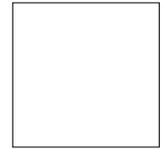


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Jason Hefner, Editor
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524



October 2017

Volume 57 Number 6

THE ROCKFINDER

We're on the Web! See us at: www.MichianaGMS.org

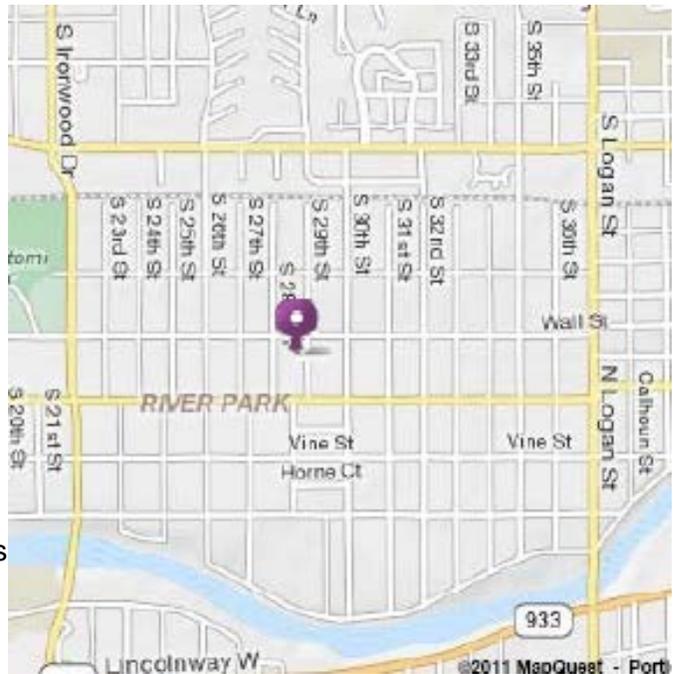
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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
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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 Nancy Foreman
 58456 Kimberly Ct.
 South Bend, IN 46619

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 57 Number 6
October 2017

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.



MGMS Bus Trip to Geode Fest, Hamilton, IL

September 22-24, 2017 by Jim Daly, Member

The chartered Cardinal bus left the Meijer parking lot in Mishawaka at 3:45 PM on Friday, with all our baggage and collecting equipment stowed aboard. After one stop at a Culver's, we arrived at the Hampton Inn in Keokuk, IA just before 10 PM.

Saturday morning, we boarded the bus at 6:45 AM to go first to Cheney Landing in Hamilton, IL for registration, then at 8 AM to the first collecting site, the "Borrow Pit" at St. Patrick, Lewis Co., MO. The collecting at the Borrow Pit was easy, or at least it would have been if the temperature had been lower. The temperature was almost 100 degrees F before we left. The geodes here were in soft dirt banks, and the owners of the property had knocked some banks down with heavy equipment.

Continued next page

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: October 22, 2017.

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:

Glass Bead work
Diane Gram

Host & Hostesses:

Annette Freel
Sherrie Kobie
Melvin and Sherrell Glick

Board of Directors

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574-233-9178

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574-233-9178

Programs: Kathy Miller (Interim)
574-291-0332

Publicity: Josh Klosinski

Safety: Julie Wieger 574-291-2597
Jennifer Hefner 574-858-9837

Show Chair: John Davis 574-232-8823

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

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

Geodefest continued from Page1



The Borrow Pit (pictures above and below by Jim Daly)



Continued on Page 3

Geodefest continued from previous page.

From the Borrow Pit, we returned to Cheney Landing to eat lunch and browse the vendor stalls. We then proceeded to our next collecting site, the Renard property, in Hamilton, IL.

We had collected at Renard's in 2014. The geodes were in a stream flowing across the back of the property. This year, though, the stream was mostly dried up. The geodes were mostly larger and heavier than at the Borrow Pit.



Renards

We broke off collecting earlier than we had planned because of the heat. We returned to the hotel, and got cleaned up for dinner. Some of us used the hotel pool.

Continued on Page 5

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News

A Word from the President

by Ron Carman, President excerpted from [AFMS Newsletter Volume 70, Number 9 – October 2017](#)

Since my last message, my wife and I have done considerable traveling, visiting three different federation shows: the Midwest convention in Minnesota and the Northwest convention in Montana, and of course the combined California/AFMS show in Ventura, California in June. Between the Midwest and Northwest shows we managed to see a lot of the northern U.S. including the Keweenaw peninsula in Michigan and we visited the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum in Houghton, Michigan – really quite an impressive display of minerals not just from Michigan, but from worldwide localities.

I managed to do a little collecting in Keweenaw County and also in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where lots of pegmatites can be found. We saw Mount Rushmore – it was cold and windy – and had planned to visit Yellowstone National Park on the way to Montana and the Northwest show, but it snowed the night before and the roads into Yellowstone were closed – this happened in the middle of May! Maybe we can go back and see the bears later in the summer next year.

[Read the rest here](#)

President's message

by Tom Whitlatch, President excerpted from [MWF News October 2017 - Issue No. 564](#)

By the time you read this, school will have started for most and fall colors will be starting to show for some in the north.

This has been a busy and fast summer for me, with the highlight being the American Federation meeting in Ventura, California, in June. I just wish I could have had time to do some collecting while there. I did get to enjoy a great show and meet several Facebook friends. There were many superb displays, both competitive and non-competitive, as well as many dealers who don't make it to the Midwest, with their unique wares and materials.

I attended meetings for the scholarship fund and the American Lands Access Association, as well as the American Federation business and directors' meetings. There were discussions about many things that plague all organizations like ours, such as reduced membership and participation in the day-to-day operations. Not to forget accessibility to collecting sites for one reason or another, mostly government intervention by regulations or laws that prohibits rock and fossil collecting by anyone not associated with an accredited research group.

We all need to take some time to look at our lawmakers and how they stand on subjects that affect our hobby. Then follow up by letting them know how it affects you, and what you think could be an alternative to the restrictions they may be supporting or why you think the changes would not be needed. This is not a political organization but we do need to keep an eye and ear to politics to preserve our rights and privileges to keep this great hobby going for those who come after us.



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

20-22: Fort Wayne, IN [Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Show - 10/20/2017](#)

2726 Carroll Rd.
Allen County Fairgrounds
Fort Wayne, IN 46818
Types: Rock Shows/Symposiums

November

4-5—MIDLAND, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Mid-Michigan Rock Club, Chippewa Nature Center; 400 S. Badour Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Many educational and informative exhibits and seminars for all ages. Special children's activities, including activities for Scouts working on Geology badges. Dealers will have agates, fossils, minerals, rocks, and jewelry. ; contact Debra Young, 212 Auburn Street, Midland, MI 48640, (989)-245-0343; e-mail: mmrcrockclub@yahoo.com; Web site: www.midmichrockclub.com

11-11—QUINCY, ILLINOIS: Annual show; Gem City Rock Club of Quincy, Quincy Mall Community Room; 32nd and Broadway; Sat. 10-5; Free Admission; Minerals, Geodes, Fossils, Wire Wrapping, Flint Knapping, Childs Activities.; contact Brad Fanning, 1344n.1720th, Fowler, IL 62338, (217)-617-2751; e-mail: bfanning58@yahoo.com

11-12—FREEPORT, ILLINOIS: Annual show; Northwest Illinois Rock Club, Highland Community Center, Student Conference Center; 2998 W. Pearl City Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Freewill Donation; Dealers in minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads, and more, speakers, exhibits, kids' activities, and geode cracking. ; contact Brian Green, (815)-745-2228; e-mail: bgreen57@hotmail.com

Geodefest continued from page 3.

At 6:45 PM we boarded the bus to go to dinner at the Hawkeye Restaurant, which was about 2 blocks away. We went together on the bus so that we would all enter the restaurant together.



This was the same restaurant we had eaten at in 2014. In my opinion, both the service and the food were much better this year.

On Sunday morning, we boarded the bus at 7:45 to go to Cheney Landing, and then to our collecting site, Jacobs Geode Mine in Hamilton, IL.

Continued next page

Geodefest

continued from previous page.

The collecting and the type of geode found were similar to the Borrow Pit. This was another site we had visited in 2014.



Once more, we broke off early because of the heat, re-boarded the bus, and headed for home. We made only one stop, at a highway rest area, for a bathroom break, and arrived back in Mishawaka at 6 PM.