

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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Web Site - www.amfed.org/mwf

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Stanforth, MWF President

Dear MWF club members, it's always fun to join more than one rock club. I recently joined the Kidney Stone Gem & Mineral Society. What an amazing fun time! For those of you who share my pain, I'll be right as rain soon enough. But, funny enough, I'm no longer interested in growing crystals.

I need to find some motivated members to fill some open chairs, like the notorious Missouri/Arkansas State Director spot. Also, Public Image & Courtesy is available to anyone who has a great public image and is courteous. LOL.

I recommend that all directors and permanent committee people assign assistants as back up personnel in case of an emergency. They will know exactly what responsibilities are necessary. Let me



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WE WILL HAVE A CONVENTION WITH SHOW!

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

After last year's convention in Michigan had to be cancelled, it's exciting to announce that the MWF convention WILL be held this year, Friday through Sunday, Sept. 10-12, hosted by the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club in conjunction with its annual show!

Most convention events will be held at the conference hotel, the Holiday Inn Express & Suites at 2150 E. Wooster Street in Bowling Green, Ohio. A special rate of \$99 for a block of rooms has been established, so mention the MWF when you make your reservation at 419-353-5500. Early reservations are suggested, wherever you stay; the popular Black Swamp Arts Festival is in town the same weekend! Convention events will include a Friday night social, the MWF annual meeting and a banquet on Saturday, and the Editors' Breakfast on Sunday morning.

The TGRC show will be held at the Wood County Fairgrounds Pavilion in Bowling Green. For more information about the convention or the show, contact Jerri Heer at jheerx6@aol.com. Registration forms will be posted soon on the MWF website.

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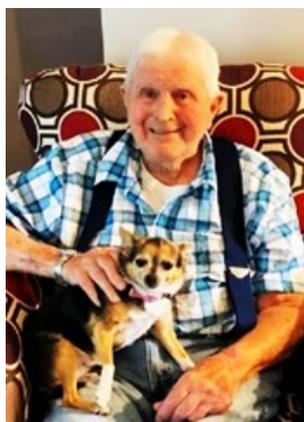
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IN MEMORIAM MARVE STARBUCK

Marge Collins, MWF Scholarship Committee Chair
and Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

Marve Starbuck of Vicksburg, Michigan, a former president of the MWF and of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, passed away March 1, 2021, at the age of 94.

He and his wife Kitty were active in the Kalamazoo Geological and Mineralogical Society (KGMS), serving as officers and chairs of various activities over more than 30 years. Marve was president of the MWF in 1993-94 and President of AFMS in 2003-04, and he also served a term as President of the American Lands Access Association (formed by AFMS to lobby for the rockhound hobby).



*Photo of Marve Starbuck
from his obituary in the
Kalamazoo Gazette.*

When their children were youngsters, Marve and Kitty started spending family vacations in mines, quarries and rock piles all over the U.S. Over the years they collected a wide variety of minerals and lapidary materials. Marve shared his lapidary and silversmithing skills, and, with other KGMS members, set up a complete workshop for club use in a repurposed travel trailer. (No surprise, it was stored in the Starbucks' yard.)

Over the years, Marve and Kitty developed a number of excellent displays – notably one of Keokuk geodes – which they took to club and Federation shows far and wide. Several significant mineral specimens they collected are now displayed at the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, located on the campus of Michigan Technological University in Houghton. The surplus of their collection was sold off over several years at a much anticipated annual “barn sale.”

The MWF honored Marve and Kitty in 2006 as our Scholarship Honorees, in recognition of the work they had done and the offices they had served in for the MWF. They spent their later years between Michigan and New Mexico, never losing the interest in collecting rocks and minerals and activities with KGMS and MWF.

Marve is survived by his son Dennis, daughter Kay, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Kitty preceded him in death in June of 2020. Both died as a result of COVID-19.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

know when you have an assistant ready to fill in for you.

I know that we are a “hobby” club but we must all take our jobs seriously. If you have a MWF position but feel abandoned by the powers that be (like me), PLEASE contact me and we will discuss future projects. I'm begging all of you within the sound of my voice (WHAT??) to reach out and contact rockhounds that you read about in our news. Send them a congratulatory note or share your own information about a certain subject that garners your interest. Like the great article “Which Saw, Wichita?” in the April issue of this newsletter, which I found so informative.

BTW, the new MWF Official 2021 Directory came out beginning of April. Imagine how much work that took!!! But let's remember our older members who still use regular mail. Send them a hard copy that will brighten their day.

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BULLETIN EDITORS' CONTEST WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, WITH MANY ENTRIES AND AWARDS

Sharon Marburger, Chair
MWF Bulletin Editors' Advisory Committee

The 2021 BEAC Competition was a great success. There were 22 entries, two of which were disqualified. The competition results, below, do not tell the whole story. There were eight entries in the Written Features category. None of those authors should feel bad; all but one of those entries scored within the parameters of 1st place (the 90th percentile).

Congratulations to these winning authors and editors. I look forward to seeing your entries next year.

SMALL BULLETINS

- 1st Place** **The Strata Data.** Editor Michele Yamanaka, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 2nd Place** **The Quarry.** Editors Jim and Judy Budnik, Cincinnati Mineral Society (OH).
- 3rd Place** **The Pick & Dop Stick.** Editor Rachele L. Best, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (IL).

ORIGINAL ARTICLES – ADVANCED ADULT

- 2nd Place** **“Glowing Friendships, Minerals and Stars in Southern Illinois”** by Rachele L. Best, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (IL).
- 3rd Place** **“What Exactly Is Quartzite?”** by Antonio Peso, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (IL).

ORIGINAL ARTICLES – ADULT

- 1st Place** **“Minerals of Indiana”** by Michele Yamanaka, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 2nd Place** **“Rock Tumbling”** by Nick Smith, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 3rd Place** **“Geology, Geography, and Artifacts”** by Eric Beemer, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

WRITTEN FEATURES

- 1st Place** **“Virtual Field Trips”** by Michele Yamanaka, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 2nd Place** **“The Gift”** by Daniel Hogan, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 3rd Place** **“Fox Island Geology Tour”** by Nora (10 years old), Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 4th Place** **“Rock Tumbling Clean-Up”** by James Marburger, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE).
- 5th Place** **“Live Streaming – A Virtual Event”** by Brett Jurgens, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE).
- 6th Place** **“Wishful Thinking”** by Marilyn Russell, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 7th Place** **“Mineral of the Month – An Introduction”** by Nick Smith, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 8th Place** **“Richmond Trip for Fossil Collecting and Show”** by Adam Daniels, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

POETRY – JUNIOR

- 3rd Place** **“Golden”** by Kristina, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (IL).

POETRY – ADULT

- 1st Place** **“-Ology”** by Marilyn Russell, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 2nd Place** **“A Sticky Issue”** by Michele Yamanaka, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 3rd Place** **“A Rockhound’s Persona”** by Nancy Carper, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 4th Place** **“Those Rocks!”** by Bev Jenkins, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

- 1st Place** **“Our First 75 Years”** by the 75th-Anniversary Committee of the Minnesota Mineral Club.



SPRING COMMITTEE REPORTS, ARCHAEOLOGY THROUGH DIRECTORY

The MWF annual spring meeting of the Executive Board was held via Zoom on April 10th. Reports submitted to the meeting by MWF Committee chairs are presented below.

ARCHAEOLOGY SKEETER KISH, CHAIR

Most of the societies and opportunities have been dormant during the Covid 19 pandemic. Members are keeping in touch with each other. We are starting to see more meetings being scheduled and artifact auctions are on the rise. Since our community center is opening in June we are scheduling our meetings through November with a summer picnic in August. We hope to schedule more activities during the fall.

Some of the older dates for archaeological sites that have been questioned have been accepted by the archaeological community. Early sites in South America are showing evidence of early inhabitants. If you are buying artifacts, consult a specialist in this area.

BOUNDARIES BOB MILLER, CHAIR

As usual, there have not been any inquiries or activity for the Boundaries Committee.

BULLETIN EDITORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHARON MARBURGER, CHAIR

The 2020 BEAC competition at the MWF level had 17 entries. Of those entries, 16 qualified to be forwarded to the AFMS for judging at the national level, along with one additional direct entry. The competition results were published in the October MWF News. To minimize postage costs, the certificates and trophies were mailed to the winners when I received the AFMS trophies from Mark Nelson. Mark told me he would be sending all awards to me, rather than him mailing them to contestants.

It was another tight timeline for the 2021 BEAC competition. With the national convention scheduled to start April 21, the deadline for MWF BEAC submissions was January 22. *[Editor's Note: The winners of the MWF competition are listed in this month's newsletter, beginning on page 1!]*

CONVENTION AND SHOW J.C. MOORE, CHAIR

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Convention hosted by the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society had to be canceled. The 2021 Convention is scheduled to be hosted by the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club on September 10-12 at the Wood County Fairgrounds in Bowling Green.

Following the cancellation of last year convention, the Livingston Club indicated that they would host the 2022 convention and we hope they are still willing to host.

For 2023, the Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society has submitted a request to host the convention at their annual show in October. This request needs to be approved at this meeting.

At this time, I have had no other requests to host our future conventions. I would like to point out that in 2026 the Midwest Federation will again be the host for the American Federation Convention. Our 2019 joint convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa was well received by all who attended, and it is hoped that our next joint convention will be just as successful.

I hope that your club will consider hosting a future convention. If you have any concerns about what hosting entails, please contact me.

DIRECTORY MARTHA MISS, CHAIR

The 2020 Directory has a slightly different look this year – it has a binding holding it together instead of three staples along the spine. Believe it or not, Covid -19 had a role in this, because of staffing reductions at the printer and the amount of manual labor required to assemble and staple the Directory. It did cost slightly more, but it does look nice. As an FYI – we are also closing in on the number of pages (thickness) the stapler can handle.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED, DIRECTORY THROUGH ENVIRONMENT & LEGISLATION

(Continued from page 4)

There is a new section – *AFMS/MWF Competitions and Programs*, printed on orchid paper. It gives a brief overview of the various competitions and programs that individuals and/or clubs can enter. It also explains the Future Rockhounds of America program and lists allied organizations. Thanks to President Susan Stanforth for this suggestion, and to Sandy Fuller for writing it.

I would like to request that the MWF Executive Committee review and discuss the personal information (name, address, phone and email) contained in the Directory and on the Website. There are more and more requests not to publish personal names and all their contact info. Right now we list name, address, phone number and email address – do we really need a person’s home address?

Suggestions for the section called Member Societies in the Directory (yellow pages) and Clubs on the Website:

Pare down the information to include: Club name, city and state; Membership numbers, date of club organization, and date it joined MWF; Meeting date, location and time; Website: Name, address, phone number and/or email address of the club contact (can be personal if the club doesn’t have its own); Bulletin name; Bulletin editor (name, address, phone and/or email address.)

Don’t publish the contact information for “MFW mail to” and the officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Liaison) – very time-consuming to update, and why is it all needed as long as we have a Club Contact?

Suggestions for other Directory Sections and Website:

Directory white pages (Officers, State Directors, Permanent Committees, and Other Committees): Don’t list home addresses – just phone numbers and email addresses.

The Directory and Website descriptors should match whenever possible – for example, Directory calls the members “Member Societies,” while Website calls them “Clubs.”

ENDOWMENT FUND CINDY AND DAVID ROOT

Yes, I'm taking over Endowment. Haven't done much yet but I do have plans. For our convention in Toledo, we're going to have a Tricky Tray. President Susan wasn't sure what that was, but I did research. In order for this to be a success I will need your help. I am looking for contributions. They do not need to be specimens, but that would be nice. Anything you think someone would enjoy is perfect. I'd like to keep the value at \$10 and above. The more items we have the better we will do. I will explain more as we get closer but this way I can keep you in suspense. If you have a donation, send me an e-mail and let me know what it is. No need to ship it to me. Just be certain to show up at the convention in Toledo and give me your item.

ENVIRONMENT AND LEGISLATION CATHERINE CLEVENZ, CHAIR

While we all have been busy with the COVID-19 pandemic, a few notable items have been happening

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DEADLINE CALENDAR

Entries for the **National Youth Poster Contest** sponsored by the North Lakes Academy Rockhounds (Minnesota) are due **May 1, 2021**. For more information, contact Michelle Cauley at mcauley@northlakesacademy.org.

Advance registration deadline for the **AFMS Convention** is **June 1, 2021**; fees are non-refundable if sent in after that date. **Deadline for exhibit entries** is also **June 1st**. The convention will be held June 17-20 in Big Piney, Wyoming, as will the accompanying rock show by the Sublette County Rock Hounds. For more information and the registration packet, see the home page of the AFMS website, amfed.org.

Early hotel registration is suggested for the **MWF Convention**, to be held Sept. 10-12 at the Holiday Inn Express in Bowling Green, Ohio (419-353-5500). Registration forms for the convention will be posted soon on the MWF website. The show is being hosted by the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club in conjunction with its annual show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED, ENVIRONMENT & LEGISLATION THROUGH INSURANCE

(Continued from page 5)

within our government besides the obvious. These items are going to have an impact on our rockhounding abilities on Bureau of Land Management lands, and in National Forests and State Parks.

President Trump asked Congress to give him a bill that could permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and restore our national parks. As of August 4th, President Trump signed the Great American Outdoors Act, accomplishing those exact objectives. He is the first president to allow funds from energy exploration on federal property to be used to reduce the maintenance backlogs in national parks.

The Department holds fee-free days throughout the year to encourage visitation and appreciation for America's public lands. On fee-free days, site-specific standard amenity and day-use fees at recreation sites and areas are waived for the specified dates. Other fees, such as overnight camping, cabin rentals, group day use, and use of special areas, remain in effect. The remaining fee-free days in 2021 are:

National Parks Service

Aug. 4: One-year anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act. Aug. 25: National Parks Service birthday. Sept. 25: National Public Lands Day. Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Bureau of Land Management

June 12: National Get Outdoors Day. Aug. 4: Great American Outdoors Day. Sept. 25: National Public Lands Day. Nov. 11: Veterans Day.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aug. 4: Great American Outdoors Day. Sept. 25: National Public Lands Day. Oct. 11: First day of National Wildlife Refuge Week. Nov. 11: Veterans Day.

As of August 10, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service closed about 25 miles of road leading into and through the Devil's Staircase Wilderness in Douglas County, Oregon. It is closed to motorized and mechanized use (mechanized use includes bicycles). By taking action to prohibit vehicle use within the wilderness areas, the two agencies are cooperating to advance and preserve the undeveloped character of the area, as required by the Wilderness Act.

Folks who go to the area can still travel the roads that border the Devil's Staircase Wilderness. However, non-motorized travel in the wilderness is allowed, such as foot travel and pack animal transportation. Even though there are no developed trails, visitors should anticipate remote terrain that is extremely difficult to navigate. The wilderness is characterized by steep creek drainages, sheer sandstone cliff faces, unstable soils, and dense vegetation. Cell phone signals and GPS devices are not reliable in this area.

As always, before you make any rockhounding trip on public lands in any state, please check on that state's website for area closures and new regulations. Stay safe, obey the laws and rules and enjoy the great outdoors while rockhounding.

*June Issue Submission
Deadline Is May 5th!
Last Issue Before the
Break!*

HISTORIAN & ARCHIVES CINDY ROOT, CHAIR

The Google Drive is still being maintained. I do have two directories to add, but my scanner is one that does a page at a time and I'm being lazy. If you want access to the records, all you need to do is send me an e-mail. The documents are all .pdf, and all I ask is, if you use someone else's article, picture, etc., please be certain to give that person credit.

INSURANCE SUE GOEDERT, CHAIR

My area is insurance. I was able to save us quite a bit by getting a comparison quote from the commercial office where I work, and when I asked for loss runs, suddenly our current carrier was ready to deal. They gave us a much better rate and also refund-

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED, LAPIDARY ARTS THROUGH PALEONTOLOGY

(Continued from page 6)

ed a little over \$230 because our convention was cancelled. Nothing much else to report.

**LAPIDARY ARTS
DAVID ROOT, CHAIR**

The data base still exists. If you are looking for assistance, or want to volunteer as someone willing to help a fellow rockhound, please let me know.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING
DAVID ROOT, CHAIR**

COVID has cramped our style. Hopefully we will have more to report before our Toledo meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP
JAMES MARBURGER, CHAIR**

I have received two inquiries for membership to the MWF, and I provided the booklets on membership and leadership, and the juniors information. Hopefully we will have new member clubs soon.

**NEWSLETTER
VALERIE J. MEYERS, CHAIR**

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the MWF News, as it has affected everything else. Articles about upcoming conventions and places to visit in convention cities have been replaced by articles about pandemic safety and rockhounding activities for children at home, and the Calendar of Events has almost as many notices of cancellations as of events! But there are still good articles being produced, both for club newsletters and occasionally specifically for MWF News, and I appreciate all of those writers.

I invite everyone to send me an article – it can be brief, and pictures are always good – about the lapidary or equipment-maintenance or research projects you've done at home while group activities are limited. But things are picking up; the Upcoming Events calendar in this issue is proof!

**PALEONTOLOGY
DEBBIE HAMILTON, CHAIR**

I'm sure that 2020 was been a major bummer for your rock hunting dreams. The past few years have

been very exciting ones that allowed me to diversify my knowledge, make new friends and hunt a lot of new places. Pre-pandemic, my job on the side (Actual Work) was finally at the point to get 10 paid workdays off. As this was a first in my life, 2020 was planned to be the most epic rockhounding year ever: Collecting crinoid crowns and fluorite in Alabama, fluorescent minerals in New Jersey, dino footprints in Massachusetts, "diamonds" in Herkimer County, New York, crinoids in Indiana, random fossils in the St. Louis area, fluorescents and agates on the beaches of the Upper Peninsula, the Denver show, and various other shows.

But those thoughts were pretty much crushed before spring had even sprung. The onset of the shutdown in March was followed shortly by so many events and shows canceling.

But this year has already seen many new discoveries in the field of paleontology. Here I will share a few that I find the most interesting.

The first I would like to share is the recent discovery of a cephalopod-like animal found in Newfoundland, Canada (and no, this is not a deliberate pun either). The animal is about 30 million years older than the previously discovered cephalopod species. Dating to the Cambrian age, the geological formation is 522 million years old! More research is needed to definitively link this new species to the cephalopod lineage, but this may just lead to advancements in understanding their evolutionary path.

The second item that I found to be very cool is the discovery of a 47-million-year-old fly fossil. As cool as a fossilized fly can be, it's not the fly itself that is the discovery. The insect was preserved with a full belly from a fresh meal. The fly was discovered in frozen sediment in Messel pit in Germany. The contents of its stomach showed rich pollen. A scientist used electron microscopy to analyze the contents and found that it contained pollen from at least four distinct plants, but was mostly water willows and virgin ivy. The contents helped scientists reconstruct the ancient landscape and understand the role of flies to pollination in ancient times. They believe that at one point flies might have been the main pollinator, even more so than bees!

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COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED, PALEONTOLOGY THROUGH SAFETY

(Continued from page 7)

The last story takes us out of the invertebrates. New research is being conducted by Texas A&M scientists on a specimen of the hominid species, Australopithecus, found in 1994 in Ethiopia. These remains, dubbed Ardi, have one of the best-preserved hands found to date. Researchers used a large database containing the records of other hominid discoveries to compare Ardi's hand bones to other known hominid hand bones to better understand locomotor behavior of early hominids. The scientists believe that bone shape reflects adaptations that moved hominids towards behavior of modern hominids, and may be the link to understand when humans began to walk upright.

These new discoveries, just a microscopic sampling of the discoveries in the past year, help show that big discoveries that contribute to scientific breakthroughs are still abundant. Keep rockin' and the next one could come from your own finds!

PROGRAM COMPETITION ROBERT POWERS, CHAIR

Interest in the 2021 MWF/AFMS Program Competition is heating up! Three entries have been received to date, and interest is high for the submission of others. For 2021, program entries are required to be submitted on a Flash Drive rather than on a DVD. Power Point format is preferred. Candidate programs can also be video or slides. The regional winner will receive a \$200 cash award. Further information on the Program Competition will be submitted to the MWF Newsletter.

PROGRAM REQUESTS ROBERT POWERS, CHAIR

Since the start of the COVID lockdowns, there have been very few requests for Programs.

The DVD "Beginning Intarsia" was missing from the mailing envelope and not received by the requesting club. AFMS is making a replacement copy for the MFW, since that was our only disk. DVDs are now being mailed in boxes, at a very slight additional cost. The DVD "Intricate Intarsia" is available.

The MWF has received another exciting DVD gift from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AMFS), "Treasures of the Earth"! This is a three-part PBS "Nova" series, with each segment about an hour in length. The three programs are "Gems," "Power," and "Metals." See the program listing online or in the MWF 2021 Directory (DVD86) for more information.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, most clubs have switched to Zoom meetings or some other online format. This creates a couple of issues for the lending library. First, it's a little more of a technical challenge to play DVDs in that meeting format. Second, many of the clubs are using the "Record" feature so that members can view them at any time. Unfortunately, many of them are copy-protected and do not allow duplication in any format. That includes playing them during meetings and making recordings of them.

Yet another problem has been the slowdown in US Post Office deliveries. The standard three-day delivery for First Class postage slipped to around two weeks due to changes made by the Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy. Delivery times have improved since the Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year holidays. AMFS is shipping DVDs in the Priority Mail small box, at a flat rate. The MWF Program library has had delivery issues with the envelope-style flat-rate method, so DVDs are now shipped in the small flat-rate box.

SAFETY DAVID RICH, CHAIR

Rockhounding during this crazy time has only increased the safety protocol used before Covid. These days it is more important to plan your rockhounding adventures with extra care towards safety. We all know by now how to wash our hands, disinfect our phones and wear a mask.

Agree in advance with club members what your Covid protocol will be so there are no surprises, and enforcement goes smoothly. Remember that the vaccines are not 100 percent effective and it is not time to drop our guard entirely. As a private club you have the right to insist on enforcement of safety protocols. Err on the side of caution at this time!

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COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED, SAFETY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

(Continued from page 8)

We also might be more inclined to go it alone with a few friends. If this is the case, you'd better be prepared. Groups of like-minded rockhounds can still be socially distant and be safe in the field. In a group, pick a safety person in charge. Choose someone with knowledge of the area. Our club has a large first-aid kit that the group leader takes along during field trips, which all clubs should have. Small groups or individuals should also have a first-aid kit.

Before either a club or non-club event, talk about safety before you leave. Especially talk to the new club members. Make a list for these members: Safety glasses, leather gloves, no open-toed shoes, a personal safety kit, water, snacks, sunscreen, and the phone numbers of the leaders of the field trip.

Keep thinking safety in all that you do. Have a plan. If going alone, inform your friend or neighbor when you're leaving, where you're going, and when you plan on returning. This could be a simple text that may save your life.

SILENT AUCTION SUSAN STANFORTH, CHAIR DAWN CRAMAR, ASSISTANT

Despite our "closed down COVID" situation, I am still collecting a pile of great rock/mineral/fossil items for the Silent Auction at the MWF Convention in Bowling Green September 10-12.

To wet your whistle, I have some very amazing slabs (thanks, Dave and Steve), a ton of R&G mags, so many other slabs and items. And Dave Reese and Mary Gahl from Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society (Illinois) are always generous donors. If you would like to donate, let me know. Also, Dawn Cramar will be assisting and collecting for donations. Hoping to tap her Indiana fossil friends.

Looking forward to connecting with Jeri Heer, MWF Liaison for the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club, hosts of the convention. I always love our silent auctions. Such fun! Kids love it! Newbie rockers love it! Old timers love it! What's not to love? Hope to hear from our fantastic donors.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES SANDY FULLER, CHAIR

Lisa Morris from Miami County Gem & Mineral Club (Ohio) and the Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society organized a chat group for MWF Facebook Administrators. Contact her at <rock.club.news@gmail.com> for more information on the group.

In response to an inquiry from a member club, MWF News had an article in the January issue titled "Setting Up Your Club's Facebook Page." The focus is on defining rules for your Facebook page and the advantages of establishing a Nonprofit page instead of registering the group in the name of a club member.

A working group from AFMS is exploring a basic website that small clubs with limited resources and expertise can use to promote their group. Club desiring to use the system would enter basic data in a preset format and could list upcoming events. The site could be used in conjunction with a Facebook page to improve club visibility. While there may be an annual fee to use the program, every effort will be made to keep costs minimal.

Another working group from AFMS is exploring ways to make the Junior Rockhounds program more accessible to young people and encourage their participation in local clubs. These resources could also be used by clubs to provide in-school and after-school activities for elementary students.

A third AFMS work group is looking at updating and revamping the AFMS website to make it more user friendly for regions and clubs.

These AFMS web workgroups will have several presentations/unveils at the AFMS meeting in Big Piney, Wyoming in June. The proposed changes to the AFMS website will affect the MWF site, so our webmaster, Cindy Root, has joined the conversations and is getting technical assistance from the group.

Anyone interested in working on one or more of these AFMS projects should contact Sandy Fuller at <mwftreas@rock-biz.biz>. The groups conduct Zoom meetings, supplemented with email communications distributed to all active participants.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 9)

**WEBSITE CONTEST
BRAD ZYLMAN, CHAIR**

I am the new chairperson for the website contest. I am excited to see where this will go, and it seems that there are all kinds of room for improvement across the Federation. That's a good thing!

I hope to raise awareness for the clubs that having a great website is a powerful communications tool for the professional standards of their club, and we can all learn and benefit from each other's experiences.

I am the current Vice President of the Michigan Mineralogical Society, its Program Chairperson, and a multiple article contributor every month in our award-winning newsletter, the Conglomerate.

I look forward to working with you all in the years to come, and I am an open book when it comes to sharing knowledge and even guest speakers. Please send any clubs looking for website ideas my way, and I am happy to help.

For the last contest, I was able to dig up two solid MWF websites that went on to the American Federation Website contest, and I hope they both show well in that national contest.

If anyone is interested, I have a set of high-resolution vector graphics of the Midwest Federation logos. You can review them at www.michmin.org and <http://dmlapidary.org>.

**WEBSITE
CINDY ROOT, CHAIR**

The MWF website has been updated. We are no longer including street addresses in contact information, and we have begun using only one contact per club.

Many shows have already been canceled because of COVID. Check that the show you're interested in is still taking place. As always, let me know of any corrections or changes that need to be done.

REVIEW: "GOOD TIMES IN THE BADLANDS"

Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE)
From the April, 2021 Pick & Shovel

I have been reading a book that many of you may find interesting. It is titled *Good Times in the Badlands* by Raleigh E. Emry. It is a collection of stories and recollections of five decades of fossil hunting by Morris Skinner, a renowned paleontologist, curator, and, in his own words, "Fossil Digger." Born and raised in the Nebraska Sandhills around Ainsworth, he became the Curator Emeritus for the Frick Laboratory, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y.

The author, Emry, is from near Ainsworth. At the age of 16, he joined his brother, Bob, as an assistant to Morris and his wife, Marie, who was also an acclaimed paleontologist and curator. He tells the stories of Morris through the direct recollections of the many assistants that worked with him.



*Part of the Sandhills, in Hooker County, Nebraska.
Photo by Ammodramus, via Wikipedia Commons.*

One of the many stories I enjoyed is that of Maudie, a 1927 Model A Pickup that Morris used to remove overburden. The truck didn't have enough power, so even though mechanics said it couldn't be done, he installed a second transmission behind the first to give it the oomph he needed. Maudie was prone to breakdown, so whenever Morris found a junkyard, he would salvage spare parts.

I hunt fossils in areas that Morris hunted and have assisted University of Nebraska Paleontologists dig at sites that Morris Skinner had researched. This made the book especially interesting for me. I'm sure if you are interested in fossils, the upper Midwest geology, or the Sandhills, you will enjoy it, too.



SPRING STATE DIRECTOR REPORTS BEGIN WITH IOWA

The MFW annual spring meeting of the Executive Board was held via Zoom on April 10th. Reports submitted to the meeting by the State Directors are presented below.

IOWA STATE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY HILL

The request for reports was my first contact with each of the Iowa clubs. It was my hope to have visited each club by now, but that obviously was not possible. I expected most of the clubs to have cancelled their meeting for the last few months, as well as their annual shows. The reports reflect this situation indeed. The clubs are anxious to talk and get together as soon as possible. I also look forward to a face-to-face meeting with these clubs, and will do so soon.

One club is asking if there is a formal MFW presentation that the State Directors have access to for the benefit of the clubs. I would like to know this as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent MFW, and promote good communication between the clubs of Iowa and the MFW.

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society, Waterloo

In 2020 all events, with the exception of three field trips, two garage sales, and our first couple of monthly club meetings, were cancelled. We held club meetings in January and February, skipped March and held a Zoom meeting in May. We have gained a couple new members and have lost a few so the membership is staying pretty much the same as it has been.

Field Trips: May (agate hunt), June (crystal hunt), and August (agate hunt). We work closely with BMC Aggregates to have access to their quarries and it took us many, many years to gain access and trust to be able to have field trips to some of their quarries. Having MSHA training for Rockhounds has also helped.

The Covid-19 issue also placed restrictions on how many participants that could be allowed in the quarry at a time, so had to split the day with one group in the AM and another in the PM.

One club member who bought a dealer's inventory held a garage sale for rock club members in

July and again in August (social distancing and masks were required).

Events we worked and participated in last year:

March: MSHA Training for Rock Hounds and the Cedar Valley Rock and Mineral Society show.

April: MAPS EXPO and our rock show, which brings in over 800 members of the public on the Sunday afternoon it is held.

May: Cedar Valley EnviroFest at Hawkeye Community College, last year involved over 825 fifth graders; Boy Scouts of America River Valley Camporee, where we assisted scouts with flint napping arrow points. With all of the participants, only one Band-Aid was needed!

July: Black Hawk County 4-H STEM Fair at the Cattle Congress grounds

September: Prairie Days Pioneer Craft Fair in Morrison, Grundy County, Iowa (kids make and take home their own plaster fossil replica); Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral Society rock auction; Geode Fest.

October: BMC Aggregates Open House, held in conjunction with Earth Science Week. We help with a number of activities, including helping the children (as well as adults) get crystals, fossils and other items from boulders and aggregate laid out from the different BMC quarries. This event brings in over 1,000 members of the public in one afternoon.

Update by Timothy Hill: The club cancelled its April 25th show date due to location health-related restrictions. They do have hope of getting together for some swaps this summer. There are also plans for field trips in the near future.

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, Cedar Rapids

Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday at 7:15 in Hiawatha, but they have been holding

(Continued on page 12)

SPRING STATE DIRECTOR REPORTS CONTINUED, IOWA

(Continued from page 11)

meetings via Zoom. They are pleased with using Zoom as an alternative.

There has been cooperation with the Des Moines and Waterloo clubs to share programs by Zoom as well. This allows for more people to participate and enjoy the information. There is a program held between one and four times a month with no business conducted; this is also shared by the three clubs. They continue to have board meetings over the internet as well.

In the summer months they enjoy holding picnics, and are still in the process of deciding on the best way to accomplish this.

The rock show regularly scheduled for March has been moved to November 6-7 this year, at their regular location at Hawkeye Downs. They will then return to their normal show time in March of 2022.

Central Iowa Mineral Society, Des Moines

The CIMS is a very active club that meets on the first Friday of the month (September through May) at Meredith Hall on the campus of Drake University. In December we have a Christmas Party and in June we have a picnic at a local park.

We give a scholarship to a Drake student each year and in turn get a nice talk about his or her trip. Our Drake CIMS scholarship recipient gave us a talk on her trip to Scotland and an overview of Scotland's geology.

We had two great field trips: The October Keokuk Geode Fest to hunt jasper and geodes, and to Comanche, Iowa gravel pits to look for Lake Superior Agates.

An unusual aspect of CIMS is that we are responsible for the Straight Mineral Collection that was displayed at Drake and is now in storage until Drake completes construction of several new facilities.

March 5, 2021 will be the 75th anniversary of CIMS in Des Moines. We are hopeful to have a full program for the 2020-21 year.

Update by Timothy Hill: The members of CIMS are continuing to meet by Zoom. They too enjoy the program sharing with the Cedar Rapids and Waterloo clubs. Unfortunately, they have seen a decline in membership over the last few years; more so as a result of current health concerns.

CIMS does not currently hold a show of their own but participates with the Des Moines Lapidary Society show held in October. The club had planned a 75th-anniversary celebration in March, but are now looking at September for an event at the Iowa State Historical Building in Des Moines.

Chicauqua Rockhound Society, Mt. Pleasant

The society is in transition. Starting small, and then witnessing a family suffer a breakup that caused members to quit, has been difficult to say the least. We are still working to acquire equipment, and use a local school as a location for instruction for kids. Eventually, we will grow again. It is going to take time (something people have little of today), as we all know.

We have suspended meeting until further notice, but continue to work toward obtaining shop space. The club feels that it will be hard to find enough interest without hands-on involvement. Purchasing of used or new equipment is being discussed.

Des Moines Lapidary Society

The society has suspended its in-person meetings, but is looking at the possibility of having an outdoor meeting in May.

Last year, DMLS started holding outdoor swap meets. They report much success with this new endeavor. Swap dates are May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, and September 18. Their show in October at the Elwell Family Food Center on the Iowa State Fairgrounds is still on. You can find more information about the swap and show on their website.

River Valley Rockhounds, Fort Dodge

The club reports less than desirable turnout for their monthly Zoom meetings, but they have maintained their current membership numbers. They have decided to suspend meetings until September.

(Continued on page 13)

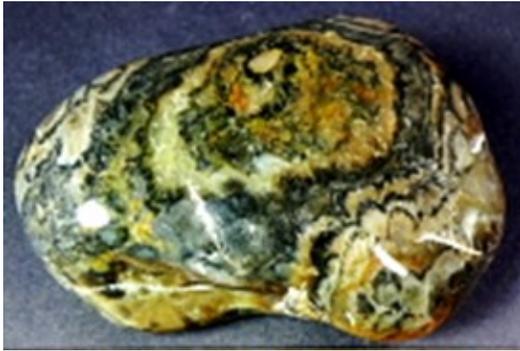
STATE DIRECTOR REPORTS CONTINUED, IOWA THROUGH NORTH DAKOTA & SOUTH DAKOTA

This is just a little longer than their normal break for the summer. They are planning a picnic in July. Field trips are being considered as well.

They regretfully cancelled their show, but are considering having one later this year. They have a Facebook page, and have a good number of followers.

Sac & Fox Lapidary Club, Fairfield

This club has been meeting via Zoom as well. The club is considering going back to live meetings very soon. Officers have been retained from last year, until they get back together for new elections. Their October show is still being discussed.



Prairie agate, the state rock of Nebraska. Photo from therockshed.com.

**NEBRASKA
JAMES MARBURGER, STATE DIRECTOR
STAND-IN**

The **Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (LGMC)** has had very little going on since March. We experienced a show shut-down and closed meeting room that the club uses for meeting. Field trips and this year's show were also canceled, but limited individual trips have been successful. What a year.

The LGMC is trying Zoom for chat sessions instead of club meetings. We now need to look at possible revisions of our bylaws, since elections are coming up with no official meetings scheduled. We have a summer swap planned for June 26 and 27 with plenty of space for restrictions that might be in place at that time.

The **Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club** in Omaha has been busy with swaps, and plans an auction on June 5 and 6. The club's show, which is still scheduled, will be September 26 and 27, with eight tables. The show will be at the Ramada Plaza Grand Ballroom on 72nd and Grover.

COVID precautions are being done at the show. Masks and temperature checks will be required for everyone; hand sanitizers and disinfectants will be available and used.

Show hours are 9-6 on Saturday and 10-4 on Sunday, with access for vulnerable customers 1 hour earlier each day. The show will be a bit more limited this year due to fewer volunteers being available, due to the coronavirus concerns, but there will still be 10 dealers, a few demonstrators, a silent auction, a rock pile table, and the annual raffle prize.

Kids' activities are limited to take-home gem dig bags and grab bags; the grab bags are really nice this year, with lots of cool stuff.

The **Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society** in Columbus plans a show later in the year.

Hopefully 2021 will be better and club functions can be restarted. Keep safe and healthy.

**NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA
ALETHA HOOGETERP, STATE DIRECTOR**

I have no news to report from the **Lake Agassiz Rock Club** in Fargo, North Dakota.

The **Sioux Empire Gem & Mineral Society** in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has had no meetings since March 2020. We did have two socially distanced local gravel-pit field trips in June and September.

The good news is that Augustana University has now opened its campus to select groups, of which our group is one. However, due to the recent occurrence of two new COVID strains in our area, we have made the decision to hold off on meetings until next fall. We are planning another gravel-pit field trip in May and will possibly have our outdoor rock swap in July.

(Continued on page 16)

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL CANCELLED EVENTS: Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club show in Lincoln, Nebraska; Southern Illinois Earth Science Club in Marion, Illinois; the joint show of Summit Lapidary Club and Akron Mineral Society in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society show in Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club's show in Wyoming, Michigan; Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society in Waterloo, Iowa.

MAY CANCELLED EVENTS: Cincinnati Mineral Society's annual show in Sharonville, Ohio; Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society show in Marshfield, Wisconsin; Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society show in Joplin, Missouri; Central Missouri Rock and Lapidary Club show in Columbia.; Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society show in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Events may be cancelled on short notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Be sure to contact the host club before traveling to an event**, to be sure that it is still scheduled.

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
April 24-25 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Miami County Gem & Mineral Club	County Fairgrounds, 650 N. County Road 25A, Troy, OH	Dewey Buck, deweybuck12@gmail.com
May 8 Sat 9-3	Coulee Rock Club of LaCrosse, Community Lapidary Day	Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI	Pam Day, aamethesta@aol.com
May 8-9 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 2000 SE 13 th St., Brainerd, MN	Sharon Smith, sharon@agatesrock.com
May 15-16 Sat & Sun, 11-5	Parma Lapidary Club	Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain, North Olmstead, OH	parmalapidaryclub@gmail.com
May 29-30 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association	County Fairgrounds, 525 S. Randall, St. Charles, IL	Mark Kuntz, m-kuntz@sbcglobal.net
June 4-6 Fri noon-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	State Line Gem and Mineral Society	Junior Fair Bldg., County Fairground, 8514 SR 108, Wauseon, OH	Sherman Kardatzke, sakardatzke@gmail.com
June 5-6 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Coulee Rock Club of LaCrosse	Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI	Allison Conrad, rockinbabe@acegroup.cc
June 12 Sat 10-2	Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club	Parking lot, United Methodist Church, 16 2 nd Avenue SE, Osseo, MN	Martha Miss, martha@rock-biz.biz
June 12 Sat 10-4	Gem City Rock Club	Boudreaux Visitor Center, Mark Twain Lake, Monroe City, MO	Brad Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com
June 12 Sat 9-noon	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club rock swap	Woodland Drive-In Church, 2600 Breton SE, Grand Rapids, MI	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
June 12-13 Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club	FairhavenHall, Mansfield Fairgrounds, 750 Home Road N., Mansfield, OH	Tom Kottyan, TheMineralHouse@netzero.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
June 25-27 Fri 10-6:30, Sat 9-6:30, Sun 10-4	Lawrence County Rock Club	County Fairgrounds, US Highway 50, Bedford, IN	Michael Tweedate, 573-466-9093
June 25-27 Fri 2-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-3	Osage Rock & Mineral Club	Eldon Community Center, 309 E. 2 nd Street, Eldon, MO	Steve Rudloff, mc2021show@ centurylink.net
June 26-27 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club rock swap	Beer Family Farm, 18701 Ashland, Ashland, NE	Corey Beer, 402-890-9155
July 16-17 Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5	Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club	Lakeland Union High School, 9573 Highway 70, Minocqua, WI	Ron Zimmer, rzimmer@charter.net
July 17-18 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club	Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Ellens Drive, Moose Lake, MN	David Johnson, davidrj@chartermi.net
July 24-25 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Indianhead Rock & Mineral Society	Frederic High School, 1437 Clam Falls Drive, Frederic, WI	Roy Wickman, 715-357-3223
July 31 Sat, 9-2:30	Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society	Jack Fox Park, 225 N. Broadway, Canton, SD	Harlan Hoogeterp, rockswap@segams.org
Aug. 7 Sat, 9:30-4:30	Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club	Elks Lodge, 597 Lakeshore Drive, Ishpeming, MI	Kirsten R. Maki, krmaki75@gmail.com
Aug. 13-15 Fri 1-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-3	Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club	Houghton Middle School, 1603 Gundlach Road, Houghton, MI	Rob Grabarczyk, pres@ccrmc.info
Aug. 14-15 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Expo Bldg., County Fairgrounds, Highway 48 North, Rice Lake, WI	Dave Skrupky, dskrupky@centurytel.net
Aug. 21 Sat, 10-5	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Dunham Sports parking lot, 5601 US 10 E, Stevens Point, WI	Sandy Brandl, stonez@tds.net
Aug. 28 Sat 10-5	Racine Geological Society	Bartlett Youth Foundation, 1120 N. Stuart Road, Mt. Pleasant, WI	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
Aug. 28-29 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Peoria Academy of Sciences (PAS) Geology	East Side Center, 1 Eastside Drive, East Peoria, IL	Jim Travis, boatnick@aol.com
Sept. 10-12 Fri noon-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club	Pavilion, County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Road, Bowling Green, OH	Jerri Heer, jheerx6@aol.com

(The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club is the host of the MWF annual convention, which will be held in conjunction with the show. See story on page 1.)

SPRING STATE DIRECTOR REPORTS CONTINUED, OHIO THROUGH WISCONSIN

(Continued from page 13)

OHIO

STEVE SHIMATZKI, STATE DIRECTOR

Joint Report: Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club in Cuyahoga Falls

Both clubs have fared very well considering the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. So far we have not lost much of our membership.

Both clubs are in the process of scheduling a joint mine safety class for the members through the MSHA. We also are in the planning stages of a collecting trip to our favorite collecting place, Flint Ridge.

We are currently down three shows since the pandemic. We are looking forward to our Fall Gemboree in October.

Summit Lapidary Club (SLC) participated in a fundraiser for the Children's Hospital in 2020. Many of the members of both clubs participated in this project.

SLC has its own Zoom meeting account that allows the membership to still hold board and membership meetings. This is also being used for virtual classes and demonstrations.

SLC takes a break in the summer from meetings. We have opened the Clubhouse in accordance with State Mandates (social distancing, no more than 10 people, masks required).

Our facility has remained open for classes of six or less in silversmithing, cabbing, and wire wrapping, and the use of our saws for slabbing. We continue to follow COVID guidelines very closely while in the building.

Mid-Ohio Mineral and Fossil Club, Mansfield

We have renamed our club after 60 years. We were the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society from Mansfield, Ohio. We are NOW! MID-OHIO MINERAL AND FOSSIL CLUB. Everything else in our information is the same, just a new, more recognizable, club name.

In January 2020 we held our club swap meet.

Due to the COVID-19 situation we haven't meet since March. Our annual show has been canceled. We plan a small gathering this month at an outside pavilion. Overall the health of the club is good.

Parma Lapidary Club, Cleveland

Parma Lapidary Club will hold its annual Rock-a-Rama, May 15-16, 2021, at the Soccer Sportsplex North Olmstead, Ohio.

Stark County Gem & Mineral Society, Canton

Stark has not met since March of this year. The club is still intact and hopes to meet in November when the Sippo Lake Center opens. This is our meeting place.

Our annual show has also been canceled.

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

The Toledo Gem and Rockhound club canceled its show in 2020. But the group is hosting the 2021 MWF Convention in conjunction with its show, September 10-12, at the Wood County Fairgrounds in Bowling Green. *[Editor's Note: See story on page 1.]*

WISCONSIN

ALLISON CONRAD, STATE DIRECTOR

Current State of Club Activity: This has been a momentous year for the rock hound community and will go down in history as the year the rocks were safer than ever from the rockhounds. Due to the COVID virus, most shows in Wisconsin were canceled, as well as other club events, and staying at home and social distancing became the norm.

Swap meets and club field trips are starting to be planned again, especially as these events are outdoors and those who wish to wear masks and social distance find it easier to do outside. Clubs and their members took advantage of the stay-at-home rule and cleaned, sorted, and organized their rock collections. Others got busy going through their equipment to replace used-up parts, and cleaned and organized work spaces.

(Continued on page 17)

SPRING STATE DIRECTOR REPORTS CONTINUED, WISCONSIN

(Continued from page 16)

Use of Technology: Some clubs quickly set up ways to continue to have virtual club meetings with everyone staying home, through apps like Zoom, in order to stay connected. Facebook activity ramped up, as did emails, with members sharing their finds on solo collecting trips or providing information on what activities were still happening or not. A few clubs worked on having a new club website. For those clubs, be sure to send Cindy Root at the MWF your website information to get it on the MWF website (d-root@comcast.net).

New Club Officers: Even though this year went by without much club activity, there is always next year to look forward to. With that, clubs need to think about new officers for 2021, and nominating committees should start to think about who would want to continue their roles or who would be good candidates to step into the roles.



Galena (on quartz), the state mineral of Wisconsin. Photo by Robert M. Lavinsky, via Wikimedia Commons.

The rest of this report is a repeat of my 2019 spring report but I felt it was worth putting in print again, so here it is: Does your club struggle with the process for electing new officers? Do club members readily volunteer to fill a role or is it like pulling teeth? Do you have newer members who would make great officers, but who bow out because they feel they are too new to the club? Do you have the same members in the roles, year to year? If you don't have any problems filling your officer roles and you will have new faces for 2021, kudos to your club! If you do struggle, what would it take to inspire members to step up and be an officer next year?

Keeping members active in club activities throughout the whole year, not just volunteering to help during your annual show, is key. The more members feel invested in the club, the more they want to see it be successful for future years and will want to contribute to that success by stepping into an officer or lead role in the future.

As soon as new members join, ask them what interests them the most about the different aspects of the club and assign them to a corresponding committee, or delegate something for them to do right away. Those members who are in officer, chairs, and lead roles in your club need to buddy up with new members so they can start learning how fun and easy it really is to run a club.

Be prepared and list off what might interest them or what skills they may have they can offer to the club: field trip ideas and planning, marketing/publicity campaigns, seeking opportunities for rock donations, lapidary skills, rock identification, education of junior rock hounds, event planning, assisting with newsletter (club photographer or story composition), working on a club brochure, displays for club, signage, demonstrations or programs for meetings, grant writing for club, historian, Facebook administrator, webmaster. Granted there are some who may not have what it takes to fill an officer chair or lead role, even when being a part of the club for years, but they are enthusiastic about rocks and that is what it is all about!

VIDEO RE CHINESE VOLCANO RECOMMENDED

Kreigh Tomaszewski
Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club, MI
From the March, 2021 Arrowhead News

Spending more time at home has given me the opportunity to learn some new geology online. One class in particular was so well done I am recommending it.

It's posted by "Deep Dive," and can be found on YouTube under the name "Why China's Largest Volcano Is So Unusual." The volcano is Mount Paektu (also known as Changbai Mountain). I encourage you to take a half hour and learn some new geology.



ARKANSANS CHOOSE ROCKHOUNDS OF YEAR

Mary and Bill Traxel

The Spring River Gem and Mineral Club of Cherokee Village, Arkansas, recently presented our 2020 Rockhound of the year award to a wonderful unique couple.

Mary and Dr. Bill Traxel have been contributing to our club for many years, and still are. Mary, during the two-year time when she was president, was an inspiring leader. Our club doubled in membership during that time.

Mary is an interesting speaker also; one of her most memorable programs was about minerals of the Bible.

Bill was the editor of our newsletter for three years. His articles were so informative that I learned more from his articles on geology than some classes I've taken. Dr. Traxel has also donated some books that he wrote himself, about earth science and volcanoes, to our club library.

The Traxels are a unique couple of rockhounds who continue to contribute to our club, and we were honored to name them as our 2020 Rockhounds of the Year.

HONOR SOMEONE WITH A NOMINATION!

Deborah Hamilton, MWF 2nd Vice President

Hello everyone, Debbie Hamilton here. It's time again to send your nominations for the Scholarship Honoree award for 2021. It is the chosen Scholarship Honoree who selects a school, and two graduate students at that school, to receive a one-time scholarship grant of \$4,000. It can be someone from your own club, or another club, or an individual in the professional world – such as a professor at a university or college – that you feel has gone above and beyond for the cause.

You will need to supply information about the candidate, including service to rock clubs and contributions made to the earth sciences. List degrees, papers, books written, etc. Include personal information, and, if possible, a black-and-white photo of the individual(s). Send your nomination to:

MWF Board of Selectors
c/o Debbie Hamilton
1818 Stevenson
Springfield, IL 62703

or to pleasedonteatherocks@gmail.com.

Let's get an early start on this process. Please discuss at your next club meeting.

JUNIORS IN MICHIGAN PROGRAM ACHIEVE MANY FRA AWARDS, BADGES

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

The juniors program at the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club in Michigan – and the juniors themselves – continue to knock it out of the park with the Future Rockhound of America program of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

When a Future Rockhound member earns six badges, the American Federation recognizes them with an FRA Rockhound Award, signifying that they have “graduated” from a “future rockhound” to a very real current-day rockhound. Ana, Caleb, Elena, and Anabel of the Indian Mounds club received their sixth badges and Rockhound Awards recently.

Lulu received three badges, in the categories of Collecting, Fossils, and Rocks and Minerals. Garet and

Mathew received two badges each, for Rocks and Minerals and Rockin' on the Computer.

Bella, Brianna, Eli, Hannah, Hope, Luke, Michael, and Owen each received a badge for Rocks and Minerals.

And after a Juniors program about Michigan's resources, including a project using their own rock and mineral specimens, more than 15 Indian Mounds juniors got Earth Resources badges, including Kay, Hunter, Matte'a, and Caleb!

Congratulations to all of the badge recipients, and to the club's Juniors Coordinator, Joan Stoker, and Amanda Wietfeldt, who coordinates programs for kindergartners through second graders. Outstanding job, one and all!

SCIENTISTS STUDY THE NOT-SO-SWEET (BUT INTERESTING!) SIXTEEN

Valerie J. Meyers
Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City
From the March, 2021 Crinoid Courier

Mt. Etna erupted recently with showers of rock and clouds of gas that briefly closed the airport in Catania, Italy. Etna is one of the Decade Volcanoes – also known as the Decade Sixteen – that are closely studied by scientists. They were identified in 1990 by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior as part of the United Nations' International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, because these are volcanoes that are active, have a history of destructive eruptions, and are located close to populous areas.



Mt. Etna erupts near the U.S. Naval Air Station at Sigonella in Italy. Photo from twitter.com/USNavy, via [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/).

According to Wikipedia, each of those 16 volcanoes met other criteria besides recent activity and nearness to populated areas. Each was also chosen if it “exhibits more than one volcanic hazard (people living near the Decade Volcanoes may experience tephra fall, pyroclastic flows, lava flows, lahars, volcanic edifice instability and lava dome collapse); . . . is politically and physically accessible for study; and there is local support for the work.”

Two of the Decade Volcanoes are in the U.S.! (. . . Yay?) The 16 are:

1. Avachinsky-Koryatsky on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia. It's near Petropavlovsk, the largest city on the peninsula.

2. Colima, the largest and most active of a range of volcanoes called the Colima Volcanic Complex, straddles the border of Jalisco and Colima states in Mexico. It threatens cities in both states; in 2016, an eruption forced the evacuations of four towns.

3. Galeras Nariño in Colombia. About 8,000 people live in several towns near the volcano.

Galeras Nariño is notorious among volcanologists because it erupted without warning in 1993. Six scientists who'd been attending a volcanology conference and three tourists were caught in the crater and killed.

4. Mauna Loa in the USA. It's near Hilo, the largest city on the Big Island of Hawaii.

5. Mount Etna in Italy, near the city of Catania and several small towns.

6. Mount Merapi in Central Java, Indonesia. The island of Java is densely populated; an eruption less than a month ago forced the evacuation of 2,000 residents near the volcano.

7. Mount Nyiragonga in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It's near the towns of Goma in DRC and Gisenyi in Rwanda.

8. Mount Rainier in Washington State, USA. Small towns cluster around Mount Rainier National Park, and all of Pierce County could be affected by an eruption.

9. Mount Vesuvius in the state of Campania, Italy. It's less than 14 miles from Naples.

10. Mount Unzen in Japan. It's near Shimabara, a town of 45,000 in the Nagasaki Prefecture.

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SCIENTISTS STUDY THE NOT-SO-SWEET SIXTEEN, CONTINUED

11. Sakurajima in Japan. It is actually within the city limits of Kagoshima, a city of 595,000.



Kagoshima and its smoking landmark. Photo taken March 2019 by _steffen, via Wikimedia Commons.

12. Santa Maria in Guatemala. It's near Quetzaltenango, a city of 180,000, and several smaller towns.

13. Santorini in Greece. The island has a population of 15,000, and is a popular tourist destination.

14. Taal Volcano in the Philippines. There are several towns on the island, although the Filipino government has declared it a permanent danger zone and strongly discourages people from living there.

An eruption in January 2020 buried the area in ash, forcing evacuations and complete lockdowns of four towns. This past February, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported 98 tremors in 24 hours, prompting evacuations again. On April 10-11, the Institute recorded 200-plus tremors and quakes as Taal spewed more than 2,000 tons of gas emission.

15. Teide in the Canary Islands, Spain. It is near several large towns, and the Canary Islands are popular with tourists.

16. Ulawun in Papua New Guinea. About 4,000 residents of several small towns were evacuated when Ulawun erupted in 2000.

Sources: Wikipedia, "Decade Volcanoes"; Worldatlas.com; Volcanodiscovery.com; Manila-times.net.