



Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society

ROCK PICKINGS

May 2016

P.O. Box 1724 • Richmond, IN 47375 • eiggs.weebly.com • facebook.com/EasternIndianaGemGeologicalSocietyEIGGS

EIGGS Board Members

President

Mark Lisota
317-525-1418
mlisota@hotmail.com

Vice President

Mary Ann Morse
765-914-2672
jfmamorse@gmail.com

Secretary

Patrick Pierce
937-838-1644
patrickwp@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dave Straw
765-966-4249
strawdl@aol.com

Show Chairman

Judy Burton
937-339-1966
jleeburton@woh.rr.com

Vendor Chairman

John LaMont
812-322-7809
midwestchar@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Morris
EIGGSnews@gmail.com

Memberships:

Annual dues
\$15 Individuals
\$20 Families

Please send dues to:

EIGGS
PO Box 1724
Richmond, IN 47375

2 Next meeting: Thursday, June 2, 6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, rockhounds,

We had our club Clean-up Day on May 14. The weather held off long enough for us to get some work done. We got the cellar door installed, the garage cleaned up, the air conditioner removed and the fallen tiles upstairs cleaned up. We still have many projects to left to do so we plan to have at least one more Clean-up Day this year.

Last month's meeting was the first meeting with show and tell after the meeting, and I think it went pretty well. I saw some great specimens particularly, Lisa Morris's specimen. Come to the meeting and share with the group. I plan to make this a permanent fixture of the monthly meetings.

This is a general note to anyone using any of the building areas. If a piece of equipment is broken, leave a note on it with what's wrong and the date. If you have rocks glued to 2x4 sections to be cut later, mark them with your name. If you are running a tumbler or have a project laying out for some reason, leave a note with your name and number so others know what is going on. If there is a problem with the building, let me or another officer know the situation. Basically communicate problems or your intentions to the rest of the group.

Mark

SHOW & TELL

When: at June 2 meeting

Who: Club members

What: Bring a favorite rock, mineral, gem, cab, slab or specimen to share with others in the club.

This is a great chance to get to know your fellow club members, see some interesting stones and hear some good stories. Hope to see you there!

▶ INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 12

4th annual Bloom & Glow



Balloon event benefits Rose Garden

PAGE 4

Langsdon Mineral trip



Harris Precht checks out the collection

PAGES 6-7

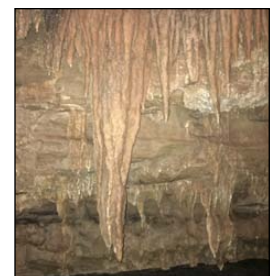
Jeweler's Bench



Deb Chagares; wire wrap jewelry

PAGES 8-11

Indiana caverns



Members share cave experiences

Members present

Jim and Marty Lucas, Judith Echano Medina, Libby Adams, Charlene Reidenbach, John LaMont, Dave Straw, Mark Lisota, Judy Burton, Mary Ann and John Morse; Naomi, Briana and Dakota Jones; Deb Chagares, Lisa Morris, Joe Wirrig, Emily and Scott Gibson, Mike Ragen, Nicole Siliven

President Mark Lisota called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Poster contest deadline extended

The deadline for the Midwest Federation's Amazing Agate Contest (*see page 3*) has been extended to June 15 to allow for more entries. Young club members are encouraged to participate.

Flint Ridge trip

The Flint Ridge field trip with Mike Manning is on May 28 (*see page 3*). Mike says there will be fresh pits open for digging.

Treasurer's report

Spent \$994, including new air conditioner
Income \$175

Club upkeep

Dave circulated a sign-up sheet for mowing. The location of the key to the garage padlock was provided. The gas can is in garage. If necessary, buy gas and be reimbursed for it.

Dave will get a large dumpster with a door for the May 14 work day. Cost will be \$300.

May 14, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. will be a Club Clean-up Day. Pizza and sodas will be provided. Among tasks to work on are removing old and installing new air conditioner, basement wiring, clean up large garage, scrape/paint upstairs hallway, make repairs in women's restroom, repair doors, re-seal garage roof, repair eaves and downspouts, re-do rock garden. Items needed: brooms, dustpans, scrapers, wire brushes, masks, goggles, step ladders, weed eater, Roundup, etc.

Langsdon Mineral Collection

Judy announced the Langsdon Mineral Collection tour on May 6. They have a wonderful rock and mineral display, and a good ice cream place is nearby.

Show updates

Judy displayed the large chunk of labradorite that will be the 2018 raffle prize.



← An example of a Utah septarian nodule shared by John LaMont and Charlene Reidenbach.



↑ An example of a goethite after marcasite pseudomorph shared by Lisa Morris.



← Examples of Pecos River "diamonds" collected near Roswell, New Mexico, by Mary Ann and John Morse.

Charlene reviewed process for vendor selection for the show, and explained space limitations in the Kuhlman Center as one obstacle to accommodating all club members who wish to set up sale booths. John LaMont suggested that we might have a show in the fall for club members to demonstrate/sell items.

Judy pointed out that our spring show is designed to support the clubhouse. She is also involved with the Troy, OH club whose show's purpose is more to give members an outlet for sales (they do not support a clubhouse). Judy is working on a mission statement for the show.

Farmer's market opportunity

Joe Wirrig announced that the Saturday morning Winchester Farmers Market is inviting our club to provide a guest dealer for one session. This would be a way to promote the club. See Joe for information.

Equipment usage & re-certification

Joe reminded members that grinders and pumps require 30-weight oil (brown can) not grease. (*see info on page 5*)

Deb and John Morse announced dates for equipment usage recertification: June 21 and June 28 (Tuesdays) at 6 p.m. This review of procedures will be mandatory for all members who use or plan to use the club's equipment. (*see page 5*)

Charlene moved that the meeting be adjourned; Joe seconded. Meeting was adjourned with show and tell and refreshments following.

YOUTH POSTER CONTEST DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JUNE 15

Hey, kids, did you remember to send in your "Amazing Agates" poster for the Midwest Federation's annual youth poster contest? If not, you're in luck because the Midwest Federation has extended the deadline until June 15, 2016.

Who: Any student in grades 1-8. Each grade will have a winner.

What: A poster illustrating any type of agate, what it looks like and where it can be found.

Rules:

1. All entries must be presented on 12"x18" paper.
2. Name, address, age and school grade of the participant must be listed on the BACK of the entry.
3. No three-dimensional posters will be accepted.
4. The title may be on the front or the back.
5. On your poster, list the name of the agate, a brief description of what it looks like, and why you chose it.
6. Artwork on the posters can be pen, ink, crayon, magic marker, paint or any other artist's medium.
7. All entries become the property of MWF and the Summit Lapidary Club.

Scale of Points:

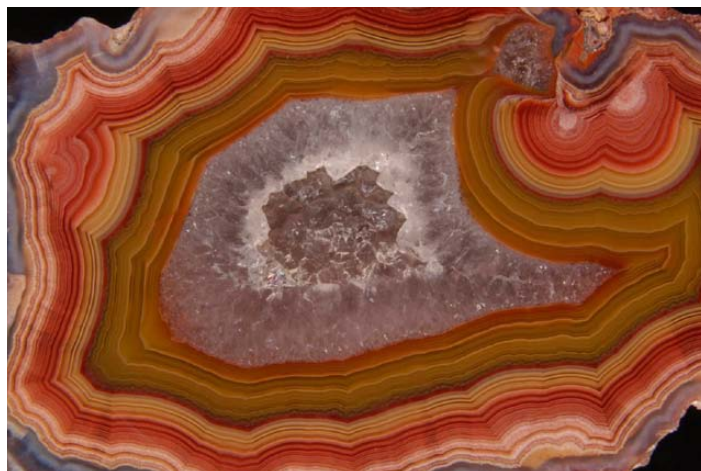
30 points: Originality & artwork

25 points: Design

25 points: Title

20 points: listing of agate type, what it looks like & where it is from

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by June 15, 2016



■ Agate via theAgateLady.com / Gitche Gumees Agate and History Museum; Grand Marais, Michigan

Send to: Poster Contest
617 Wooster Rd. W.
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Prizes: Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th places. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive prizes, too. Winners will be announced at the MWF Convention in South Bend, IN, August 20, 2016.

Questions? e-mail SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com

For more information, visit the MWF website www.amfed.org/mwfw

MAY 28 FIELD TRIP: FLINT RIDGE, OHIO

Mike Manning will lead a field trip to Flint Ridge, Ohio, Saturday, May 28. Flint Ridge is a nearly eight-mile-long vein of high-quality flint located in eastern Ohio. This trip will be during the Flint Knap-In Weekend so you could visit that event, too. (see flyer on page 14)

Below is updated trip info from Mike. He would like a count of the number of people from our club who plan to go. Let me know if you plan to attend and I will get a final number to him. (EIGGSnews@gmail.com or 765-960-6474)

Mike says: To go to Flint Ridge, we are planning on leaving from the McDonalds on Rt. 202 (Huber Heights) near I-70 at 8 a.m. on May 28. If it is calling for some rain, I will still be going unless it is going to be thunderstorms all day.

We will be travelling to the Nether's farm. The drive time is about two hours from where we are meeting. It is just east of Columbus near Newark, Ohio. Maps can be given out the day of the trip.

The cost is 50 cents a pound plus a \$5 entrance fee. You can make it in any vehicle. You just park the vehicle and get out to collect flint.

I talked to them and there will be some holes open to collect in or good flint can be picked up anywhere in the property. It is easy collecting unless you want to get in the holes and dig on one of the flint ledges. You won't go home empty-handed.

Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Also, gloves are a must since the flint is sharp. If you have a rock hammer, you can bring it to chip the flint. Some people bring more heavy equipment if they plan to attack the ledge (ie. sledge hammers, chisels, shovel, etc.)

If you plan to chip the flint, **MAKE SURE TO BRING AND WEAR SAFETY GLASSES OR GOGGLES.** Bring a bucket or pack to put your treasures in. Some people like to wrap their good crystals in newspaper or paper towels.

Bring water to drink and a sack lunch. If we have enough people going, we can set up a table

and have a shared lunch.

You can leave any time you feel like it. Once you find out how to get there, you can figure out how to return back to the interstate. There is a porta-potty on the premises.

If you have further questions, you can call me 937-681-0264 (cell) 937-552-4705 (home).



CLEAN-UP DAY PROJECTS TACKLED MAY 14

Despite the cold, rainy weather, club members joined together to help clean up the clubhouse on Saturday, May 14. Participants took the old air conditioner out and cleared space to put a new one in, removed the fallen ceiling tiles from the upstairs, removed junk from the garage (old paneling, drywall, old signs, debris, etc.), and worked on the cellar door.

Thanks to participants John LaMont, Mark Lisota, John Morse, Mary Ann Morse, Mike Ragen, Nicole Siliven, Dave Straw and Joe Wirrig. There is still more work to be done, so stay tuned for a future club clean-up date.

UPCOMING PROJECTS:

- Install the new air conditioner
- Work on eaves & downspouts all around building
- Correct electrical wiring issues in the basement
- Fix loose electrical connection to building – at top
- Scrape & paint second floor near stairs & also outside of the library
- Clean up around outbuilding garage & trim trees to facilitate mowing
- Renovate area outside garage door (rock garden)
- Work on women’s rest room ceiling & floor
- Remove garage ceiling insulation
- Re-seal garage roof



■ The new steel cellar doors were installed at the club Clean-up Day, May 14. The new doors should provide added security and should help eliminate water issues in the basement.

ON THE ROAD: LANGSDON MINERAL COLLECTION

Just over an hour from Richmond, Celina, Ohio, is home to the Langsdon Mineral Collection, which is comprised of nearly 900 specimens from around the world.

Recently Ann Richardson, Harris Precht, Charlene Reidenbach, John LaMont, Judy Burton and Lisa Morris visited the collection and were impressed by the presentation and the scope of minerals on display. All agree it was worth the trip.

For more information, check out the March issue of the EIGGS newsletter or check out the collection online.

For more photos visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHskyLzS95>

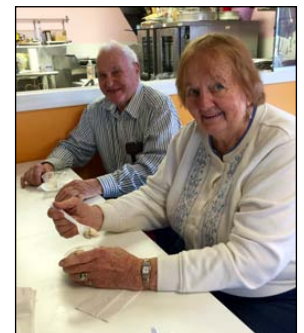
What: Langsdon Mineral Collection, Mercer County District Library
Address: 303 N. Main Street; Celina, OH 45822
Phone: 419-586-4442 **E-mail:** Minerals@MercerLibrary.org
Online: LangsdonMinerals.org ; facebook.com/LangsdonMinerals



■ Judy Burton and Ann Richardson help demonstrate conductivity.



■ Ann Richardson takes time out for a photo by one of the many cases displaying about 900 mineral specimens.



■ John LaMont and Charlene Reidenbach enjoy ice cream at the Lake City Creamery in Celina, OH.



EQUIPMENT RECERTIFICATION JUNE 21 & 28

In order to keep our equipment operational, it is important that everyone follows the same procedures.

Everyone who wishes to use the equipment is initially certified, but periodic "refresher" sessions are needed to be recertified on the equipment.

Please note that **recertification is MANDATORY**, if you want to use the equipment.

Two recertification nights will be available:

Tuesday, June 21 from 6-8 p.m.

OR Tuesday, June 28 from 6-8 p.m.

You only need to attend ONE of the sessions. Refresher sessions will be presented on the saws, grinders and other equipment.

Please attend one of these sessions. If you cannot attend, please contact Deb Chagares or John Morse about scheduling an additional recertification time. You will not be able to use the equipment until you have completed the recertification training.

recertification
is
mandatory

USE & CARE OF NOVA RESIN-BOND DIAMOND WHEELS

Joe Wirrig suggests that everyone read over this information from Diamond Pacific Tool Corp. which discusses the use and care of Nova wheels and how to lubricate the Genie grinders.

Use & Care of Nova Wheels

Nova Wheels are specially designed to produce an excellent finish on the stones with a minimum of time and effort. The diamonds in Novas are embedded within a tough, flexible, plastic resin backed by an extra soft, thick, sponge rubber, backing. This soft, flexible construction enables the surface of the Nova Wheel to conform to the stone, eliminating flat spots and scratches.

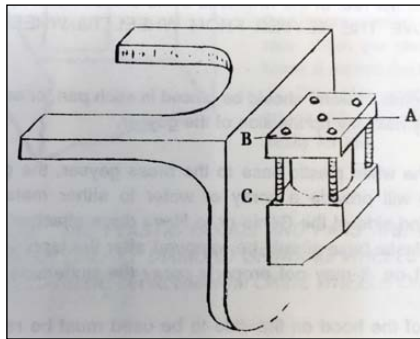
1. Nova wheels MUST be used with a water lubricant. This fact cannot be stressed too strongly, for if the wheels are run dry for more than a few moments, rapid wear and damage can result. Make certain that the geyser is supplying sufficient water to the Nova Wheel before using it, and remember to move the geyser to the next wheel as you progress through the sanding and polishing procedure.

2. Nova Wheels should be broken in by sanding and polishing a large agate cab prior to working on others. This is necessary in order to remove excess resin coating surfaces of the diamonds. Spend from two to five minutes on each wheel with the first cab, working it over the entire surface of the wheel. The finer grit wheels, 3000 and up, will take longer to remove the excess resin, and will continue to improve in the speed and finish as more stones are worked.

3. Use sufficient pressure to cause the surface of the wheel to depress slightly to conform to your stone. This eliminates the flat spots left by the grinding wheels and will cause fewer scratches than would be produced by pressure that is too light.

4. It is important to hold your stone so that you do not allow the upper part of the leading edge to act as a plow and dislodge diamonds from the surface of the wheel. The diamonds in Nova Wheels are firmly embedded in the resin with the proper use cannot be dislodged to cause contamination in proceeding from one wheel to the next. But they can be dislodged with the sharp edge of a stone.

5. To prolong the life of your Nova Wheels, be certain to prepare you stone



properly on the grinding wheels prior to sanding. Use the metal bond wheels to grind your stone to its final size and shape, and to remove all sharp edges and corners. This leaves only the final sanding and polishing to the Nova Wheels. Similarly, it is important to do a good job of sanding at each stage before going to the next as the finer grit wheels will take much longer to remove scratches than do the coarser wheels.

6. If your stone still has scratches after the final polish, check the following procedures:

A. Make certain all deep scratches left the coarse (80 grit) grinding wheel are removed by the fine (220 grit) grinding wheel.

B. Make certain you are using enough pressure on the Nova Wheels. Too light a pressure can cause scratches.

C. Make certain your Nova Wheels have been broken in properly, especially the finer grits. If any one wheel seems to be causing the scratching, take a large agate cab and work it across the entire surface of the wheel.

D. Almost all problems with scratches are caused by improper procedures in the above three areas.

Genie Air Pump Lubrication

1. To maintain maximum air output the leathers and pulley shaft in the pump should be lubricated about every 40 hours of motor operating time.

2. To oil the leathers, remove the left-hand hood. The pump will then be exposed. Remove the middle screw (see A above) that is painted red. Place two drops of 30 weight motor oil in the hole and replace the screw. This hole oils the leathers; any excess oil will eventually come out the air outlet tubing and into the water pan.

3. To oil the pulley shaft, remove the corner screw that is painted red (see B). Place two drops of 30 weight motor oil in the screw hole that is painted in the bottom pump block (see C), **NOT IN THE TOP** where the screw was removed. Do not use too much oil or allow it to run out of the hole, as excess oil can leak into the pulley belt and cause belt slippage. Replace the screw and hood.

JEWELER'S BENCH: DEB CHAGARES

What spurred your interest in jewelry-making?

Attending my first gem and mineral show in March of 2008. I saw one of the rock identification kits for kids and remembered that I had had one as a kid. I knew that it was something that I needed to pursue. I then joined the club in May.

How long have you been making jewelry?

Since December of 2008. I was self-taught and my first pieces were really bad. I started just before Christmas and was making pieces for my family.

What types of jewelry do you make?

I make wire-wrap pendants mostly, and I've done earrings as well. I use argentium sterling silver because it is one of the finest silvers and it is slow in tarnishing. I also use 14 carat gold-filled and copper. More recently I've started making cuff bracelets and copper and argentium pendants and earrings.

What is the most rewarding thing about making jewelry?

When someone finds great joy in my work and purchases it, it is very rewarding. When someone purchases a piece of your work, it is as if they are purchasing a piece of your heart.

How did you get started?

As a member of the club I met Gene Mays and he taught me how to cut the stones. He took me through the process and I couldn't wait to do my first stones. He was funny and he was a very good teacher.

What is your process when you decide to make a piece?

I look at the stone and want to see movement within the stone -- not just the shape of it, but the pattern as well. I want to create visual interest when I cut a stone. To me a wrap is a frame, like a picture frame, to complement the piece but not to overwhelm it. For me, the wire-wrapping is to accent the stone, but it shouldn't be the primary focus.

What are your favorite materials to work with?

Victoria stone is my favorite. Victoria stone is a man-made stone made between 1962 and 1984 by Dr. Ilmori who owned a company in Japan. He created his own stone using feldspar and other natural minerals paired with pressure, time and heat. When he died, he took the formula to the grave, which is what makes it a collector's stone.

Lapis is another of my favorites and so is San Simeon jasper. I also love Mookaite and Montana Agate, because of where they come from. I love rhodochrosite and rhodonite, Willow Creek, imperial jaspers, carraite, Morisonite and all the other porcelain jaspers.

In addition to the stones you have for jewelry making, do you collect other stones?

I don't collect a lot of stones; I have a few, but not very many. I have some smoky quartz. I love quartz and have a lot of clear quartz. I also have a couple script stones and other simple stuff -- just things that I saw that I loved and didn't want to cut. (It is saying A LOT if I don't want to cut it!)

How has being in the EIGGS club helped you with your jewelry work?

I've gotten better and better because of the people around me in the club who have taught me so much and who have



Name: Deb Chagares

Occupation: professional photographer / lapidary / wire-wraper

From: Richmond, IN

Member since: 2008

Jewelry media: stones & metal

■ *continued on page 7*



Australian opalite



Brecciated red jasper



Damsonite



Flint Ridge flint



Montana agate



Native copper in quartz

JEWELER'S BENCH: DEB CHAGARES

■ continued from page 6

given me different points of view. Bob Vetter knows so much about rocks; I remember he taught me what opalized meant. There is always someone at the club with knowledge to share.

What is the most challenging part of making your pieces?

Coming up with new ideas is always a challenge. It is easy to get into a rut, so you always want new ideas so that you can keep things fresh.

Where do you draw your inspiration from?

From the work of a lot of different designers. I look at a lot of artists' work, not to copy them but to get ideas. I also keep a sketch book of designs that I want to try. I am inspired by a lot of artists -- not just the jewelers, but painters like van Gogh.

Do you have a personal favorite piece of jewelry?

Any piece I make with Victoria stone is one of my favorites.

What advice would you give to others who want to make jewelry?

Keep trying. Practice, practice, practice. It is the only way to get better.

Where do you sell your pieces?

I have a gallery in Jackson Hole, WY, called Horizon Fine Art Gallery. I also sell online at chagaresphotography.com/jewelry. I've done shows at the J & J Winery and also in Carmel at Art in the Afternoon.

Why would you encourage people to get involved at the rock club?

There are great people and great education. It isn't just rocks, it is good fellowship as well. You make great friends here.

Besides making jewelry, what are your other hobbies and interests?

Photography, painting, wolves. I am a master photographer through our national association, I am a teacher, as well. I am also an international juror for photography competitions. I volunteer at a wolf habitat and rescue and we socialized a wolf in 2007 and she will be nine next month. I also paint on the computer in Corel Paint.



■ In the lapidary demonstration area at the spring show, Deb Chagares explains the process to an interested person.
 ■ At the club, Deb offers advice to Naomi Jones. Deb is a go-to person for stone identification and teaches lapidary on Tuesday nights.

What else about you would you like to share about yourself?

I love the club; it is one of my favorite places to be. My husband Jim and I have been married 31 years in July. He is the love of my life. We travel a lot and especially enjoy Yellowstone. We go to the Rio Grande Burning Trail in Texas and to our professional organization conventions. We just like to travel.

In this feature, we hope to showcase the talents of one member each month. If you would like to suggest a member, please e-mail ELGGSnews@gmail.com



Picture jasper



Pietersite



Red moss agate



Rhodochrosite



Rhodonite



Royal imperial jasper



ON THE ROAD: BLUESPRING CAVERNS

by Jamie Terhaar

In early April we were able to visit the Bluespring Caverns in southern Indiana. As you walk to the building it is not much to look at. I caught myself wondering, "Why are we here?" and, "It is way too early in the morning for this."

Once inside the building, there were many rocks and stones and items that could be bought. We purchased our tickets and waited outside in the brisk breeze. I again contemplated life and why we were here, while my husband and son were exploring.

A guide came and we started down a walkway into the earth. It did not look like much from the outside, yet once we entered the cave I was amazed! The walls were beautiful, and you could hear the sound of water rushing around you.

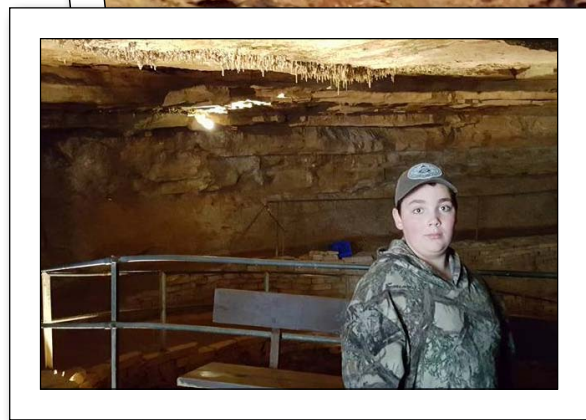
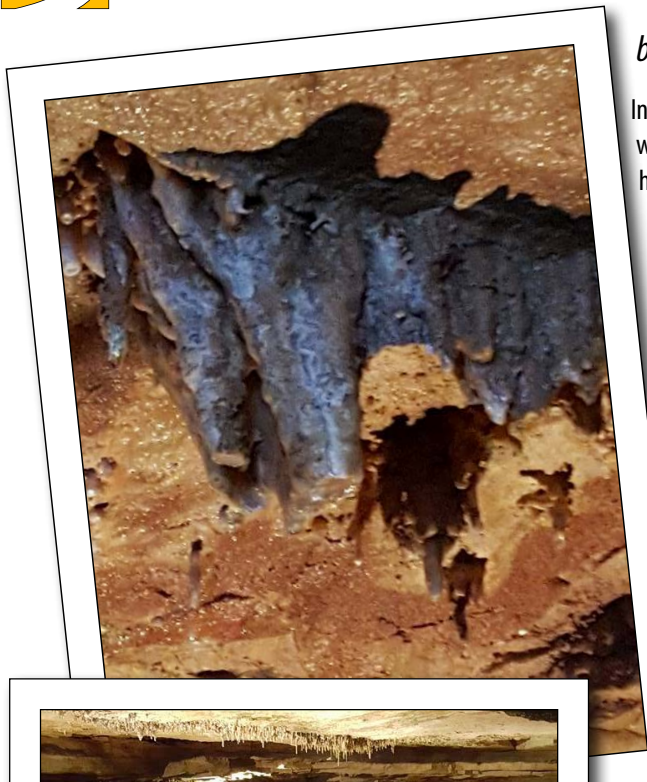
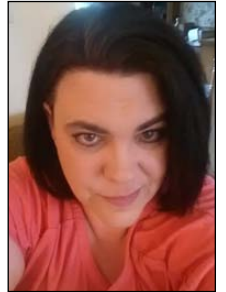
We went down into the boat and started our adventure. The guide was very knowledgeable and let us know about the history of the cave and how it came to be. The story says that a farmer owned the land and there was a pond there. One morning his child went out and the pond was gone. In its place was a huge hole and, of course, ...the cavern.

While underground, in the boat, it is a different world! There were frogs and fish -- all white in color due to lack of sunlight. We saw blind crayfish and blind cavefish. We visited during the early morning and it had been wet, so the sounds of the water running in the cave were almost deafening at times.

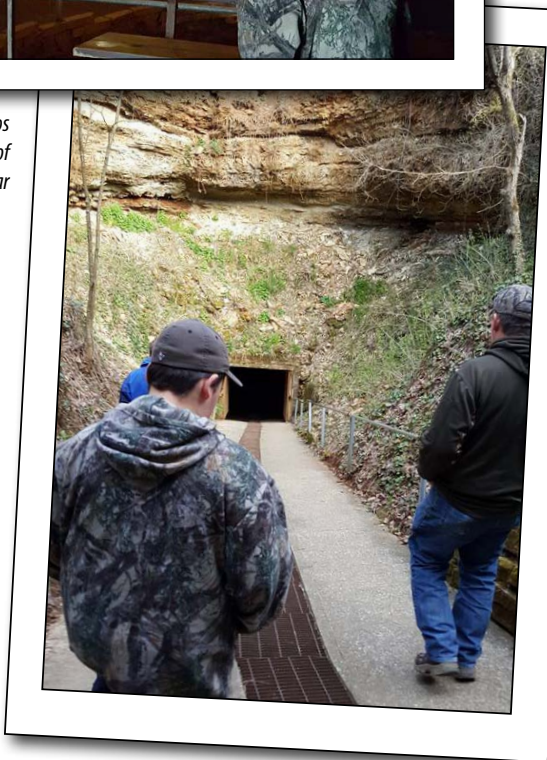
The echoes of the cave and the darkness was amazing. At one point the guide turned the lights off, and we were in complete darkness. It gave me a glimpse into what a blind person may feel -- I felt scared, yet excited all at once. Of course, Johnathon and John were talking and laughing.

If you take this tour, wear a light jacket and good gripping shoes. The walk down and up from the cavern is slippery and kind of steep, but well worth the trek! There were so many things to see and experience in the cavern.

This is a definite must do for families or even adults wanting a new experience. We are now converted into caveaholics! We have our cavern pass and now have tickets to other caverns in Indiana to visit.



photos courtesy of Jamie Terhaar



Do you have photos or "rock adventures" to share? If so, please e-mail EiggsNews@gmail.com



JUNE 24 OR 25 FIELD TRIP: BLUESPRING CAVERNS

It isn't every day that you can explore both a cavern AND a rock show in the same day. A trip to the Bedford, Indiana, gem and mineral show June 24-26 would give you the chance to do just that since Bedford is also the home of Bluespring Caverns.

Bluespring Caverns contains 21 miles (34 km) of surveyed passages. It has the longest known subterranean river in the United States with approximately three miles (4.8 km) of navigable river.

Visitors can take a one-hour river cruise through the cave where they will observe rock formations and the wildlife, including the rare sightless Northern Cavefish, which is abundant in this cave system.

The cave and adjacent museum are open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and tours run nearly every hour.

Ticket prices are regularly \$16 for adults and \$9 for children ages 3-18. Children under age 3 are free. Groups of 12 or more can take advantage of a group rate with \$12 adult tickets and \$7 children's tickets.

If a group from the club wants to go, we could arrange carpools and book a group tour. If anyone wants to go, let's discuss it at the June meeting.

There is a somewhat steep 400' walk both into and out of the cave. The temperature in the cave is 52 degrees, so a jacket is recommended.

According to Wikipedia, "The cave system was discovered as early as the 19th century. Up until 1913, the entrance used was the exodus of a spring which drained into the White River. However, a dam completed in 1913 on the White River closed off this entrance. In 1940, a second entrance was created after a severe storm passed through the area. A small pond on the farm of George Colglazier vanished overnight, becoming a sinkhole, and the present day entrance into the cave system.

Soon word of the new opening to Bluespring Caverns spread and the Col-



Visitors enjoy a boat tour through Bluespring Caverns. <http://www.indianacavetrail.com/>

glazier family welcomed visitors from around the world as people descended on the small farm to explore the caverns.

The cave was formed in two types of limestone, Indiana and St. Louis, separated by a thin layer of shale.

Bluespring Caverns are one of four show caves in Indiana. The other three are Marengo Cave, Wyandotte Caves, and Squire Boone Caverns. Twin caves, located in Spring Mill State Park, about 15 minutes south of Bluespring Caverns, near Mitchell, Indiana offers a 20-minute boat tour into the cave which goes back about 600 feet (180 m). Twin Caves is owned and operated by the state of Indiana and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources."



MWF CONVENTION DELEGATES SOUGHT FOR AUG. 19-21

by Tony Kapta, MWF Credentials Chairman MWF Past President President, Central Illinois Gem and Mineral Club Decatur, Illinois

Hello Everyone,

The Midwest Federation's 76th Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Show of the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, Aug. 19-21 in South Bend, IN.

The Council of Delegates Meeting will be held Aug. 20 at 1 p.m. in the Esther Singer Building of the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 5117 Ironwood Road, South Bend, IN 46614.

Each member club/ society is entitled to one delegate and one alternate to represent them, although each club is only entitled to one vote.

There is a Delegate Registration form on page 12 of the MFW newsletter that must be filled out and signed by the president of your club. This form will also be available on the MWF website. The form on the website can be typed out on your computer, printed, signed by the president of your club and mailed to me, Tony Kapta, 1483 E. Wood St., Decatur, IL 62521 or scanned and e- mailed to me at cigmc@comcast.net.

This is your club's chance to send a representative to the annual meeting and vote on the business which will be before the members of the MWF. This also allows your delegate to report back to the club on what business was discussed during the meeting.

Lastly, it allows your club to be represented at an MWF function and gives your delegate an opportunity to meet the representatives of other clubs and the Officers, State Directors, and Committee Chairs of the MWF. There is also the added benefit of being able to attend a great gem, mineral and fossil Show.

These are important points to consider for all MWF clubs and I urge you to carefully consider sending a representative from your club to the MWF Council of Delegates Meeting. I realize the trip is a financial burden, as it is to me and all of the people who have been gracious enough to donate their time and money to take care of the business of making the MWF work for you, the clubs. Helping other clubs is as important a part of having a club as any of the other things that we do.

I hope to see you at the MWF Convention.



ON THE ROAD: SQUIRE BOONE CAVERNS

photos courtesy of
Judith Echano Medina
& Jim Caulkins

by Judith Echano Medina

Recently we visited Squire Boone Caverns, a cave which was named after Squire Boone, one of the brothers of the well-known Daniel Boone. Squire was a very important pioneer in Indiana and Kentucky history. He was a very skilled man: explorer, hunter, gunsmith, and the list goes on and on.

The entrance to the cave is inside the gift shop in the Squire Boone Village. Visitors have to go down the 73 steps in a spiral staircase before arriving at the gate that opens into an amazing world of rock formations.



As we went down, we could see how the steps became wet due to humidity and underground water. Once in the cave, we walked on a man-made path which made the tour very easy. We were wearing regular tennis shoes, and we didn't have any problems walking down there. Paige, our guide, made sure that everyone stayed with the group and allowed enough time for pictures.

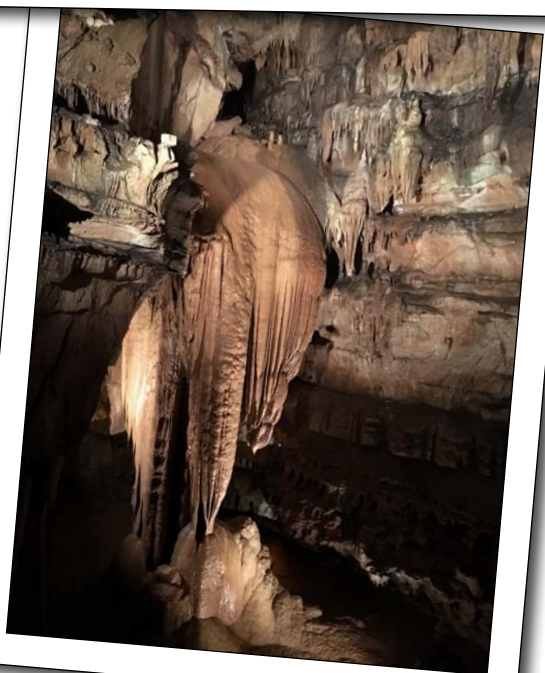
The cave offers visitors very interesting formations. Apart from the stalactites, stalagmites and columns that one can see in a lot of caves, we could see what they call "bacon" formations. The formations looked like bacon and Paige told us to pay attention to the noise that an underground stream made, which resembled the noise of a frying pan. We also saw their "fried egg," a "sunken ship," and even "Chewbacca"!

When we arrived at the last room open to visitors, we walked above the underground stream that we had been listening to all the way. From there, we arrived at the pools. We were told that they are among some of the biggest in the world, and they are still growing.

On the way back, we saw "The Rock of Ages," a gigantic column in the biggest room in the cave. It is hard to imagine how much time has passed since the first drop of water started this amazing formation!

However, our view of the rock wasn't long because Paige wanted to show us "darkness as you have never seen before." She made sure that we didn't have any lights on, and she turned the cave lights off. I have had that experience before in other caves, but it is hard to get used to it. The complete darkness inside a cave seems like something that could be touched; it is so dark that it seems as if one could cut through it with a knife.

The last area we visited was the resting place of Squire Boone himself. Paige told us that, some time after the Boone brothers found the cave, Squire was running for his life because some Native Americans were chasing him. He found a hole in the ground where he hid, hoping he wouldn't be found. After a while, his chasers gave up and Squire realized the hole where he had been hiding was connected with the cave that he and his brother Daniel had discovered. This land became sacred in Squire's mind, and that is where he was buried when he passed. His grave had to be moved inside the cave because over the years some of his bones had been stolen. Right now, he is a permanent guest inside the cave. For more info, visit squireboonecaverns.com



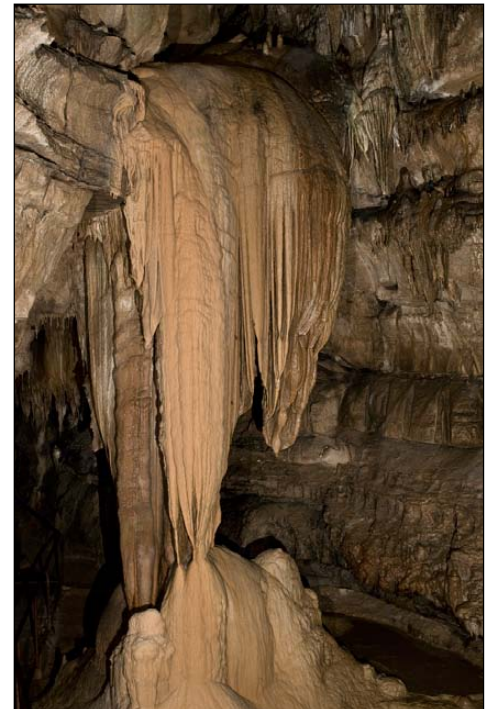
Do you have photos or "rock adventures" to share?
If so, please e-mail EiggsNews@gmail.com

Squire Boone Caverns

In 1790, Squire Boone and his brother, Daniel Boone, ventured up the Buck Creek valley only a few miles north of the Ohio River. Near the head of a side valley of Buck Creek they discovered a large spring issuing from a cave. A few years went by, but the picturesque valley and roaring water inspired Squire Boone to return. He settled in the valley with his family in 1804 and built a grist mill powered by water from the cave. Boone lived in the valley where he and his mill prospered until his death in 1815. In the 1920s, the mill burned and, in the years following, the cave was visited only occasionally by hardy cave explorers. Poor roads made the cave and mill site barely accessible to even the hardest visitor.

In the early 1970s, an effort was made to open the cave for visitors. A new road was built to the site. Then, for the comfort of visitors to the cave, two entrances were excavated and bridges installed to span the stream. To show the cave and its majestic formations in a dramatic manner, electric lighting was installed along the tour route. Today's visitors need only to don a light jacket and follow the guide into scenic passageways along a babbling stream. The highlight of the cave tour is the Rock of Ages column that is surrounded by beautiful draperies of stone. Visitors are also treated to many gleaming stalactites and stalagmites everywhere along the tour route. The trail also passes beside a rimstone dam that is more than 4 feet high and retains a pool of crystal clear water.

Outside the cave are the restored mill and a replica pioneer village. In 1980, the mill was restored to its original function of grinding grain. Water from the cave turns the mill wheel just as it did in the early 1800s. Squire Boone Caverns and mill are located just off State Highway 135, a few miles south of the historic town of Corydon.





ON THE ROAD: RICHMOND BLOOM & GLOW

To uphold our geological mission, I could tell you that propane was first identified as a volatile component in gasoline by Walter O. Snelling of the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1910, and it is a by-product of natural gas processing and petroleum refining. I could also tell you that it is a three-carbon alkane with the molecular formula C_3H_8 , and it is a gas, at standard temperature and pressure, but is compressible to a transportable liquid.

AND, by the way, propane burners are used to heat the air to keep hot air balloons aloft.

So, while I could tell you more about propane, I would rather remind you that the Richmond Rose Garden is hosting their fourth annual Bloom & Glow event Wednesday, June 8 in the Richmond Rose Garden.

The event is free to the public, so bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a night of glowing balloons. The balloons will begin setting up around 7:30 and the glow will take place at about 9 p.m.

A catered dinner with proceeds benefiting the rose garden will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Rose Garden. Tickets are \$20 per person and are only available in advance. Tickets may be purchased at the Wayne County Welcome Center or from any Bloom & Glow Committee Member.



UPCOMING SHOWS

June 3-5—Wauseon, OH: State Line Gem & Mineral society, Fulton Co. Jr. Fir Bldg. 1814 Sr. 108, Fri. 12-6 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Adults \$4, Seniors \$3, Students \$3. Mine Safety classes, stone carving classes, wire wrapping, geode cracking. Conta, Glen-da Gafner, 3720 Britton Hwy. Britton, Mich. 49229 (517)403-6310

June 4-5—MANSFIELD, OH: Annual show; Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society, Richland County Fairgrounds; 750 N Home Road, Arts and Crafts Building; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children ages 6-16 \$3; The show will feature quality dealers selling minerals, fossils, beads and jewelry. The show will be held at the Arts and Crafts Building located in the Richland County Fairgrounds. The theme for the show is "Ohio's Gemstone Flint-Past and Present." The show will focus on the connection between the flint tools made by Native Americans and the jewelry and related objects made today. There will be special displays of artifacts and flint objects. Contact Tom Kottyan for info: e-mail: themineralhouse@netzero.net

June 24-26—BEDFORD, IN: Annual show; Lawrence County Rock Club, Lawrence County Fairground; US Highway 50; Fri. 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Free Admission; 51st Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show sponsored by the Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc. There will be wide variety of gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, rocks, lapidary equipment & supplies, rockhound & prospecting supplies, 4-H project material, science project material. Contact Dave Treffinger, 13101 E 250 N, Loogootee, IN 47553, (812)-295-3463; e-mail: djt5766jkft@msn.com; Web site: www.lawrencecountyrocksclub.org

July 8-10—CEDARBURG, WI:

2016 Agate Expo. Cedarburg High School, W68N611 Evergreen Blvd., Cedarburg, WI 53012 Open: Thursday, July 7: 6:30–9 p.m. (Symposium Ticket Holders Only) Friday, July 8 & Saturday, July 9: 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday, July 10: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The show floor will consist of approximately 45 vendors, from across the globe, showcasing their products for collectors and rock enthusiasts. We are inviting vendors who sell everything from top specimens to small tumbled stone; as long as Agates are predominantly presented. The Show Floor and Exhibits will be open to the public on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. During these show times, we will also have two concession areas open; as well as a children's area with fun activities for all ages. We hope you join us for this exciting event!

August 19-21—SOUTH BEND, IN: MWF Convention & Show Show and sale; Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds, Ester Singer Building; 5117 South Ironwood Rd.; Fri. 12-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Admission \$3, Children 6-12 \$1; Michiana Gem & Mineral Society 53rd Annual Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show and Sale and 76th Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies Convention. Attrac-



tions include gem, fossil, mineral and jewelry dealers, lapidary arts demonstrations, exhibits, Kid's Korner, and silent auction. Contact John Davis, (574)-232-8823; e-mail: sumu95@hotmail.com; Web site: www.michianagms.org

Sept. 9-11—GREENFIELD, IN: Annual show; 500 Earth Sciences Club, Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds; 620 N. Apple Street; Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Free Admission; Dealers and swappers in fossils, minerals, gems and jewelry and lapidary equipment plus silent auctions, door prizes and much more. Kids activities, demonstrations, educational displays and programs for all. Contact Cheryl Hamilton, 3507 Luewan Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46235, (317)-897-3369; e-mail: chamilton1951@gmail.com

Sept. 30-Oct. 2—INDIANAPOLIS, IN: Annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, Indiana State Fairgrounds - Ag/Horticulture Bldg; 1202 East 38th Street; Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Adults \$5 (Good all 3 days), Children under age 16 free when accompanied by an adult. Jewelry makers, goldsmiths and silversmiths from all over the U.S. who can reconstruct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer-selected gems, stones, opals and crystals. Wire wrap, wire sculpture, stone beads, pearls, stone setting, amber, opal, mineral and fossil dealers. Hourly door prizes including a Ring with a precious stone that will be given as a Grand Prize. Note the Fairgrounds charges \$5 per day for parking. Contact Van Wimmer, Sr. - Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Road, Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com

Oct. 14-16—FORT WAYNE, IN: Annual show; Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society, Allen County Fairgrounds; 2726 Carroll Rd.; Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Students \$1, Children free. Gem, fossil, mineral and jewelry dealers, lapidary arts demonstrations. Viking knit classes, geode cracker, gem sluice, kids games, door prizes, silent auction, fluorescent room and more. Contact Russell Greim, (260) 403-0450; e-mail: 3riversshow@gmail.com; Web site: bit.do/3rivers-show

2016 Spring Flint Ridge Knap-In

Friday, May 27th 9 - 5
 Saturday, May 28th 9 - 5
 Sunday, May 29th 9 - 2



Held at the
 Flint Ridge State Memorial
 7091 Brownsville Rd
 Glenford, OH 43739

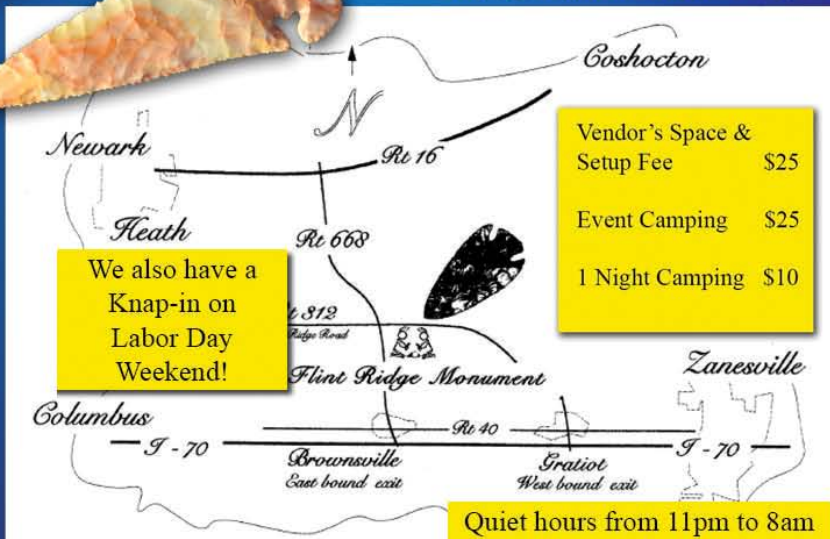
Everyone is Invited!

Come and join us for a fun and educational weekend. Witness craftsmen and artisans demonstrate how to make arrowheads, spears, stone tools, bows, atlatls, stone pipes, cordage as well as other items from hide and bone. Take a nature walk through the woods on the park trails and see the remains of the ancient quarry pits left behind by the native people. Then take a tour of the museum to learn about the history and geology of Flint Ridge.



For more information contact one of our Board Members

Carl Smith 330-340-4681
 Glenn Withey 330-329-7501
 Phil Love 419-632-1274
 Roy Miller 330-473-7041
Roy@RoyMillerFlintRidge.com



Vendor's Space & Setup Fee	\$25
Event Camping	\$25
1 Night Camping	\$10

Quiet hours from 11pm to 8am

Admission is \$5.00 per vehicle which includes free Museum Admission

Hosted by: The Flint Ridge Lithic Society in conjunction with the Licking Valley Heritage Society.

MWF CONVENTION IN SOUTH BEND, INDIANA!!

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society's Annual Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show and Sale

53rd Annual Show and the 76th Midwest Federation of
Mineralogical & Geological Societies Convention

August 19, 20, & 21, 2016

Friday Noon to 7 pm * Saturday 10 to 6 pm * Sunday 10 to 5 pm
Show Theme: "Midwest Minerals"



St Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds
Esther Singer Building
5117 South Ironwood Road
(Ironwood and Jackson Road)
South Bend, Indiana 46614

Admission:
Adults: \$3.00
Kids 6-12: \$1.00
Under 6: FREE
Parking: FREE

Two Host Hotels!

Super 8 (Wyndham Hotel)
4124 Ameritech Dr.
South Bend, IN
1-574-243-0200
\$48 - \$90 plus tax - depending on room type
Located off U.S. 20 Bypass & I-80/I-90 Toll
Road exit 72.
Free continental breakfast, wifi, indoor pool,
guest laundry, & elevator.

Candlewood Suites (IHG--Holiday Inn)
3916 Lincoln Way West
South Bend, IN
1-574-968-1072
\$110 plus tax
Located east of U.S. 20 Bypass near South
Bend Airport.
Free laundry, wifi, fitness center & 24 hr.
convenience store.

By John Davis, MGMS Show Chairman

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society in South Bend, Indiana, is holding its 53rd annual Gem and Mineral Show this year in conjunction with the 76th MWF Convention. We would like to invite everyone to join us for a fabulous weekend.

This year our show will have two guest speakers. The first will be Mark Tarnier, who is a club member, amateur paleontologist, and local businessman. He will give a talk on the process of digging and recovering his Duckbill Hadrosaur. The second speaker, Mr. Rick Strapple of "The Rare Earth Company," will talk about Midwest minerals.

We will have some fantastic dinosaur displays from Mark Tarnier and our other paleontologist, Don Szczodrowski. Many other displays of self-collected and handcrafted arts and crafts from our local members will be enjoyed by all who view them.

But above all else, the highlight of our show is our silent auction tables. We have, at any given time, nearly one hundred items being auctioned. We have these auctions every half hour, through the entire weekend. Auction items run from old magazines to gems and minerals. Even our vendors seem to find something to bid on.

And don't forget, Sunday will be the MWF Silent Auction. If you can't find something on Saturday, see what items will be available on Sunday, from all over the Federation! It will be a rockin' good time!

CONVENTION & SHOW SCHEDULE

St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds
Esther Singer Bldg.
5117 S. Ironwood Rd. (Corner of Ironwood & Jackson)
South Bend, Indiana
(All events will be held in the Esther Singer Building)

FRIDAY: August 19th

12:00 p.m. - Show opens
7:00 p.m. - Show closes

SATURDAY: August 20th

7:30 a.m. - Light breakfast (Esther Singer Kitchen)
8:00 a.m. - State Directors meeting
9:00 a.m. - Executive Meeting
10:00 a.m. - Show opens
11:00 a.m. - PROGRAM: *Finding a Dinosaur*, by Mark Tarnier of the South Bend Chocolate Company
12:00 p.m. - Lunch (Esther Singer Kitchen)
12:00-1:00 p.m. - Delegate registration
1:00 p.m. - Council of delegates meeting
2:30 p.m. - PROGRAM: *Mineralogy*, Mr. Rick Strapple from the Rare Earth Company
6:00 p.m. - Show closes
7:00 p.m. - Awards Banquet

SUNDAY: August 21st

10:00 a.m. - Show opens
12:00 p.m. - Light lunch (Esther Singer kitchen)
5:00 p.m. - Show closes

1st Annual **BLOOM & GLOW**



**What: Showcase rose garden
& help reach financial goals**

When: June 8th

6:30-8:30 p.m. • tour garden and food
9:00 p.m. • hot air balloon glow



Where: Richmond Rose Garden

Featuring:

Food • Coffee • Soft Drinks • Entertainment

Food catered by Fecher's Panache, Jen Ferrell - Radford's Meat Market & Deli, Hometowne Dining Co., MCL Restaurant & Bakery, Reid Cafe at Twelve Hundred

Food available from 6:30-8:30.

Tickets: \$20.00 - No tickets sold at event.

Available at

**Wayne Co. Welcome Center • 5701 National Rd. East
or from any committee member**

Must present ticket to be served food and beverages.