

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



May 2015 Volume 55 Number 5

Next Meeting 05/17



Ready for the show???

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 choose 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) _____
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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/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.

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.



President's Message - President Bill Foreman

How in the world did I end up collecting so much stuff? I don't know if anyone else has this problem, but I haven't mastered the art of high-grading. I seem to keep everything I pick up...every geode (no matter how solid), every sparkly piece of crystal, every shard of fossil. I guess I am afraid that if I don't take it, someone else will. How sad is that?

Rocks have taken over my office, my kitchen, my garage, my basement, my deck. I still have stuff in my truck that I collected weeks ago. I intend to work on each and every piece, cabbing some, breaking open all the geodes, trimming and cleaning display pieces, but deep in my heart I know that that probably isn't going to happen. It is going to be tough, but I have to learn to take only what I need and use everything I take. I am now starting to take a little time each day to sort through what I have collected and process them so that I can display them or ready them for lapidary work.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: May 17, 2015 Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 1:30. Meeting starts at 2:00.

Place:

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
(29th & Wall)
South Bend, IN.
This is in River Park.

Program:

Refreshments:

Jennifer & Jason Hefner
Trista McIntosh
Mike Skoczylas
John Jaworski

Board of Directors

President: Bill Foreman
574-233-9178

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: Danielle Wilborn
574-344-3385

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: Bill Foreman
574-233-9178

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:, John Davis 574-232-8823

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

President's Message Continued from page 1

Perhaps someone in our Club that is good at high-grading and preparation could present a program, showing us what to look for in a good display piece. Should it have some matrix attached? Is it a good example of the mineral? Is it a good example of crystal formation? Just what separates a good sample from "leaverite"? I know we all have different collecting goals: some are display collectors, some are wire wrappers, and some are lapidary people. I think a lot of people in the group are like me and need to be shown what should be kept and why. Just putting this out as a suggestion for someone with knowledge to help out us over collectors.

I think that I will bring along a lot of stuff to our Summer Picnic this August to pass along to the members that can't make it to digs. I know for sure that I have a lot of stuff collected from quarries or trips my family has taken that should be passed along. Anyone else that has too much to use is welcome to do the same. Even bring a few to monthly meetings to hand out, or to pass along to Trista and the kids. Remember that Trista has asked us to bring along small pieces (crystals, fossils, etc.) that the youngsters can mount onto 'fridge magnets. We can use donations for the Kid's Corner at our Show this year, and we can always use more donations for the Silent Auction. It helps if you can tell us what it is and where it was collected...

Let's all think about what we can do for the Club by putting some time in at the Show this year. John Davis has a list where people can schedule a turn at working the Ticket Table and the Club Table, check it out at this month's meeting. It would be great if you could set up a display at the show, perhaps showing off your jewelry making skills, some cool stuff you have collecting on one of your trips, it doesn't have to be "professional". Having you near your display gives people a chance to ask you about stuff, and allows you to interact with people. Just being at the show in your Club shirt shows the public our numbers and dedication to the hobby. The Club can only work for us if we work for the Club.

Sorry for rambling, but I'd like to see everybody get involved in some way...after all, it is YOUR club!

Collect safely everyone...Bill

April 2015 Meeting Minutes

by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Members in attendance / Adults_52__

Children_3__

Guest_3__

Call to Order: President Bill Foreman

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome

Secretary report: Jan Pellus / Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as printed in the Rockfinder

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

Liaison report: Bob Bell /There are several shows in May. The Kalamazoo show is May 1-3. The others are listed on the sheet available at front desk as well as the Rockfinder.

Parliamentarian: Bob Miller /No report

Midwest Federation- Meeting will be May 25, 2015, in Wheaton, IL.

American Federation-Meeting will be in Austin, Texas.

American Lands Access: Tom Noe /No report

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas /Jay and Babe Miller brought scrimshaw and Alaskan artifacts. Norma Cherry brought amethyst specimens from Lake Superior. Bill and Nancy Foreman brought red agate specimens from recent trip to Middle Fork Kentucky. John Davis and Everett Harrington brought geode specimens from Southern Indiana. Diane Gram brought a rock to be identified.

Editor: Jason Hefner /No report

Educational: Jesse Zeiger /No report

Face Book: Danielle Wilborn /Our "likes" on face book are up to 25. In an effort to generate more interest she would like to offer a mineral give away. Any club trip photos that you have, she would like to post. Please send them to her.

Field Trips: John Davis /We are scheduling field trips for June to Corydon, Swayze, Irvine as well as Kentland, IN. Watch for announcements. MSHA class went well.

Historian: Ed Miller /No report

Hospitality: Linda Miller & Marsha Miller /Thank you for the refreshments to Bob and Pat Bell, Diane Gram, Phyllis Smallwood, Everett Harrington, and Celia Mason.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh /Today the juniors are making marble jewelry. For the May meeting would club members please bring small stones and fossils to make kitchen magnets?

Librarian: Bill Foreman /The DVDs donated by Everett are on the back table for club members to look at. The library is still a work in progress.

Membership: Nancy Foreman and Jennifer Thompson /we have 51 members present, 3 children, and 3 guests. The guests are Alyssa Grenert, Don and Deb Eiswald, and Axel Cowles.

Programs: /we are still looking for a program chairman.

Publicity: Nick Pellus /No report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger /No report

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

A Word from the President

by Marion Roberts,

president excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 68, Number 6 – May, 2015](#)

Here we are working on the halfway mark of our fiscal year, and I am still looking for some feedback and reports from some of the Vice Presidents. I do want to hear from you. Have you contacted your committees, to see if we can assist them or just to let them know we are still here?

I was serious about a lot more contact. **Please help me!!!** I will be doing my part. Conservation and legislation chairs from all regions, I want to see your input to John Martin (AFMS) Chair for the AFMS publication.

Now, on to a start of our travels. Vivien and I loaded up on Sunday March 22 and were on our way east for the EFMLS Convention in North Carolina when we realized that we had misread and transposed the mileage that we had to travel in order to arrive at the convention on time. As a result, we left one day later than we should have and had to drive extra miles each day. Making a long story short, we arrived in Hickory, on Thursday in the early afternoon. We crossed the states about 18 hours ahead of a storm front (that would spawn tornadoes in Oklahoma), so the trip was a great one. We arrived in 70 degree weather then had the temperature drop to a low of 30 overnight, but are going back in the 70's again.

Click on the link above to be taken to the rest of the article

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

Having Fun: Junior Activities – Children need not apply?

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors' Program Chairman

excerpted from [MWF News February - Issue No. 539](#)

Within the past few weeks, I've had three experiences that can only be characterized as disturbing for anyone with an interest in mentoring kids and encouraging them in our hobby. The first was reading a club bulletin publicizing an upcoming field trip and extolling all the great stuff that would be found—only to conclude with the notice: “no children allowed.”

The second was a trip to an honest-to-goodness mom-and-pop rock shop while visiting relatives in another state. Emblazoned on the door was a notice that absolutely no kids under 8 were allowed inside, and even kids 8 to 16 had to be accompanied by an adult. The store turned out to be closed that day so I couldn't learn the reason behind these restrictions, but it wouldn't have mattered had they been open. My wife Nancy said that with a sign like that, she wouldn't have gone in even if they were offering a fire sale at 90% off. Finally, in a newsletter article announcing an upcoming club trip, the notice was made, “Unattended children will be sold as slaves.” This last example was, no doubt, tongue-in-cheek to underscore the need for parental supervision, but still, even if in jest, it exudes an attitude toward and about kids that is less than welcoming. In the past, I've heard of clubs that didn't want to use our AFMS/FRA Badge Program because they didn't

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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 May

May 16-17-NORTH OLMSTED, OHIO:
47th Annual Cleveland Area Gem & Mineral Show; Organized by: Parma Lapidary Club. Soccer Sportsplex (31515 Lorain Road, North Olmsted).

May 16-17-WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN:

Show and sale; Wisconsin Geological Society, Muellner Building - Hart Park; 72nd and State St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3 (two for \$5), children free; more than 20 dealers, exhibits, children's activities, door prizes; contact Paul Schmidt, 8213 Red Arrow Ct., Wauwatosa, WI 53213, (414) 7721-8668; e-mail: pvs@wi.rr.com;

May 29-31-WAUSEON, OHIO:

The State Line Gem and Mineral Society proudly presents its 54th annual Jewelry, Rock, Gem and Mineral Show on May 29, 30, & 31, 2015 located at the Fulton County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building in Wauseon, Ohio. Show hours are noon to 7 PM on Friday, 10 AM to 7 PM on Saturday and 11 AM to 4 PM on Sunday. Show admission is \$3.00, children under 12 free. We will have displays, high quality dealers, live demonstrations and ongoing silent auctions where you can get some spectacular deals. The show is held in air conditioned comfort and boasts of wonderful desserts with good food and snacks available from our on site kitchen. Bring the whole family to the Fulton County Fairgrounds at 8514 State Route 108, exit 34 off the Ohio Turnpike. For more information call Doris at (517) 263-1669

August 7-9-HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN:

Annual show; Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club, Houghton Elementary School; 203 W Jacker Street, (Corner of Bridge and Jackson Streets); Fri. 1:00 pm-8:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-3:00 pm; Admission is Free; Past events have included geode cracking and metal detector use for children.; contact Norm Gruber, (906) 228-6764; e-mail: pres@crrmc.info

April 2015 Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 3

Show Chair: John Davis & Joe Perry /Joe reported that all 16 dealers have signed and returned their contracts. John has placed a sign up sheet at the front desk for show workers. It will be available at the picnic and May meeting. The membership has chosen Midwest Minerals as the theme for our Midwest Show for 2016.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Sympathy card was sent to Bob and Pat Bell for Pat's mom. Let us know about special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries.

April 28, 2015 is Bill Crull's 92nd birthday. Today, April 26, is Randy Hill's birthday. Happy Birthday to both of them, and many more!

Webmaster: Joe Perry /No report

Old Business

There is a sign-up sheet for tee shirts and sweatshirts. Please get your order in.

New Business

None

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: Scrimshaw artist Deb Eiswald

Next Meeting: May 17, 2015

Let ALAA Know If You Encounter Access Problems By Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

American Lands Access Association has been blessed with members and FRIENDS who have rallied to our side . . . it doesn't get any better than that.

There are still numerous problems involving rockhound access cropping up all over the country and we need your help to identify them, so please notify ALAA and get involved. Together we can try to do something to preserve our access to rockhound hunting sites. Nothing is better than having people in the local area take the lead on publicizing road closures, sites closures, etc. These are the people close to the problems, and sometimes that person is YOU.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE, so let ALAA know how we can help and support you. We are all volunteers, some with lots of time to work to solve problems and others with limited time, but you all are a part of this vast puzzle and we need you.

—Excerpted from *ALAA Newsletter* (Jan.-Mar., 2015).

Having Fun: Junior Activities – Children need not apply?

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want kids mucking about in the club workshop or underfoot at club meetings.

I don't know if this can be characterized as a trend, but spotting three examples in under two months has made it especially noticeable. The fabled Golden Age of rockhounding is long gone, and we might be said to have regressed to a Bronze or even an Iron Age. Our privilege to collect on public (and even private) lands is under constant assault and restriction, interest in joining social groups (in-person as opposed to on-line) is dwindling, it proves harder and harder to recruit new members and officers to lead us, and into this environment, folks are actively dissuading interest by the up-and-coming generation?

What's wrong with this picture?

Before I was even in school, I'd be out on my belly picking fossils from our driveway gravel. My parents said it was a wonder they never drove me over. Given my personality, some (including Nancy) might have paid them to do so, but far from it, they encouraged my interest, signing me up for field trips sponsored by the Illinois Geological Survey, taking me to my first rock show, and more. In 4H, when I saw there were no units on rocks, our leader signed me up for their "Do Your Own Thing" program, which I turned into a fossil unit, crafting a booklet about fossils to go along with my small collection and getting my first blue ribbon at a County Fair. In church, our preacher engaged me in a discussion about how, viewed metaphorically rather than literally, the Seven Days of Creation could be seen as an early version of the Geological Time Scale. And in school, a teacher allowed me to do my research project on what killed the dinosaurs rather than on Chaucer like everyone else. (My conclusion: little green men from Mars. Even then, I wasn't a very good researcher....)

In short, at numerous junctures and in numerous contexts, people took an interest in my interest and encouraged me along. And these weren't even rock people. Shame on us if we can't take such an interest in a like-minded soul just starting out in the hobby we love and just trying to have fun!

Michigan earthquake reveals newfound fault in Kalamazoo County

By [Julie Mack](#) excerpted from www.mlive.com on 5/05/15

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2015/05/fault_that_triggered_michigan.html

Twenty years ago, a Michigan State University scientist wrote a paper suggesting there might be geological fault line in southeast Kalamazoo County. A May 2 earthquake proved him right.

It appears the fault that caused Saturday's quake is part of the same fault involved in a 1947 quake in Coldwater, said Kazuya Fujita, a MSU geosciences professor.

"I always thought there was something there because of variations in the magnetic field," Fujita said about southeast Kalamazoo County. "When I heard the quake was in Kalamazoo, I figured it was probably that fault."

Based on data collected by the U.S. Geological Survey, the fault involved in the May 2 quake "matches almost perfectly" with Fujita's theory, said Chris Schmidt, a geoscientist for Western Michigan University. The quake's epicenter was in Scotts, a rural farming community about 12 miles southeast of Kalamazoo. "It looks like the fault goes between Coldwater and Kalamazoo," Schmidt said. "If it goes north of that,

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Michigan earthquake Continued from Page 6

we don't know, and we're not sure if goes further south."

A big reason for the mystery is the fault line is about four miles underground. "Don't bother looking for it" on the ground's surface, Schmidt said. "You won't find it." However, based on the U.S. Geological Survey data, Schmidt said it appears the May 2 earthquake involved a strike-slip fault, a vertical fracture where the blocks move horizontally.

At 12:23 p.m., the northeast side of the fault suddenly shifted northwest while the southwest side slid southeast, releasing tension between the blocks that had been building for years, Schmidt said. It was probably a movement of a few feet, "although that's a very off-the-wall guess," Schmidt said. That movement triggered a 4.2 magnitude earthquake felt in five states and southern Ontario.

Like other scientists, Schmidt and Fujita said the quake appears to be the result of natural forces. "This isn't a man-made quake," Schmidt said. "It's an old fault under strain. There's periodic build up and release. It's like stretching a rubber band, where it eventually snaps."

That strain is created, he said, by the fact that the North American continent -- or at least, this part of the continent -- shifts about 2 centimeters west a year. That's a continuation of the movement started hundreds of millions years ago when the continent broke away from Africa.

The May 2 quake provides a data point for predicting future seismic activity along the fault, Schmidt said. There are historical records that make reference to an earthquake that occurred in nearby Climax in 1883. Sixty-four years later was Michigan's largest quake on record, the 1947 quake in Coldwater. Now, 68 years after the Coldwater event, is another quake apparently along the same fault line.

"So in 65 years or so, we might -- exclamation point, might -- get another," Schmidt said. The quake also means future permit applications for drilling in southeast Kalamazoo County will get a closer look, said Hal Fitch, director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals.

In the past few years, much has been made of the seeming connection between earthquakes and hydraulic fracturing -also known as fracking - to extract oil or gas.

The problem isn't the fracking itself, Fitch and other experts say. Rather, scientists have determined earthquakes can be triggered by the high-pressure injection wells used to dispose of wastewater that is the byproduct of fracking. Such human-induced quakes been seen in Colorado, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Ohio, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In the case of the May 2 quake, there currently are no high-pressure injection wells nearby the newfound fault. In terms of the future, "we do consider proximity to the fault and to past seismic activity in evaluating permit applications in this area, and will continue to do so," Fitch said in an email to the Kalamazoo Gazette.

"The occurrence of the May 2 quake would not make us hesitant to issue a permit for a well that would be hydraulically fractured because hydraulic fracturing itself is not generally associated with induced seismicity," he said.

"If we receive an application for an injection well in this area in the future, the quake occurrence does give us more information that we would use in our evaluation."

Moh's Scale 1-1.5 by Kreigh Tomaszewski

Hardness is a very useful attribute to help with mineral identification. 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). This month we started looking at minerals by hardness, starting with minerals with a hardness of 1 to 1.5 on the Moh's scale.

We try to 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 (but you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated). We set a new record for attendance, and had a lot of specimens to look at.

This month we had one or more specimens of Sulphur, Realgar, Molybdenite, Erythrite, Orpiment, Vivianite, Graphite, Talc, Chloragyrite, Annabergite, Cyclotrichite, Kermacite, Montmorillonite, Pyrophyllite, Tyuyamunite, Lead, Sal Ammoniac, Getchellite, Weeksite, Covelite, Auricalcite, Red Ochre Hematite, and Ice.

It is one thing to look at the pretty 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, look at it under black light, 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 during our sharing -- people came with specimens they were unsure about.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 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 continue working thru the Moh's hardness scale, looking at minerals having a hardness of 2 to 2 1/2.

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 soft minerals, and bring some representative specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (but 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 and be appreciated.