

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

February 2022 - Issue No. 609

Web Site - www.amfed.org/mwf

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Catherine Clevenz, MWF President

Hello, everyone!

Already it's February! Right now it's bitter cold and I am already looking forward to warmer weather and going rockhounding. Looking and planning for places to go this spring and summer helps me to forget about the cold of winter. Until then, I guess I can do some rockhounding at some area rock shops!



I want to thank all of the clubs who got their information and dues sent in. If you haven't yet, then please see that you do ASAP!

Also, you still have a few days left to enter the MWF Website Competition! Get in touch with Brad Zylman before Feb 15th at brad.zylman@mrm.com. For other contests and their deadline dates, please check out the deadline calendar in this newsletter.

(Continued on page 2)

YEARBOOKS RECORD AND PROMOTE CLUBS

Mary Boesdorfer, Chair
AFMS All American Club Awards Committee

It's that time of year again where I invite you to show off your club's accomplishments from 2021!

One thing this pandemic has shown us is that nothing stays the same forever. So many clubs have been forced to change and grow in various ways to keep their members active. This in turn has hopefully produced tools and resources that your club can continue to use long after we are back to a semblance of normal.

If you've never considered doing an All American Club Awards yearbook, or thought your club wouldn't do well, I ask you to reconsider. These yearbooks are not just about trying to check all the right boxes and get that high score. They are a time capsule for what your club has done, and something that future members will be able to look back on.

A yearbook showcases your club's ability to grow, evolve, and continue promoting your club's mission. Last year I really enjoyed seeing the new and

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MWF OFFICERS

President: Catherine Clevenz
1334 Melvin Drive
Toledo, OH 43615
419-340-5276
clevenz@gmail.com

1 st VP: Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich 1166 Broadview Tallmadge, OH 44278 330-630-9625 mafergusonrich@gmail.com	2 nd VP: Cheryl Neary 42 Jefferson Avenue Patchogue, NY 11772 516-449-5341 ciervo.neary@gmail.com
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Secretary: Donna Moore 25235 N. Illinois Highway 97 Cuba, IL 61427 309-789-6501 mwfsecretary@gmail.com	Treasurer: Sandy Fuller 8445 Grange Boulevard Cottage Grove, MN 55016 651-459-0343 mwftras@rock-biz.biz
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DEADLINE CALENDAR

Deadline for clubs wanting to enter the **MWF Website Competition** is **Feb. 15, 2022**. For more information, get in touch with Brad Zylman, brad.zylman@mrm.com, or see the article on page 4.

Deadline to send 2021 entries to the annual **MWF Bulletin Editors Contest** is **March 1, 2022**. For more information, contact Sharon Marburger, mamamar7880@outlook.com.

North Lakes Academy is sponsoring a nationwide **Youth Poster Contest** for students in grades 1 through 8; deadline for entries is **May 1, 2022**. Contact Michelle Cauley at her email address, mcauley@northlakesacademy.org, for information.

Entries for the **All American Club Award** yearbooks should be sent to MWF Merit Awards Chair Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich by **April 15, 2022**. The top three MWF entries will be submitted to the national AFMS contest. For more information, see the article on page 1, or contact mafergusonrich@gmail.com.

The annual **MWF Convention** will be held **Oct. 22-23, 2022**, in Springfield, Missouri, hosted by the Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society. Details will be announced in future issues of MWF News.

Rockhound of the Year Awards may be submitted at any time for certificates and a mention in the MWF News. Contact Jeanine Mielecki, janine9@aol.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

As a two-time survivor of Covid, I would like to remind all of you to at least wear a mask as you go to the shows in the next few months. Use common sense and hand sanitizer, and social distance if you can. Most of all, enjoy the shows as much as you can!

Happy rockhounding thoughts!

YEARBOOKS RECORD AND PROMOTE, CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

innovative ways of growing through adversity that everyone developed. If it seems daunting, please reach out with questions! I can give you advice or show you examples of previous entries.

The contest will cover clubs' activities during 2021, from January through December. The AACA contest is a two-tier competition. The first tier is entry in the Regional Federations' contests, and the top three entries from each Regional Federation will be submitted to the AFMS level for judging.

The yearbook can be in the form of a paper scrapbook or digital PDF. The AFMS website has applications and examples of previous award winners at amfed.org/AACA.htm.

Deadline to enter the MWF AACA contest is April 15, 2022. Paper yearbooks should be sent to MWF Merit Awards Chair Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at 1166 Broadview, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278. Electronic yearbooks, or questions, should be sent to mafergusonrich@gmail.com.

One thing I would like to point out is that **club entries are not evaluated against each other**, but for the aspects that make a strong active club. Each entry begins with 100 points, and judges look to match club activities to those criteria. With the pandemic, we have also added new ways to recognize your club's hard work.

Take a look at what your club has accomplished this past year, and give credit where credit is due! The more members contribute to the yearbook, the more it can serve as a historical document for the club, and an excellent tool to encourage prospective members.

COLUMBUS ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBER WINS CARNEGIE MINERALOGICAL AWARD

Johan Maertens,
Columbus Rock & Mineral Society (OH)
From the October, 2021 Glacial Groove

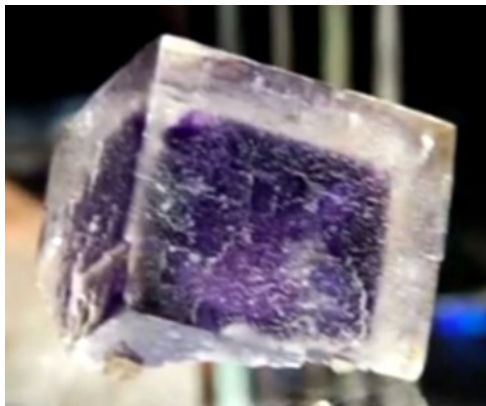
Dr. John C. Medici of Ostrander, Ohio, a member of the Columbus Rock & Mineral Society and an avid mineral collector for more than 50 years, was recently announced to be the recipient of the 2020 Carnegie Mineralogical Award, presented by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

“The award honors those who have made outstanding contributions to mineralogical preservation, conservation, and education,” according to Sloan MacRae, the museum’s Director of Marketing.

Many of us have experienced John’s kindness and patience in helping collectors obtain good specimens during field trips. He specializes in minerals of Ohio and of Herkimer County, New York, but has collected specimens nationwide and in Canada.

John has spoken at numerous gems and mineral shows and mineral symposia, including the Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium, the Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Mineralogical Symposium, and the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium.

He has sold, and in some cases donated, specimens to many museums; the CMNH alone has six of his findings.



Color-zoned fluorite collected by Medici from the Stoneco Auglaize Quarry in Junction, Ohio, on display in Hillman Hall at the CMNH. The photo is a screen grab from the award presentation video.

John’s articles and photos have appeared in every major mineral magazine, including *The Mineralogical Record* (for example, his article in the July-August 2019 issue about the Auglaize Quarry in Ohio) and *Rocks & Minerals* (for example, his article in the November-December 2020 issue about the Delphos Quarry in Ohio).

According to an article by Dillon Davis in the *Delaware Gazette*, Medici has a doctorate in biochemistry from Rutgers University, and his resume includes work with the space program, and for Chemical Abstracts Service in Columbus, Ohio.

The Carnegie Mineralogical Award is usually presented at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. But since it had to be cancelled in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the award presentation was held virtually. It can be seen, along with Medici’s acceptance remarks, on YouTube ([youtube.com/watch?v=jl_TQ3ickP4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jl_TQ3ickP4)).



Eventually, Medici was able to accept the award in person from Gretchen Baker, director of the CMNH. Photo by Tim Evans of the CMNH, via the Delaware Gazette.

“John Medici is an excellent choice for the 2020 Carnegie Mineralogical Award,” said Travis Olds, the Assistant Curator of Minerals at the CMNH, during the virtual award presentation.

“His contribution to the mineral community has been significant, but his greatest contribution to specimen mineralogy is his dogged pursuit of top-quality specimens in the field, specimens that would otherwise be destroyed by industry or nature.”

In John’s own words, from his acceptance remarks:

(Continued on page 4)

CRMS MEMBER WINS AWARD, CONT.

(Continued from page 3)

“I’ve been really honored and I’m a little overwhelmed with being nominated for the Carnegie Mineralogical Award for 2021, and a little bit surprised. Because I’m not in academia, I’m not a museum curator . . . My business is not minerals, that’s not my living, and I never took a geology or mineralogy course.

“The fun in our family is getting out and doing the Easter-egg hunt type field collecting, and that’s probably the most fun for everyone in our family: Getting out in nature and being able to just concentrate on collecting. So that’s what we have done for – for myself, it’s approaching 60 years . . . I’m past 80 at this point, and as long as I can still get out and handle a rock pile in a quarry, I will be very happy about it.

“I’m hoping my sons [Brett and Jay], who enjoy that kind of thing, also will continue with their work. I hope quarries and mines are not overwhelmed by government controls that prevent them from getting out and collecting.”

Congratulations, John! We are proud of you and your contributions to the Columbus Rock & Mineral Society.

WEBSITE CONTEST STILL TAKING ENTRIES!

Brad Zylman, Chair
MWF Website Competition Committee

Please enter the 2022 American Federation website contest and help the Midwest Federation represent at the AFMS. Last year the Midwest Federation took top prize!

Having an awesome website is a great motivator to generate interest in your club and to help draw new people into the geology and lapidary hobbies. The judges will be looking for design aesthetics and specific information, outlined in the guidelines, entry form and score sheet. Those forms are on the AFMS website; go to the home page, amfed.org, and click on “2022 Web Site Contest.”

The deadline for submission is February 15th. You can contact me at brad.zylman@mrm.com with any questions or submissions. Hope to hear from you soon!

AFMS HAS A WEBSITE JUST FOR JUNIORS

Lora Hall
AFMS Juniors Program Chair

It has been a busy year for the AFMS Juniors Ad Hoc Committee, but we are pleased to announce the launch of the new AFMS Juniors Website!

Volunteers from across the federations came together in a team effort to make this happen. A special shout-out goes to Lori Carter from the Southeast Federation, for patiently teaching us how to build this site and answering late-night calls for help when we broke something.

The website features a contact form for new clubs wanting to sign up for Future Rockhounds of America (FRA), and a contact form for clubs and societies wanting to participate in the Rock Pal Rock Exchange. The streamlined process for requesting badges, patches, and pin can be found on the FRA Badge Program page.

The annual 2022 Poster Contest is highlighted on the Awards, Contests, and Scholarships page, along with a brand-new program for Junior Volunteers. [Editor’s Note: See information about the Youth Poster Contest in the Deadline Calendar on page 2.] Leaders can also find tips and hints for starting a youth program. And last but not least, the Partnerships page gives leaders suggestion for reaching out and joining forces with other organizations.

As we say on the home page, “You will frequently see the warning, *Website Under Construction*, but it takes on new meaning for this website. This site will always be under construction as it grows, shifts, morphs, and adapts to the needs of our juniors and youth leaders. It is a place to come for current news and events from across the AFMS. So when we say, *Check Back Frequently*, it is a good idea to do just that!”

We hope the website will become a place for leaders across the country to share ideas. If there is something you would like to see us add, or if you have an activity others may find helpful, please let us know.

The website can be reached by following the link on the AFMS website, <http://www.amfed.org>, or you can access it directly by going to <http://www.juniors.amfed.org>.

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK OFFERS UNIQUE LANDSCAPE, WILDLIFE, AND MINING HISTORY

Antonio Peso
Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society
From the May, 2021 Pick & Dop Stick

I am writing about the copper mine found in Saguaro National Park in Tucson, Arizona. Copper had lain hidden in Loma Verde for the ages until it was discovered around 1898. The Loma Verde Mine is located on a section of the Pink Hill Trail, a loop of about three miles that runs through giant saguaro cactus in the Rincon Mountains of the park. The trail is flat and continually enters the forest of the saguaros that silently observe you as you pass by.

There are many unique landscapes that you gradually discover as you venture through the many passages of geological and biological evolution that have changed little by little from their original creation. The trail stretches out and enters the sands of the Sonoran Desert. Its tranquility and light absorb you. Unexpectedly, the sound of a cricket among rocks and cactus alerts you to one of the usual inhabitants of these fantastic lands. An amazing Gila monster glides smoothly by.

In this uniquely dry habitat can be found hundreds of varieties of animals, reptiles, and insects that have made this location their home. Among them are deer, javelinas, coyotes, bobcats, jack rabbits, rattlesnakes and many others. In the presence of such an abundant variety of flora and fauna, one may ask, "What can I do to enjoy them?" The answer, in my modest opinion, is to help protect the ecosystem with all of our human resources.

Photo of the Shantz-Vanover-Loma Verde-Cholla Cactus Forest Trail Loop by Audrey Hall, via alltrails.com.



I will now comment on another treasure that this magnificent park has to offer. My wife Kathy and I entered the Loma Verde Trail, following the path as the

fields of saguaros greeted us along the way. These majestic green giants become lost in the horizon, giving us the sensation of looking at an immense green lawn. Perhaps this might be the origin of its name "Loma Verde," which means green hill.

Among the saguaros and other cactus and succulent plants, a plaque on top of a metal post indicated that we were approaching an area where a copper and gold mine that is known as the Loma Verde Mine was opened in the early 1900s. The mine itself is a small area, with a cliff of some 300 feet, which some miners looking for fortune opened up. The investment of capital back then was quite an important one for the economic means of the day.

The mining operation did not go on for long because the quality of the mineral obtained was 16% copper and a little gold per metric ton, which did not generate enough profit. The transport of the minerals from the high elevation of the smelting equipment and the salaries of the miners became insurmountable expenses. The mining ceased around 1901.



Copper ore found near the Loma Verde Mine, held in front of the sign near the mine. Photo by Kathy Peso.

Around that time, gold fever and interest in other minerals had begun to motivate the many immigrants who wanted to become rich quickly. Arizona is a land blessed with many mineral resources, such as copper, gold, silver, and molybdenite. In Tucson there were more than 700 mining operations searching for copper and its derivatives.

Kathy and I enjoy the privilege of being able to explore this mysterious and wonderful landscape. Me by looking for minerals, and her by taking photos of the majestic saguaros, ocotillos, jumping cactus and prickly pear cactus. Is it not stimulating to be able to enjoy such fabulous distractions? That's what we think.

SPECULAR HEMATITE HAS SPARKLING ALLURE (THEY EVEN SELL THE DUST)

Susan Satchwill

Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)

From the September 2021 Strata Data

I swept into Three Lakes, Michigan, late in the day – so late the office of the Three Lakes Motel called to verify my safety. There were a couple of rough hours of running my wipers in the dark, but the motel office had rock posters on the shelves, buckets of rocks on the floor, and a rock scoop propped up against a wall. I'd found a proper home away from home!

The following morning, I met Field Trip Coordinator Michele Yamanaka and Education Chairman Linda Spaulding in Champion. It was a short jog down the road to our destination: the old Beacon Mine dump piles. After turning off the pavement onto a two-lane, deeply rutted dirt road, we wound around until we came to the first pile. I stepped out of the car onto a road coated solid silver by glittery hematite sand. This variety of hematite is referred to as specular hematite or micaceous hematite.

I worried that the pile had been picked over, but it only seemed so because it was overcast. In the moments where the sun shone, I scrambled around adding rock after shiny rock to my bucket. The dump pile extended over a hill, which made it little difficult to get the collected rocks back to our vehicles, but we managed. I collected so many small to mid-sized pieces of hematite that the bucket split.



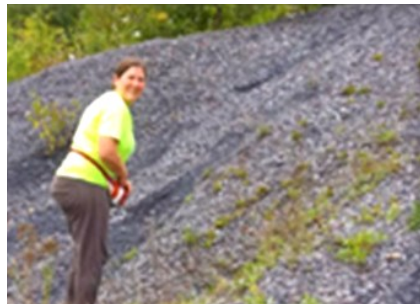
Specular Hematite. Photo by Michele Yamanaka.

We decided to explore another pile on our way out. This one was composed primarily of smaller pieces. I now regret not dumping the larger rocks into the car and just scooping up a bucketful, they were so plentiful. I did, however, fill my entire fanny pack in a matter of minutes.

After cleaning off the silver dust, we headed to the Iron Mountain iron mine in Vulcan, Michigan. We parked in the lot with “Big John” (a 40-foot tall, 12-

foot wide statue of a miner wearing a lighted helmet) and grabbed a drink from “Ol’ Faceful” (an “artesian water” fountain that pipes water up from the mine) as we made our way in to buy tickets for the mine tour.

After purchasing our tickets, we browsed the “largest rock shop in Upper Michigan” within the office and were amused to find vials of the very silver hematite dust we’d just washed off bottled for sale.



Susan Satchwill prior to being covered with silvery dust. Photo by Michele Yamanaka.

The tour guide discussed old mining equipment before we boarded a miniature train (added in 1965) to go 2,600 feet into the hill and 400 feet below the surface. The group walked around the tunnels, learning of the horrible conditions under which miners worked to retrieve the iron – operating equipment nicknamed “The Widomaker,” working by the light of a candle on the helmet, and then later, inches under an electrical line that was lethal to accidentally hit.

There were two “stopes” or areas hollowed out by miners on the tour; one smaller, one larger. Millions of pounds of ore were removed to create these stopes. The larger one is deep enough that if the Empire State building was at its bottom, the group would have been looking down at the top of it. A trip across this stope to change two light bulbs involves two 50-foot ladders, not slipping in the ascent . . . or off a cliff at the top.

Nearby was Kelley’s Rock Shop (kelleyskaleidoscope.com), so we made it our next stop. The timing was incredibly lucky, as the shop was moving locations just three days later. The owner, Kelley Laughlin, talked to us about local rockhounding sites and specimens within the store.

On the way back to the hotel, a double rainbow arched over the sky. That night there was a very loud thunderstorm and I wondered what my drive home might be like. The next morning was clear, however, and as I headed home, a small piece of a rainbow hung in the sky above me.

ARSENIC-BEARING MINERALS ABOUND IN MICHIGAN (GALLIUM-BEARING, NOT SO MUCH)

Kreigh Tomaszewski
West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group

Our mineral study group is working through the periodic table in our current study sequence. Recently, at the 89th meeting of our MWF mineral study group, we looked at minerals containing Gallium, Germanium, or Arsenic (but only if the arsenic mineral names started with the letters A-G). We only have so much time each month, so with the more abundant elements we've had to break our study down to one or a few letters of the alphabet.

Each month the members of the mineral study group go through their collections to find representative specimens to share with the group. We also do some homework to learn a bit about the subject group of minerals so we have something to share even if we don't have specimens that month.

We started this month with the nine known minerals that contain gallium – and since none of us had any of them in our collections we found a micromount Type Locality specimen of krieselite on eBay selling for \$175 and looked at a picture.

We did a little better with germanium, having three of the 35 known minerals containing this important element; the sulfides germanite and reinerite, and the oxide stottite.

We started the arsenic minerals with the phosphate adamite in its common yellow, a purple variety, and a green copper-rich variety (“cuproadamite”). Phosphates would be a theme with arsenic minerals. Arsenic is one of the few elements found natively, and we had several specimens to examine.

We had a short discussion about how the phosphates, arsenates, and vanadates have similar chemistry and are generally lumped together as simply phosphates, including conichalcite, cornubite, and Cornwallite. We looked at the sulfide domeykite, where arsenic replaces sulphur.

We talked about mohawkite, which is a mixture of algodonite, domeykite and arsenic-rich copper (and possibly further species) originally reported from Mohawk Mine in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



Mohawkite specimen from the Mohawk-Ahmeek area of Michigan's Keeweenaw County, the only place in the world where mohawkite is found. Photo by Robert M. Lavinsky, via Wikimedia Commons.

We finished up with the phosphate duftite, the sulfide enargite, the phosphates erythrite and euchroite, the sulfate fornacite, the sulfide galkhaite, the phosphate gartrellite, and the sulfide getchellite.

We often have some time to look at some unknown specimen you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are slowly getting better at identification). At this meeting, we identified several specimens people had brought in.

Meetings of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group are held at my home. **Face masks are required** (unless everyone attending has been fully vaccinated against Covid-19). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. For more details, contact me at email address kreigh@gmail.com.

I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other, but you are always welcome even if you can't bring any specimens. Please join us and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated.

March Issue Submission Deadline Is February 1st!

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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Please notify the Secretary of any violations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.**

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
Feb. 18-20 Fri 4-9, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Rock Hobby Club	Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, Kirkwood, MO	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburt@juno.com
March 4-6 Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society	Kuhlman Center, County Fairgrounds, 861 Salisbury Road, Richmond, IN	Judy Burton, JLeeBurton@ who.rr.com
March 5-6 Sat 11-6, Sun noon-6	The Roamin Club auction (cash only)	Schoolcraft Community College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI	Todd Gall, roaminrockhound@ gmail.com
March 11-13 Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City	KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Am- bassador Drive, Kansas City, MO	Bruce Stinemetz, 816-795-5159
March 12 Sat 6-9	Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society silent auction	St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie, Skokie, IL	Jeanine N. Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com
March 12-13 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Geodeland Earth Science Clubs	Ballroom, Student Union, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL	Jim Travis, boatnick@aol.com
March 19 Sat, 10-5	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society rock swap	St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI	Louis Talley ltalley1970@gmail.com