

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



Mar 2025

Volume 65 Number 3



[Photo credit](#)

**THE
ROCKFINDER**

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society Membership Application & Annual Renewal Form

find us at: www.MichianaGMS.org follow us on Facebook: MichianaGemandMineralSociety

****Monthly Rockfinder Bulletin and any news or upcoming events are Emailed to *All Members***

The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study & enjoyment of the earth sciences & the lapidary arts & to share lapidary knowledge & techniques.

General meetings are usually held 4th Sunday of each month (see exceptions below) at 2 p.m. with doors opening 1:30 p.m. for meet & greet. Board meetings held before monthly meetings.

Exceptions: May(3rd Sunday), July(Club Picnic-date TBD), August(Club Show), November/December meetings combined at Christmas party(1st Sunday in December-date TBD). Calendar with events, meeting dates & times is on our website.

Meetings are in church basement & parking is on street or in lot across from church at 29th & Wall (River Park area)

**Location: **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S. 29th St.,
South Bend, IN**



*****Club requirements** must be met to be eligible to sign up for Club Bus Trips and Field Trips. (I.E. Volunteering to work at Club Show & attendance at meetings; chair person, education outreach, programs, projects, etc.)

-----Tear on dotted line-----keep top as receipt-----return bottom with check-----

*****Please choose type of Membership below: (Annual membership dues are payable by December 15th)**

- Individual \$10 per year
- Family \$20 per year (2 adults per household & children 4-16)
- Junior \$1.00 per year (16 & under with a sponsor)
- Subscriber \$7.50 per year (newsletter only)

*****Please indicate special interest areas** (info published in Club Directory in members only area on our website)

- Beads
- Cabochons
- Carving
- Crystals
- Faceting
- Field Trips
- Fossils
- Gems & Minerals
- General Geology
- Jewelry Making
- Micromounts
- Other _____

*****Please print all information clearly***** (info published in Club Directory in members only area on our Website)

1st Adult name _____

Additional family names (children & ages)

2nd Adult name _____

Age _____

Address _____

Age _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Age _____

Phone # (____) _____ - _____ # (____) _____ - _____

Age _____

****Need at least 1 Email for Rockfinder & news!**

**Email (1) _____

Age _____

Email (2) _____

Age _____

*****Club requirements must be met for eligibility on bus/field trips.*****

*****PLEASE READ & SIGN BELOW*****

With my signature I hereby release the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, Inc., and it's 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 my property and further I will respect the equipment and property of the aforesaid owners.

*** Signed _____ Date _____

*** Signed _____ Date _____

Send signed application/renewal form & check payable to MGMS or Michiana Gem & Mineral Society to:

*******MGMS Membership C/O Deb Longworth, 7451 E 900 N., New Carlisle, IN 46552*******

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 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 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.



Bylaws Update from Jason Hefner, Editor

We need to update the bylaws regarding our dues. Please attend the March meeting!

Article II, Dues. The annual dues of the society shall be payable annually in advance of the date of the annual meeting according to the following schedule:

Single Membership-----\$15.00 per year

The amount is changing to \$10.00 per year. We will vote to change the Bylaws in March.

ARTICLE VI--AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be altered or amended at any meeting of the society by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that such two-thirds shall be at least 15 affirmative votes. Two weeks' notice of such alteration or amendment must be given in writing via the society's newsletter.

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: March 23, 2025

Doors open at 1:00 pm for Juniors
Meeting starts at 2:00pm

Very short meeting and the MSHA training. **If you want to go to some of the field trips you must have MSHA training!**

Place:
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
29th & Wall
South Bend, IN. (This is in River Park area)

Board of Directors

President: Open

Vice-President: Stephanie Hughes
574-847-9749

Secretary: Kathy Wallace

Treasurer: Lyn Zeiger
574-259-5944

Liaison: Jason Hefner
574-354-0478

Past President: Ross Fergerson
574-850-6208

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: Open

Hospitality: Open

Juniors:

Librarian:

Membership: Deb Longworth
574-250-2825

Programs:

Publicity: Josh Klosinski
574-274-8714

Safety: Jennifer Hefner
574-858-9837

Show Chair: Ross Fergerson
574-850-6208 & Stephanie Hughes
574-847-9749

Sunshine: Sarah Lane
574-276-7554

Webmaster: Joe Perry
574-295-9050

February Meeting minutes By Kathy Wallace, Secretary

Meeting Minutes – Date: February 23, 2025

Members in Attendance - Adults 32 Children 0
New Members 0 Guests 2

Call to Order - Ross Fergerson

Pledge of Allegiance - Ross Fergerson

Welcome - Ross Fergerson

Past Presidents - Jason, Kathy, Ross

Secretary Report - Read and approved

Parliamentarian – Ross Fergerson

Midwest Federation – convention coming up in Lincoln, NE

American Federation – JR newsletter for kids, written by
kids w/silent auction of minerals

American Lands Access –

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Show & Tell – Dennis & Holly had Tucson magazines, etc for all to
take. Dennis showed what fluorescents he dug in Arizona

Editor – Jason Hefner

Educational –

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

Field Trips – Jason still working on several quarry trips. Lander, WY still
on for 6/2-6/6

Historian –

Hospitality – Eva Jakab

Juniors – Kathy Chidister

Membership – Deb Longworth

Programs – Zoe and Carmen from Notre Dame gave a presentation on
Nuclear Energy Research and the disposal of used Nuclear Fuel

Publicity –

Safety – Jennifer Hefner

Show Chair – Ross Fergerson & Stephanie Hughes

Sunshine – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to:

Get well card to:

Webmaster – Joe Perry

OLD BUSINESS - Lander, Wyoming trip in June. Some of the
items/places we'll go to are: fish fossils, blue forest, maybe jade, sweet
water agate with a night hunt, Wiggins Fork, lysate agates and
Cottonwood. If you're going to be in Lander on May 31 or June 1, Ross
will be there early so contact him if you want to do some extra
"exploring".

Continued on page 5

En-dow-ment JC Moore, AFMS President [Volume 78, Number 2](#) — [March 2025](#)



As we begin the show season, I hope everyone has returned from Arizona fully stocked for the upcoming shows. Due to the fact that our home show is the second weekend in March, traveling to Tucson and Quartzite has not been accomplished but is still on the bucket list. March is a busy month for the Moore family with show commitments for the second and third weekends, and a week to recuperate before heading to the AFMS Convention in Hickory North Carolina. While the convention is early this year, I hope all the Regional Federations will be able to be represented.

As the President is responsible for appointing committee chairs, there are several committees without chairmen that I am looking to fill: Conservation and Legislation, Judges Training and Media Director. The Judges Training position will be discussed during the Uniform Rules meeting and have a report at the general meeting in the afternoon. The Media Director would be responsible for ensuring that meetings are available through electronic means for those unable to attend in person. Perhaps this would be making sure that the host club/federation has this capability rather than having to bring the equipment themselves. I would like to thank all the current chairs for continuing in their positions this year.

President's Message Cheryl Neary, MWF President excerpted from [March 2025 - Issue No. 640](#)

Multiple times I have heard people ask about our federation – the Midwest Federation. It seems that some members of our clubs aren't aware that a federation exists to help their clubs.

The purpose of the federation is “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.”

The question is – what can your federation do for your club?
To understand the question, let's first look back into our history as a federation. It was organized in 1940. The Midwest Federation, along with three other federations, were the original founders of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in 1947.

It encompasses a region of 12 states. The states served by the Midwest Federation are: From the farthest west: North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska To the farthest east: Michigan and Ohio With Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana in between. In addition, although Arkansas is part of the South Central Federation, three Arkansas clubs have joined our membership.

There are approximately 110 clubs in our federation.

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

Fort Wayne field trip 2025

On Friday February 28 a few members of the club were able to access Ardmore quarry in Fort Wayne. This was their first field trip since 2020. They had a strict limit on number of people. We had some safety training and got into a few vehicles equipped with flags and strobes. We followed our host down into the quarry and had a few hours to collect under the watchful eye of our host.





Still need some Volunteers Jason Hefner, Editor

We have several open spots available for people to step up and help the club. Spots include President, Historian, Hospitality, Programs, and possibly a few more.

If you have any interest, please reach out to the Board!

February Meeting minutes continued from page 2

NEW BUSINESS - We will have Safety Training Certification at the March meeting. Use the club restrooms, not the church's and pick up any paper towels you drop on the floor as there is no janitorial service.

We're still looking into another building for our meetings. A couple of places brought up are: Lane Lab and Southfield Village in South Bend. Mark Tarner also volunteered his place before.

Adjournment – Motion made & seconded

Program - Zoe and Carmen

Next Meeting - Sunday, March 23 @ 2:00 est