



Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society October 2017

ROCK PICKINGS

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

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Memberships:

Annual dues
\$15 Individuals
\$20 Families

Please send dues to:

EIGGS
PO Box 1724
Richmond, IN 47375

 **Next meeting: Thursday, November 2, 6:30 p.m.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Rock Hounds.

As I mentioned at our October meeting please join our Facebook group. We want to use facebook to reach as many of you as we can about open workshop nights, meetings, rockhound trips, gem & mineral shows, club notices and sign-ups that are available on our website. Have you been to our website? Check it out. It's a great place for information and we will start posting sign-ups to various things on the website.

The EIGGS, Troy and Fort Wayne clubs are planning a trip to the Langsdon Mineral Museum. The museum is giving us access to not only their displayed mineral but to their storage area. We will be able to bring handheld UV lights to look thru their storage area! The date of this trip is TBD. We need to get a total head count from all 3 clubs. If you are interested go to our website to sign up.

Christmas in Centerville will be held Friday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Danny Spurgeon has room in his building for seven people to display and sell their work. The booth fee is \$10. Contact Danny if you are interested. E-mail him at joseph_6841@yahoo.com

It's grab bag season! We will be filling bags at the November meeting. The more people who show up the faster we get it done!

Officer are around the corner. Please read over the officer responsibilities to see what we do and what it's all about!

Mark

▶ INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Club rock sale, Nov. 12



Dead Camel and more for sale.

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New members



M. Lucas greets Susanne & Randy Siefert

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Cursed gemstones



The curse of the Hope Diamond

PAGE 10

Crystal collecting 



Calcite crystals collected by Dave Straw

Members attending: John Morse, Mary Ann Morse, Angela Shaffer, Hailee Shaffer, Lisa Morris, Dave Straw, Jim Lucas, Marty Lucas, Mike Ragen, Estel Jones, Mona Jones, John LaMont, Mark Lisota, Danny Spurgeon, Erna Jacob, Matt Rudicil, Melissa Killion, Randal Siefert, Suzanne Siefert, Jeanette Lunsford. Guest: Phil King.

Meeting was called to order by Mark Lisota.

Facebook group: Mark encouraged members to join the Facebook EIGGS Group. It is closed group for members only.

Night in the Museum trip: Langsdon Mineral Museum, Celina, OH – a trip is being planned by our club and the Troy and Fort Wayne clubs. We will have after-hours access to the collection that is not on display. Need to know who is interested and available dates. Information and registration are on the EIGGS website.

Grab bags: Grab bags will be assembled in November – we need lots of hands to help.

Presentation: The eclipse presentation scheduled for this meeting will be rescheduled.

Upcoming workshop: Upcoming workshops include Viking Weave (Danny Spurgeon) and Wire Wrap (Deb Chagares). Register on the EIGGS website. Non-members are welcome.

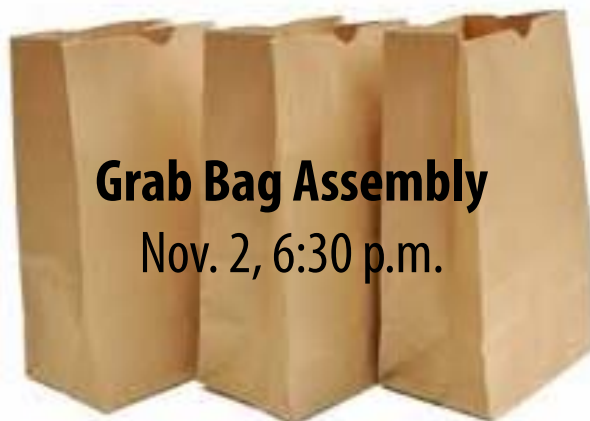
Guests & new members: Guest introduced: Phil King
New members introduced: Randal Siefert, Suzanne Siefert.

Building issues: Dave alerted the members to the fact that part of the barn on neighboring property has collapsed. The site is dangerous and is being looked at by the county.

Treasurer's report: Dave Straw
\$1,692 was spent, including newsletter, utilities, building maintenance. Income was \$2,286, including dealer booth fees, shop and soda.

Show reports: John LaMont reported that there is just \$500 left to come in from dealers. Judy asked members to work on the specimen bags for grab bags prior to the November meeting. She also encouraged members to begin spreading flyers around.

Officer elections: December will be election of officers. The following have expressed interest – others are encouraged to let John LaMont know if they would like to be on the ballot:



Grab Bag Assembly

Nov. 2, 6:30 p.m.

TRICK OR TREAT?

It's no trick: it's grab bag time, and treats will be waiting for you when you come to the November meeting to help prepare the bags.

You can count on fun times with friends as we fill 150 bags with at least eight mineral specimens. This is one more task that can be marked off the list prior to the annual gem and mineral show in March.

Most of the minerals are already bagged and labeled, so all that is left to do is stuff the bags. With plenty of volunteers and an assembly line set-up, the task will be quickly completed, leaving more time for treats with your rock club friends.

The meeting will be held at the club house at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2. See you there!

President, Deb Chagares; Vice-President, Jim Lucas; Treasurer, Angie Shaffer; Secretary, Mona Jones

Vendor opportunity: Danny Spurgeon will provide vendor space (for a small fee) at Christmas in Centerville the first Friday and Saturday in December. He can accommodate seven vendors.

Meeting adjourned.



Hailee Shaffer Halloween rock artwork



OFFICER NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS UPCOMING

From the Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society Bylaws
<http://eiggs.weebly.com/eiggs-by-laws.html>

ARTICLE V ELECTIONS

Section 1. The election of officers shall be held at the regular meeting in December. A simple majority of those voting shall be considered sufficient to elect. The chairperson of the nominating committee or one of its members shall conduct the election.

Section 2. The term of office shall run for one year from date of election following the close of the December regular meeting, with the exception of the Treasurer, who shall retain that office until the incoming Treasurer has bank approval to sign financial documents on behalf of the club.

Section 3. No elected officer may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The elected officers of this club shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers, plus the Spring Show Chairperson, the Fall Show Chairperson, the Newsletter Editor and the immediate past President shall constitute the Board of Directors. When the President serves consecutively, correspondingly, the immediate past President also shall serve consecutively.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be charged with forming policy, planning and executing the expressed wishes of the club.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President or at the request of three board members.

Section 4. A quorum shall be five members or more, including at least three duly elected officers.

Section 5. Any board member unable to attend two consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors, without a good and valid excuse, may be dropped from the board.

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1. PRESIDENT. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the of the club. He/she shall have the duties usual to the office of the President. He/she shall appoint the standing committee chairpersons, historian, liaison representative to the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and an auditor for the treasurer's accounts and such representatives and delegates as may be needed, with the help and advice of the other members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. VICE-PRESIDENT. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to per-

form the duties of the President in the absence of the President. He/she shall appoint and chair the nominating committee in finding suitable candidates for the annual election of officers and shall conduct the election.

Section 3. SECRETARY. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings and of the club business meetings. He/she shall issue notice of meetings and carry on official correspondence not carried out by the liaison representative. He/she shall keep all material records of the club, which shall

be open to the Board of Directors or such members as the President may direct. He/she shall provide notice and resume of regular meetings and special events to the local newspaper.

Section 4. TREASURER. The treasurer shall collect all monies due the club and pay all bills presented with the approval of the Board of Directors. He/she shall maintain the club monies in the safest and most advantageous manner with the approval of the Board of Directors. He/she shall keep a detailed account of all monies and receipts and shall report on the financial standing of the club at each Board of Directors meeting. The books shall be audited annually by the auditor appointed by the President and the report presented in the club's bulletin. He/she shall collect membership dues and issue membership cards. The treasurer shall keep the club incorporation papers and make any reports necessary to insure their continuance (to be filed each September). Tax papers shall be filed annually by April 15.

ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND APPOINTED OFFICES

Section 1. The standing committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the President with the advice and approval of the Board of Directors. They shall serve one year. They shall be appointed at least by the January regular meeting of each year and serve through the January regular meeting of the next year.

Section 2. The committee chairpersons shall appoint committee members to assist them.

Section 3. The standing committee shall be: (a) program committee, (b) spring committee, (c) fall show committee, (d) lapidary shop committee, (e) newsletter committee and (f) field trip committee.

Section 4. Standing committee chairpersons shall be authorized to make standard expenditures for the accomplishment of their tasks. However, both the program chairperson and the field trip chairperson shall obtain board approval for any single expenditure in excess of \$50.00. The lapidary chairperson shall obtain board approval for any and all expenditures exceeding \$300.00 annually.

President's Duties & Responsibilities

by Mark Lisota

- Conduct monthly meetings
- Create/oversee monthly meeting agenda
- Schedule board meetings
- Create/oversee board meeting agenda
- Maintain president's notebook
- Responsible for appointing committee chairpersons, historian, liaison representative to the MWF and an auditor for the treasurer's accounts
- Coordinate clean-up days, building maintenance & repair
- Identify club needs/priorities
- Create a vision or goals for the year
- Write monthly president's message for newsletter
- Respond to social media messages
- Coordinate/support with show chairperson
- Present scholarship winner with scholarship, take photos at the gem & mineral show
- Identify club members who have contributed to the community or the club and praise them during the monthly meeting and possibly the newsletter



LANGSDON FIELD TRIP UPDATE

If your idea of camping is staying at a Holiday Inn Express, then this might be the ideal "field trip" for you. While the weather may be unpredictable, the minerals will be warm and dry inside the Langsdon Mineral Collection in Celina, Ohio, on Saturday, Nov. 4 and Saturday, Dec. 9.

We are planning two separate dates to accommodate the most members. Plans aren't finalized, but it we should have a good crowd on both dates as members from the Miami County, Three Rivers and State Line clubs join forces.

The collection encompasses over 900 minerals in 27 display cases, and they have many more minerals in storage. We will have the chance to see it all and explore the storage area, as well. Additionally, we will have the chance to check out the collection under UV lights after hours.

We will start at about 4 p.m. with an interactive hands-on presentation about minerals. After that we will visit the collection under incandescent lights and will visit the minerals in storage. Once it becomes darker, we will turn off the lights and explore with UV lights. Please register by clicking the link below, and you will be e-mailed as the plans are finalized.



During a trip to the Langsdon Mineral Collection, Tony Rotondo demonstrates the conductivity of stones with help from club members Judy Burton and Ann Richardson.



Chalcanthite



Apophyllite on Stilbite



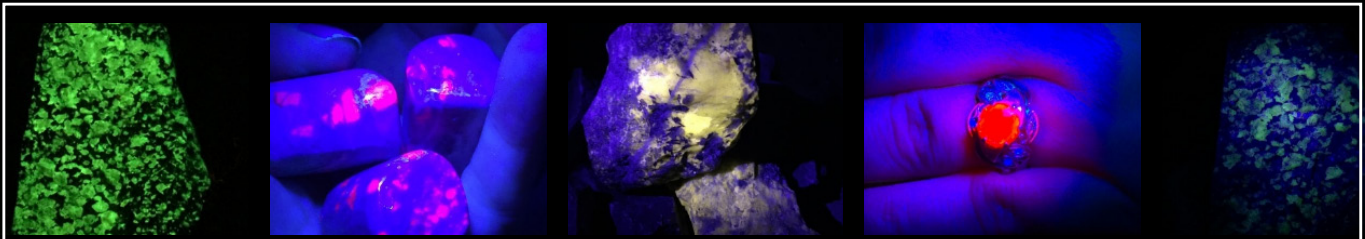
Scolectite



Cinnabar on dolomite



Rubellite



NIGHT IN THE MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

What: After-hours exploration at the Langsdon Mineral Collection

Who: Open to members of the Richmond, Troy, Fort Wayne & State Line gem & mineral societies and their families.

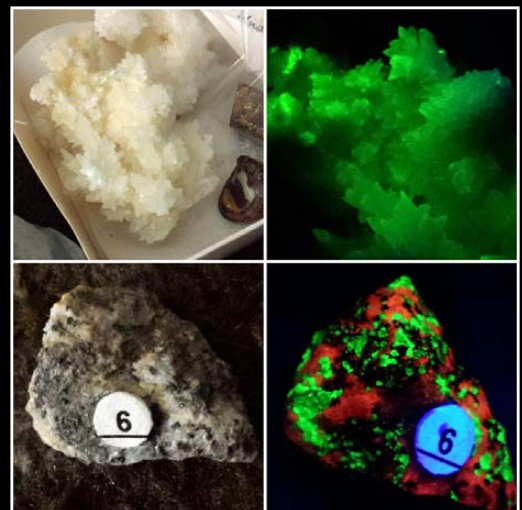
Dates: Two scheduled dates. Pick the one most convenient for you.

Saturday, November 4, 4-8 p.m. and December 9, 4-8 p.m.

Please go to eiggs.weebly.com to register.

Where: Mercer County District Library, 303 N. Main St.; Celina, OH 45822

Why: The chance to view over 900 mineral specimens in 27 cases with many more in storage. We will use incandescent light as well as long wave, short wave and mid wave UV to find fluorescent minerals.



WIRE WRAPPING WORKSHOP, OCTOBER 28



At the last wire wrapping workshop, Tim and Nikki Merrill listened to directions while Deb Chagares demonstrated wrapping.

Register for this class online eiggs.weebly.com

Wire-wrapping can turn your cabochons into wearable art. Learn the techniques to make pendants, earrings or other ornaments at a wire-wrapping workshop offered Saturday, October 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the EIGGS club house. (You may bring snacks or lunch.)

Deb Chagares will teach this members-only class. The class will cost \$30 per participant. Enrollment is limited to 15 people, so please register in advance. Register for this class online at eiggs.weebly.com

You may pay on the day of the class. You will need

to bring your own supplies (*see list*). Deb will also have some extra tools available for participants to use.

Deb suggests purchasing craft wire from www.ParaWire.com. They have low prices and a variety of colors to choose from. They do have a minimum order, so you might order with a friend. They ship very quickly, too.

Go to www.ParaWire.com, then navigate to the Craft Wire/Shaped Wire section. You should purchase: 21-gauge **SQUARE wire** for framing your piece & 18-gauge **HALF-ROUND wire** for binding it.



What: Wire-wrapping class

When: Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Who: Club Members

Cost: \$30, plus supplies

Supply List:

Participants must bring their own supplies

- Cabochon to wrap
 - Square & half-round wire
(see story for details)
 - Flat nose pliers (no gator-teeth)
 - Round nose pliers (no gator-teeth)
 - Cutters
 - Ruler
 - Fine tip Sharpie marker
 - Painters tape (blue is good)

These would be useful, (but not necessary)

- Small file (a nail file)
- Polishing cloth
- Mouse pad
- Small knife or pick to lift wires
- Small dowel to flatten wires
- Bail gauge
- Nylon jawed pliers

CHRISTMAS IN CENTERVILLE VENDOR OPPORTUNITY

Christmas in Centerville is rapidly approaching and Danny Spurgeon is opening his building, the Dill House, to club members who wish to set up vendor space.

He has space for two to three more sellers and is asking for a \$10 donation to help pay for advertising and publicity. Pay him at the November club meeting.

The Christmas in Centerville hours are Friday, Dec. 1, noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

If you want to discuss vendor space, please e-mail or call Danny at 727-389-2900 or joseph_6841@yahoo.com.

Be sure to drop by to support our club members as they sell sterling silver jewelry, gem trees, hand-knitted items, Christmas items and collectibles and stone display items.



EIGGS members will take part in Christmas in Centerville, Dec. 1 & 2 at the Dill House at 111 South Morton Street in Centerville.

STOCK UP AT NOVELTY NIGHT SALE

EIGGS club members and their friends are invited to the Miami County Gem & Mineral Club's annual Novelty Night in Troy, Ohio. Mike Manning says it is a "must attend" event. Club members will be selling a large variety of items, from rocks and slabs to finished jewelry pieces. Additionally, attendees can participate in silent auctions and a live auction, too.

What: Novelty Night

When: Wednesday, November 1 at 7 p.m.

Where: Troy-Hayner Cultural Center (near the Troy Library)

301 W. Main Street; Troy, OH 45373

Phone: 937-339-0457

Why: Members will be selling rocks, slabs, minerals, & finished jewelry. There will be silent auctions, a live auction and fun to be had by all.

There is no cost to sell but a donation to the local food bank is encouraged.

*** Please bring a canned good to donate.***



■ The Miami County Gem and Mineral Club (Troy) meets at the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center. EIGGS members are invited to visit their Novelty Night on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. Rocks, slabs, cabs, jewelry and other items will be on sale. (photo from Ohio.org)

MANNING'S ROCK SHOP OPEN HOUSE Nov. 17-19



■ Mike Manning of Manning's Rock Shop, sells a wide variety of tumbled stones, fossils and mineral specimens at the EIGGS rock & gem show.

Mike Manning, a perennial vendor at the EIGGS rock and gem show, would like to invite all everyone to his annual holiday open house at Manning's Rock Shop.

He will have over 100 types of tumbled stones and many types of rough rock including sodalite, agates, jaspers and obsidians. He also has fossils including megladon shark teeth, mastodon teeth, trilobites, crinoids. The shop also has display pieces, salt lamps, cabbed stones, minerals including azurite, quartz, malachite, citrine, fluorite, 2018 calendars of fine agates and jaspers, rainbow flint, selenite wands, creedite, optical calcite, ulexite, small meteorites, amethyst, and more.

He also sells rock tumblers, grits, polish, bags of rocks to tumble and geodes.

If you haven't seen his rock tumbling operation, that alone is worth the trip. Mike can tumble up to about 800 pounds of rock at a time. He has one unit that has eight 40-pound tumblers running off one motor, one that has eighteen 12-pound tumblers off of one motor, and two units that each hold six 12-pound tumblers off of a motor.

Mike does want to remind everyone that he does not accept charge cards and prefers cash payment. After the open house, the shop will be closed the week of Thanksgiving and then open by appointments during the week or on weekends until Dec. 23. The shop will be closed from Dec. 24 until Feb. 15. Call (937) 552-4705 or (937) 681-0264 for appointments.

Manning's Rock Shop Holiday Open House

Hours:

Fri., Nov. 17: 10 am-6 pm

Sat., Nov. 18: 10 am-6 pm

Sun., Nov. 19: 12-5 pm

Location:

3615 East State Route 55
Troy, Ohio 45373

Phone: (937) 552-4705



CLUB ROCK SALE SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, Nov. 12

Need some rough materials for your holiday gift making? If so, come to the EIGGS fall rock sale Sunday, Nov. 12 from 1-5 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to bring their stones so members can buy, sell or trade. If you have extra rocks left over, we will also have donation boxes for the silent auction and kids' Wheel of Fortune. If you would like table space, please register by Nov. 7 at eiggs.weebly.com so we can set up space.

"I just have too many rocks -- more than I will ever get to in this lifetime, so

Register at EIGGS.weebly.com

by Nov. 7, if you want table space.

First come, first served!

I am happy to sell them to people who will use them," club member Deb Chagares said.

Sellers must agree to donate 10% of all proceeds from the sale will to EIGGS, so this is a fund raiser for a good cause. (This is the standard facility usage fee.)

While some miscellaneous cabs will be available for sale, most of the stones will be slabs. There will be some rough material available as well.

Slabs in the sale will include chrysocolla, malachite, several types of obsidian, including silver sheen obsidian and rainbow obsidian, Montana agate, Wonderstone, dragon's blood jasper, Eden Valley petrified wood and Willow Creek jasper.



These slab collections are from texasrockshop.com, but the ones at the club sale will be equally lovely!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

EIGGS club memberships are for one calendar year, January through December, so it is time for everyone to renew. The club currently has about 104 adult members and exists for those interested in earth sciences; collecting minerals; crystals; fossils; cutting, grinding, and polishing stones; tumbling stones; etching and carving stones; silver inlay; beadwork; and silver-smithing. The club hosts an annual rock & gem show and awards scholarships to high school seniors and Earlham College students.

Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society

Annual Membership Renewal Form

Please check your membership level

Family Membership \$20

Single (age 16 and older) \$15

Name(s) _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

To help with club upkeep & projects, I would like to make an additional donation to the club.

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other amount \$ _____

**Please print this form & bring it and your payment to the next club meeting
OR mail the completed form and a check made out to EIGGS to the address below.**

EIGGS Membership • PO Box 1724 • Richmond, IN 47375



ARTISANS BAZAAR FEATURES CLUB MEMBERS

Dave Straw and former EIGGS member Amy Hughes have been selected to take part in the Autumn Artisans Bazaar, November 3 and 4.

The Bazaar is a juried arts and crafts show which will take place at the Red Barn at the Wayne County Historical Museum.

The show will feature the works of over 20 local artists. Food and drinks will be available as well.

The hours are Friday, Nov. 3 from 5:30-9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Participants

- Kelly Finch
- Tim Passmore
- George A. Stallings
- Heather B. Leaves (Heather Bryslan)
- Katie Seitz
- Katie Kitchen
- June Cat Cards (Emily Kendall)
- Grey Barn Candles (Mary Porfido)
- Diana Pappin
- Amy Hughes
- Julie Freeman
- David Straw
- Elmtree Pottery (Elisha Frazier)
- Sweet Annie Soapworks
- Ply Fiber Arts
- Beth Anne Darr
- Lynne Glass
- Linda Jackson
- Sontina Reid & Jan Brady
- Fechers' Panache - Catering, Cakes & Sweet Treats



Former club member Amy Hughes sells her leather and jewelry creations at Vintiques in New Paris, Ohio, and was also selected to be a vendor at the juried Autumn Artisans Fair.

At last year's Autumn Artisans Fair, club member Dave Straw displays his polyhedral stone sculptures. Dave was selected to sell his pieces at this year's event, too.

Autumn Artisans Bazaar
november 3rd & 4th
 Juried Show with over 20 Local Artisans
 Food, Music, Beer & Wine!
 Sponsored By
West End Bank



Jamie Terhaar & Naomi Jones



Judith Echano Medina & Joy Ingerman



Erna Jacob



Mary Ann Morse

CLUB MEMBERS SELL IN LOCAL FAIRS & FESTIVALS

'Tis the season for craft fairs, and while you are out, take time to support your fellow club members at the following events. If you are participating in a show this season that you would like listed in the November or December newsletter, please e-mail EIGGSnews@gmail.com

SATURDAY, OCT. 28

Richmond Farmers Market

Elstro Plaza, Richmond; 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

✓ *Naomi Jones*

Greensfork Fall Festival

Community Center, Greensfork; 12-4 p.m.

✓ *Jamie Terhaar*

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOV. 3 & 4

Golay Center Arts & Crafts Bazaar

Golay Center, Cambridge City

Friday, Nov. 3; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

✓ *Suzanne & Randy Siefert*

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOV. 3 & 4

Autumn Artisans Bazaar

Wayne County Historical Museum, Richmond

Friday, Nov. 3; 5:30-9 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

✓ *Dave Straw*

FRIDAY, NOV. 10 & SATURDAY, NOV. 11

YWCA Christmas Village

Wayne County Fairgrounds, Richmond

Friday, Nov. 10; 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 11; 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

✓ *Angie & Hailee Shaffer, Mona Jones, Suzanne & Randy Siefert*

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

Delta Theta Tau Craft Show

Franklin County High School

Brookville, IN; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

✓ *Joy Ingerman*

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

Holly Fair

Expo Hall, Connersville; 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

✓ *Joy Ingerman*

SATURDAY, NOV. 18

Vine Street Handmade Market

Expo Hall, Connersville; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

✓ *Joy Ingerman*

FRIDAY, DEC. 1 & SATURDAY, DEC. 2

Christmas in Centerville

Friday, Dec. 1; 12-5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

✓ *Danny Spurgeon, Erna Jacob, Mona Jones, Dave Straw, Mary Ann Morse, Missy Killion*

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

Brukner Nature Center

Winter Arts & Crafts Show

Brukner Nature Center, Troy, OH; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

✓ *Judy Burton*

Hagerstown Hometown Christmas

Main Street, Hagerstown

9 a.m.-8 p.m.

✓ *Suzanne & Randy Siefert*



Now It's Your Turn

Remember: Rock Pickings is YOUR newsletter, and it needs YOUR articles. Please consider writing about your favorite rocks or minerals, trips you have been on, shows you've attended and other geological topics of interest.

Let me know in advance what you plan to submit, and submit it by the 15th of any month. E-mail articles and photos to EIGGSnews@gmail.com or mail them to EIGGS Newsletter, PO Box 1724, Richmond, IN 47375. Thanks!



■ Calcites from a roadcut on Rt. 101 in Franklin County, Indiana. Associated minerals include hematite, dolomite and barite.

■ Club member Dave Straw has collected crystals and some fossils for approximately 30 years and from 30 different quarries and road cuts in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky. *photo courtesy of Dave Straw*



FIELD COLLECTING CRYSTAL SPECIMENS

by Dave Straw

For the past 30 years, I have collected crystals and some fossils in about 30 quarries and road cuts in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky. I probably have a dozen or so different mineral types in my collection. Most of the pieces worth looking at have been shown at the Richmond and Cincinnati shows.

The spot closest to Richmond where I have found crystals is on Route 101 between Liberty and Brookville, IN. It is the first road cut south of the Franklin County line. It is overgrown to some extent now with shrubs and trees, but I suspect that there may be some material still available. The site has coral deposits with calcite growing in open spaces in the coral. Much of the calcite is colored red by hematite coatings. There is also dolomite and some barite present.

There are limestone quarries all over the Midwest, but not all of them have crystals. I learned where to go simply by talking to other collectors and reading rock and gem magazines. I also joined the Midwest chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy. Their main purpose is going on field trips for collecting.

Our club also went on many field trips in the past, but our main focus now is lapidary work. It is much more difficult now days to be allowed into most

quarries. Insurance companies and government authorities have made quarry operators reluctant to allow access.

The Friends of Mineralogy (FoM) has an advantage here in that many of the members are professional geologists who are better able to gain access to quarries. Also, all FoM members who want to go on field trips take a class on mine safety each year that is mandated by state departments of natural resources.

Anyone who wants to go on field trips should join the FoM and take the safety classes offered. Check out the FoM websites www.fommidwest.org (Midwest) and www.friendsofmineralogy.org (National).

There is no particular secret involved in how to collect. You do need to have some equipment; chisels, hammers, pry bars, etc. Also needed are gloves, eye protection, heavy boots and knee pads. Do not try to collect in shorts; wear appropriate clothing. All quarries require hard hats. After you have been on a field trip or two, you will get the idea.

Other than quarries, one can also find geodes in road cuts around Bloomington, IN, and in Illinois. I no longer go on these field trips as my ankles and knees can not handle the rough terrain. I have had some minor injuries in the past; this is to be expected.

VIKING KNITTING CLASS A SUCCESS

Thanks to the club members and friends who came out to learn Viking knitting from Danny Spurgeon on October 8. Everyone completed a bracelet and celebrated afterward with an impromptu pitch-in dinner.

If you are interested in an advanced Viking knit class, please contact Danny at joseph_6841@yahoo.com in order to arrange a workshop date.

- 1 Estel & Mona Jones
- 2 Danny Spurgeon & Jeanette Lunsford
- 3 Sue Wormsbetcher & Lisa Nash
- 4 Sue Wormsbetcher, Lisa Nash & Danny Spurgeon
- 5 Angie Shaffer
- 6 Matt Rudicil
- 7 Suzanne Sieferd
- 8 Erna Jacob
- 9 Missy Killion



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

A warm welcome goes out to Suzanne & Randy Sieferd, Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society's newest members

Suzanne Sieferd

Occupation: works at Wheeler Antiques & at craft shows

Location: Centerville

How did your interest in rocks, gems or minerals develop? I went to the rock and gem show and fell in love with all the rocks.

What do you hope to learn? I want to learn more about cutting and polishing stones.

What areas interest you most? I like seeing what is inside all of the rocks.

Do you have any favorite stones or fossils? tiger eye and amethyst

What have you learned so far? cutting stones on the trim saw and grinding stones on the wheels and how hard it is to fit it through the template. I also have learned how to do Viking knitting.

Other hobbies or interests? I like crafts. I like to make jewelry and I also knit. I knit cowls and fingerless mittens and I have made a hat.

Anything else you want to share? I like to read -- all different genres.



Randy Sieferd

Occupation: retired

Location: Centerville

How did your interest in rocks, gems or minerals develop? through Suzanne and her interest in jewelry and crafts.

What do you hope to learn? lapidary, general stone work. I like to look and am less hands-on. I have no natural creativity and am amazed by the finished products and how they are done.

Do you have any favorite stones or fossils? I like fossils because they are a link to the past.

What have you learned so far? how doable/easy it is to cut the stones. I thought it would be something really hard to do.

Other hobbies or interests? I enjoy museums, art shows, craft shows. I thoroughly enjoy seeing what people can make.

EIGHT SUPPOSEDLY CURSED GEMS VIA MENTAL FLOSS

This is an excerpt from a 2015 *Mental Floss* article. To read the entire story, please visit <http://mentalfloss.com/article/68465/8-supposedly-cursed-gems>

by Bess Lovejoy, for *Mental Floss*

Tales of death and destruction seem to follow certain famous jewels. There are stories of ancient warlords fighting bloody battles, kings and queen suffering agonizing ends, Russian princesses leaping off buildings, fortunes ruined, careers dashed, companies bankrupted, marriages imploded—all because of sparkling stones.

But while certain gems do seem to be associated with misfortune, some of the dark histories behind famous gemstones have been entirely fabricated or significantly embroidered. Nevertheless, these stories continue to fascinate. "I think these stones resonate with us because of their mysterious and often disreputable origins . . . as well as their sheer size and glamour," Jeweler Karen Bachmann, a professor of Art & Design at the Pratt Institute who recently gave a talk on cursed gems at Brooklyn's Morbid Anatomy Museum, says. Smaller stones, she notes, don't tend to have the same stories associated with them as these giant, egg-sized jewels. Plus, whether or not you believe in the idea of a "curse," many of the tales just make a great yarn.

And there might be a lesson in some of these tales, too. Bachman also notes that a disturbing number of history's supposedly cursed gems are said to have once been plucked from the eye of a Hindu idol. The moral of the story here might be: If you want your jewelry to be lucky, don't start out by stealing it.

1. HOPE DIAMOND

The Hope Diamond is the most famous "cursed" gem of them all. Its tale is usually said to begin with the French merchant traveler Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, who bought the brilliant blue stone in India sometime before 1668. A persistent myth says that Tavernier then died after being torn apart by wild dogs, but he actually lived into his 80s, traveling the world to purchase many famous jewels.

Tavernier sold the "French Blue," as it came to be known, to King Louis XIV, and the gem served other French monarchs, in a variety of settings, until the tumult of the French Revolution. In September 1792, there was a week-long looting of the French crown jewels, and the "French Blue" disappeared into history. However, a deep blue diamond with very similar characteristics was documented in the possession of London diamond merchant Daniel Eliason in 1812. According to the Smithsonian, "Strong evidence indicates that the stone was the recut French Blue and the same stone known today as the Hope Diamond." Evidence also suggests the stone was acquired by King George IV, but sold after his death to repay his gargantuan debts. The gem next surfaced in the catalog of London gem collector and banker Henry Philip Hope—but without any information on its provenance.

The diamond stayed within the Hope family and then passed through several other private owners before being sold to Pierre Cartier in 1909. The crafty Cartier knew the prospective market for such an expensive gem was limited, but he'd had success before selling fantastically pricey gems to the Washington D.C. socialite and heiress Evalyn Walsh McLean. At first, McLean refused to buy



■ The Hope Diamond is on display at the Smithsonian Institution. (*Wikimedia Commons*)

the gem because she didn't like the setting, but Cartier changed the design, and McLean changed her mind. Cartier is said to have been the first to play up the idea of the gem's "curse" as a selling point—McLean was more likely to be intrigued by the story than alarmed, since she is said to have felt that unlucky objects were lucky for her.

Perhaps she shouldn't have been so blasé. Things seemed to go well for a while—McLean threw lavish "Find the Hope" parties where she stashed the gem around the house. But then things started to go downhill: According to PBS, her first-born son was killed in a car accident; her husband Ned ran off with another woman, destroyed their fortune, and died in a sanitarium from brain atrophy due to alcoholism; the family newspaper—*The Washington Post*—went bankrupt; and her daughter died of an overdose of sleeping pills. The next year, McLean herself died, and her jewelry collection was sold off to pay the debts of her estate.

Harry Winston bought McLean's entire jewelry collection, and in 1958, donated it to the Smithsonian. The Hope Diamond is now the most popular object in the entire Smithsonian collections, drawing about 7 million visitors a year. For now, the "curse" seems to have been lifted.

[Click here](http://mentalfloss.com/article/68465/8-supposedly-cursed-gems) to visit the Mental Floss website to read about seven more cursed gemstones.

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/68465/8-supposedly-cursed-gems>

2. ♦ Koh-i-Noor Diamond
3. ♦ Delhi Purple Sapphire
4. ♦ Star of India (star sapphire)
5. ♦ The Black Prince's Ruby
6. ♦ Black Orlov Diamond
7. ♦ Sancy Diamond
8. ♦ The Regent Diamond



Whetstones: Oldest Hoosier Mineral Industry



Fine-grained sandstone quarried in northwestern Orange County was a valuable Indiana mineral resource for more than 150 years. The stone was shaped into many different types of sharpening stones (whetstones), and grave markers were crafted from the stone. These products were sold throughout the United States and beyond.

As early as 1821, rough stone, quarried about 9 miles west of the town of Orleans, was hauled overland by oxcart and horse-drawn wagons to a water-powered finishing mill at Hindostan Falls on the White River. Finished stone was then shipped by flatboat to New Orleans and other markets.

The production of whetstone grave markers peaked during the 1840s and dropped off rapidly in the early 1850s. This drop in production can be tied to improvements in transportation in southern Indiana. The establishment of regional railroad lines opened Indiana to white marble from Tennessee, Georgia, and Vermont. Because whetstone is far more resistant to weathering than limestone or marble, those grave markers are easy to read even today, while the other, once more desirable stones have eroded.

Today, artificial stone dominates the abrasives industry and Hoosier whetstone production has ceased. The Hopper Quarry in Orange County was the last quarry producing whetstone in Indiana; it closed in 1988.



Whetstone being smoothed on a “rub wheel”



from Save a Grave <http://saveagrave.net/whetstone>

SEARCHING FOR INDIANA WHETSTONES

The Indiana Geological Survey at Indiana University is recording the locations of every Whetstone headstone found. If you encounter a monument that you believe may be made from Whetstone, they ask that you send in or e-mail your photos of the face and of the edge. The contact information is IGS 611 N Walnut Grove Bloomington IN 47405 or e-mail Dr. Richard Powell at rlpowell@indiana.edu

from Save a Grave <http://saveagrave.net/whetstone>

In the early 1800's stone from the Hindostan Whetstone beds of Orange County Indiana became the first commercial tombstone in Indiana. This was a vast improvement over fieldstone and wood markers. They are composed of thick and thin layers of river silt deposits and are commonly known for sharpening tools. The number of layers seen on a headstone has been as few as nine and as many as 32 within the space of less than three inches.

At the lower right of the inscriptions you may find the headstone signed by the engraver or dealer. The lettering used on the headstones are similar to

fonts used by newspapers and books prior to the pre-Civil War era. The stone layers are prone to splitting and flaking away over time.

Transported from the quarries in ox drawn wagons to the White river and then placed on barges. Many stones were taken to New Orleans and then shipped overseas. The last quarry closed in 1980, with the railroad lines opened up Indiana to white marble from other states. The Indiana limestone industry began to produce gravestones.

You can identify a Hindostan Whetstone Marker by three physical features. First they are much more weather resistant than limestone or marble, so the inscriptions can be very clear and easy to read. The color is often tan with off white, buff, light brown and rust streaked. Once you have seen one you will be able to easily spot more. Most vital is the layers show a progressive overall pattern of thickening and thinning. A thick-thin pair is referred to as a "couplet". You can view these on the top or side of the monument.

In Southwestern Indiana and Pope County, Ill many Whetstone headstones have been identified in pioneer cemeteries. Some have been found near the Wabash River along the lower Ohio and Mississippi rivers because of the rivers being used for transporting the stone.



ROCKHOUND ADVENTURES

During a recent Fall Break trip, junior rockhounds Caleb Teagardin (top) and Henry Teagardin (bottom) take time out to search for rocks at Hollis Q. Latham Lake in Dawsonville, Georgia.

YOUR TURN

Remember: Rock Pickings is YOUR newsletter, and it needs YOUR articles. Please consider writing about a trip you have been on, a show you've attended, or other geological topics of interest.

Let me know in advance what you plan to submit, and submit it by the 15th of any month. E-mail articles and photos to EIGGSnews@gmail.com or mail them to EIGGS Newsletter, PO Box 1724, Richmond, IN 47375. Thanks!

STAYING CONNECTED VIA FACEBOOK & PINTEREST

If you are a social media junkie, then please remember that there are a variety of ways to interact with your friends from EIGGS.

Facebook: If you haven't joined the closed EIGGS Facebook group, please do so now. News about club events and classes is usually posted there first. Club members also post great tutorials, online deals, equipment sales, tips and life events. Look up the EIGGS group.

Pinterest: EIGGS has a brand new Pinterest account. If you are a Pinterest fan, you know how addictive it can be. There are a wide variety of boards to post to. <https://www.pinterest.com/EIGGSRichmond/>

Web site: Ummm... Have I mentioned eiggs.weebly.com lately?

Lapis Lazuli Pendant

by Joe Wirrig, Jewelry by Joe

Lapis Lazuli pendant
in 14 kt yellow gold
with a .15 ct diamond accent
on an 18" 14 kt gold rolo chain

retail value \$700

**Raffle tickets
\$1 each or six for \$5.**

*Proceeds benefit the Church of the Visitation in Eaton, OH.
The drawing will be Saturday, Oct. 28.
You need not be present to win.*

You can get tickets from Joe
or from Lisa at the club Thursday night, 5-8 p.m.



Auction Donations Requested

It's not too soon to start donating for the 2018 Silent Auction.

The Silent Auction is a primary fund-raiser for the club.

Please consider donating any cord, wire, beads, chains, jewelry findings, finished jewelry pieces, rough rocks, stones, slabs, cabs, tools, kits, equipment -- or anything else that you think people would like to see in the silent auction. If you teach classes for the club, please consider donating a gift certificate for a class.

• to donate contact Marty or Jim Lucas at

317-607-2102 or e-mail m.j.88994168@gmail.com

(Thanks to Bob Vetter, Angie Shaffer and Deb Chagares for many recent donations!)



■ Jim and Marty Lucas coordinate the silent auction for the annual gem & mineral show.



EIGGS is a member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies. The MWF is one of seven regional federations that make up the American Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies. You can learn more at amfed.org

Midwest Federation States

Illinois	Nebraska (Eastern portion of state)
Indiana	North Dakota (Eastern portion of state)
Iowa	Ohio
Michigan	South Dakota (Eastern portion of state)
Minnesota	Wisconsin
Missouri	

Below are the listings of Indiana and Ohio MWF clubs. You can explore many of them online by searching for the club name in Google.

Indiana MWF member clubs (8)

500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis, Indianapolis
 Calumet Gem & Mineral Society, Hobart
 Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society, Inc., Richmond
 Evansville Lapidary Society, Evansville
 Indiana Society of Paleontology, Indianapolis
 Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc., Bedford
 Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, South Bend
 Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society, Fort Wayne

Ohio MWF member clubs (13)

Akron Mineral Society, Cuyahoga Falls
 Brukner Gem & Mineral Club, Troy
 Cincinnati Mineral Society, Sharonville
 Columbus Rock & Mineral Society, Columbus
 Dayton Gem & Mineral Society, Inc., Dayton
 Greater Cincinnati Lapidary & Faceters Society, Cincinnati
 Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland
 Mineralogical Society of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights
 Parma Lapidary Club, Cleveland
 Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society, Mansfield
 Stark County Gem & Mineral Club, Canton
 Summit Lapidary Club, Cuyahoga Falls
 Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club, Toledo

AFMS ROCKHOUND CODE OF ETHICS

As collecting becomes more and more restricted on government land, the American Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies encourages members to contact their legislators and to advocate for collecting rights. Rockhounds should also affirm that they follow the AFMS collecting code of ethics, listed below.

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
 - I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
 - I will leave all gates as found.
 - I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
 - I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
 - I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.



UPCOMING SHOWS

State & Regional <http://eiggs.weebly.com/other-upcoming-shows.html>

National <http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Oct. 28-28—BIGLERVILLE, PA: Swap & Sale; Franklin County & Central Penn Rock & Mineral Clubs, South Mountain Fairgrounds; 615 Narrows Road; Sat. 8-3; Adults/Seniors \$1, Students/Children Free; Lots of fun for all ages in a covered pavilion with food stand.; contact Tom Smith, (717)-552-6554; e-mail: tsmith1012@comcast.net

Oct. 28-29—ORLANDO, FL: Annual show; Florida Fossil Hunters, Central Florida Fairgrounds; 4603 W. Colonial Dr; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$4, Children \$1; Fossils, rocks, minerals, artifacts, educational exhibits, children's dig pit, silent auctions, books, supplies; contact Valerie First, 223 Ringwood Dr, Winter Springs, FL 32708, (407)-699-9274; e-mail: vjfirst@aol.com; Web site: Floridafossilhunters.com

Nov. 4-5—MIDLAND, MI: Annual show; Mid-Michigan Rock Club, Chippewa Nature Center; 400 S. Badour Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Many educational and informative exhibits and seminars for all ages. Special children's activities, including activities for Scouts working on Geology badges. Dealers will have agates, fossils, minerals, rocks, and jewelry. ; contact Debra Young, 212 Auburn Street, Midland, MI 48640, (989)-245-0343; e-mail: mmrcrockclub@yahoo.com; Web site: www.midmichrockclub.com

Nov. 10-12—GRAY, TN: Annual show; Kingsport Gems & Minerals Society, Appalachian Fairgrounds; Building # 1, 100 Lakeview Street; Fri. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; Adults \$3, Students \$1, Children 6 and under free; contact Robert Morgan, 181 Harmony Acres Drive East, Jonesborough, TN 37659, (423)-956-9486; e-mail: morganjewelry@msn.com

Nov. 11—QUINCY, IL: Annual show; Gem City Rock Club of Quincy, Quincy Mall Community Room; 32nd and Broadway; Sat. 10-5; Free Admission; Minerals, Geodes, Fossils, Wire Wrapping, Flint Knapping, Childs Activities.; contact Brad Fanning, 1344n.1720th, Fowler, IL 62338, (217)-617-2751; e-mail: bfanning58@yahoo.com

Nov. 11—MOUNTVILLE, PA: Annual show; Lancaster County Fossil and Mineral Club, Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ; 450 W. Main St.; Sat. 9-4; Adults \$3; Annual club show. A smaller, more intimate show with excellent, friendly vendors.; contact Eric Miller, (717)-339-9338; Web site: <https://www.facebook.com/LancasterFossilandMineralClub>

Nov. 11-12—MELBOURNE, FL: Annual show; Canaveral Mineral and Gem Society, Melbourn Auditorium; 625 East Hibiscus Blvd; Sat. 10-5; Admission \$5; contact Don McLamb, 570 Seabreeze Drive, Indialantic, FL 32903, (321)-723-2592; e-mail: fdjmc@aol.com; Web site: www.canaveral-mgs.com



Picture Jasper; 2016 Agate Expo; Cedarburg, WI

Nov. 11-12—FREEPORT, IL: Annual show; Northwest Illinois Rock Club, Highland Community Center, Student Conference Center; 2998 W. Pearl City Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Freewill Donation; Dealers in minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads, and more, speakers, exhibits, kids' activities, and geode cracking. ; contact Brian Green, (815)-745-2228; e-mail: bgreen57@hotmail.com

Nov. 18-19—LEBANON, PA: Annual show; Mid Atlantic Gem and Mineral Association, Lebanon Expo Center; 80 Rocherty Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; Admission \$5, Children under 12 are free; Gem Miner's Holiday! Retail and wholesale exhibition of beads, minerals, fossils, gems, and jewelry. Gifts and crafts with hourly door prizes.; contact Jill Feder, P.O. Box 266, Sellersville, PA 18960, (908)-720-1774; e-mail: jillfeder.jf@gmail.com; Web site: www.gem-show.com

Dec. 9-10—FRANKLIN, TN: Annual show; Mid-Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., Ag Exp Park; 4215 Long Lane; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults/Seniors \$5, Students \$1, Children Free; Dealers plus classes, speakers, exhibits, demonstrations, silent auction, and door prizes hourly. Show features handmade silver, stone, and Native American jewelry, lapidary and faceting rough, slabs, fossils and mineral specimens, supplies, tools, and more.; contact Mardy Smith, TN, (615)-417-1416; e-mail: show@mtgms.org; Web site: www.MTGMS.org

Feb. 16-18—INDIANAPOLIS, IN: Annual show; Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indiana State Museum ; 650 West Washington Street; Fri. 10-5; Adults \$14.95, Seniors \$13.95, Students \$12.95, Children \$9.95; GeoFest, the 16th Annual Indiana State Museum Fossil, Gem and Mineral Show. Retail show will include dealers, regional clubs, and adult and kid's activities in a beautiful museum building. ; contact Peggy Fisherkeller, 650 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317)-232-7172; e-mail: pfisherkeller@indianamuseum.org