

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



May 2025

Volume 65 Number 5



Almost field trip time!!

**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***

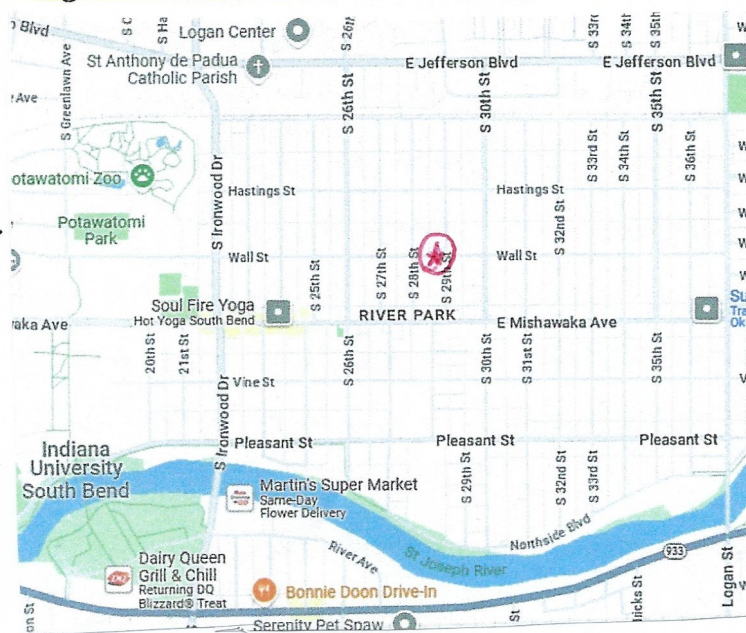
The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study & enjoyment of the earth sciences & the lapidary arts & to share lapidary knowledge & techniques.

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)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior \$1.00 per year (16 & under with a sponsor) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20 per year (2 adults per household & children 4-16) | <input type="checkbox"/> Subscriber \$7.50 per year (newsletter only) |

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

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beads | <input type="checkbox"/> Crystals | <input type="checkbox"/> Fossils | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry Making |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabochons | <input type="checkbox"/> Faceting | <input type="checkbox"/> Gems & Minerals | <input type="checkbox"/> Micromounts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carving | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips | <input type="checkbox"/> General Geology | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 ROCKFINDER

Volume 65 Number 5
May 2025

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.



Volunteers from Jason Hefner, Editor

We still need volunteers for the show. If you have never volunteered, don't worry it is not difficult. We need folks at many different tables to interact with the public.

- Kids Korner – work with kids, “play” games, and hand out prizes.
- Door - Greet everyone and take admission. The math is easy! Admission is \$5
- Club Table – Share your knowledge about the club. Help identify rocks and talk with people.
- Silent Auction – Put out rocks for sale. Interact with people, Keep an eye on people and the rocks. Make change.
- There are lots of other opportunities as well. Please sign up to volunteer at the May Meeting!
- The new yard signs for the show will be at the meeting. Be thinking of where you might put some. Sign them out at the meeting.

Up & Coming Next Meeting: May 18, 2025

Doors open at 1:30pm
Meeting starts at 2:00pm

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 Krafter, 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

April Meeting minutes

By Kathy Wallace, Secretary

Meeting Minutes – Date: April 27, 2025

Members in Attendance - Adults 32 Children 1
New Members 0 Guests 0

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 –

American Federation –

American Lands Access –

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Show & Tell –

Editor – Jason Hefner

Educational – Knox School with Dennis, Holly, Kathy & Glenn with 127 kids. It was 5 – 3rd grade classes. Dennis & Holly also did a Lakeville Steam presentation.

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

Field Trips – Lander, WY. Stay together in case of an accident. We will drive to Kemmerer for fossils and they will provide the chisels to use. Split them in 1/4" segments and go in the afternoon or it will be wet. Black light trip is possible in the blue petrified woods.

Historian –

Hospitality – Eva Jakab

Juniors – Kathy Chidister

Membership – Deb Longworth

Programs – You can do on-line training for the MSHA if you missed last month. Contact Jason if you're going to do it.

Publicity –

Safety – Jennifer Hefner & Julie Wieger

Show Chair – Ross Fergerson & Stephanie Hughes

Sunshine – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to:

Get well card to:

Webmaster – Joe Perry - Joe updated the links on our website and put the Rock Finder on it.

OLD BUSINESS - 20 vendors are signed up for the show in August. Two are not coming back. Ross will check our Facebook page for other vendors who say they've not received our contract or would like to have a booth at the show.

Next year it will be held on August 21, 22 & 23, 2026.

Continued on page 5

Public Relations

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair [Volume 78, Number 4 — May 2025](#)



Nearly every club that hosts an annual show has a Publicity Chair, and that person pops up to promote your big one-time event. But what about the rest of the year? From what I've seen, most clubs lack a Public Relations Chair for promoting the club and its activities year-round. If you are only known within your community for your once-a-year show, you're missing out on opportunities to tell about the many other things your club does that make for a valued member of a broader community.

My own Ventura Gem & Mineral Society is a case in point. In February, I was invited by our local Rotary Club to give a presentation about our club specifically focused on what we do for the community. As I prepared a PowerPoint and gathered photos of our activities year-round, it really made me realize how we were missing out on letting the community know what an engaged partner they have. Everyone in Rotary knew about our gem show, but almost no one knew about our educational outreach to local schools, our participation in STEM science nights and the city-wide Earth Day fest, the college scholarships we award, Continued on Page 4

President's Message

Cheryl Neary, MWF President
excerpted from [May 2025 - Issue No. 642](#)

The MWF had a successful convention! I know many clubs were not in attendance, and I am sorry to say you missed a great networking opportunity to discuss ideas and suggestions about club meetings, membership and field trips.

Thanks to the host club, the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club in Nebraska. They provided our federation with a nice meet- and-greet on Friday night, outstanding accommodations for the annual meeting and banquet, and a great show!

On October 25th, the MWF Executive Committee will be meeting in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, hosted by the Summit Lapidary Club and Akron Mineral Society. This is the weekend of their joint show. This will be another opportunity for your club to network with others within the federation. I cannot stress this point enough: In-person meetings are essential for the federation to thrive.

I had a great time at the convention! At the banquet on Saturday night, awards were announced for the Bulletin Editors Contest and the Website Competition on both the regional and national levels. The MWF scored second only to the Rocky Mountain Federation for the number of trophies awarded in the Bulletin Editors Contest.

Use the link above to read the rest of the article.

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

April Meeting minutes continued from page 2

NEW BUSINESS - South Bend Rocks does a Nature presentation on Saturday, May 17 from 11 – 1 p.m. Ross volunteered to do it.

B100 is doing a talk show from our show on Saturday from 10-12 p.m.

Jason is going to order new yard signs for this year's show.

Adjournment – Motion made & seconded

Program - John gave a presentation on plate tectonics from Antarctica and talked about fossil leaves found in Australia.

Next Meeting - Sunday, May 18, 2025 (3rd Sunday in May)

Public Relations continued from page 3

our educational lectures open to the public, our youth program, our participation at several levels in the county fair, our little 2-room museum for classroom visits and home-schoolers, our hands-on activities for kids in YMCA summer camp, 4H, Scouts, the library's summer reading program, and more. Said one Rotary member at the conclusion of my talk, "You guys sure are busy!" And no one had a clue.

So, with no official position designated in our By-Law and Operating Regulations, I've deputized myself as self-appointed VGMS Public Relations Chair. (Just don't tell anyone on our Board a rogue member is going maverick on them!) As a start, I've written up and fired off a press release to our local newspapers (and to post to our club website and social media) to tell about the two college students we've awarded with \$1,000 scholarships this year. It took me only a half hour to write and fire it off as an email attachment, and I immediately got a response from the Ventura Breeze requesting a photo and letting me know an article would run. So far as I know, this may be the first time we've had one of our community efforts—beyond our annual show—publicized to the broader Ventura community. Now that I'm on a roll, I'm looking around and thinking about what other press releases I might be able to develop over the course of the year. As they said at Rotary, "You guys sure are busy!" It's time to let everyone know! As we highlight the full value we bring as engaged members of the community, who knows where it might lead?



Check out Wikipedia for a good summation of the cool fossil John brought I and spoke about!

[Photo of Gondwana credited to Wikipedia](#)

Click on the link to read their article.



Fossils of the gymnosperm *Glossopteris* (dark green) found in all of the southern continents provide strong evidence that the continents were once amalgamated into a supercontinent

[Gondwana](#)