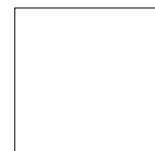


Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Jason Hefner, Editor
229 East State St
Etna Green, IN 46524



June 2026

Volume 66 Number 5

**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, 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
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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

Hopefully everyone is having a good month. We just had meeting to see how the show plans are progressing. 16 out of 27 vendors have sent in their contracts and the remaining 10 have been reminded we need to know by the end of the month. We have a list of previous and new vendors chomping at the bit to get into our show, so we are good! Everything is set for the fairground and yard signs are in and at the church. We really need volunteers for the various volunteer positions at the show. We have 12 time slots available for the door, 70 time slots for the Kids Corner, and 16 times slots available for the club table. Each time slot is 2 hours. The sign in sheets will be at the next meeting, so please consider volunteering.

The picnic is set for July 26 at Sumption Prairie United Methodist Church at 24535 Roosevelt Road South Bend IN. Sign up for the picnic at the next meeting.

Check out the classified at the end of the newsletter. A new section for all our members. This is a buy, sell, trade, give away, requests, information, etc....

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: June 28, 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

Secretary: Kathy Wallace
219-380-1252

Treasurer: Lyn Zeiger
574-259-5944

Liaison: Open

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: Jason Hefner

Field Trips: Jason Hefner, Ross
Fergerson

Historian: Open

Hospitality: Open

Juniors: Kathy Chidister
574-202-3864

Librarian:

Membership: Deb Longworth
574-250-2825

Programs:

Publicity: Josh Klosinski
574-274-8714

Show Chair: Ross Fergerson
574-850-6208 &
Pamela Weishaupt
574-538-9623

Sunshine: Sarah Lane
574-276-7554

Webmaster: Joe Perry
574-295-9050

May Meeting minutes

By Kathy Wallace, Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance - Jason Hefner

Welcome - Jason Hefner

Past Presidents - Jason, Ross

Secretary Report - Read and approved

Treasurer 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 –

Editor – Jason Hefner

Educational –

Facebook – Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Jason Hefner

Field Trips – Auglaize, OH this fall (they can have fossils, stromatolite, a variety of calcite, fluorite and selenite) and another to Mitchell, IN

Historian –

Hospitality – Eva Jakab

Juniors – Kathy Chidister

Membership – Deb Longworth

Programs –

Publicity –

Safety – Jennifer Hefner & Julie Wieger

Show Chair – Jason, Pam & Ross

Sunshine – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to:

Get well card to:

Webmaster – Joe Perry Joe put the show info in the Rockfinder and a pdf file

Continued on Page 4

Public Relations Ronna Watkins, AFMS President excerpted from [Volume 79, Number 5 — June 2026](#) - click the link to read the entire article

As you read this message, we are emerging from the best season for rockhounding. The weather has been unusually warm here in the Yakima Valley, so field collecting has been perfect...and I will have returned from our annual convention in Illinois.

As we gather each year at our annual convention and celebrate our hobby, we honor our bulletin editors and their contributors through the Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee's annual bulletin contest. This annual tradition gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation for the people that month after month, year after year provide the communication necessary to bring us together for meetings, field trips, and events. Recognizing the people that make our bulletins and special publications fun and interesting to read is truly an honor. Being an editor is not an easy task! I actually sat down and did a rough estimate of how much time I spent putting together and sending out my club's bulletin over a decade and it worked out to almost a year of my life in hours. So, I want to congratulate our Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee's award winners and thank our AFMS newsletter editor, Linda Jaeger for her dedication in putting together a perfectly edited publication. Linda not only has done an excellent job with our newsletter, but this year has gone beyond editing and has updated the Operating Procedure for Standing Committee #1 to align with the new digital newsletter format. Thank you, Linda! I also thank Cheryl Neary for her outstanding work as our AFMS BEAC Chair and all the Judges!.

Ohio Club Celebrates 50 Years Mary Manning, Former President Miami County Gem and Mineral Club excerpted from [May 2026 - Issue No. 652](#) - click the link to read the entire article

The Miami County Gem and Mineral Club, based in Troy, Ohio, is celebrating its 50th year in 2026. It was established in the spring of 1976 and was called the Brukner Gem and Mineral Club. Meetings were held once a month at Brukner Nature Center, also in Troy.

The purpose of the club was to bring together folks who were interested in rock collecting and the lapidary hobby, with a focus on educating the public. The first newsletter came out in March, 1977, and was full of information about lapidary, such as tumbling and polishing rocks, gemstone cutting, sphere making, and other topics. Sue Reed of Pleasant Hill was the first editor of the Brukner Rockette. Many others took their turn at editing the Rockette, but Louise Brower was the main editor from the mid-1980s to the early 2000's.

Soon, a rock lab was set up in the basement at Brukner. Keith Singerman first offered classes on cutting and polishing cabochons. Many others followed as lab instructors.

One of the favorite activities of the club was collecting flint at Flint Ridge at the Nethers' farm in Hopewell, Ohio. The club sponsored many field trips to this area to collect beautiful pieces, which members polished or used in jewelry. To this day, the club goes to Flint Ridge several times a year.



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

May Meeting minutes continued from page 2

OLD BUSINESS - August show – 12 & under are free, everyone else \$5.00/person. Club table handles the raffle tickets and entrance money. Silent auction – club gets 20% if an active member otherwise 50% if a public item. Sign up sheets are at the back on the tables, PLEASE SIGN UP!! We need lots of help :)

NEW BUSINESS - Picnic Sunday, July 26 - possibly at Sumption Prairie Park - address is: 24535 Roosevelt Rd, South Bend, IN. Club is buying the chicken. Please bring salad, vegetable, or dessert to share. Bring your own drinks.

Adjournment –

Program - Jason, with his son Michael, went to Jet, OK, and picked up hourglass selenite in the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge. It was a defense training site from 1942 – 1946. About 1-2 feet below the surface is salty water and once the ocean receded a thin layer of salt was left behind. The hourglasses within the crystals form because of the mixture of the wet soil, sand, clay and temperature. No other place in the world forms these unique selenite crystals with their hourglass-shaped interior. It is open from April 1 – October 15. If you travel out there, take LOTS of water to drink and for washing rocks. In other areas you can find petrified wood, mammoth teeth, etc.

Next Meeting - Sunday, June 28 @ 2 pm est

Upcoming dates - Picnic on July 26

Time to prepare for the show! By Jason Hefner, President

Do you have rocks and other lapidary items you do not use or might want gone? Here is your chance. Please consider donating items to the Kids Corner or selling items at the Silent Auction. Do you have something nice you want to put up as a door prize?

The Classified!

– a new section for our members for all things that rock! Do you have a classified ad you want to run? Send the info to the Editor. Hefner_family@hotmail.com

Field trip opportunity coming up on Saturday June 27th. This is a chance to visit the Lagrange highway department gravel pit. Meeting in Lagrange at 8am, potluck lunch with bbq grill available. Space for up to 19 people. Contact Scott Beam with Green Bus Tours on Facebook. Suggested donation of \$10 per person to cover bus operation.