

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

January 2021 - Issue No. 598

Web Site - www.amfed.org/mwf

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Stanforth, MWF President

So, finally, January has arrived with a new purpose, a new beginning and hopefully, happier times for all. Personally, I'm more than ready to move past the darkness of COVID deaths and start planning for rock shows and field trips and MWF meetings.



Not sure if our Spring meeting on March 27th (guests of Badger Lapidary & Geological Society show in Janesville, Wisconsin) will materialize, but I'm hoping it will. Take it from me, that club puts on the

(Continued on page 2)

SPECIAL NOTICE!

MWF Dues (although, alas, not insurance) will be HALF their normal cost this year. For more information, see article on page 4.

THE BULLETIN EDITORS' CONTEST IS ON!

Sharon Marburger, Bulletin Editors Committee Chair

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2021

After another year of editing your club's bulletin, keeping your members informed about activities, and providing educational tidbits, it is time to gather your bulletin items to send for competition in the MWF Bulletin Editors' Contest, sponsored by the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies ("MWF").

It is nice when members appreciate what you do as editor and to receive local praise, but it is also good to get recognition from the outside world. Club members who contribute articles, poems, features, or special publications also deserve recognition and encouragement. This contest is one way to earn that recognition.

After being judged at a regional level, the submissions are forwarded to the American Federation

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MWF OFFICERS

President: Susan Stanforth
850 Palau Parkway
Rockford, IL 61108
815-229-4009
sstanforth123@yahoo.com

1st VP: Catherine Clevenz
2544 Eastgate Road, #12
Toledo, OH 43614
419-340-5276
clevenz@gmail.com

2nd VP: Debbie Hamilton
1818 Adlai Stevenson
Springfield, IL 62703
217-685-6750
crinoidqueen@gmail.com

Secretary: Donna Moore
25235 N. State Route 97
Cuba, IL 61427
309-789-6501
mwfsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sandy Fuller
8845 Grange Boulevard
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-459-0343
mwftras@rock-biz.biz

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

most amazing show – great vendors, incredible speakers, educational displays and so much more.

The AFMS awards were announced recently. MWF club winners included Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (Michigan), Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (Missouri), Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club (Minnesota), and Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society (Illinois).

Best of all, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society in Indiana was given seven awards! Now, that's an amazing club. If you are wondering how to add a lot of "spice" to your club activities, these competitions are a way to go.

A good member of the Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society in Illinois (my local club), David Rice, won an AFMS award for Program Competition this fall, for his "Geological Wonders" presentation. MWF is seeking someone to run this program. The job is to encourage members who provide club presentations to enter this competition. I would love to see this contest become really popular. When your entry gets to the AFMS level, there are *cash* awards.

Don't forget that January 15th is a deadline for dues and insurance so that you receive a free subscription to Diamond Dan's Mini Miners Monthly.

Please always feel free to contact me with your impressions, ideas, anything at all, to move this organization to be more effective and inspiring. Like a shot in the arm, we all need each other, don't we?

IN MEMORIAM DEE HOLLAND

Shirley Leeson, AFMS President 2008

Dee Holland passed away December 9, 2020. He was the last of a group of pioneers in the Northwest Federation, which includes Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.

Dee, along with Ed Romack, John Spunaugle, Cliff Jackson, Dorothy and Glenn Lee, and Richard Glissman all hung around together and created so many things we can all look back on with awe and reverence. They were all involved in faceting, they were all involved in competitive rules and exhibiting, they were all involved in the formation of the American Lands Access Association.

Dee was Northwest Federation president in 1987-88 and went on to be AFMS president in 1997-98. In his later years, he was president of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.



Dee Holland; photo from the AFMS website.

His great love was judging competitive exhibits all over the regional federation shows, and he worked hard to update the AFMS Rules.

Along with Jay Bowman, he created the first program of bringing people from all the regional federations to Wildacres for a week-long seminar of teaching how to judge competitive exhibits. Both Dee and Jay always said, "You are not a judge, you are a teacher."

Dee had been in bad health for many years, but he leaves a legacy we will not soon forget. R.I.P.



BULLETIN EDITORS' CONTEST IS ON — DEADLINE JANUARY 31ST (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) for competition nationwide. It is a wonderful feeling to walk away with a first, second, or third place trophy from the MWF or AFMS. Even receiving a certificate for a lesser place is still something special!

The 2021 Bulletin Contest packet contains the forms and instructions needed to enter your club's bulletin and the work of your authors. The contents of the packet will be posted on the MWF website, <http://www.amfed.org/mwf>. Contact me should you prefer a packet be mailed to you; contact information is at the end of this article. Please read the entire article for specific rules. Also, please note that I prefer entries be submitted via e-mail, but paper copies will be accepted.

The AFMS has made a change for 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no restrictions on entries and all editors and authors are eligible for 2021.

Summary of General Rules

The author and editor of the item must be a member of the club whose editor is submitting the item to the contest.

All entries must have been originally published during December 2019 through December 2020 only. They should not be revised in any way.

All entries (except Special Publications) must have been published in the club bulletin.

The subject matter must be related to some phase of the earth science hobby.

There should be no copyright violations.

Only one entry is allowed per author, per class, per club, except that any number of special publications may be entered. (See below for specific information for contest submissions.)

Bulletins:

- Mini Bulletins (6 pages or less)
- Small Bulletins (7 to 11 pages)
- Large Bulletins (12 pages or more)
- New Editors (any number of pages)

Articles/Features/Poetry/Drawings:

- Original Articles, Adult
- Original Articles, Adult Advanced
- Original Articles, Junior (ages 12-17)
- Original Articles, Junior (under age 12)
- Original Adult Poetry
- Original Junior Poetry
- Written Features
- Drawn Features
- Special Publications

Entries of bulletins and special publications must be "original printings" exactly as distributed to the club members. (Exception: If the item was distributed only by electronic mail or on CD/DVD, then a "hard copy" must be submitted on one-sided paper.)

Entries of articles, poems, and features should be sent as actual pages from the bulletin. Photocopies of an entire page are acceptable if the page includes the bulletin title, date, and page number. Be sure to include any continuation pages.

If a club belongs to more than one regional federation, the editor must pick only one federation contest to enter. If a club has more than one bulletin, only one may be entered in competition.

The act of entering the contest constitutes the

(Continued on page 4)

BULLETIN CONTEST REWARDS MWF WRITERS

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

In the last issue of MWF News, we ran the names of MWF members who won national prizes in the Bulletin Editors' Contest of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. At the time, the names of winners in the **Original Adult Article** category were not available. They've since become available, and the MWF did well – second and third places in that category!

Second place went to "Fun with Fossil and Mineral Investigations," by **Andrew Ek** of the Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (Illinois). **Third place** went to "The Green of Things," by **Michelle Yamanaka** of Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (Indiana). Congratulations to both of you!

BULLETIN EDITORS' CONTEST IS ON, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

granting of permission to the MWF, the AFMS, and their member clubs to reprint any materials entered, provided the author and the name and date of the original publication are properly credited.

How to Enter the Contest

The MWF contest uses basic AFMS contest rules with some modifications, as shown below. The complete AFMS rules and some interesting essays by expert judges are posted on the AFMS website at: <http://amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm>.

Read all the General Rules, Additional Rules, and Score Sheets that pertain to the item(s) to be entered.

Select the proper score sheet for each item. Make as many copies as needed for all intended entries.

Fill out the information at the top of each score sheet, down through the CLUB CITY/STATE/ZIP line. Do not mark anything below that line – the BEAC or the judges select which criteria to use.

Use the fillable forms on the website. If you cannot use the online forms, please print clearly and include the 5-digit or 9-digit ZIP code in the editor's address, since contest results may be mailed there. The club's address is optional except for city and state.

To enter your bulletin, I prefer you send electronic copies. Only one copy is needed if sent electronically. If you must send paper:

1. Submit two copies of the bulletin; **this year only**, the month selected is your choice.
2. Attach the proper score sheet with the required information to each of the copies.

To enter anything other than your bulletin, I prefer you send electronic copies. Only one copy is needed if sent electronically. If you must send paper:

1. Submit two copies of each selection.
2. Attach the proper score sheet with the required information to each of the copies.
3. **If the author is a junior member, be sure to include the age of the author at the time of the publication so that the entry may be judged appropriately.**

The BEAC Chair will accept either e-mailed submissions or those sent via U.S. Mail.

Email your PDF entries, no later than January 31, 2021, to the BEAC Chair at mamamar7880@outlook.com. Please put "BEAC Competition" in the subject line.

Mail paper entries, postmarked no later than January 31, 2021, to the BEAC Chair:

Sharon Marburger
P.O. Box 64
Hickman, NE 68372-0064

For confirmation of delivery, include your email address or a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

Eligibility of Previous Winners

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no restrictions on entries, and all editors and authors are eligible for 2021.

The first, second, and third place MWF winners in each class will be submitted, by the MWF BEAC Chairman, to the AFMS Bulletin Editors' Contest. Do not send your entries directly to the AFMS.

Please check the MWF website for further information. If you still have questions, please contact Sharon Marburger, 402-429-3323, or mamamar7880@outlook.com.

I look forward to reading your submissions!
Good luck!

AFMS FUTURE ROCKHOUND IS RECOGNIZED



Eli, a member of Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (Michigan), recently attained six badges in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program, which earned him an AFMS Rockhound award badge!

Congratulations, Eli!
(Photo from the Indian Mounds RMC Arrowhead News, December 2020.)

ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR NAMED BY CLUBS IN THREE STATES**Jan May
500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis**

The 500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis recognizes Jan May as the 2020 Rockhound of the Year.

Currently, Jan serves as Treasurer and Co-Chairperson of our club's Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show. He has also served as President.

His involvement and leadership in developing and improving the financial reporting and expense tracking of club financial activities has been exceptional.

Jan has the ability to find the most interesting specimens during club field trips. His interest in the earth sciences is a constant in his life, as he makes geological and fossil finds while on trips and relates the stories to us.

**Vern Recker
Parma Lapidary Club (Ohio)**

"Outstanding" certainly describes Vern Recker, a longtime member of the Parma Lapidary Club. His commitment to the Club is unquestionable.

Vern wears a lot of hats here at PLC. He is a Trustee, on the Club's Speaker Bureau, field trip planner, faceting instructor, and Black Bean Brownie baker.

He has an extensive knowledge of the lapidary arts and shares it with all of us. Whenever help is needed, Vern is the first to volunteer.

He was a constant helper when we were packing up to move. Now, at our new location, his experience and help with electrical work is invaluable. Wherever something needs to be done, he steps up and does it.

Vern has a generous heart and a kind soul. He is friendly to all, and can't be missed with his distinctive mustache. Parma Lapidary Club is honored to name Vern Recker as our Rockhound of the Year.

**David Rice
Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society
(Illinois)**

The Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society is proud to announce that it has chosen David Rice for the 2020 Rockhound of the Year Award.

David has been an outstanding member of our club for many years. He often volunteers to help with identifications, and gives programs such as "Agates" and "Real or Fake Specimens." We have all enjoyed seeing the agate table and other items he has constructed. He has also served in a supervisory capacity.

Congratulations to Dave Rice for receiving the ROTY Award for his many contributions to our club.

**Rob Heath
West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club**

West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club from Macomb, Illinois has named Rob Heath as Club Rockhound of the Year. Rob has served as our president for many years. He also made arrangements for many of our field trips over the years. He and a former member even scouted out mines and places in South Dakota, then he led a trip there in 2004.

Rob has done a wonderful job as a member and president. He is knowledgeable, as well as enthusiastic, about gem and mineral collecting, and is always willing to share and help. He has a quiet sense of humor that always adds fun to the meetings.

Under Rob's leadership, we updated our constitution and started a newsletter to the membership. We also started putting informational rock and mineral displays in the local public library to help publicize our show each year.



If your club would like to name a last-minute 2020 Rockhound of the Year, or do an early 2021 award, contact Steve Shimatzki, sjs132@gmail.com.

EVENTS CALENDAR FORMS, INSURANCE FEES, AND (HALF-PRICE!) DUES ARE DUE JAN. 15TH

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

The 2021 Midwest Federation forms for renewing club memberships are now available on our website (www.amfed.org/mwf) and in this issue of the MWF News. Look for them! Meanwhile, please alert club officers to collect information for the forms.

One important piece of information needed is the total number of individual adult and youth members during the year completed during 2020. These figures are used for dues and insurance calculations. The rationale is that your total membership, by the end of the year, is usually about the same, so you always pay the current year dues based on your past experience. The treasurer needs this information **before January 15** so our insurance can be activated on time.

There are several significant changes for this year:

Due to the pandemic and its impact on many club activities, the Federation will **reduce club dues by one half**, for this year only. Unfortunately, most of the Federation's expenses are constant, even when club programs are interrupted. The Federation will draw on our Endowment Fund to cover the other half of club dues this year.

In response to requests to restrict public release of personal contact information, the Federation will only publish each club's public contact information. Please make sure that the mailing address is checked at least weekly and the phone number connects to a real person who can answer questions about your club. We still need direct contact information that will be distributed on a need-to-know basis to MWF leaders.

Clubs are encouraged to provide name, position and email addresses for additional officers, board

members and members who would like to receive the MWF News. This information will only be distributed to our editor and secretary. This is a great way to make sure that all of your officers are "in the know."

Clubs who renew on time will receive an email subscription to the junior's publication Mini Miners Monthly, distributed only via email. If you wish to have the Mini Miners Monthly subscription sent to someone other than your editor (1st choice) or president (2nd choice), please provide a name, position and valid email address for that individual, and indicate that he or she is to receive the Mini Miners materials.

Insurance will stay the same for 2021. Our current rate is \$4.50 per club member and all members must be covered. Clubs that submit their dues on time (postmarked no later than January 15, 2020), may take a \$.25 per member discount.

Remember, the Federation insurance policy will cover groups of clubs jointly sponsoring shows or events **only if** all of the sponsoring clubs are current Federation members and all of the sponsoring clubs purchase Federation insurance. Requests for insurance for these jointly sponsored events must include a list of all sponsoring clubs.

Use the EVENTS form to submit details of upcoming shows and events during the coming year. You may include a flyer, printed on white paper, as additional information. If this information is submitted with the dues, we will make sure it gets to the website, newsletter and directory coordinators. If it is submitted later, or separately, it is more likely to get overlooked.

Questions about your MWF forms or dues? Call or email Sandy Fuller at 651-459-0343 or MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz. Direct insurance questions to Sue Goedert at 616-337-1162 or sonbeams2000@yahoo.com.

*February Issue Submission Deadline
Is January 6th!*



Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
Annual Dues, Insurance and Club Contact Information

(Use black INK. Please print, type or complete form on-line. Submit original.)

CLUB NAME STATE

2021 Club Dues (Use membership figures from year completed by December 31, 2020)

Number of Adult Club Members X \$1.00 = \$

Number of Youth Club Members X \$0.25 = \$

How many MWF Membership Cards do you want? (can't exceed number of paid members)

2021 Club Insurance (Optional, but if chosen, must pay for all members)

Total number of members X \$4.50 (\$4.25 for qualifying clubs*) = \$

(*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2021 receive a discounted insurance rate of \$4.25 per member)

TOTAL DUES AND INSURANCE REMITTED (Make check payable to Midwest Federation): \$

FORM, DUES, INSURANCE & EVENTS are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2021
Mail to: MWF, c/o Sandy Fuller, 8445 Grange Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Club Public Information for Directory & Website

Club mailing address: City State Zip

Phone number: Website:

Email: Facebook Name

Meetings Location:

Date & Time

Direct Contact Information for Mailings (THIS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED)

Person to receive Federation materials: Position

Phone Alt. Phone Email

Address City State Zip

Treasurer: Email Phone

Address City State Zip

Club Bulletin Name

Editor Email Phone

Address City State Zip

Please use separate sheet to list additional officers and members (name, position, email) who would like to receive Federation newsletter and/or juniors materials via email.



Calendar of Events Listing Information

For Publication in MWF Directory, Website & Newsletter

(Use Black INK! Please print, type or complete form on-line. Submit original.)

CLUB NAME _____ STATE _____

Show Chair _____ Email _____

Event Type: _____ Annual Show, _____ Rock Swap, _____ Other _____

Dates: _____ Days/Times: _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Club Website: _____

Optional:

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

ADDITIONAL EVENT:

Event Type: _____ Annual Show, _____ Rock Swap, _____ Other _____

Dates: _____ Days/Times: _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Club Website: _____

Optional:

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

* * Please include event listings for January, February, March and April 2022. * *

Mail completed form with your dues. Questions? Call 651-459-0343

DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2021

REMEMBER, this information, including contact information, will be published in the
MWF Directory, posted on the MWF Website, and listed in the MWF News.

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS SLOWED — BUT NOT STOPPED! — IN A TURBULENT YEAR

Susan Stanforth, MWF President

2020 has been a tumultuous year for our Scholarship Honoree Award Program. George and Anna Pernicano of Livingston Gem & Mineral Society (Michigan) were chosen as the 2020 Scholarship Honorees in March, and were honored in a Zoom presentation on September 14th, thanks to the diligent work of Sherlynn Everly.



George and Anna Pernicano, 2020 AFMS Scholarship Honorees. Photo courtesy of Marge Collins.

Two students were finally chosen from the University of Michigan, and received award grants the last week of October.



Photo of Juliana Mesa by Laura Motta Medina, Ph.D.

Juliana Mesa is a fifth-year PhD candidate. Her dissertation focuses on examining crystal growths in melts during ascent along fractures. This work contributes to understanding time scales of volcanism and continental crust evolution. To achieve this goal,

Both of these young scientists would be happy to provide programs for your rock clubs, in the area or virtually. I'll be happy to provide their contact information.

Juliana uses electron microprobe analysis to obtain geochemical data of minerals such as olivine, plagioclase, ilmenite and titanomagnetite.

She said that she is very grateful to the MWF to be granted this award, which will help her continue to unfold the stories that volcanic rocks have to tell.



Photo of Kierstin Rosenbach by Dr. Jeff Wilson-Mantilla.

Kierstin Rosenbach is a fifth-year PhD candidate studying vertebrate paleontology. Her research is focused on the biology of giant pterosaurs (flying reptiles with wingspans ranging from 5 to 10 meters). Her projects explore the presence of new species of pterosaurs from the late Cretaceous, their evolutionary relationships and their capacity to maintain powered flight with such extremely large body sizes.

Besides her teaching schedule, Kierstin enjoys sharing her work through community outreach.

PROGRAM — AND ZOOM HELP! — OFFERED

Trent Meyers
Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club

[Carrie Meyers, Region 3 Vice President of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies and a very proud mother, wrote this prefatory note: Since Trent is working through his club and not charging fees for his programs, we decided that we could include this article in our newsletter, and thought other clubs might be interested. He has received numerous awards for his writings from both the EFMLS and AFMS.]

Hi, my name is Trent Meyers and I'm a high school junior in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I am a member of multiple rock and mineral clubs in the surrounding area, including the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, where I recently gave a presentation on fluorescent minerals over Zoom.

I'm here to offer the same presentation if your club does Zoom meetings. The program is about 45 minutes long. You may think that I'm too young, but my mineralogical resume already includes several in-person presentations and several Zoom presentations on fluorescent minerals. Of course, I can provide references but instead I've included a link to an article that was written about my fluorescent fascination in *Rock & Gem Magazine*: <https://www.rockngem.com/spotlight-on-juniors-trent-meyers-and-his-glowing-fascination/9>.



*Photo of Trent Meyers from the July 16, 2020 issue of *Rock&Gem* magazine, the official publication of the AFMS.*

In this time of social distancing I think it is more important than ever to connect with fellow rockhounds and continue meetings. Intimidated by virtual meetings? Don't be! I can walk you through the steps to set up a Zoom meeting if needed. My calendar is filling fast so book your date now! Email me at tmeyers705@comcast.net, or call 717-314-5375 with any questions or to schedule a presentation.

SETTING UP YOUR CLUB'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer
Member, MWF Technology Resources Committee

Many clubs have social media accounts on Facebook. A few groups are "closed" or restricted just to current members of the club, while the vast majority are "public" in hopes of attracting new members. Many of the public groups do require potential new members to apply for admission to the group.

Facebook offers ten potential rules that a group or nonprofit may adopt for their site. These rules can be found at <https://www.group.app/blog/facebook-group-rules/>. The Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society (Missouri) did a good job of tailoring these rules, so check them out.

If a club chooses to adopt its own rules instead of using the Facebook suggestions, check out the postings (in the About section) for the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (Nebraska), the Madison Gem & Mineral Club (Wisconsin), and the Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society (Illinois). There are other great examples out there, so check out other clubs nearby.

Clubs that have an IRS 501(c)(3) status may use the Nonprofit instead of the Public Group designation. This connects the ownership of the site directly to the club, and does not require an individual to act as the representative of the club. Nonprofit groups may conduct fund-raising activities via their site.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

Membership dues and insurance payments for the MWF are due **January 15, 2021**. **Calendar of Events forms** are due on the same date. Forms and an article with more information are on pages 6-8 of this newsletter; for more information, contact Treasurer Sandy Fuller at MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz.

Entries for the **MWF Bulletin Editors' Competition** are due **January 31, 2021**. See the article beginning page 1 in this issue; for more information, contact Bulletin Editors' Chair Sharon Marburger at mamamar7880@outlook.com.

Rockhound of the Year Awards may be submitted at any time for certificates and a mention in the MWF News. Contact Steve Shimatzki, sjs132@gmail.com; see page 10 for some 2020 awards.

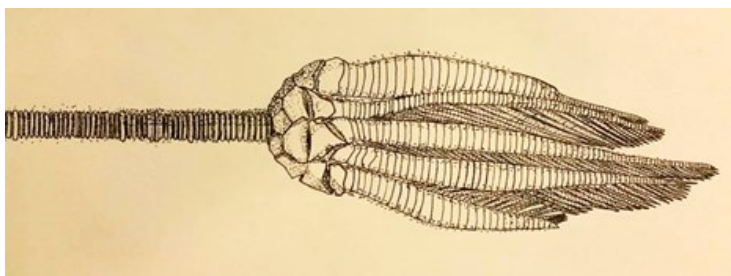
MEET THE CHAIR OF THE PALEONTOLOGY COMMITTEE (AND MWF SECOND VICE PRESIDENT)

Susan Stanforth took time from her presidential duties to interview **Debbie Hamilton**, Chair of the Paleontology Committee and Second Vice President.

When did you first get the rockhounding bug?

I have been gathering stones for as long as I can remember. My first rockhound memories are of being a very small girl collecting the smooth rocks from the Pacific Ocean on the beaches by my California home. However, moving to the Midwest as a pre-teen really kick-started the rockhounding bug. Once I found out that the rocks had remnants of past life forms, I was out in the corn fields looking for fossils every spare moment. This passion grew as I got older and I was able to expand my collecting locations.

My freshman year of college (2006) is when my primary love blossomed. My professor of zoology brought in a tiny crinoid that he collected in Crawfordsville, Indiana when he was younger, as an example of the animal phylum Echinodermata. This small but beautiful animal ignited my passion for the crinoids of this formation. I have been collecting there ever since. I now am currently working on a type collection to illustrate a book for this formation.



Drawing by Debbie Hamilton.

2. Which clubs have you joined?

I am a member of LOESS [the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society in Illinois] and MAPS.

3. Why did you want to be an officer of MWF?

I wanted to be an officer of MWF to help people, but also to help bring younger people into this group to try to modernize and make this hobby interesting to young ones again.

4. What's your dream collecting site?

I want to hunt at the Beecher's trilobite bed in New York. Those trilobites are amazing and I have heard that an occasional echinoderm is found there also.

5. What are your favorite minerals/fossils to collect?

My favorite fossil to collect is of course crinoids, but I really love to find any echinoderm. Aside from collecting in Crawfordsville, I have also traveled to other parts of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Alabama just seeking echinoderms.

On the other hand, my favorite minerals to collect are the fluorescent ones. We got a portable 365nm convoy flashlight about four years ago and I loved to see seemingly boring rocks turn amazing. We have mostly hunted for these around the Great Lakes, but I have also hunted for fluorite in Alabama.

6. How can we improve this organization?

One word. Communication!! Ever since joining, I literally feel lost at what is needed of me to do.

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY HAS DOUBLE MEANING

Calvin Harris, South Suburban
Earth Science Club (Illinois)

Several years ago, I began using a Vivitar 283 photographic flash unit to determine in minerals a phenomenon colloquially known as *flash*. This occurrence is phosphorescence characterized by high intensity and brevity. It can be observed in certain calcite specimens that exhibit fluorescence caused by trace quantities of the impurities manganese and lead.

At its maximum output setting, the Vivitar unit emits a high intensity burst of visible light, as well as ultraviolet radiation. When viewing *flash*, one's eyes remain closed when the unit is discharged and opened immediately after the light has dissipated. Photographing *flash* with a digital camera requires reversing the order of operation because of shutter lag.

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Valerie J. Meyers, Editor
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
vjmwriter@yahoo.com
Post Office Box 13456
Overland Park, KS 66282-3456

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**It is MWF policy that its name and logo may not be used for commercial purposes.
Please notify the Secretary of any violations.**

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY HAS A DOUBLE MEANING, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 11)

Shutter lag is the time between pressing the shutter button and when the photograph is made; it is characteristic of many digital cameras. In practice, the photograph is made by pressing the shutter release button and estimating the correct moment to discharge the flash unit. This trial-and-error approach requires many attempts to secure a photograph. However, success is possible with better understanding of digital cameras and some practice.

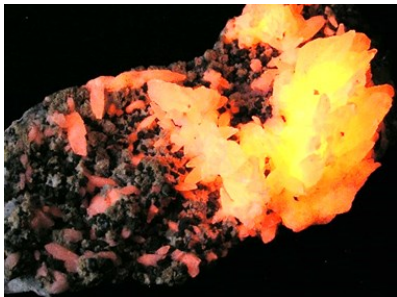


Calcite in daylight. Photo by Calvin Harris.

Unlike normal fluorescent mineral photography, some low level ambient light from outside the work area did not adversely affect the image quality of the photograph. In fact, the light was

beneficial because it was possible to aim the flash unit toward the specimen with certainty.

A good starting point was to adjust the camera to an ISO 400 setting. An f/stop at 3.6 and shutter speed of 1/25 second was useful when the flash unit was held about 7 inches from the specimen. Using safety glasses such as SH Z87+ for protection against exposure to ultraviolet radiation is recommended.



Calcite displaying flash. Photo by Calvin Harris.

Flash photography is unique because it relies on managing the shutter lag factor. Resolving this shortcoming and improvement of the methods described in this paper will encourage others to consider *flash* photography an important aspect toward understanding mineral luminosity.