

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



June 2016 Volume 56 Number 6

Club Show is August 19-21

THE ROCKFINDER

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Volume 56 Number 6
June 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 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

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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 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:
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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

Hello everyone!

So, what kind of collector are you? Are you new to the hobby and haven't figured out what really interests you? As for me, I would come across interesting stones when playing as a child. Usually small broken geodes, colorful hunks of granite, things that sort of wink at you in the sun when you are outside. My parents would indulge my interest by taking me to the library so I could pick up books and field guides to help guide me in identifying what I had found. As I got older, my interests turned toward agates and gemstones and would buy small specimens with my allowance and later with wages from my first job.

As an adult, I got more serious about collecting and began to bring home things of every size with no idea of how to categorize them and display them. I am still trying to discipline myself and decide the size and type of collection I am building.

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Up & Coming

Next Meeting:

Annual Club Show Aug. 19-21, 2016
Fri 12-7; Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5

Place: St Joe County Fair grounds

Come out and help. More volunteers make it easier on everyone.

Board of Directors

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574-233-9178

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Some folks collect thumbnail-sized specimens, some like the type that will fit in your hand, some like larger cabinet-size pieces. Micromounts are a new concept to me...these are small/tiny specimens frequently observed with a microscope. I understand that the wealthy Chinese collectors like to obtain huge specimens, as big as office desks to display in their homes. Any type of collection is great if it fits your space and your lifestyle.

Start out with deciding what you like...do you like a particular type of stone? Some collect crystals, some collect agates, some fossils. Pick up a book or find a website that will help you figure out what you have. If you collect your own stones, keep track of when and where you found each piece, listing quarry name, specific location (city, county, state) and keep the tag with the specimen. Details like this add value to your collection and lend a professional touch to your hobby. As your collection and interest increases, you can replace lower quality specimens with better ones when you find them. Your older pieces can be traded more easily if you have them accurately labeled. Keeping a log of what you have collected and where can be a valuable help as your collection grows. I like to think back on my field trips and collecting adventures and a log helps keep everything straight.

You don't need lots of expensive tools for this hobby. A magnifying glass or loupe is a great tool, a Mohs kit to test hardness is beneficial (but not necessary), a good field guide, not much more is required. Something to store specimens helps to keep them intact. Some use small boxes with cotton batting to protect delicate pieces, some store their collections in drawers that are subdivided, some just display on shelving. Just keeping them in shoeboxes or cigar boxes works for casual collections. There is no wrong way to collect, everyone's collection is a personal choice.

The internet is a wealth of information for the rock collector. Whether you need to find a place to hunt or need photos of minerals to help you in identification, everything is a Google search away. You can pick up books at the bookstore, but it is much cheaper to hit the public library or check out our Club's own library. There are several magazines on the hobby, such as Rock and Gem or Rocks and Minerals, available by subscription or at Barnes and Nobles bookstore. Amazon.com will let you find used copies of expensive books at a real savings...why pay \$50 for a book when you can pick it up used for a fraction of that price?

Casual collector or dedicated rockhound, everybody is welcome to our hobby and our Club. Use your interest as a conversation starter to introduce others to the world of rocks and minerals.

President's Message Continued from previous page

Some keep small samples to pass along to kids. I have invited the neighborhood parents and kids to check out the rocks I have on my parking pad and tell them where I collected them and let them have samples. You never know when you will ignite a flame of interest in kids that will guide them into the sciences. I was lucky as a child to have met several rockhounds in the 1960's when the hobby was very active, and the time they spent talking to me about rocks has stayed with me ever since. We must pass along this love of the natural world to the young, because they will be the stewards of the environment when we have passed from the scene. Every collector and every Club member is a point of entrance for others to learn about Earth science and the world beneath our feet.

Thanks for reading, and hope to see you all at the upcoming Club Picnic!

-Bill Foreman, MGMS President

Utah Pushing to Remove Police Powers from BLM, Forest Service By Pete Kasperowicz, Senior Editor, Washington Examiner (March 22, 2016)

Utah's four House Republicans introduced a bill that would strip the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service of their power to police federal lands, and give that power over to local cops. Rep. Jason Chaffetz and his three GOP colleagues from Utah introduced the Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act. The lawmakers say the growth of policing authority in both agencies has distracted them from their main mission of managing federal land, and has created conflicts with local authorities. They also say federal agents are not as trusted as local police, and should be removed. "Federal agencies do not enjoy the same level of trust and respect as local law enforcement that are deeply rooted in local communities," Chaffetz and other lawmakers said. "This legislation will help deescalate conflicts between law enforcement and local residents while improving transparency and accountability." "The BLM and U.S. Forest Service will be able to focus on their core missions without the distraction of police functions. This is a win all around," they added. A letter the Utah Sheriffs' Association sent to Chaffetz shows that federal police agents and their local counterparts are butting heads, and that local police believe the feds are intruding on local authority.

--Excerpted from the Jan.-Mar., 2016, 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.

Who needs to band together
to fight public land closures?

hikers, bikers, rafters, hunters, rock hounds, fishermen/women, equestrians, campers, prospectors, miners, boaters, dirt bikes, rock crawlers, loggers, kayakers, astronomers, bird watchers, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, rock climbers, marksmen/women, 4x4s, nature photographers, jeep racers, mushroom collectors, long-range shooters, ranchers/grazers, rural communities

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News A Word from the President “The Gifters”

excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 69, Number 6 – June, 2016](#)

Because our hobby is so diversified, it is both a curse and a blessing. It is a curse because sometimes it is hard to find the right person in the right part of the hobby to get some advice. But when you finally find the right person, it is truly a blessing to have that person share their gift of knowledge with you.

Believe it or not, we are all gifters in one way or another. We need to share our expertise with other clubs or Federation members but especially with our junior members – the future of our hobby.

So here is my challenge to the AFMS family. At your next meeting, show, or other function, ask someone to tell you about your gift(s) to the hobby – you may be surprised how much you are appreciated and mean to the your club. Next, continue to share your gift(s) with other club members and become your club’s point of contact for your particular gift(s).

In the AFMS, we have the same kind of gifters who share their expertise year after year. I thank them for their service and efforts. With that being said, we can always use a few more experts. [Read the rest here](#)

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies News President’s Message

by David Rich, MWF President, excerpted from [MWF News May 2016 - Issue No. 552](#)

Spring time this year in Ohio is off to a slow start. So is the Morel mushroom count. In the MWF, hold onto your hats folks!

I have exciting news to report from the spring MWF meeting. Our MWF public image just got brighter, thanks to our very talented Public Image Chairman, Regina Kapta. Regina has put together three great MWF flyers that clubs can download from our website. Go to the website, www.amfed.org/mwf, click on “About us,” scroll down and click on “Forms.” See the third one down “Posters for club use.” The first one “Do you have an interest...” is a poster for clubs to use at their show, in an effort to recruit new members. The second one “Want to learn ...” is also a poster for recruitment of new members. An added bonus is a shout out to ALAA, which organization works to keep collecting sites open. The third one “Proud Member of MWF” says it all. If I saw this on a dealers table, I surly would buy local first. A special thanks to Regina for creating these posters.

While you’re on the website, check out the convention news. The 2016 MWF Convention is being hosted by the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, at South Bend, Indiana, on August 19, 20, and 21. Conventions are a great place to meet like-minded folks. I encourage all of our clubs to send delegates to the convention this year.

[Read the rest here](#)



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

Jun. 11, 2016 Sat 11-5
Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society
[annual rock swap]
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Gymnasium
8013 Laramie, Skokie, IL
Jeanine Mielecki, 312.623.1554
Jaynine9@aol.com, www.chicagorocks.org

Jun. 11, 2016 Sat 9-noon
Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club
[tailgate sale] Wesley Park U.M. Church,
1150 32nd St.
Wyoming, MI
Gordon Spalenka, 616.249.0513
gnspalenka@sbcglobal.net,
www.indianmoundsrockclub.com

Jun. 11, 2016 Sat 8-1
Sac & Fox Lapidary Club Howard Park
Court & Grimes
Fairfield, IA Florence Stevens,
641.470.1517

Jun. 17-19, 2016
Fri 2-6; Sat 9-6; Sun 9-3
Osage Rock & Mineral Club Eldon
Community Center, 309 E. 2nd St.
Eldon, MO
Steve Rudloff, 573.690.7348
steve@molimestone.com

Jun. 24-26, 2016
Fri 10-6:30; Sat 9-6:30; Sun
10-4
Lawrence County Rock Club Lawrence
County Fairgrounds, US Hwy 50
Bedford, IN
Dave Treffinger, 812.295.3463
Djt5766jkft@msn.com,
lawrencecountyrockclub.org

Aug. 12-14, 2016
Fri 1-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 11-3
Copper Country Gem & Mineral Show
Houghton Elementary School
Houghton, MI
Norm Gruber, 906-228-6764
pres@ccrmc.info

How the Silent Auction Works at Our Annual Show

by Tom Noe - Member

The MGMS show at the County Fairgrounds is our big fundraising effort of the year, and the silent auction is part of that. The club treasury receives a percentage of the price of all items that are sold or auctioned off—20% of the price for items from active club members, and 50% for items from all others. So, active members will take home 80% of the selling price, and anyone else will take home 50%. The auction is an easy way you can pass along rock-related items that you don't use or don't want anymore.

The silent auction runs all three days of the show. Bring your rock-related items to the auction table anytime, but the earlier the better. Machinery is welcome if cleaned up. It's helpful if your specimens are identified by location and type of rock ("petrified wood from Oregon" is more attractive than "brown rock from my basement").

You have two options: auction or direct sale. You can pick the price the auction will start at, and your item might bring more than that price. Or, you can pick a firm selling price, and whoever gets there first can buy it at that price. You can also leave all the pricing decisions up to the staff.

Another option is to donate your items to the club via the silent auction. Then 100% of the selling price goes into the club treasury.

If you have a lot of items and no way to move them, contact me ahead of time and we'll figure out something. You must pick up your unsold items by the close of the show on Sunday, unless you make other arrangements. You'll receive a check with your proceeds a few weeks later.

Also, stop by the silent auction and bid! You never know what will turn up.

The silent auction table is always a busy place but we're never too busy for your items. We have plenty of space, so bring 'em in! This year there will be another silent auction running, put on by the federation. It will be in a different location from our club's auction.

Contact me if you have any questions or if you want to spend a few hours working alongside our courteous, bright-eyed and good-looking staff: tomnoe2@gmail.com or 574-289-2028.

See you at the show!
Tom