to NW L St and drive west to the fairgrounds entrance.**

8: SKOKIE, IL. Chicago Rocks & Minerals Societies' 65th Annual Silent Auction of Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, and Lapidary Treasures; St. Peter's United Church of Christ gymnasium, 8013 Laramie; Sat. 6-9 p.m.; Contact: Jeanine N. Mielecki, 773.774.2054 or jaynine9@aol.com.

8-9: MACOMB, IL. Geodeland Earth Science Clubs' 34th Annual Show; Student Union Ballroom, Western Illinois University, Murray St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5; Contact: George Coursey , 309-368-2947 , courseyfarms@gmail.com.

9: 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 , www.lincolngemmineralclub.org.

15-16: CEDAR RAPIDS, IA. Hawkeye Downs, 4400 6th St. SW; Contact: Marv Houg, 319.364.2868 or Tom Whitlatch, 319.551.3870, www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org .

From my desk to yours Continued from Page 5

Putting together your entry is much easier if you work on it throughout the year rather than waiting until the end of the year to begin. I would suggest that your club designate a person to put in charge of this project and begin collecting information now to prepare for your entry next year.

The other article I wish to comment on is the one from our Inter-Regional Field Trip Chair, Doug True. What an outstanding job he has done! I had the pleasure of collecting Montana Agates, petrified wood, jasper, etc. from the Yellowstone River gravels and also the outstanding Cretaceous marine fossils back in 1989. My trip was in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Federation Show that year in Bismarck, North Dakota; there was a four day field trip following the show which included stays in Medora, ND and Glendive, MT. I can assure you that these will be field trips you'll never forget, not only for the quality materials you will collect in beautiful settings, but also for the food, entertainment, and general hospitality you will experience. I was amazed to learn the RV parks and motels in Terry, MT are already full for the field trip. But, as Doug said, you can still make reservations in Miles City, MT.

I'm looking forward to attending the Eastern Federation Show & Convention in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania in late March. This will be my first trip to the Philadelphia area and I hope to take in some of the historical sites along with the show. As always, the thing I am most looking forward to is visiting with friends, and with making new friends, from the Eastern Federation.

More Upcoming Events

21-23: 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, 314.846.0711.

22-23: DES PLAINES, IL. Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's 49th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show; Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Jeanine N Mielecki , (773) 774 - 2054 or jaynine9@aol.com or Lois Zima, 420 Cordial Dr., Des Plaines, IL 60018, (847) 298-4653.

29-30: MONROE, WI. Badger Lapidary & Geological Society's 43rd Annual, Rock, Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show; Monroe Senior High School, 1600 26th St.; Sat. & Sun. 9-5; Contact: Teri Marche, 5415 Lost Woods Ct., Oregon, WI 53575; tmarche@usnetizen.com .

MWF Presidents Message continued from Page 5

Its purpose: "To achieve a more accurate and widespread knowledge and appreciation of geology, in all its phases, especially in the Mid-West, through the cooperative endeavor of individuals and organizations in this region."

It appears that my previous guess at why the MWF was formed was accurate, to have a place where individuals and organizations could cooperate and further the hobby that we have all chosen.

Do you know who makes up the MWF organization? You do! We have a lot of people who are donating their time, talent, and money to chair all of the committees we have formed over the years, including the efforts of the Officers and State Directors, to keep this organization going, but they cannot do everything. You are the MWF, all of the people reading this newsletter, all of the clubs that belong to the MWF; you are the reason we are here.

When was the last time you contacted someone in the MWF to offer help? If it was recently, thank you for pitching in. We need more communication from everyone who is a member of the MWF. That is how we can make the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies the best that it can be. Communication is the key.

When I took over this position, I asked for the different clubs to send me their newsletters so I could find out what was going on with the member clubs. I was a little worried whether I would have time to read each one every month. I guess I did not have to worry, since, in addition to the newsletters I was already receiving through our newsletter exchange for our club, I received only three more newsletters. Thanks to those of you who have sent me your newsletters.

Communication today is a lot simpler than it has ever been. Just type out a message and hit send. Within a matter of minutes your message is in the other person's inbox and it didn't cost you a cent because you're already connected for all the other things that you do on the internet. How great is that?

Does your club communicate with other clubs that are in near proximity, and offer help with all the things that we all do as a club? I know this stuff is a lot harder than it seems, just talking about it here. We usually only communicate with someone because we need help or an answer to a question from someone else. How nice would it be if that were different?

How else do we communicate? The MWF has at least one meeting and a convention every year; does anyone from your club attend? Especially the convention, where the annual meeting is held, every club should attempt to send a delegate to this meeting. We have well over a hundred clubs and every year we are worried whether we will have a quorum of 10% of those clubs to be able to vote on the business at hand. Wouldn't it be great if we just had to worry about where we are going to put everyone because we have delegates from 30% or more of the clubs?

Let's make it a priority this year to communicate more with everyone who enjoys the hobby of earth sciences. I remember someone asking one time, "How do I learn about all of this stuff?" Attending your own club meetings is a start. Other ways to learn are to help with the work of putting on the meetings, help the leaders of your club with their duties, help with your club's show, and communicate with as many people as possible who have similar interests as you. This is why the MWF and, actually, each of our home clubs, were formed in the first place.

Congress to Begin Work on Recreation Fee Legislation Via Western Slope No-Fee Coalition

--Edited and excerpted from the Oct. to Dec., 2013, *ALAA Newsletter*

Recreation fees for parks and public lands are governed by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). Very soon, legislation to replace, revise or repeal FLREA is going to move forward in Congress. Now is the time for the public to weigh in.

You can sit back, do nothing, and let the American Recreation Coalition (ARC), the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service set the agenda. Or you can take action and make sure the members of Congress who will decide the issues take the public's concerns into account.

Here is what the ARC has announced it wants to see:

- "Dynamic" pricing, to promote a shift in use to non-peak periods and less-used places. In other words, pay extra for the most popular places at the best times of year.
- Raising the price of senior lifetime passes from \$10 to \$80, and/or raising the eligibility age from 62 to 70.
- Eliminating the free lifetime pass for those with a permanent disability and begin charging \$80 for it.
- Lowering the age of free entry from 16 to 12.
- ARC also wants a "prestige pass" at a premium price, for those who want to be able to go to the front of the line, use reserved close-in parking, and generally not have to mix with their fellow citizens of lesser means.

For the ARC, it's all about generating revenue, not about finding ways to encourage more people to enjoy healthy, active, outdoor activities.

If you agree with these proposals, then by all means do nothing.

(More ARC proposals are in the online article, along with help in contacting legislators. Go to www.amlands.org, under "Newsletters.")

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.