

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



May 2014 Volume 54 Number 5



Time to hunt mushrooms!
Website [Credit](#)

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

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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

Today is May 1st, (May Day). I know that I am writing this message early, but realize our next, and last club meeting until the end of September is only 2 ½ weeks away on May 18th. Traditionally we meet on the 3rd weekend of May since everyone has plans for Memorial Day on the last Sunday.

I do want to thank John Davis for giving a Rock Collector's Tools and Collecting Tips for our April program, and Everett Harrington for a power point program he has on Geodes for the May meeting. Jason Hefner with the club's approval will purchase a projector and give Everett's program. We will also use the projector at our annual show and other club events.

Thank you to Rev. Larry Calhoun who has been our Program Chairman, but wishes to step down for the rest of this year. After doing some consulting with Past President Diane Gram, the club could use 2 people to be Co-Chairs for Programs. Please get together with one of your friends in the club and volunteer for this job. We need programs so our meetings won't be just a "social hour".

Continued on Page 2

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: May 18, 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:
Geodes!!!

Refreshments:
Lana Wright, Sue Brown, Jan & Nick Pellus, Sally & David Peltz

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

New members and guests come for the programs we offer on what our hobby is all about. If you can, let me know your willingness at the May meeting. Nick Pellus, Publicity Chairman; Jason Hefner, Editor; Joe Perry, Webmaster; and Raven Bower, Facebook Editor will be just as thrilled as I am if two of you will Step Up to the Plate, and take on this responsibility!

At the May meeting we will have sign-up sheets for our August 3rd picnic and the Show Kitchen August 22, 23, & 24. The picnic sign up is just so we know the amount of members and guests for the meat and beverages the club supplies. This is a Potluck so bring your favorite dish to pass. We have a new location with ample space for parking and can be held indoors if the weather is not conducive to eating outside. The directions to the picnic are in your new 2014 Directory and will also be in the June Rockfinder. The picnic is also a time of finalization in preparation for our annual club show.

Our Show Kitchen sign up needs lots of signatures for Potluck items. The club supplies beverages, hot dogs and a main meat on Saturday. We ALL enjoy the 3 days of good food and good company. The kitchen is not open to the public at the show, only we the members, dealers, demonstrators and exhibitors have a private area just for us. A time to visit while we enjoy our show.

John Davis and his grandson, Junior member Dante Givens manned a MGM club booth on Arbor Day this past April, and Nick and Jan Pellus are doing the same for the Elkhart Envirofest on July 11th from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. They certainly would appreciate any help you could give them during that time.

The Mine Safety Class will be over by the time you receive this and possibly the May 10th collecting trip to Swayzee, IN. I do hope some of you who attended the field trip will bring in some of your finds. I keep checking the weather for that day. So far (fingers crossed) J, it looks great!

We have, thanks again to John's diligence, in getting field trips lined up, plus our bus trip, we're good for this year with "good stuff" to look forward too!

ROCK ON  **Kathy**

Meeting Minutes Date: April 27, 2014

Members in attendance / Adults_42__

Children_14__

Guest__2__

Call to Order: President Kathy Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

Secretary report – Jan Pellus / Motion made to accept by Rev Larry Calhoun and seconded by Bob Miller

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

Liaison report – Bob Bell / The Kalamazoo show will be held May 2 to 4th/ Michigan Geology & Gemcraft will be held June 6 & 7/ Marv and Kitty Starbuck will be having a sale May 31 and June 1

Parliamentarian – Bob Miller /At this time there is no delegate for the National Convention October 17 & 18. If interested see Bob or Kathy Miller. The National Show will be in Tulsa Oklahoma in July.

American Lands Access-Tom Noe /When the government designates an area as “wilderness access” no motorized vehicles are allowed in the area. This restricts public use of this land. We must be vigilant when this occurs.

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas /Stan Jacobs brought specimens to identify/Nick Pellus brought a sample metal display case available for purchase/John Davis brought examples of specimens to collect on upcoming field trips, and a sample display case for club show use

Editor: Jason Hefner / thank you John for the story.

Educational: Jesse Zeiger / No report

Face Book: Raven Bowen / No report

Field Trips: John Davis /We are planning field trips to Pipe Creek Quarry May 10 in Sweazy Indiana/ Pendleton Quarry June 28 in Anderson Indiana/ LaFarge Quarry in Marblehead Indiana date to be announced. MSHA training will be Saturday May 3. A must have for entry into these Quarries.

Historian: Ed Miller / No report

Hospitality: - Linda Miller & Marsha Miller / Thank you to John Davis, Bob and Pat Bell, John Jaworski, Sherrill Glick, Joe and Marty Perry for providing refreshments.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh / Susan Huffman and the older kids directed the juniors in Trista's absence. We need an adult to assist Trista for the next meeting.

Librarian: Pat Bell / No report

Membership: Nancy Forman and Jennifer Thompson / There are still directories to be picked up. Thank you to Diane Gram for putting it together. Visitors today are Betty Gearhart and Monica Sherck. Welcome new members Brian Hazen and family, Tracy and Stacie Harrison, and Danielle Willborn

Programs: Rev. Larry Calhoun / Program for today will be John Davis

Publicity: Nick Pellus / Please let the program director and/or myself know 2 to 2 ½ weeks prior to club meeting if you are doing a program. This allows us time to get the announcement in the papers.

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger / No report

Continued on page 5

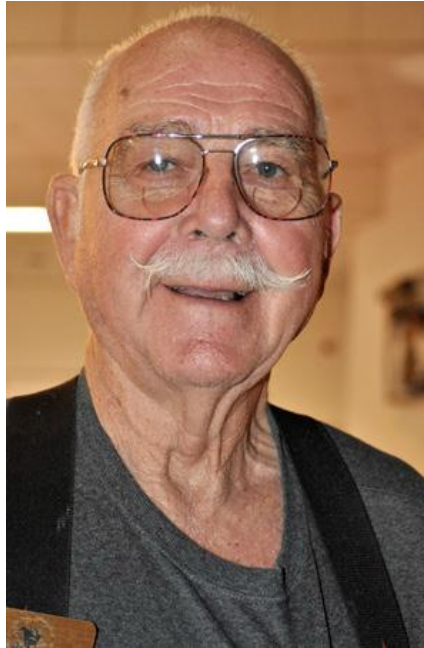
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

From the President-Elect by Marion Roberts, President-elect excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 67, Number 5 – April, 2014](#) **Click on the link to read the rest of the article.**

Greetings to each and everyone of you.

As your president elect, I feel that it is time to introduce myself to all who do not know me yet and say hi to those that do. I am Marion Roberts from the California Federation and live in Modesto, CA. which is in the north central San Joaquin Valley, just 70 miles south of Sacramento. I was a very young transplant from north east Missouri, where my family farmed.

I was CFMS President in 2005, a Society Federation Director since 1997 or 98, and I'm still an active director. I have been an active instructor, committee member and chair of our Earth Science Program since 2001. I taught faceting for five years at Camp Paradise and was Chief Cook and bottle washer for 6 years at Camp Zzyzx.



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

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Presidents Message by Tony Kapta, MWF President excerpted from [MWF News May 2014 - Issue No. 533](#) **Click on the link to read the rest of the article.**

Hello Everyone. Here we are at the end of April in Illinois and the weather still is not sure what it wants to do but at least the snow has slowed down. With the hard winter we have had I am unsure what the weather should be right now, so I just hope that it will be moderate this year so that the rockhounding will be pleasant.

Our Spring Meeting will be this month at the Wisconsin Geological Society's Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show on May 17th. The show will be indoors in the Muellner Building at Hart Park in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. You enter the park at 72nd and State Street. There is more information about the show on the MWF website, <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/>. I have been to this show many times and it is always great. Our meetings will start with the State Directors' meeting at 9 a.m. and the Executive Committee Meeting at 10 a.m. We would like to see as many of the State Directors and Committee chairmen who can possibly attend the meetings to be there. All members of the MWF are welcome to sit in.

Please remember that reports from all of the State Directors and Committee Chairmen should have been sent to Donna Moore by April 12th so she could get them all together and back out to all of us before the meeting. As Donna stated in her e-mail to you, please include in your report what is going on with your committee or the area your committee covers.



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

MAY

16-18 JOPLIN, MO. Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society's Spring Rock Swap; Schifferdecker Park, 7th & Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. & Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-3; Contact: Chris Wiseman, 17.623.1180, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net.

17-18 NORTH OLMSTED, OH. Parma Lapidary Club's Annual Show; Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain Rd.; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-5; Contact: Sue Zaborowski, 440.213.1153.

May 24-25—WHEATON, ILLINOIS:
Chicagoland Gem & Mineral Association (CGMA) 38th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show;
www.chicagolandgemshow.org. Sat. 10-6 ; Sun. 10-5. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester Rd. Chicagoland's largest club-hosted retail and wholesale show for rockhounds features more than 30 nationally known dealers, displays by museums and private collectors, lapidary demonstrations, silent auction, door prizes, Kids' Korner. Rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, tools, supplies and equipment, books, findings, glass fusing, jewelry making, geode cracking, micromounts, opal cutting, wire-wrapping, metalsmithing, cabbings, fossil preparation, faceting, gem trees, and more. Air-conditioned. Food. Free parking. Adults \$5, Students (ages 13-17) and seniors (60+) \$3, service personnel and children under 13 free. Contact Jeanine N. Mielecki, (773) 774-2054, jaynine9@aol.com or Rich Dillon, P.O. Box 360, Wasco, IL 60183-0360, (630) 377-0197; cgma@sbcglobal.net.

JUNE

7 MONROE CITY, MO. Gem City Rock Club's Annual Show; Boudreaux Visitor Center, Mark Twain Lake, Rt. J; Sat. 10-4; Contact Jeanne Smith, 573.439.5890, jsmith45@marktwain.net.

7-8 KALAMZOO, MI. Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society's 9th Annual Rockhound Weekend; Western Michigan University, Rood Hall near W. Michigan Ave. and Rankin Ave.; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4; mgags.org.

7-8 MANSFIELD, OH. Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society's Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show; Richland County Fairgrounds, Arts and Crafts Building, 750 N. Home Road; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Contact: Tom Kottyan, 419.562.1152, www.rlls.webs.com.

7-8 SPRINGFIELD, MO. Ozarks Mountain Gem & Mineral Society's Rock Swap; River Bluff Cave, Missouri Institute of Natural Science, 2327 W. Farm Rd. 190; Sat. 8-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Eddie Maples, 417.725.3001.

April Meeting Minutes Continued from page 3

Show Chair: Marie Crull & Joe Perry / Joe reported that all show contracts have now been received.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Sympathy card to Phyllis Smallwod for her brother. Get Well to Don Church

Webmaster: Joe Perry / the club member portion of the web site has been created and is working.

Old Business:

Thank you to John Davis and Dante for doing the Arbor Day event.

New Business:

A motion was made by Diane Gram that John Davis build 4 display cases for this years rock show. Motion seconded by John Jaworski. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Don Church that Jason Hefner be authorized to purchase a projector for the clubs use. Motion seconded by Bob Miller. Motion passed.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: John Davis on tools to take on field trip rock collecting.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2014

Field Trip Safety by Jason Hefner - editor

It's that time of year again!!! Time to go dig in the dirt, or if you are like my wife, sit in a lawn chair, enjoy the sun and read a book. However you collect you need the basic Personal Protective Equipment. Here is your checklist.

- Leather gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Hard Hat
- High Visibility vest and/or shirt
- Sturdy leather boots, Safety toe is preferred.

That being said, don't forget plenty of water, bug spray, sun block and my favorite, a loud signal whistle.



As a bonus – if you click on the picture you go right to the website and can order them from Northern Safety Supply. Many types to choose from.

ALAA Meets the Public at the Hells Canyon Gem Club Show in Lewiston, ID

By Lauren Williams, ALAA Vice-President

The Hells Canyon Gem Club president sent ALAA a letter asking for ALAA to come to their show last October so that their club members would have a better idea of who ALAA is and what ALAA does. I have always wanted to go see what the rock club show was like in Lewiston, so I borrowed the tub of ALAA handouts from Shirley Leeson and then I had the excuse I needed to go to Lewiston. Saturday morning we had the ALAA table set up and ready to go by quarter to ten. From ten o'clock Saturday until closing at five o'clock on Sunday we had some very interesting conversations. Our pitch was, your club belongs to ALAA, now what we need is for you as an individual to join ALAA.

As one nine-year-old said, as we were talking to her mother, "You want a gazillion members!" And I responded that that would be a nice round number. At the other extreme someone said--and I am paraphrasing--"Take out your gun and kill the sob's." There are some people out there who are really angry at the government land managers. I'm sure that most of you have heard the story about an off-road organization that did a clean-up for the BLM or Forest Service, and after the clean-up was over they were told that they could not ride on or use the area that they had just cleaned up. One of those guys came by the table.

One person told us how he couldn't even get to his private property anymore but, yes, they will continue to charge him property taxes.

--Excerpted from the ALAA Newsletter (Jan-Mar, 2014)

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. (Entire newsletter is available at amlands.org)

Arkansas Mineralogical Society – website review by Jason Hefner - Editor

The logo for 'Rock Quiz' features the word 'Rock' in red and 'Quiz' in blue. A small rock hammer icon is positioned over the letter 'Q' in 'Quiz'.

Click on the
rock hammer
to take the quiz!



The Arkansas Geological Society has a very good website to visit. Click on the hammer and take a look. Take the quiz and see if you can get 100% your first time (I did!)

Lots of cool stuff to explore and maybe even plan a trip. Happy hunting.

Ditetragonal Dipyramidal crystal forms by Kreigh Tomaszewski

The crystal form of a mineral is a visible clue to the fundamental atomic arrangement of the elements that make up a mineral. Knowing the crystal form of an unknown specimen gets you a long way down the path to identifying the mineral. There are six crystal systems, isometric, hexagonal, tetragonal, orthorhombic, monoclinic, and triclinic, in order of declining symmetry. Within these six systems there are 32 crystal classes that represent the possible symmetries of crystal faces. We started with isometric, and this month moved from Dodecahedral to Ditetragonal Dipyramidal.

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 (class or group) 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). It was a small group again this month, but some really nice crystals.

The concept behind our crystal class study theme was to have as many different minerals of a given class, to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish between them as we also learn to identify the class from multiple examples. Our group came up with an reasonable collection of Ditetragonal Dipyramidal habit minerals. We got to hand examine specimens of Cerrusite, Anatase, Sulfur, Lazulite, Mottromonite, Sturmanite, Wardite, Witherite, Glauberite, Aphophyllite, visuvianite, rutile, chalcopyrite, schelite, wulfenite, and romanchite.

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 specimens we studied. Mindat.org again got a workout during the study session.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2014, 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 minerals that have a Hexagonal crystal Class.

We try to start (and end) on time; please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (and everyone gets thrown out by 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about basal pinacoid, prisims of the first order, prisims of the second order, ditetragonal prisms, dipyramid of the first order, dipyramid of the second order, and ditetragonal dipyramid minerals as we move into the Tetragonal System, and bring some representative specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (and you are always welcome even if you can't bring any specimens).

We usually have some time at the end to look at some 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).

New Purple-Pink Mineral, 'Putnisite,' Discovered In Australia

LiveScience by Jeanna Bryner Posted: 04/28/2014 3:37 pm EDT

A new purple-pink mineral that has a chemical composition and crystalline structure unlike any of the known 4,000 minerals has been discovered at a mining site in Western Australia, researchers report.

Now called putnisite, the mineral was discovered in a surface outcrop of Polar Bear Peninsula, Southern Lake Cowan, north of Norseman. While workers with a mining company were prospecting for nickel and gold, one of them noticed the bright-pink grains and sent the mineral to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), and then it was sent to Peter Elliott, a research associate with the South Australian Museum, for examination.

And, sure enough, the crystal was novel. "A mineral is different from currently known minerals if it has either a different chemical composition or it has a different crystal structure, or sometimes both," Elliott told Live Science in an email. "Occasionally, a new mineral will have a chemistry that is very different to other minerals, or it will have a crystal structure that is very different to other minerals."

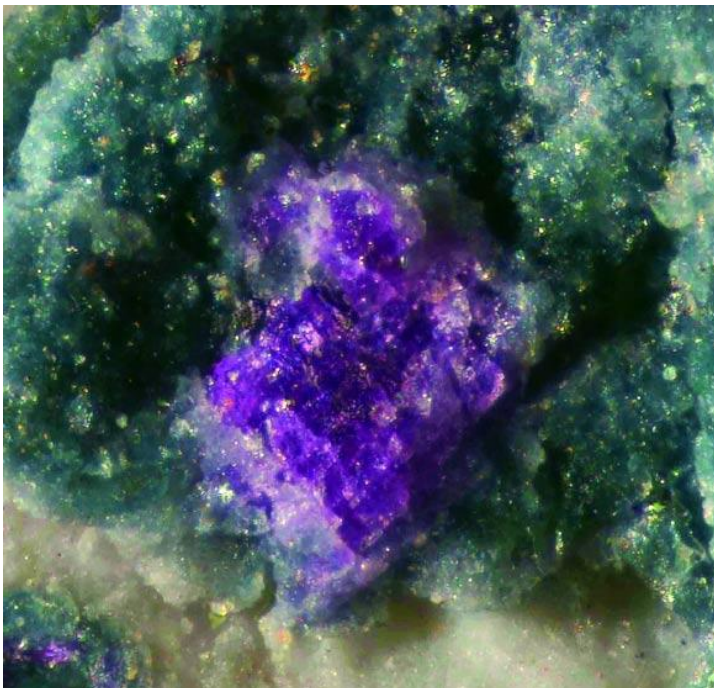
Elliott added, "Putnisite, a strontium calcium chromium sulfate carbonate, has both a unique chemical composition and a unique crystal structure." (The color of putnisite crystals ranges from pale to dark purple, with a pink streak, according to the researchers.) Found on volcanic rock, the new mineral occurs as tiny crystals just 0.02 inches (0.5 millimeters) in diameter, and looks like spots of dark pink on dark-green-and-white rock; under a microscope, the mineral appears as cubelike crystals.

"When the rocks in the Lake Cowan area were deposited millions of years ago, they contained small concentrations of strontium calcium chromium and sulfur," Elliott said. "Over time, weathering released these elements and concentrated them, allowing putnisite to crystallize."

Though it is not uncommon to find a new mineral — 50 to 100 such specimens have been discovered in each of the past several years — they aren't usually discovered by miners, Elliott said. "Often, they are found in museum mineral collections," he said. "Many new minerals are found by mineral collectors who will forward a specimen they have found to a mineralogist at a museum of [a] university for identification."

The researchers are not sure if the mineral, described in *Mineralogy Magazine*, has any practical uses. Putnisite gets its name from Australian mineralogists Andrew and Christine Putnis.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/28/mineral-putnisite-discovered-video_n_5227826.html



Crystals of putnisite (purple) .
Image credit: P. Elliott et al.