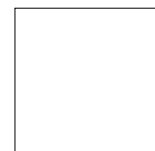


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Jason Hefner, Editor  
229 East State St  
Etna Green, IN 46524



May 2026

Volume 66 Number 4

**THE  
ROCKFINDER**



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 5th. 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.

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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.



## President's Message, Jason Hefner, President

It may not feel like it, but summer is just around the corner. With summer come opportunities to get out to explore and collect. Now is the time to review your gear, tools, and clothing. Gear might include lawn chairs, tents, wagon, phone charger, power back, back pack, cooler, wet wipes, 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit, and numerous other items.

Tools include rock hammers (please make sure they are rated for masonry use), chisels, pry bars, rakes, shovel, pick, buckets, newspaper, egg cartons, and other items to wrap. You might even use a hammer drill, feather wedges, saws, Geiger counter and other fun tools. Safety glasses are a must. Safety toe boots I include with gear as well. Consider dust mask if you are cutting or working on rocks that present a known hazard.

Long pants, safety toe footwear, and gloves are best. Don't forget sunscreen and bug spray. If you are going into places with lots of ticks I even recommend pretreating your pants, socks, and shoes with repellents. I personally use permethrin solution to pretreat my jeans, boots, and socks. My wife thought it a bit much but I even made a checklist I print before my trips so I do not forget anything.

## Up & Coming

**Next Meeting: May 17, 2026**

Doors open at 1:30 pm  
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: Jason Hefner  
574-354-0478

Vice-President: Open

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219-380-1252

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574-259-5944

Liaison: Open

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Facebook: Jason Hefner

Field Trips: Jason Hefner, Ross  
Fergerson

Historian: Open

Hospitality: Open

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Membership: Deb Longworth  
574-250-2825

Programs:

Publicity: Josh Klosinski  
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574-850-6208 &  
Pamela Weishaupt  
574-538-9623

Sunshine: Sarah Lane  
574-276-7554

Webmaster: Joe Perry  
574-295-9050

# April Meeting minutes

By Kathy Wallace, Secretary

**Meeting Minutes** – Date: April 26, 2026

**Members in Attendance** - Adults 26 Children 0  
New Members 0 Guests 1

**Call to Order** - Jason Hefner

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Jason Hefner

**Welcome** - Jason Hefner

**Past Presidents** – Jason

**Secretary Report** - Read and approved

**Treasurers Report** – Read and approved

**Parliamentarian** – Jason Hefner

Midwest Federation – Chicagoland Gem & Mineral Assoc.

May 24 & 25 at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles, IL

American Federation –

American Lands Access –

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Show & Tell** – Jason talked about his trip to New York re fluorescent minerals, metamorphic & semi-metamorphic, hexagonite, etc

**Editor** – Jason Hefner

**Educational** –

**Facebook** – Jason Hefner

**Field Trips** – Later this year to Auglaize, OH and another in Mitchell, IN

**Historian** –

**Hospitality** – Eva Jakab

**Juniors** – Kathy Chidister

**Membership** – Deb Longworth – She's had 5 renewals sent in will send out reminders to those who still owe for this year.

**Programs** –

**Publicity** –

**Safety** – Jennifer Hefner & Julie Wieger

**Show Chair** – Pam W, Ross and Jason

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

Get well card to:

**Webmaster** –

**OLD BUSINESS** - Glenn & Kathy took a steam board to Tippecanoe Park for Earth Day and had 455 kids go through with countless parents, teachers & aides. We took lysite agates, snakeskin agates and chalcedony quartz as give aways to each school. A total of 7 different schools attended it.

## Public Relations Ronna Watkins, AFMS President

excerpted from [Volume 79, Number 4 — May 2026](#) - click the link to read the entire article

Just a short message about what I have been up to. In March, I attended the NFMS Convention in Missoula, Montana, representing the AFMS. The weather was perfect, and the show was very well attended. The displays were amazing, with several youth participating. And I was happy to see a healthy number of competitive displays. The show had plenty of activities, including sifting for sapphires, garnets, or sunstones, geode cracking, and the spin-to-win.

It was unfortunate that the BEAC breakfast and the officer's luncheon had to be cancelled due to the venue not being available at the last moment due to a funeral needing the space. Of course, respectfully, no one could have predicted that could happen.

On a better note, the banquet was yummy Famous Dave's BBQ. It was a great idea for an affordable awards dinner, and there was plenty for everyone. The event included a very funny skit performed by the officers and chairs demonstrating their jobs in a western style trial. It was a great way to illustrate what each one's duties entailed.

## President's Message Tom Barnhizer MWF President

excerpted from [May 2026 - Issue No. 652](#) - click the link to read the entire article

The time has come. Spring has sprung, although somewhat reluctantly in the parts of the Midwest region. I know that a few of us have been fortunate enough to be west of the Mississippi, where record warmth provided great opportunities for rockhounding.

Others made the annual pilgrimage to Quartzsite or Tucson and returned with material that will be gracing our regional show tables for months to come.

I have booked my own field trip to the southern shore of Lake Superior in early June. I plan to spend a week prospecting the tailing piles outside of the many copper mines along the Keweenaw Peninsula. Of course, we won't miss the opportunity for some beachcombing for agates, "Yooperlites," and fossils. After a long winter, it's great to be thinking about getting out into the field again.

In addition to field trips, it's also "Show Time." Mineral, rock and gem shows are popping up every week. I have visited a couple of shows so far, and was excited to go to a show April 11th and 12th hosted by our own Northwest Ohio Rockhound Club. The club held its spring 2026 show in a new venue that provides space for more vendors, lapidary demos, and youth activities. It's also in a great location near the Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport.



### 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** continued from page 2

Picnic in July possibly at the church but Emily volunteered to look into Pinhook Park and other locations for us.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Emily has some stuff she'd like to get rid of so if anyone is interested, talk to her. New information re the August show - Ross called the St Joe fairgrounds to confirm our dates and found out that they had us down for August 21, 22 and 23. Please mark your calendars with the changed dates!!

**Adjournment** – Motion made & seconded

**Program** - John J talked about his trip to the Drake Passage in Antarctica where the waves are the most dangerous in the world as they can get as high as 50 – 60 ft., and his trip to Machu Picchu, Peru and brought an awesome meteorite to show from there. He also talked about quartz, granite, feldspar, labradorite, basalt, etc., and passed around samples of each one. He also talked about the Canadian Shield in Acosta, Canada that has the oldest rocks on earth. Wonderful and very informative talk! Nick P brought his “dragon eggs” and his “dragon” to show (sodalite) !!

**Next Meeting - Sunday, May 17 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in May because of Memorial Day)**

**Upcoming dates** - Picnic on July 26 but just not sure where yet :)