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

October 2026 Volume 66 Number 7

THE ROCKFINDER

We're on the Web! See us at: 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 $10.00 __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 Deb Longworth
7415 East 900 North
New Carlisle, IN 46552

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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.

President's Message, Jason Hefner, President

Wow what a month. Started the month coming back from a great trip to Canada. Found lots of awesome rocks & minerals, so please come to the meeting.

I have been working behind the scenes to try and get a fall field trip, but the quarries continue to be busy, so I am starting to get pessimistic about our chances, but you never know!

I don't know about you but I've had to work the weekends as well this month, so I am looking forward to some time off in November and December. Maybe I get some Canadian rocks out of their buckets!

At the meeting we need to develop a slate of officers for 2027. Please be thinking about volunteering! More details later in the newsletter. You can also volunteer for other positions.

Up & Coming

Next Meeting: October 25, 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)

There is no meeting in November. The December meeting is on Sunday the 6th. We will have out election of officer, a potluck lunch, and some fun!

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:

September meeting minutes By Kathy Wallace, Secretary

Meeting Minutes – Date: 9/27/26

Members in Attendance - Adults 34 Children 5

New Members Guests

Call to Order - Kathy Wallace

Pledge of Allegiance - Kathy Wallace

Welcome - Kathy Wallace

Past Presidents - Kathy M

Secretary Report - Read and approved

Treasurer Report - Read and approved

Parliamentarian – Jason Hefner

Midwest Federation –

American Federation –

American Lands Access –

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Show & Tell – Tom Noe brought a rock trying to find out what it is, but no help. Erica brought some nice geodes to show.

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

Editor – Jason Hefner

Educational –

Facebook – Josh Klosinski – Nancy Foreman – Jason Hefner

Field Trips –

Historian –

Hospitality – Eva Jakab

Juniors – Kathy Chidister

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AFMS Newsletter – New club locator!

Use the pins on this map to find clubs/societies and their Regional Federation.
Find detailed information on the club/society or Regional Federation website.
The data on this map does not provide exact driving locations.



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

Midwest Federation

By John Martin, PLAC Chair California Federation of Mineralogical Societies From the April, 2024 CFMS Newsletter “Rockhound Soap Box” Feature

On February 29, 2024, an email was sent out from the federal Bureau of Land Management District in El Centro, California, telling about a new webpage for recreational rockhounding on public lands. The address is www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/rockhounding

The page, “Rockhounding on Public Lands,” includes FAQ and a Guide to Collecting on Public Lands, as well as more specific information about rockhounding and/or all public-land recreation activities in several states.

The guide to collecting on public lands, “Can I Keep This?”, gives specific methods that may be used and specified quantities of forest and mineral items that may or may not be collected on all federal lands.

The website contains very good information and the rockhounding community needs to engage in a way to take action so as to increase the awareness of recreational rockhounding on public lands!

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

Membership – Deb Longworth
Programs –

Publicity –
Safety – Jennifer Hefner
Show Chair – Jason, Pam & Ross
Sunshine – Sarah Lane – Sympathy card to:
Get well card to:
Webmaster – Joe Perry

OLD BUSINESS - We had approx. 320 kids this year at the August show. The show was a success once again. Lyn thanked all who helped. We had 2,570 paid adults. Food vendors were happy but there were concerns that the Lions Club booth closed too soon. One vendor complained about no coffee.

NEW BUSINESS - We had 6 new people who joined during the August that show came to the meeting today! Glad to have them join us!! Kathy & Glenn did a steam show at the Union Mills Library on Saturday, September 5 with 4 kids and 4 adults that showed up. They also did a steam show at the Northwest Indiana Islamic center on Wednesday, September 16 for 30 kids of 4th & 5th graders. We gave them each a bag of rocks containing: quartz points, lysite agates, chalcedony quartz and some different rocks that we had polished.
Left in the Kids Korner at the August show was a red thermos and a bag that I think was bought by someone in the family named Roodman. If either item is yours, please let me know, my phone number is 219 380 1252 and you can tell me what meeting you’ll be at and I’ll bring it/them with.

Adjournment –
Program - John J did a talk on fossils found in Braidwood, Illinois. He split open some shale to see what was inside. Found fern fossils and annularia fossils. There are approx. 400 different species of fossils.

Next Meeting - Sunday, October 25 @ 2pm eastern

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

Time to Volunteer! Information from the Bylaws –

"The nomination of elective Officers shall be held at the regular meeting on the fourth Sunday of October. The nominating committee shall present its slate of officers, and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Nominations will be published in The Rockfinder. Election Of officers shall be held at the annual meeting of the society in December. Elected officers shall take office in January."

Here is information on the officers and their duties as described in the bylaws. If you have questions about any of these positions please reach out to the people in these spots now. Be assured you will not be just "left to the wolves" if you volunteer. You will be supported by the entire club!

The Board

"ARTICLE III—ELECTIVE OFFICERS: DUTIES

- The duties of the **President** shall be to preside over all regular meetings, to preside over special business meetings, to appoint all committee chairs, and to be a member of all committees ex officio. The president shall have the responsibility of replacing any member of the board of directors who fails, through negligence, to serve in his or her elected office. Resignation or death automatically calls for the appointment of an interim replacement.
- The duties Of the **Vice-President** shall be to officiate in the absence of the president, to appoint a nominating committee for the election of officers, and to conduct the annual elections.

- The duties of the **Secretary** shall be to keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the society and the meetings of the board of directors, and to keep an accurate file of the membership.
- The duties of the **Treasurer** shall be to receive all dues and to make all disbursements. The treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of such transactions, render a report at each regular meeting, and make a financial report to the board of directors or to the president when requested. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to furnish bond immediately upon taking office in an amount to approximate the amount of the current assets of the society.
- The **Liaison Officer** shall act as Midwest Federation liaison representative. The liaison officer's duties shall be to receive all reports and communications from the Midwest Federation secretary and transmit them to the proper officers of the society. The liaison officer shall also furnish promptly to the Midwest Federation secretary a list of all the society's officers and their addresses and other pertinent information as shall be required.”