

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



November 2015 Volume 55 Number 8

**Next Meeting 12/06**

THE  
ROCKFINDER



# THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 55 Number 8  
November 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](http://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](http://www.amfed.org)

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Please note that all items for a given issue of the *Rockfinder* are due to the **Editor** no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. This means that the due date for the March Issue will be February 5<sup>th</sup>. Advance items are appreciated. Material may be e-mailed to [hefner\\_family@hotmail.com](mailto:hefner_family@hotmail.com) or submitted via the U.S. Mail.

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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

I spent a little time the other night perusing some lapidary supply sites online and a couple of catalogs, and it never fails to give me sticker shock when I see the prices for equipment these days. I have spoken to several people recently that told me they really wanted to get started in lapidary but were put off by the prices.

Let me start off by telling those wishing to start in the hobby..."Don't start out by buying new equipment!" I have nothing against new machines, but why spend hundreds or thousands on an item you may decide isn't for you? Perhaps you want to learn how to turn your field collected material into jewelry. You must learn the basic techniques that go into the hobby, and it is easier and much cheaper to buy either used equipment or build your own. Much new equipment is made in China, and based on my experience, the quality control and materials used pale in comparison to US made tools.

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## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: December 6, 2015** Visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 12:00. Meeting starts at 12:30.

**Place:**  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
(29<sup>th</sup> & Wall)  
South Bend, IN. (This is in River Park)

**Program:**  
Christmas Party

**There will be a short meeting followed by our Christmas Party. Please bring a dish to share!**

## Board of Directors

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Vice-President: Randy Hill  
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574-264-4772

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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  
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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

Keep an eye on places like Craigslist and ebay...there are also some companies nationwide that offer used/rebuilt equipment for a fraction of a new item. I see items for sale on ebay regularly that are older American made tools that because of the quality steel and manufacture only require a little elbow grease to put them back into good working order. Use the money you save to buy good quality grinding wheels, saw blades, etc. I picked up a used Poly Arbor to do some cabbng work on ebay. This unit was complete: all parts, including hoods and triple belt pulley. It even had decent silicon carbide wheels that I can use as backups. Bearings were like new, no run-out, and only superficial rust on the shaft. I added a new motor (from ReStore @ \$15), and a new belt, mounted it, and "wala!", a top-notch wet grinder for under \$200. Info on planning, refurbishing, and operating can be found online (YouTube is great). I know some of our Club members probably have used equipment they would be happy to pass along for a lot less than you think.

I found out that building equipment is a lot easier than most people think. I'm not saying you should try building a slab saw or faceter, but building basic things like grinders, polishers, and flat laps are actually doable. You don't need an engineering degree or tons of tools. Most things can be done with basic tools you have around the house, and there are plans online and books available to show you step-by-step how to make your own stuff. I regularly hunt flea markets, ReStore, and scrapyards for things I can use to put together a hobby shop. Usually I look for fractional horsepower motors (1/4 hp, 1/3 hp) that run at 1725 rpm or so. Check motor label for that info, and look for a "cont" rating for continuous use, Using different sized pulleys will allow you to adjust the tool speed to your needs. Grinding requires higher rpm (1725 rpm or so), polishing half that or less. Arbors, bearings, shafts, etc. can also be found at flea markets, online, or can be repurposed from other hardware. Main thing is to always think of safety..get help if you are not comfortable with wiring things, make sure you keep electronics and motors shielded from splashing water, use safety glasses, no jewelry or loose clothing or long hair when operating tools.

The most valuable source of knowledge comes from our Members. We have an amazing roster of skilled people in this Club, and they always seem to be willing to pass along information and tips to anyone who asks. We have members with engineering backgrounds, electrical skills, and decades of experience in working with all types of stone. Just check the Demonstration area at our show!

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# October 2015 Meeting Minutes by Jan Pellus, Secretary

**Meeting Minutes Date: October 25, 2015**

**Members in attendance / Adults\_48\_\_ Children\_5\_\_ Guest\_2\_\_**

**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 /No Report

**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 /Members brought in specimens of agates, Herkimer diamonds in matrix, and specimens from Minnesota. John Jaworski brought in tumbled stones for the junior members.

**Editor:** Jason Hefner /Please keep sending articles to share in the Rockfinder.

**Educational:** Jesse Zeiger /No Report

**Face Book:** Danielle Wilborn /No Report

**Field Trips:** John Davis /There are no more field trips scheduled this year. Plan to attend the MSHA training in the spring. This training is necessary to go on field trips.

**Historian:** Ed Miller /No Report

**Hospitality:** Linda Miller & Marsha Miller /Thank you for the refreshments to Kathy Miller, Annette Freel, Sherry Kobie, and Celia Harrington

**Juniors:** Trista McIntosh /Juniors are collecting stones from the area.

**Librarian:** Bill Foreman /Still working on indexing.

**Membership:** Nancy Foreman and Jennifer Thompson /We have two guests; Ruth Johnson and Brian Jorgenson. Dues are due in December. Please complete a membership form when paying.

**Programs:** /

**Publicity:** Nick Pellus /No Report

**Safety:** Jennifer Hefner and Julie Wieger /No Report

**Show Chair:** John Davis & Joe Perry /We are preparing for the Midwest Federation show in August which our club is hosting.

**Sunshine:** - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Sympathy card to Kathy Miller for her brother

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## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### Who is this guy? by Matt Charsky, President excerpted from

[AFMS Newsletter Volume 69, Number 1 – November, 2015](#)

If you have attended one of the recent AFMS Conventions, you might have seen me in several Vice-President positions and in the President-Elect position. If not, you might be wondering who is the new AFMS President?



Professionally, I am a geologist with a degree from the University of Rochester (NY). I did my field work at Boston University (MA). Right out of college, I worked for an oil service company, Core Laboratory, and traveled throughout the Gulf Coast and offshore. My job was to run a field lab during oil and gas exploration. Next, I joined the Federal Government and was employed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission implementing the Natural Gas Policy Act

Continued 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](http://www.amfed.org)

## Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### President's Message by David Rich, MWF President,

excerpted from [MWF News November 2015 - Issue No. 546](#)

Well, I guess you could say I am now the "Top rock" on the pile of 7,000+ rocks. Let me introduce myself. I am a soon to be retiree. I have worked 35 years in machine maintenance. I am married to wonderful gal, Mary Ann and we have two sons. I have volunteered in Boy Scouts for years. I love to fish and garden when not collecting rocks. My passion is lapidary and silver working. So, what's my story? How did I get into this hobby? Well, it was spring time and we were out looking for mushrooms. After an extended hike in the woods, we got back into the car to head home. On the way home I saw a sign that read, "Gem Show Today." "Hey guys, do you want to check this out?" Mary Ann responded, "As long as they have a bathroom!" We stopped and checked it out. I talked to club members of the Summit Lapidary Club and they gave me an invite to their club house. The rest is history; I was hooked. So, that's my story.



#### 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](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)

November signals the changing of the seasons and a new president for the MWF. I would like to thank Jim Marburger for his dedication to our federation. Jim guided our federation through our 75th year. That is a respectable amount of time as a federation. Continued on page 7

## Upcoming Events October

### 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)

GET your collecting gear cleaned up and stored for the winter!

1. Clean and oil your boots
2. Clean and oil your tools
3. Clean off those hardhats and safety glasses
4. Wash your safety vest
5. Clean off those trusty gloves
6. Pack it all away for a productive y new year.

## Who is this guy? from previous page

I spent the remaining part of my Federal career with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency implementing the Superfund Program. My focus was to protect human health and the environment, oversee the cleanup of groundwater resources, and draft policy.

From an AFMS perspective, I have served as 1st VP, 2nd VP, 5th VP, and of course President-Elect, and I have attended many AFMS Conventions throughout the United States.

From a regional Federation perspective, I have held various offices and committee chairs within the Eastern Federation – President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Nominating Committee Chair (6 years), Convention Advisory Chair, Show Coordination Chair, and a member of the Past-President Advisory Council. I also served on the Wildacres Functioning Committee, Area Representative Advisor, Bulletin Editor Advisory Committee Judge, and Auctioneer. I received the EFMLS Citation Award in 2010.

On the local club level, I was President of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Washington, DC for 7 years and performed many of other functions to further the hobby and relationships with other clubs.

As you might expect, my focus in the hobby is on minerals and crystals. I started collecting minerals in upstate New York. When I worked in the Gulf Coast I field collected in Arkansas and Texas. I have also had the opportunity to collect in Colorado and Utah. Today, I stay in the Mid-Atlantic region, primarily Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

I have been fortunate to have had assistance from many people in the Eastern and American Federations. Without these individuals I would not be serving the AFMS in this position.

The AFMS has an experienced crew of committee chairs who are excited about serving for another year. They are ready, I am ready, let's go! I look forward to working with each of you. If any Officer, Executive Board Member, Committee Chair, Regional Officer, or local club member has a concern with or suggestion on how to improve AFMS, let me know and I will see what we can do about it. Throughout my career, I have solved a lot of problems and tried to spend my time in any position productively.

So this article does not get too long, let me stop here by saying that in my December article, I will share with you about what I learned in the multiple AFMS positions and how I see AFMS progressing into the future.

Till next month.

## **Minutes** continued from Page 3

**Webmaster:** Joe Perry /Please fill out a membership sheet with your dues so that we can update our records.

### **Old Business**

Club and show t-shirts are still available, see Nancy Foreman.

Bill Foreman went to the Niles home school gathering. He cracked geodes for them. It was a great experience. From time to time we get requests for programs for school and other organizations. If you would like to provide a program, please contact Bill.

### **New Business**

Don Church donated two banners for the clubs use at the shows.

Science Alive will be on February 8, 2016. Our club is a very large part of this event. We need donations of materials and volunteers to man the booth. The January meeting will be devoted to stuffing give away bags for the event.

Our club Christmas party will be December 6, 2015 at 12:30pm. Please sign up for dishes to share and a count of guests. There is also a sign-up sheet for hosts for next year's meetings.

### **Adjournment – Motion made and seconded**

**Program:** Everett Harrington presentation on the Tucson show

**Next Meeting: December 6, 2015 Christmas Party**

## **NEW DESIGNATION FOR MIDDLE ROGUE RIVER?**

(Originally posted on Defendruralamerica.com, August 19, 2015)

Subject: Josephine County [OR] Commissioner provides what has been lacking: LEADERSHIP  
Commissioners Oppose New Designation For Middle Rogue River. The Josephine County Board of Commissioners ruled in favor of private property rights as well as sustained timber harvests and mineral extraction during its weekly business session this morning. The commissioners unanimously approved a resolution of opposition to the proposed inclusion of an additional section of the Rogue River into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to ask Congress to include a 63-mile section of the Rogue from Lost Creek Dam downstream to the mouth of the Applegate River in the designation.

The section from the mouth of the Applegate down to the Lobster Creek Bridge is already Wild and Scenic. In the resolution opposing the move, the commissioners pointed out that nearly 86% of the Rogue River corridor, including the Grants Pass section, is privately owned, plus the county operates several parks along the river. Any new Wild and Scenic River designation would adversely affect both private and public property rights affecting usage and development. The board also unanimously approved responses to the BLM's Resource Management Plan. Commissioner Simon Hare stated that the plan falls short when it comes to proper management of timber and mineral resources. He also said the federal agency has failed to coordinate with Josephine County.

(Reprinted in the July-Sept. 2015 *ALAA Newsletter*)

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

## President's Message Continued from page 2

These are all folks who started with no skills or experience, and have developed talents as good as anything I have seen nationwide. Each and every one is a treasure-trove of tips and hints to help even the most inexperienced lapidary wanna-be. Ask around at the Meetings, there is always someone in attendance who can help you figure out how to attack a problem, build something, or troubleshoot problem stones.

One day in the future I would like to see our Club have its own workshop. I know, there are a dozen reasons why it hasn't been done, but think of how great it would be to have such a place. It doesn't have to be fancy...a trim saw, a grinder or two, maybe a polishing unit or two, that's a start. Having skilled people who could join a beginner would be a blessing for those like me who learn best by doing. A lockable building with lights, heat, and water big enough to hold a handful of people would be possible in the future if enough people want and need such a thing. Perhaps it is something we can plan toward in the future, as there are lots of preliminary steps to make it possible. Still, I think it would be a real boon for our membership, so let's all think about it and maybe we can turn it into a reality.

Thanks for everyone's help in making this Club a success, and I hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party.

-Bill Foreman (President, Michiana Gem and Mineral Society)

## MWF President's Message Continued from page 4

Thanks for all your help, Jim. I look forward to working with you in the future. I would also like to thank the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society for being perfect hosts for our MWF fall meeting. The LGMS provided a super great meeting room and a wonderful show to attend after the meeting. Hands down, LGMS has one of the best lapidary and silversmith shops I have ever visited. Keep an eye on that club for membership growth.

Later this month, I will be traveling to the AFMS meeting in Austin, Texas. This should be a fun trip. Mary Ann and I are hoping to sneak in a field trip to look for "Texas Topaz." I know for sure anytime you get a hotel full of federation members, it turns out to be fun. All meetings of the federation welcome members of all federations to participate. The AFMS is one big happy family of earth science, rock loving, fossil digging, field trip crazed people.

Maybe this is the year you should come to a meeting and check it out. Our super convention will be in South Bend, Indiana. Our hosts will be the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society. The MWF convention will be held August 20, 2016 in conjunction with their show. The MGMS president, Bill Forman, promises some great Hoosier hospitality.

The MWF spring executive meeting on April 23, 2016 will be hosted by the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio, in conjunction with its 25-30 dealer show, the Gemboree. The time to pay your MWF dues is coming up and most of the clubs know the drill. Our insurance will remain the same great deal to our member clubs. The dues and club information forms can be found on the MWF website, [www.amfed.org/MWF](http://www.amfed.org/MWF). Just fill out the forms, print and send. Filling out the forms in this manner will make it a lot easier to read. For those who prefer good old paper, the forms can be found in this issue of the MWF News, and again in December. Here's to a great year!!

## **Moh's Scale 3-3.5** by Kreigh Tomaszewski of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group

Hardness is a very useful attribute to help with mineral identification and is one of the first tests normally done on an unknown. 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 are currently reviewing minerals by hardness. At our last meeting we looked at minerals with a hardness of 3 to 3.5 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.

This month we had one or more specimens of Calcite, Malachite, Siderite, Baryte, Sphalerite, Chalcopyrite, Azurite, Dolomite, Pyromorphite, Cerussite, Rhodochrosite, Mimetite, Vanadanite, Aragonite, Celestine, Pyrrhotite, Tetrahedrite, Heulandite, Adamite, Millerite, Bornite, Desclosite, Native Arsenic, Atacamite, Paravauxite, Mottramite, Anhydrite, Enargite, Vauxite, Boleite, Witherite, Weloganite, Allenonite, Pottsite, Cacoxinite, Strontianite, Astrophyllite, Pentagonite, Stilbite, Bournonite, Germanite, Wurzite, Montrumite, Chrysotile, Wolastonite, Anitgorite, Chrysocolla, Wulfenite, Ricolite, Chamosite, Strunzite, Domeykite, Bronchantite, Wavelite, and Cuprite. It was a wonderful collection of minerals to pass around the table and we almost ran out of time.

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 density, shine a bright light on it, look at it under black light, etc.). And then examine 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. This month we even had door prizes, and everyone went home with a couple new specimens for their collections thanks to the generosity of several study group members.

**NO MINERAL STUDY GROUP MEETING IN DECEMBER.** The next monthly meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 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 4 to 4 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.