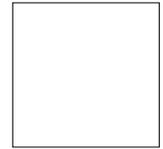


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Jason Hefner, Editor  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524



January 2016 Volume 56 Number 1

Next Meeting 02/28

# THE ROCKFINDER

**We're on the Web! See us at: [www.MichianaGMS.org](http://www.MichianaGMS.org)**

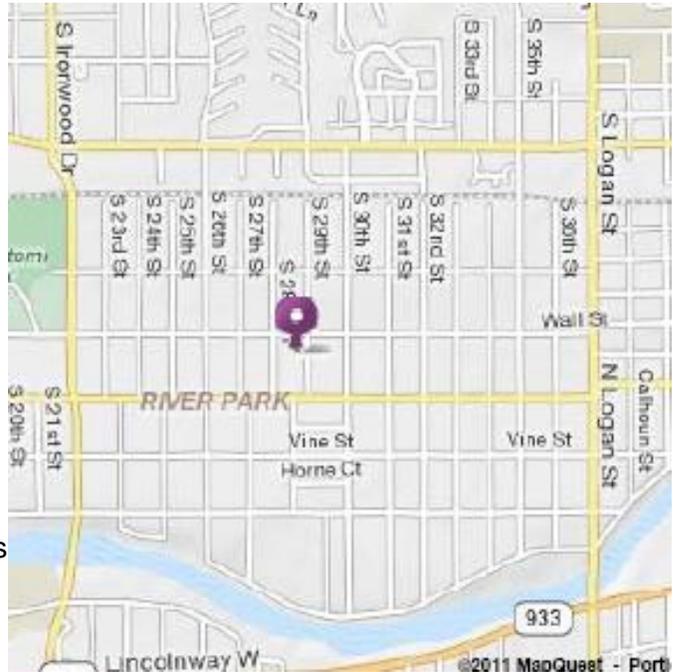
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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) \_\_\_\_\_  
 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
c/o Diane Gram  
16301 Wild Cherry Dr  
Granger, IN 46530

# THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 56 Number 1  
January 2016

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)

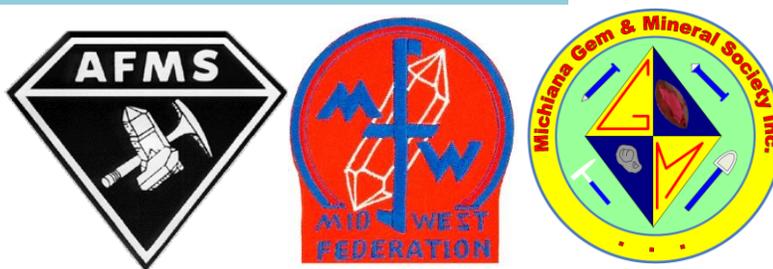
The *Rockfinder* is published monthly except July and August.

Please note that all items for a given issue of the *Rockfinder* are due to the **Editor** no later than the 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.

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!

It was a great turnout for our Christmas party...I was pleased to see so many people in attendance, particularly our newest members. I think we are at our best when we are enjoying a good meal during a wonderful Holiday season, sharing stories, meeting new people, having a few laughs. Although we all have our trials and tribulations throughout the year, this season reminds us of the Gift we received so long ago, and renews our faith in the future whatever it holds.

This winter season brings with it one of my favorite things, Science Alive at the South Bend Public Library. Our club's tables are a favorite of the attendees year after year. For those who haven't participated in a Science Alive, it is an experience you won't soon forget. We often have people stacked two or three deep at our display tables, asking questions, examining rocks and fossils, and telling about their experiences discovering the wonder of earth's treasures. We pass out goodie bags to the kids, loaded with rock and mineral samples, informational handouts, and treats. We will be stuffing those goodie bags at our January meeting, so please do your best to make it to the meeting and help fill those giveaways.

Continued on Page 2

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: February 28, 2016** 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: Minerals**  
Rick Strapple

Host & Hostess(s) : Trista McIntosh, Nick & Jan Pellus, Randy & Joan Hill, Norma Cherry, and Al Alstott

## Board of Directors

President: Bill Foreman  
574-233-9178

Vice-President: Randy Hill  
269-465-5814

Secretary Jan Pellus  
574-264-4772

Treasurer: Diane Gram  
574-588-2665

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: open

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

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

This year's Science Alive will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 10 am to 4 pm. I have a list of folks who have volunteered to work the tables, but we can always use people to stop in and give our volunteers a chance to get a bite to eat and visit the many other displays. Even if you can only come in to check out the displays, try to make it and wear your club shirt! Those who have volunteered to work the tables, drop me an email to confirm so I can reserve lunch tickets for all those who will be spending the day.

John Davis is in the process of setting up our upcoming MSHA training class. For you newer members, the MSHA certificate program educates us about mine safety and hazard awareness when collecting at active quarries. We usually have several trips to quarries in Ohio and Indiana where we get to collect mineral specimens and fossils such as fluorite, dolomite, pyrite, calcite, trilobites, brachiopods, and more. To get the most out of your club membership you need to get your MSHA certificate...quarries and collecting areas across the nation are going to be requiring collectors to be certified. Emails will go out when the classes have been confirmed, so keep an eye on your inbox.

Let's all try to get personally involved in our Club in 2016! Being an active member helps our Club work...it gives us more programs that can be shared at our meetings, it allows us to reach out to the local communities better, and makes our Club more attractive to potential new members who want to belong to an exciting, dynamic organization. Most clubs have a small core of members who make things happen, making sure that things get done with a minimum of fanfare. Just think what we could do if we had just a handful of additional motivated members bringing in new ideas and fresh perspectives! I have had some good ideas brought to me by some of our newest members and would like to see some of them come true. Don't think that your input isn't important...the only bad ideas are those that don't get brought up for consideration. Some things can be implemented quickly; others take a while to crystallize. I am open to any input, and will bring those ideas to the Board for consideration.

Let's make 2016 an exciting year filled with growth and steady improvement as a Club. I'll do my part and I hope each of you will find your part to play.

Thanks for a great 2015!

Bill Foreman (MGMS president)

# December 2015 Meeting Minutes

by Jan Pellus, Secretary

## Christmas Party

Members in attendance / Adults and Children 72

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

Field Trips: John Davis / John has arranged to have two of our members get training to be certified instructors for MSHA. Jason Hefner will be one. If interested, please see John. Booklets are available from the Bureau of Land Management for Science Alive. These are free in orders of 25 each. Please call to order for the Science Alive bags. I will send out the information. Thank you for helping.

Historian: Ed Miller / Ed received a gem calendar from the Smithsonian. Check with Ed.

Librarian: Bill Foreman / Bill will bring in the recently acquired books to the library to be available to members.

Membership: Nancy Foreman and Jennifer Thompson / Dues are due.

Sunshine: - Annette Freel & Sherry Kobie / Get Well card to Mary Davis and Thinking of You cards to Patty Enos (Ed in nursing home), and Jessie Zeiger (mother in hospice).

## Old Business

## New Business

Danielle Wilborn is working with the Buchanan Art Center and is in need of raw materials and supplies for display. Needs to have by January. Please contact Danielle.

Diann Gonsorek is a new club member. She would like help in getting cabs, and learning to create them.

Marty and Joe Perry announced the birth of Trista's baby boy, Wesley. Congratulations to all.

Next meeting will be stuffing bags for Science Alive.

Election of officers for 2016.

Bill asked for nominations for officers from the floor. The members voted to retain the current officers:

Bill Foreman- President

Randy Hill-Vice President

Jan Pellus-Secretary

Marty Perry-Treasurer

Adjournment – Motion made and seconded

Program: Christmas Party

Next Meeting: January 24, 2016



**MSHA Class  
March 5,  
2016 Save  
the date!**

## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

### **My Initial View** by Matt Charsky, President excerpted from [AFMS](#)

[Newsletter Volume 69, Number 2 – December 2015](#)

On my way up the Presidential ladder, I learned a lot about how the AFMS functions. As I performed my duties in each position, I see three primary areas of importance: membership, contact, and participation.

Membership: AFMS and Regional Federations rely heavily on the funds generated from membership dues. Recent years, except for 2015, have shown a slight decrease in the portion of membership dues that comes to AFMS, but the decrease does not represent a significant change. In fact in 2015, most Regional Federations increased membership – is this a one year blip? I hope not and so I would like to reward the Regional Federation that increases membership the most from one year to the next. Let's call it a "friendly competition" that gives one Federation bragging rights for one year. All that has to be done is to compare membership numbers for two consecutive years (2014 and 2015) and the highest difference is the winner. I volunteer to do it for the first year and share the results in early 2016.

Continued on Page 7

## Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

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

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

Happy New Year to all.

I hope everyone has had a safe holiday season and is beginning the new year with enthusiasm for resuming club activities. I must remind everyone that club dues are due. Our super newsletter editor, Sharon, has boldly printed the requirements in past newsletters. (Thanks to Sandy Fuller!) Please take the time to read these, to expedite the process.

Many clubs begin the new year with club elections. I would like to encourage the returning and new officers to become more active this year. They are practically giving away gasoline at \$2 per gallon or less! Start off the year with a full tank, and challenge your club members into participating.

Motivate your organization! There is plenty to do this year in the MWF. Just read on! How about nominating a club member for Rockhound of the Year? How about entering the AFMS website or bulletin editors' contest this year? Fire up some juniors and get them to enter the poster contest, "Amazing Agates." Maybe you could get really bold and crazy and get your club to submit an entry for the "All American Club Yearbook" award.

Continued on Page 7



#### 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)



#### 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)

## Upcoming Events

### **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)

### **5-6 March 2016: Wheaton, Illinois 2016 ESCONI Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**

Organized by: Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois

DuPage County Fairgrounds (2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton)

### **12 March 2016: Skokie, Illinois**

(Chicago area) 67th Annual Silent Auction of Rocks, Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Treasures Organized by: Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Gymnasium (8013 Laramie Avenue, across street from the public library on Oakton)

### **18-20 March 2016: Jackson, Michigan**

Michigan Gem & Mineral Society 54th Annual Show Organized by: Michigan Gem & Mineral Society Theme: May the Quartz Be With You.

Jackson County Fairgrounds - American One Event Center (200 West Ganson Street)

### **29 April - 1 May 2016: Kalamazoo, Michigan**

57th Annual Rock, Gem, Fossil, Jewelry & Mineral Show Organized by: Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society Theme: Dinosaurs Will Rule. Kalamazoo County Expo Center (2900 Lake Street)

## Triboluminescence

excerpted from the internet

<http://geology.com/minerals/triboluminescence/> 01/26/16

### What is Triboluminescence?

Triboluminescence is a flash of light produced when a material is subjected to friction, impact or breakage. The phenomenon is also known as fractoluminescence and mechanoluminescence.

Triboluminescence is common in minerals. About 50% of crystalline materials are thought to exhibit the property. It is also observed in many noncrystalline materials [1].

### How to Demonstrate Triboluminescence

\*\*\*\* Safety glasses recommended \*\*\*\*

A very easy way to observe triboluminescence is to get two milky quartz pebbles that are large enough to easily hold and rub together with a bit of force. Take them into a darkened room and stand in the dark for a few minutes to allow your eyes to adjust to the darkness. You don't need total darkness but the less light the better.

Hold one piece of quartz in your left hand and the other piece in your right hand. Firmly press an edge of one piece of quartz against the other and while holding firm pressure, quickly drag it across the surface in a motion similar to what you would use to strike a large match. Don't be wimpy. Hold firm pressure while you quickly drag one pebble across the surface of the other. If you do this properly and if you have pieces of quartz that are triboluminescent, you will see a brief flash of light that penetrates deeply into the translucent quartz.

Experiment with different speeds, different amounts of pressure and directions of drag to maximize the flash of light. Some specimens will also produce small amounts of light if you bang them together or rub them against one another. You can also experiment with different minerals to see if they are triboluminescent. You will probably find many minerals that exhibit the property.

Triboluminescence is present in quartz; however, the strength of the phenomenon varies from specimen to specimen. Triboluminescence is well known in sphalerite, fluorite, calcite, muscovite, and many feldspar minerals. Some specimens of common opal produce a bright orange flash.

Test a few specimens yourself! Don't forget to wear safety glasses and be aware that this test will scratch your specimens.

# Wilderness Proposed for Indian Creek Allotment, a Historic Fairburn Agate Area

Reported by Jan Baumeister (SD rep for ALAA, AFMS and the Rocky Mt. Federation)

The Forest Service Buffalo Gap National Grassland rangers in Wall, SD, held two meetings in June with the rancher/permittees of the Indian Creek Allotment, giving them only two days' notice. They were told: "Indian Creek is going into wilderness." The only notice of this meeting was put in the Wall newspaper and not the *Rapid City Journal*! It seems they don't want all other "users" protesting! This is one of our major areas to hunt Fairburn agates and the rare black agates, plus other specimens. It is the most scenic beautiful area of the grasslands, with badland buttes of golden yellow or a light brick red, topped with a layer of white, with cedar trees, and the creek snaking through the valleys.

Awhile back they finally put a nice graded trail in there, but now they want it closed down in the future to a total wilderness, where one can only hike in or ride in on horseback!

There are six big wilderness clubs in the Black Hills-Badlands areas, and they have the backing of 60 other wilderness clubs and the Nature Conservancy. The main reason behind this wilderness designation is that many people, including one rancher who runs buffalo in Indian Creek during the winter, want this land to be turned back to "wild land." . . . In 2010 the wilderness clubs couldn't get a wilderness bill for Indian Creek Allotment passed by Senator Johnson with the PAC money of 60 wilderness clubs. . . . It's a different situation now.

(From 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.

A personal note from the ALAA rep for the Midwest Federation (me). Some years back, I drove my truck down the rough two-track trail into the French Creek area in SD to look for Fairburns. Driving back out at the end of the day, I came up behind an elderly man who flagged me down to hitch a ride back to his car. He had hiked in that morning, but it got hotter than he expected and he was feeling it—didn't have any water and was getting exhausted. If collectors aren't allowed to drive into these areas anymore, some of them are going to hike in and get into trouble like that fellow did. – Tom Noe



<http://geopok.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/funny-science-news-experiments-memes-in-other-words-geology-rocks.jpg>

## My Initial View continued from page 4

Contact: AFMS is set up to encourage contact among all the Regional Federations. The AFMS Officers and Committee Chairs may initially take the lead, but the Regional Representatives need to be players also. So let's have some contact throughout 2016 by all Committees but especially on those that have a combined AFMS/Regional Federation focus. Each AFMS officer has tasks and duties that might be accomplished a little easier with some contact. As President, I will start the ball rolling by contacting the AFMS Regional Vice-Presidents, AFMS Committee Chairs, and the Presidents of each of the Federations throughout 2016. I would like the AFMS Regional Vice-Presidents who have responsibilities with several AFMS Committee Chairs to contact these chairs and find out how that particular Committee is functioning during 2016 – good and bad. You do not have to wait until the 2016 AFMS Convention in July to contact the Committee Chairs.

AFMS has numerous programs and competitions for the benefit of Regional Federations. For example, we have Informational Programs like American Lands Access Association (ALAA), Legislation and Conservation, Judges Training Seminar, Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editor (SCRIBE), and Safety. We also have rewarding programs like Club Rockhounds of the Year, Junior Activity Badge Program, Program Competition, and Inter-Regional Field Trips. In addition, we have Competitive Programs like Bulletin Editors Advisory Contest (BEAC), Web Site Contest, and All American Club. Hopefully, none of these programs is a surprise to any of you. My point is that AFMS spends resources on these programs (i.e., people, time, and money), so let's continue to support all of them. These programs are part of who we are, so please participate.

If you can do one activity this year, please try to contribute to our Endowment Fund. With our next convention scheduled for July, the time-frame for donations will be limited. We have a new Endowment Fund Chair for 2016, Cheryl Neary, and she is a real gem.

Finally, there is nothing like having face to face contacts between AFMS and Regional Federations, so try to attend AFMS and Regional conventions and Regional Board meetings if you can. If you cannot be there in person, email your ideas and suggestions to the existing officers. We need to hear from the membership.

So as I travel to each Regional Convention in 2016, show me what you do to further the hobby and maybe it will be part of one of my monthly messages. As the holidays approach, be thankful for your hobby and for the people in the hobby that make it fun and educational.

## Presidents Message continued from page 4

All of this information can be found in your directory or on the website, and you haven't even used any of that cheap fuel for these activities. This could be the year for field trips and road trips. Be the leader you were elected to be. Why not join President Andy Carey of Summit Lapidary Club this spring on the "BIG DIG" field trip for Ohio Flint? Afterwards, join the MWF spring meeting, and right next door, the 40th Gemboree Show. This will be going on from Friday, April 22 to Sunday, April 24. The show has approximately 25-30 dealers and is well worth a visit. Plan for the MWF convention later in the year on August 20, 2016. The Michiana Gem and Mineral Society is this year's host for our convention. President Bill Foreman promises great Hoosier hospitality. Meet E-Bear, our own endowment fund-raising teddy bear. As we start the new year together, be bold: schedule trips, involve your youth, enter for awards. Revitalize programs or activities your club has done in the past or try something new. It's a brand new year for rock lovers!

## Moh's Scale 4-4.5 by Kreigh Tomaszewski

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 4 to 4.5 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 Fluorite, Smithsonite, Hemimorphite, Scheelite, Flurapophyllite, Apophyllite, Chabazitye, Rosasite, Ferberite, Conichalkcite, Phillipsite-K, Pecolite, Hubmerite, Wolframite, Duftite, Mungenite, Colemanite, Creedite, Xenotime-Y, Synchysite-Ce, Cornwallite, Stellarite, Thorite, Harmotome, Zincite, Bayldonite, Cornetite, Strunzite, Levyne, Native Iron, Cuprosklowdowskite, Native Platinum, Tugtupite, Pupurite, Montgomeryite, Goosecreekite, Margarite, Mordenite, Heulandite, Stilbite, Lamprophyllite, Brochantite, Wolastonite, Laumonite, Rhodochrosite, Wavelite, Azurite, Cavansite, Dolomite, Pentlandite, Tenorite, Varascite, Sphalerite, Manganite, Renierite, Arsenodesclosite, and Kyanite. It was a wonderful collection of minerals to pass around the table and we 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 and we tried to identify them while we waited for everyone to arrive.

**NO MINERAL STUDY GROUP MEETING IN DECEMBER.** The next monthly meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 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 5 to 5 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 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.