

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



July 2024

Volume 64 Number 4



The best thing about  
rocks...most don't care if they  
get wet

**THE  
ROCKFINDER**

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

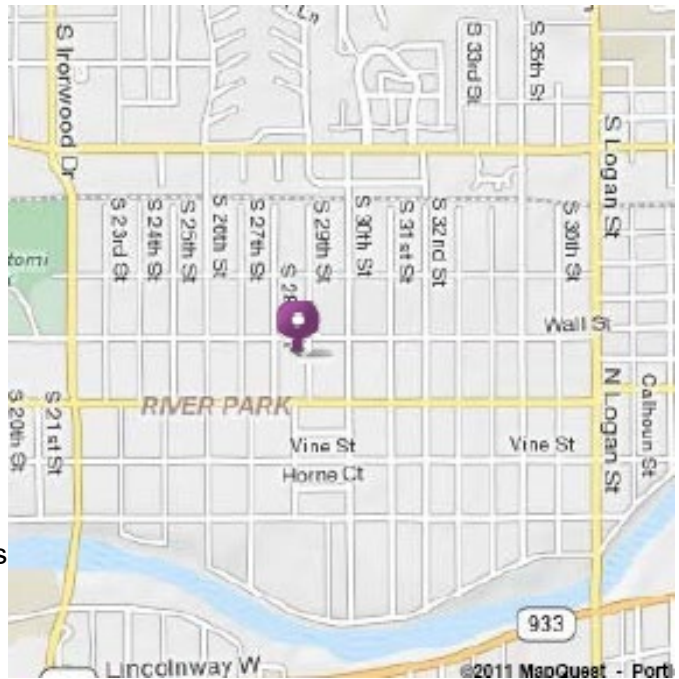
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary knowledge and techniques. General meetings are usually held the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at,

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
 c/o Nancy Foreman  
 58456 Kimberly Ct.  
 South Bend, IN 46619

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 usually 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.



## Annual Picnic, by Jason Hefner, Editor

The annual club picnic is July 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at The Mishawaka Res, located at 13950 Scout Ln, Mishawaka IN 46544. The club is providing chicken and the table service. Please bring a dish to share and your own drinks.

We will have a few geode crackers so bring some geodes from our last trip or maybe you have a few around the house.

If you are interested in making a small gem tree reach out to Dennis or Holly Kraftor. They will have supplies to make trees. You will need to bring a small rock for the base.



Rock Candy???? A recent find. Keep reading and see where it was found.

## Board of Directors

President: Ross Fergerson  
574-850-6208

Vice-President: Stephanie Hughes  
574-847-9749

Secretary: Kathy Wallace

Treasurer: Lyn Zeiger  
574-259-5944

Liaison:

## Committee Chairs

Displays: Kathy Miller  
574-251-0255

Editor: Jason Hefner  
574-354-0478

Educational: Jesse Zeiger  
574-259-5944

Facebook: Holly Kraftor, Nancy  
Foreman, Jason Hefner

Field Trips: Jason Hefner, Ross  
Fergerson

Historian:

Hospitality:

Juniors: Kathy Chidister  
574-202-3864

Librarian:

Membership: Nancy Foreman  
574-233-9178

Programs:

Publicity: Josh Klosinski  
574-274-8714

Safety: Jennifer Hefner  
574-858-9837

Show Chair: Bob Chapa  
989-392-2501

Sunshine:

Webmaster: Joe Perry 574-295-9050

# April Meeting minutes

By Kathy Wallace, Secretary

Members in Attendance: Adults - 36 Children - 1  
New Members – 1 Guests - 1

**Call to Order:** President Ross Fergerson

**Pledge of Allegiance:** All

**Welcome:** President Ross Fergerson

**Past Presidents:** Jason Hefner

**Secretary Report:** Read & approved

**Parliamentarian** – Ross Fergerson

Midwest Federation –

American Federation –

American Lands Access –

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Show & Tell** –

**Editor** – Jason Hefner

**Educational** – Holly & Dennis Kraftor – Did the South Bend & Lakeville libraries and Knox this last week for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. North Judson contacted them re a hands-on at the Mint Festival which is scheduled for June 14 – 16.

30 sets of “kits” are available for showing kids.

**Facebook** – Josh Klosinski, Nancy Foreman, Holly Kraftor, Stephanie Hughes.

**Field Trips** – It was a good geode trip on Saturday, April 27 with Jason bringing in the “big banana”! Quite a few crinoids were found on this trip also. Possible trip again this fall.

June 1, 2 & 3 for the South Dakota trip to the Grasslands National Park. Just a reminder, they are on mountain time where we are rock hounding.

**Displays** – Josh Klosinski –

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## AFMS President - Elect Message — JC Moore

AFMS President 2023-2024 excerpted from [Volume 77, Number 5 — June 2024](#)

Due to Liz Burford's recent diagnosis of lung cancer, Roger is unavailable to do this month's President's message. We all wish Liz and Roger that treatment will be successful and will continue to hold them in our prayers during this time.

By the time you receive this message, our Convention will have been completed and everyone who attended will have had a wonderful time. Seven years have passed since I attended the Ventura site for a convention and a lot has changed in that time. Due to Covid, two years of our lives was totally disrupted. Meetings were zoomed and contact with friends was limited. Many clubs are still trying to recover, and some have dissolved. Since being involved with the AFMS and the MWF, I have looked forward to our annual conventions each year. It is like a big family reunion, reliving experiences with people we have not seen in a while, learning what other clubs do at their shows, and sadly remembering those that have passed away. Zoom has allowed us to participate without having to travel, but it only allows us to communicate for the time frame of the meeting instead of having the fellowship during the entire convention. I would like to encourage everyone to try to attend the regional conventions to interact with us "Old Timers" and see if there might be some knowledge we might be able to pass on to the next generation of Rockhounds as well as our learning from you.

## President's Message Sandy Fuller, MWF President

excerpted from [June 2024 - Issue No. 633](#)

Recently I was involved in cleaning out an old storage area of a club. The club was organized in the early 60's so there was quite a collection of old treasurer records and other items of some importance.

One of the items was a newsletter from 1991, a year before I joined a club and the federation, that held an article by Diane Dare called "E=MC2."

Diane, who was from the Midwest, was the national federation president at the time. When I noticed her article, I had just received word that she'd passed away in March. Her message in the 1991 newsletter was simple: We need members of local clubs to communicate with the officers and committee chairs. In turn, officers and committee chairs need to respond promptly to inquiries from members.

But first, we need clubs to provide us, the federation, with the means to reach you. We need at least one, and more often two or three, names, addresses and phone numbers to personally contact you. This information will not be broadcast but distributed on a "need to know" basis.

Second, we need clubs to respond to calls for action. Have you checked on your state and local registration? Did you write a letter or testify on legislative issues identified by our lobbying organization, the American Lands Access Association?

Continued here [June 2024 - Issue No. 633](#)



### 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)

# April Meeting minutes

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**Historian** –

**Hospitality** – Eva Jakab - Cookies & miniature cheesecakes today for Kathy Wallace's birthday. Eva also brought fruit & vegetable trays and Paul Bata brought homemade carrot cake cupcakes. Eva will have a list at the May meeting so others can sign up to bring snacks.

**Juniors** – Kathy Chidister – She had one junior today who was into fossils!

**Membership** – Nancy Foreman

**Programs** – None today but Dr. Burns from Notre Dame would like to do a program for us.

**Publicity** – The flyers were corrected to the new time and everyone was welcome to take some.

**Safety** – Jennifer Hefner & Julie Wieger –

**Show Chair** – Bob Chapa – We have 9 spots left. Bob sent out emails to vendors who haven't responded yet. Quite a few new vendors want to get into our show so possibly looking at using both buildings next year so we would need more volunteers to help with that and have 2 paid entrances making it easier for all.

**Sunshine** – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to: Get well card to:

**Webmaster** – Joe Perry –

**OLD BUSINESS** - 1863 scan of farm "priveys" with Dr. Burns.

Dr Burns and Clive Evans will take care of the application forms for our scholarships. Two people will do a presentation of their research so we can then vote for the one that we like.

The sign up sheets were out today so all could sign up for the times they wanted to work. Ross to correct the sheets as they were missing the 10 am – 12 pm time slots.

**NEW BUSINESS** – We will purchase 3 new banners with our name and logo, Facebook page, etc., on them. Holly will look into the cost. \$300.00 was voted on & approved for the new banners.

Dennis & Holly are going to William Holland in Georgia on July 7 for 1 week if anyone is interested in going at the same time.

Joanne to do a 4-week class again in South Bend with wire wrapping, metal & copper smithing and jewelry making, etc.

Adjournment – Motion made & seconded.

Program - John did a program on Baha, CA and saw grey and humpback whales and he snorkeled with sea lions. He was at Big Bend National Park in Texas with his son and they found some Terlingua calcite which fluoresce pink and blue. They also saw about 50 scorpions in an hour and they glowed blue!

Next Meetings – Sunday, May 19

Sunday, June 23

Picnic at the Res on Sunday, July 28

# May 2024 Meeting minutes

By Kathy Wallace, Secretary:

**Members in Attendance:** Adults 29 Children 1  
New Members 0 Guests 0

**Call to Order:** Ross Ferguson

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Ross Ferguson

**Welcome:** Ross Ferguson

**Past Presidents:** Jason Hefner

**Secretary Report:** Read and approved with one correction re the scholarships we are giving

**Parliamentarian** – Ross Ferguson

Midwest Federation –

American Federation –

American Lands Access –

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Show & Tell** – none

**Editor** – Jason Hefner

**Educational** – Holly & Dennis Kraftor They were at the Lakeville library with no one showing up for it. They were also at the South Bend library with just a few people showing up. They did Nature Cat with 30 kids going through. A Cub Scout camp is coming up.

**Facebook** – Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Kraftor – Stephanie Hughes

**Field Trips** –

**Historian** –

**Hospitality** – Eva Jakab

**Juniors** – Kathy Chidister

**Membership** – Nancy Foreman

**Programs** –

**Publicity** –

**Safety** – Jennifer Hefner & Julie Wieger

**Show Chair** – Bob Chapa

**Sunshine** – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to: Get well card to:

**Webmaster** – Joe Perry

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# May 2024 Meeting minutes continued from previous page

**OLD BUSINESS** - Picnic on Sunday, July 28 at the Res in South Bend at 1 p.m. Grilled and fried chicken to be ordered for it and everything else is potluck with sign-up sheets on the back table.

We will have a silent auction at the June meeting – bring your cash!

South Dakota trip – Pony Express and an Ohio club will be joining our group with approximately 25 people total for this trip. We are meeting at the Badlands Distillery at 9:00 and leaving at 9:15 sharp! No digging allowed. NO dinosaur bones are to be picked up. Contact Ross if you find any so he can advise the Buffalo Gap Ranger Station. For other things to do, see the Dignity of the Earth & Sky statue of Sacajawea. Stop at the Grasslands Park to get a map of good digging places. “Rust” stained ground is good for agate bed finds.

**NEW BUSINESS** - The Rum Village Nature Center in South Bend would like samples of Indiana geology items for their displays. Bring any items you can part with to the next meeting for donating to them.

Also bring items to our meetings to give to the club for our raffles. All the money goes back to the club.

**Adjournment** – Motion made & seconded

**Program** - Raffle of different items brought in

**Next Meeting** - Sunday, June 23

Sunday, July 28 @ 1 p.m. at the Res in South Bend

**Upcoming dates:** Thursday, August 15, set up for the rock and mineral show

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 16, 17 & 18 – rock and mineral show

# June 2024 Meeting minutes By Kathy Wallace, Secretary:

**Members in Attendance** - Adults 39 Children 8

New Members 0 Guests 3

**Call to Order** - Ross Fergerson

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Ross Fergerson

**Welcome** - Ross Fergerson

**Past Presidents** – Kathy & Jason Hefner

**Secretary Report** - Read and approved

**Treasurer Report** - Read and approved

**Parliamentarian** – Ross Fergerson

Midwest Federation –

American Federation –

Continued next page



# June 2024 Meeting minutes continued from previous page

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Show & Tell** – Jason, Ross, Kathy, and others from our South Dakota trip

**Editor** – Jason Hefner

**Educational** – Dennis & Holly had approx.. 200 Cub Scout kids over a 2 day period & Knox library 30-35 kids. A Cub Scout camp at the Whiting library will be held in July. The Fort Wayne club contacted Dennis & Holly re our kids' club. Dennis & Holly are going to New Hampshire to pick up stuff for the August show and our kids outreach program.

**Facebook** – Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Holly Kraftor – Stephanie Hughes

**Field Trips** – Everyone had a GREAT time in South Dakota! Ross had some truck “bumper” issues trying to cross some streams. Some of us went on a night hunt for watermelon chalcedony and other goodies!

**Historian** –

**Hospitality** – Eva Jakab - She reminded everyone to sign up to bring goodies to the meeting.

**Juniors** – Kathy Chidister

**Membership** – Nancy Foreman

**Programs** – We held our first “rocktion” (aka auction of rocks : ) which was a great success!

**Publicity** –

**Safety** – Jennifer Hefner & Julie Wieger They suggested getting an AED machine for our trips in case of a heart emergency.

**Show Chair** – Bob Chapa

**Sunshine** – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to: Get well card to:

**Webmaster** – Joe Perry

**OLD BUSINESS** - Ross went to Wyoming after our South Dakota trip and is trying to schedule a trip out there for next year. We would be staying at Lander RV park and they have 4 cabins available for rent. Tentative dates are around May 30, 2025.

Dr. Burns scholarship forms are done but the students went home for the summer so they will work on after the break. They are still looking to do an 1863 GPR scan.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Walkerton, IN is having a mastodon dig in 2025. Contact Dan if interested in helping out.

On Labor Day weekend some will be going to Franklin, NC to sluice for rubies. Let Ross know if anyone wants to go.

**Adjournment** – Motion made & seconded

**Program** -

**Next Meeting** - Sunday, August 25

Continued next page

## June 2024 Meeting minutes continued from previous page

**Upcoming dates** - Sunday, July 28 is our picnic at the RES in South Bend at 1 pm. Grilled and fried chicken is being supplied along with the plates, silverware, etc. Bring your own drinks and whatever dish you signed up for at the meeting. The geode cracker will be at the picnic if anyone has any they want opened.

Set-up for the show on Thursday, August 15 @ 8 a.m. The show dates are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 16, 17 and 18.

## Sylvania Minerals Quarry Trip, pictures by Jason Hefner

I had the opportunity to join another club to collect at Sylvania Minerals in Southwood Michigan. My goal, besides finding some cool rocks was to get contacts so we might be able to go next year. The quarry opens collecting dates in January of each year, so I know when and who to contact!

Lots of calcite and celestite, some quartz, a few fossils. It was an enjoyable day even with a broken elbow.

