

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

January 2020 - Issue No. 588

Web Site - www.amfed.org/mwf

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



IN MEMORIAM JULIA DONKER

Marge Collins, Chair
MWF Scholarship Committee
and Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

Julia Elaine Donker, Midwest Federation's State Director for Michigan, passed away November 13th. She was a resident of Jenison, Michigan, and the wife of current MWF President John Donker.

After growing up in the small south-central Michigan town of Colon, Julia received nurse's training across the state in Grand Rapids, where she met and married John. They raised two sons. Over the years Julia often worked as a nurse, finally with her own electrolysis business for almost 20 years.

She was also a musician, playing the organ at a local church for a number of years.

An entry in her online tribute page reads in part, "An avid gardener, she had in addition to the usual annuals, perennials, and shrubbery a special collection of moss. Imagine that! Julia gave countless hours to the Master Gardener Programs in both Ottawa and Kent

(Continued on page 2)

CLUBS HONOR ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

Steve Shimatzki, Chair
Club Rockhound of the Year Committee

This month it is again my honor to present more Rockhounds that have been selected by their club to receive the Rockhound of the Year Award.



Dayton Gem and Mineral Society, Ohio

The Dayton Gem and Mineral Society (DGMS) would like to take this opportunity to nominate **Pat Westby** for the Midwest Federation 2019 "Rockhound of the Year" award.

Pat grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana and graduated from Purdue University. She has been a continuous member of the DGMS since 1990 and has held many positions, from president to treasurer to field trip chairman. She has also been responsible for setting up DGMS mineral displays at various shows,

(Continued on page 3)

WHAT'S INSIDE?

| | |
|---|-----|
| Alert..... | 7 |
| Clubs Honor Rockhounds of the Year..... | 1 |
| Deadline Calendar | 2 |
| Dues and Events Forms | 5-6 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Dues and Events Information | 4 |
| In Memoriam Julia Donker | 1 |
| The Monument Rocks Tower Over Flat Land | 7 |

MWF OFFICERS

President: John Donker
29 Edgewood Avenue
Jenison, MI 49428
616-457-0556
jjredon@comcast.net

1st VP: Susan Stanforth
850 Palau Parkway
Rockford, IL 61108
815-229-4009
sstanforth123@yahoo.com

2nd VP: Catherine Clevenz
2544 Eastgate Road, #12
Toledo, OH 43614
419-340-5276
clevenz@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

DEADLINE CALENDAR

MWF Dues, Insurance Payments, and Events Forms are due **Jan. 15, 2020**. For more information, see the article and forms on pages 4-6.

All American Club Awards: Entries are due to the MWF program on **Feb. 1, 2020**. For information, contact Mary Ann Rich (birdman035@hotmail.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.

*February Issue
Submission
Deadline Is Jan.
8th!*

IN MEMORIAM JULIA DONKER, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

counties. Always a woman of energy and good will, she brought a positive can-do attitude to any effort she assumed."

When her boys were young, she saw that a class in lapidary would be offered in a nearby town. There she met members of the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, and learned that there was a club that met in Grand Rapids, the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club, which was much closer to home. It seemed to her that this would be a great hobby for the whole family.

She and John have been members of Indian Mounds ever since. "She was active in the club and was a willing worker wherever she was needed," wrote Kreigh Tomaszewski, president of the club. "Her family talks fondly about the many memories they have of going to interesting places to look for rocks. Julia was all about the hunt and she loved to be in the field. She had a fondness for things that sparkled, and for fossils."

Julia and John have been very generous with their time and talents over the years, first with local clubs, then sharing the responsibilities of Michigan State Director for the Midwest Federation, traveling across the state to visit clubs on a regular basis.

She is survived by John, her husband of 55 years; her sons and daughters-in-law, John and Sharon Donker and Rand and Jean Donker; three grandchildren, a brother, and many nieces and nephews.

Her family has requested that memorial donations be made to Midwest Federation. Tributes can be sent to the MWF Endowment Fund, c/o Alan Hukill, 15785 Park Lake Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Memories of Julia Donker may be left on her tribute page on cookcares.com. Condolences may also be sent to:

John Donker
29 Edgewood Avenue
Jenison, MI 49428

CLUBS HONOR ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

including the annual regional event, the Cincinnati GeoFair.

Along with the time spent collecting, Pat has spent hundreds of hours teaching classes in lapidary, intarsia, and glass bead making for the Riverbend Art Center in Dayton, Ohio and the Rosewood Art Center in Kettering, Ohio. She is an award-winning jewelry designer and creator, where she combines her talents in silversmithing, metal molding, glass bead making, enameling and wire-wrapping with her love of lapidary.



Des Plaines Valley Geological Society, Illinois

Bill and Lois Zima, longtime members of the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society (DPVGS), have served this club for numerous years. Lois passed away in November of 2018. She and Bill had been the club's liaisons to the Chicagoland organization, comprised of several clubs in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. Lois was also the show chair for several years of the DPVGS's annual Rock, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show.

Bill and Lois would often travel to Tucson and return with innumerable contributions that they would donate to the Children's Activity Room. They were also dealers at several area shows. Lois would teach gem-tree making and Bill would teach wire wrapping at the Lizzadro Museum in Elmhurst, Illinois.

We are extremely grateful for everything that Bill and Lois have done for the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society.



The 500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis, Indiana

The 500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis would like to recognize **Tom Odom** as the 2019

Rockhound of the Year. During Tom's association with the club, he has been the club president and secretary, and has held positions relating to the annual club-sponsored Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show.

His involvement and leadership in educational outreach programs and instructional displays has been exceptional and motivational for club members. Tom's interest in the earth sciences enables him to relate to future and serious geology and paleontology enthusiasts alike.



Indiana Society of Paleontology

The Indiana Society of Paleontology would like to recognize **Katherine Armstrong** as the 2019 Rockhound of the Year. During Katherine's membership in the club, she has held the positions of president, secretary and treasurer.

She built the club website, and has maintained it since it was activated. This has allowed the public to access members' expertise in identifying specimens, and has encouraged students to pursue the study of paleontology. Katherine's involvement and leadership in educational outreach programs and initiatives to increase club membership has been exceptional.



Spring River Gem and Mineral Club

This year's Rockhound of the Year award is being given to someone who is always ready to step in and help with anything our club needs. It gives us great pleasure to present the award to **Barbra Knight!** Barbra has held several offices in the club, with the most recent being librarian and silent auction chairman. If you have enjoyed our June picnic and our Christmas party, you have Barbra to thank for that.

Barbra and her late husband, Al, created the Museum of Imagination in Brockwell, where they feature gems and minerals. Barbra still runs the museum, so if you haven't visited it please contact her and go see it.

ANNUAL DUES AND EVENTS FORMS ARE HERE! AND HERE'S THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

The 2020 Midwest Federation forms for renewing club memberships are now available on our website (www.amfed.org/mwf) and in this issue of the Midwest Federation 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 in 2019. 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 15th** so that our insurance can be activated on time.

Please provide a roster of current officers, including preferred mailing addresses, phone numbers and email address. If handwritten, please ensure that letters and numbers are legible. If an individual does not want this information published on the website, follow the directions on the form to indicate this. However, please provide all contact information so we can actually reach you and not some unattended phone or email. This year you may include a list of additional officers who would like to receive the MWF News via email. You must provide the name, position and email addresses for these individuals.

We will send the MWF News to each email address that you provide. 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 juniors' 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 they are to receive the Mini Miners materials.

Use the EVENTS form to submit details of 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.

Finally, and probably most important to many, the 2020 membership rates are the same as before. Our MWF Endowment Fund supports our special projects, helping to keep dues consistent from one year to the next. Dues are \$2.00 per adult and \$.50 per youth.

Insurance will stay the same for 2020. Our current rate is \$4.50 per individual to be covered by the policy. Clubs that submit their dues on time (postmarked no later than January 15, 2020) may take a \$.25-per-member discount. Include **all** members when computing your insurance premium.

Remember: 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.

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



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

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

CLUB NAME STATE

2020 Club Dues

(Use membership figures from year completed in 2019)

Number of Adult Club Members X \$2.00 = \$

Number of Youth Club Members X \$0.50 = \$

Do you want MWF Membership Cards? Yes No

2020 Club Insurance (Optional, but if chosen, must pay for all members)

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

(*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2019 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 FORM are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2020
Mail to: MWF, c/o Sandy Fuller, 8445 Grange Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Club Contact Information for Mailings, Directory & Website

Please provide mail and email addresses that are checked regularly. Place an asterisk (*) in front of each email, phone and address that should not be listed on the MWF website. Circle "P" for people who should receive paper copies of the MWF News, "E" for those who should receive electronic copies.

P E President Email Phone

Address City State Zip

P E Secretary Email Phone

Address City State Zip

P E Treasurer Email Phone

Address City State Zip

P E Liaison Email Phone

Address City State Zip

CLUB BULLETIN NAME

P E Editor Email Phone

Address City State Zip

CLUB MEETING PLACE

DAY & TIME

Club Website/Facebook Club Email

Please send the MWF Directory and Official Federation Mail to:

Choose one only > President Secretary Treasurer Liaison

Please use separate sheet to list additional officers (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 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: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Club Website: _____

ADDITIONAL EVENT:

Event Type: Annual Show, Rock Swap, Other _____

Dates: _____ Days/Times: _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Club Website: _____

**** Please include event listings for January, February, March and April 2021. ****

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

DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2020

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

THE MONUMENT ROCKS TOWER OVER FLAT LAND IN SOLITUDE

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

As part of the recent trip to Western Kansas sponsored by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's KU chapter, our group went to see the Monument Rocks. These are gorgeous formations of Cretaceous-era chalk – up to 70 feet high, according to Wikipedia, but they look higher when you're standing under them.

According to Rex Buchanan, our group's guide and Director Emeritus of the Kansas Geological Survey, it's a stratum of harder rock on top that kept these formations from weathering away when the rest of the chalk in the area did.

The formations are far removed from even the nearest small town and – being in western Kansas – shoot up with startling size and beauty in the midst of miles of undeveloped flat land. There are several blocks of formations,

with trampled areas of grainy soil and low weeds between them, making walking from one formation to the other a little tricky but not too difficult. From one end to the other, it's maybe a quarter of a mile.



Photos by Valerie J. Meyers. Except for the one of Valerie J. Meyers, which was taken by a nice lady in the group whose name I forget.

ALERT!

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

Please CHECK YOUR CLUB LISTING on our website at amfed.org/mwf. If there are errors, be sure to **clearly** print or type the corrections on your 2020 club registration form.

In addition, please be aware that club membership renewal forms and events-listing forms must be postmarked no later than Jan. 15, 2020. Any forms received between Jan. 22nd and Feb. 20th will not be processed or shared until after Feb. 20th.

The forms, along with an explanatory article, are on pages 4 through 6.

Thank you.

Buchanan had told us that the formations are actually on private property, and the owner allows the public to visit. They are a designated National Natural Landmark, which means that the federal government has identified them as an outstanding geological feature, but doesn't own the land.

No rock collecting is allowed here. I fear that this did not keep at least one member of the group from

(Continued on page 8)

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

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fiatt, IL
Permit No. 1

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

THE MONUMENT ROCKS TOWER OVER FLAT LAND IN SOLITUDE, CONTINUED

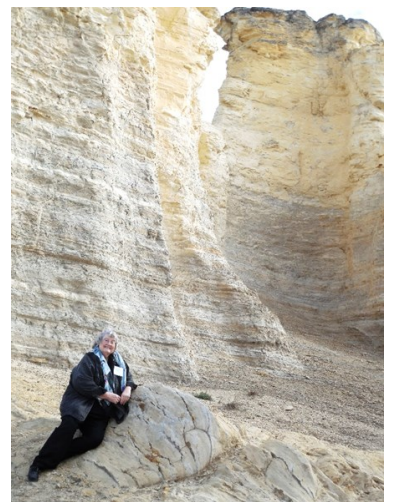
(Continued from page 7)

slipping a small piece of the light-yellow chalk into her pocket. I will not name names.



Fossilized inoceramus clams show on the surface of the ground. Once Buchanan pointed them out, it became obvious that there are dozens of them. The specimen in the photo above was easily two feet across. That's a lotta chowder.

Weathering at the base of the formations produces an interesting poured-concrete look, as in the



left-hand photo above.

Because of the area's isolation, I was very glad that I went with a group. But the loneliness of the locale, as well as the amazing height of the formations above the flat prairie, make the splendor of the Monument Rocks all the more remarkable.