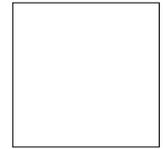


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Jason Hefner, Editor
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524



October 2015 Volume 55 Number 7

Next Meeting 10/25

THE
ROCKFINDER

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 55 Number 7
October 2015

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/mwff/> 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

Hello everyone!

I wanted to let everyone know that I represented our Club on Saturday, October 7 at an event for the Niles Homeschooling program in Niles, Michigan. They have a two-day program presenting the arts, sciences, physical education and family activities that they use as a "count day"...children are required to attend a certain number of activity days or programs to meet requirements of the State for homeschooled kids.

They had the ETHOS science bus, music and dance tutorials, archery and soccer training, as well as pumpkin decorating and other fun family stuff. I manned my six-foot table outside, loaded down with field-collected specimens from our Club's digs, material Team Foreman collected during the summer, and a geode cracking station.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting: October 25, 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:
Presentation by Everett
Harrington

Refreshments after program

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: Kathy Miller (Interim)
574-291-0332

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

We cracked two five-gallon buckets of geodes from Keokuk and Indiana, with the kids helping me select and compare heavy (solid) and light (hollow), examples, examining them and seeing what minerals we found inside. We turned up some nice sphalerite, chalcedony encrusted quartz, kaolinite, ferroan dolomite, and some really nice double-terminated calcite crystals.

The kids were mesmerized by the geodes, and had so many questions it was hard to field them all. I brought along tons of broken geodes, river-tumbled pieces, as well as fluorite and pyrite specimens to pass out to the children. I had many kids come back multiple times, bringing their parents and siblings to watch the cracking and to touch the specimens and ask where we found them how we knew what was what. I used the questions as a springboard to explain our club and its purpose, and to pass out 2016 show flyers, membership forms, and info on geodes. E-Bear the MWF mascot kept me company, but working a table solo for seven hours with no lunch or potty breaks made for a long day. We may end up in the Niles Daily Star, and possibly a local newscast, as there were multiple cameras and several reporters asking my name and our Club's name.

The Superintendent for the school system came by to thank us for being there, and the organizers want us back again next year. Many parents told how stoked their kids were with the display and giveaways, and I expect a batch of them to come to our October meeting to find out more about MGMS. It may be a good idea if we can come up with a go-to list of people/programs that our club can offer (with sufficient lead time of course) to these groups. I have had a half-dozen requests for programs or speakers for schools, scout groups, church groups, etc. I would like to be able to fill all these requests. John Davis was nice enough to work with the STEAM group in Bristol, but it seems that we get many more requests than we can satisfy. This will be something for us as members to think about..."Do I have any skills, knowledge, or experiences that I can share with others outside our Club?"

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September 2015 Meeting Minutes

by Jan Pellus, Secretary

Members in attendance / Adults_46__ Children__2__ Guest__6__

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 / A few fall shows coming up. Please see me.

Parliamentarian: Bob Miller / No Report

Midwest Federation/ No Report

American Federation/ No Report

American Lands Access: Tom Noe /No Report

Committee Reports

Displays: Mike Skoczylas /John Davis brought some boxes for displays, specimens, and mailings. Jim Daly brought some specimens of magnetite (lode stone). Father Calhoun brought some samples of a stone from Indonesia he purchased at the show. Mike Skoczylas, Todd Miller, and Nick Pellus brought specimens to identify. Everett Harrington brought samples of Kentucky fluorite.

Editor: Jason Hefner /There are still a few e mails being returned. Please check your information. Please send articles for the Rock Finder.

Educational: Jesse Zeiger /We will not put a display at Edison Middle School this year. Tonight is the "Blood Moon", there won't be another one for several years.

Face Book: Danielle Wilborn /Please send more submissions. We are getting more hits.

Field Trips: John Davis /There will be no more field trips for this year, looking forward to next year.

Historian: Ed Miller /No Report

Hospitality: Linda Miller & Marsha Miller /Thank you for the refreshments to Lynn Miller, Kathy Miller, Joe and Marty Perry, Tom McLaughlin, Sheila Gorman, and Jerry Lempke.

Juniors: Trista McIntosh /Please help with the junior programs.

Librarian: Bill Foreman /No Report

Membership: Nancy Foreman and Jennifer Thompson /We have six new members from our show. There are club tee shirts and show tee shirts available. Please see me.

Programs: /

Publicity: Nick Pellus /No Report

Safety: Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger /No Report

Show Chair: John Davis & Joe Perry /Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's show a great success. There were approximately 1250 adults and 50 kids in attendance. The response to the changes in set up times was very positive. Most dealers reported record sales. Next year we will be hosting the Midwest Federation show.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

A Word from the President

by Marion Roberts,

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

Hello again to everyone. I know that between the heat and monsoonal weather in much of the country, this has been a challenging season, but I do hope that you have had at least a few good weekends and possibly some extended field trips in spite of this. Here, in California it is the lack of water and raging fires that are the bug-a-boos for us.

By the time you read this Vivien and I will have finished attending our version of the EFMLS and SFMS Workshops at Wildacres which we call our Earth Science Camps. Our next trip and meeting will be to Austin, Texas in October, and we are very much looking forward to it and to another opportunity to meet many of you.

This past year has gone by so fast, it really seems like I have missed something. BUT- I have learned so much and have realized so many things that we are lacking and could improve on. I fall back on the one and the easiest one to help ourselves with; you may have guessed it, COMMUNICATION.

Continued next page

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

President's Message

by James Marburger, President

excerpted from [MWF News October 2015 - Issue No. 545](#)

Here it is October 2015; where did my year as President of the MWF go? I am finishing up my term with a trip to Austin, Texas for the National Gem Show, as the representative of the MWF. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your president. I am amazed at the organization of our federation. We all have a common goal. It is the love of the hobby and sharing with others so they might see and enjoy the full world of rocks and minerals.

I have joined some of the groups on Facebook that are rockhound oriented, in the effort to expand the MWF presence on the web. I know there are others in the Federation who are on Facebook and in some of the groups. It is amazing to read the many posts, and to see the pictures that are posted with requests to have the specimens identified. I hope more of us will participate in these groups and help to educate the many "newbies" who are asking questions. Not only are they looking for answers on the rocks, many of them do not seem to know that rock clubs are in their area so they can get firsthand information. I have posted on many of these that they should check out not only the MWF, but have included the AFMS so they can find help anywhere in the USA. Let us not miss out on the opportunity to grow our clubs; let's help out the multitude of people out there who have our love of the hobby and who are just looking for a "club" to join.

Continued on next page



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 October

16-18—FORT WAYNE, INDIANA: Annual show; Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society, Allen County Fairgrounds; 2726 Carroll Road; Fri. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$5.00, Seniors \$3.00, Students \$1.00, Children 12 and under free; Attractions: gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry dealers, lapidary arts demonstrations, Viking Knit classes, exhibits, geode cracker, gem sluice, kid's games, door prizes, silent auction, fluorescence room, touch 'n feel table, mineral ID, speakers (Saturday.) ; contact Russell Greim, 7619 Co. Rd. 68, Spencerville, IN 46788, (260) 403-0450; e-mail: 3riversshow@gmail.com; Web site: http://members.tripod.com/3riversgem_mineral/

17-18- Chicago Heights, Illinois
46th Annual Fossil, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show Organized by: [South Suburban Earth Science Club](#) and [Prairie State College](#) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 17 and 18, in the Prairie Center Gym on PSC's main campus at 202 S. Halsted St. in Chicago Heights.

24-25 October 2015: Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio (Akron area)
Fall Gemboree - Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show Organized by: Akron Mineral Society and [Summit Lapidary Club](#)
Emidio & Sons Expo Center (48 East Bath Road, Cuyahoga Falls)

31 October - 1 November 2015: Midland, Michigan
22nd Annual Mid Michigan Rock Club Show Organized by: [Mid-Michigan Rock Club](#)
Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center (5121 Bay City Road)

2016

19-21 February 2016: GeoFest - Indianapolis, Indiana
14th Annual Indiana State Museum Fossil, Gem & Mineral Show Organized by: [Indiana State Museum](#)
Indiana State Museum (650 West Washington Street, Indianapolis)

A Word from the President

by Marion Roberts

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I am going to pick on one more group of people that I feel could be a huge help in spreading the message, and that is all of the editors. In all of the bulletins that I received from all levels, I have found very few of them that included any information that was gleaned from A.F.M.S Newsletters. I, like most others, do not write so the paper can line a bird cage, so please include some of this information in your own club bulletins each month. This is information; I want everyone to get something out of. REMEMBER, COMMUNICATION, is a two way street, give and receive.

As this is my final message as president I want to say that It has a been a privilege and an honor to have served you this year. It has been a very educational time, even going back to the V.P. level. I am grateful for the opportunity to have had this experience and can only hope that some of my observations will be taken to heart and practiced, even on a trial basis.

I did hope to personally hear from more individuals, but am happy with the ones I did hear from. Please expand in this area with Matt Charsky, our incoming president. I can tell you positively that you have a large and great support group at your disposal, and you can call on me and them at anytime.

I thank all my committee chairs, and AFMS Vice Presidents for their time, knowledge and efforts this year. I know you'll all keep up the good work. In addition, a huge thank you to all of my support group, past presidents, committee leaders, current leaders, and personal friends. Last, but by far not least I thank my wife Vivien for all of her help and patience for all the years we have worked together.

Finally, again to Matt Charsky, my congratulations.

President's Message

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The Federation is in need of people who enjoy the hobby and want to promote it. We still have some chairs that need to be filled, along with a few whose leaders will be retiring in the near future. If you have some free time, and have new or near-new ideas, please let the incoming President, David Rich, know that you are interested in helping. I know there are many out there who have a different perspective that will bring in new members to our local clubs and the Federation.....

.....Thanks to all for a great year. And just as I started with my first President's message, I would like to finish with the same sincere message that I hope you will step up this year.

Minutes continued from Page 3

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Get Well card to- Jason Hefner
Sympathy card to Janice Sorell (granddaughter), and Kathy Miller (brother)

Webmaster: Joe Perry /updating member list.

Old Business

Thank you to everyone for help at the show.

New Business

We are receiving requests for speakers. If you can help, please contact Bill Forman.

Kathy Miller's sister would like to get specimens for her classes. Please contact Kathy.

There were a couple of suggestions for next year's silent auction.

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: Kentucky fluorite by Everett Harrington

Next Meeting: October 25, 2015

Let ALAA Know If You Encounter Access Problems

By Shirley Leeson, Past 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).

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



President's Message Continued from page 2

I really enjoyed the day in Niles, and with the beautiful weather and excited kids running around, it energized me and reminded me of why I love this hobby. It takes no special skills, large cash outlay, or higher education to get outdoors and examine the natural world. When I get out to a quarry or a vacation dig I am away from phones, computer, TV, and the day-to-day stressors we all get distracted by. Those hours in the dirt are for me a form of therapy, and though I may be physically drained I always feel spiritually recharged when I get back home.

Hope to see you all at this month's meeting, and hope a handful of those kids from the Niles activity day show up and we sign up some new members!

What I did over Summer Break (a phot essay) by Jason Hefner, Editor

I remember my teachers in elementary making us write about "What I did over summer...". Here is my rendition via photos for 2015. I'll give everyone 3 guesses where we went over this past summer.....



Any guesses????

OK, now that we have established a general location here are a few more photos of the American Southwest.

Continued next page



Meteor Crater



Petrified Forest



Justin and his cousin enjoying Slide Rock.



Montezuma's Castle



Painted Desert



The mighty Colorado river

What an incredible trip and everyone liked "all that geology stuff" I kept talking about.