

# MWF News

**Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

November 2023 - Issue No. 626

Web Site - [www.mwfed.org](http://www.mwfed.org)

**Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies**



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Sandy Fuller, MWF President

Hello, fellow rockhounds. I would like to introduce myself to those who don’t know me.

I’ve been a member of the Minnesota Mineral Club since 1992 and the Anoka County Gem and Mineral Club since 1997. My passions are fluorescent minerals and petrified wood, but I can get excited about any mineral that I can dig. Unfortunately, I don’t have a lot of time for that because I’m usually in a booth selling rocks.



I served in various offices in my local clubs, including club representative to the Midwest Federation in 1998. While continuing to work with my local clubs, I got involved with the federation – first as a State Director and eventually “going through the chairs” to become president in 2005-06.

That was my introduction to the American Federation and my journey through the chairs of that

*(Continued on page 2)*

## MICHIGAN STUDENTS EARN AFMS GRANTS

Valerie J. Meyers  
Editor, MWF News

At the annual Midwest Federation Convention in September (and in the June issue of MWF News), MWF Scholarship Honorees Bob and Julia Sherwood of the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club in Michigan were introduced.

The annual Scholarship Honoree for the MWF (and for each of the other regional AFMS federations participating), in collaboration with a chosen college or university, selects two students, each of whom receives a \$4,000 scholarship grant from the AFMS. The students must be graduate students in an earth-sciences field.

The two grant recipients for the MWF were also announced at the convention. They are Hannah Szydlowski and Lydia Tuttle.

Both received their undergraduate degrees from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, the university the Sherwoods chose. Both graduated in

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organization. Now it's time to recycle, and serve again as the Midwest Federation President.

As your president, I want to encourage you to get involved with your federation. Whether you testify to BLM about rockhounding in California, lead an activity with your club's juniors, promote your club's show to others, or serve on a committee to improve your website, you are demonstrating the talents and skills necessary to do similar things on a broader scale and help other clubs as well as your own.

But, you say, I just want to participate in the activities without caring about anything other than my own good time. Let someone else do it. That works for a while, but, as you get to know others, you want to get involved and contribute. The same thing happens on the federation level, if you give it a chance.

**MWF OFFICERS**

President: Sandy Fuller  
8445 Grange Boulevard  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016  
651-459-0343  
sandy@rock-biz.biz

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Cheryl Neary  
42 Jefferson Avenue  
Patchogue, NY 11772  
516-449-5341  
ciervo.neary@gmail.com

2nd VP: Tom Barnhizer  
5060 Arbor Way  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
419-381-4418  
superscouts258@gmail.com

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

Treasurer: Steve Shimatzki  
4295 County Road 16  
Woodville, OH 43469  
567-868-8794  
woodvillerocks@gmail.com

**WE'RE ROOTING FOR THE MIDWEST FEDERATION! GIVE US A TEE!**

There's still time for clubs to order Midwest Federation T-shirts!

The shirts are royal blue heather color softstyle tees, 60/40 cotton. Cost is \$12.50 each for all sizes through adult XL; 2XL through 5XL are available at extra cost. Deadline for orders is November 15<sup>th</sup>.

We are asking local clubs to support the MWF by giving a few prizes to people who wear the MWF T-shirt to their shows. **We will be**

**providing several give-aways to the first ten clubs placing orders.** Everyone benefits! MWF gets advertising and recognition, clubs who place orders promptly receive prizes to give out, and customers can win the prizes.

**Master order forms for clubs are on the MWF website, mwfed.org.** Members can fill out an individual order form (also on the MWF website) or simply give the information to the coordinator at their club; we are asking that we get only one master form per club, with ALL orders for that club spelled out. **We cannot accept individual order forms.** Send the master form for your club to: Sandy Shorter, 8510 Grouse Ridge Drive, Chardon, OH 44024.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email, sandyshorter25@gmail.com, or by phone, 440-479-0069.



## CRACK THE NEWS FOR JUNIORS DEBUTS

Dennis Gertenbach, Juniors Newsletter Editor  
From the September, 2023 A.F.M.S. Newsletter

At this year’s AFMS Convention in Billings, the inaugural issue of Crack the News was introduced. Crack the News is an AFMS newsletter written by kids for kids who love rocks, minerals, and fossils. This first issue includes articles, artwork, and even a video, prepared by kids and teens ages 4½ to 16. In this issue, kids can read and learn about:

- Clinozoisite, emeralds, and jasper
- Trilobites and dinosaurs
- The Dice Mineralogical Museum
- Making a borax snowflake
- Earning the Collecting Badge

This first issue can be downloaded from the AFMS juniors website at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>.

The name of the juniors paper, Crack the News, was chosen from entries submitted by 22 kids throughout the country. Congratulations to Rosalie Dunn, a member of the Georgia Mineral Society, who submitted Crack the News as the name for our juniors newsletter. Because her newsletter name was chosen, Rebecca will receive a \$100 trilobite.

We plan to publish additional issues as we receive more items from kids for Crack the News. Information about how kids and teens can submit their newsletter contributions can be found at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>.

Please encourage the kids in your club to help make this newsletter fun for junior rockhounds across the country.

*December Issue  
Submission  
Deadline Is  
November 7th!*

## MICHIGANDERS WIN AFMS FRA AWARDS

The AFMS’ Future Rockhounds of America program continues to go strong among the juniors of the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club of Michigan.



Eli Lorenz earned the AFMS Junior Volunteers Award by contributing more than 20 hours of volunteer work to the club. This recognition for juniors was instituted by the AFMS on Jan. 1, 2022. For more information about the Junior Volunteers Award, see [juniors.amfed.org/awards-contests-scholarships](https://juniors.amfed.org/awards-contests-scholarships).



Two members got the Rockhound Award for earning six FRA badges. Koen, left, was pictured in the September issue of the club bulletin, Arrowhead News. Madison, right, and Eli were in the October issue.

## DEADLINE CALENDAR

Nomination deadline for **MWF Scholarship Honoree** is **Dec. 1st**. Clubs nominate a person or couple who has done great service for the rockhounding community, and the Honoree selects student grant recipients. For more information see page 1 or contact Cheryl Neary, [ciervo.neary@gmail.com](mailto:ciervo.neary@gmail.com).

The deadline to order **MWF T-Shirts** is **Nov. 15th**. See the article on page 2 of this issue.

MWF membership renewal forms and Calendar of Events listing forms are due **Jan. 15, 2024**. See pages 4-6 of this issue for forms and information.



## CLUBS THAT RENEW MWF MEMBERSHIPS ON TIME GET TWO GREAT BENEFITS

The 2024 Midwest Federation forms for renewing club memberships are on the following two pages of this issue of MWF News. Please alert club officers to collect information for the forms.

One important piece of information needed is the total number of individual adult and youth members during the year completed during 2023. 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 our insurance can be activated on time.

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

Clubs are encouraged to provide name, position and email address for additional officers, board members and members who would like to receive the *MWF News*. This information will only be distributed to our editor and secretary. This is a great way to make sure that all of your officers are "in the know."

Clubs who renew on time will receive an email subscription to the 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 (1<sup>st</sup> choice) or president (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 and the first four months of 2025. If the Events form 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.

Insurance will stay the same for 2024. Our current rate is \$4.50 per club member, and all members must be covered. Clubs that submit their dues on time (postmarked no later than January 15, 2024), may take a discount of 25¢ per member.

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

Questions about your MWF forms or dues? Contact Stephen Shimatzki at 567-868-8794 or woodvillerocks@gmail.com. Direct insurance questions to Sue Goedert at 616-337-1162 or sonbeams2000@yahoo.com.

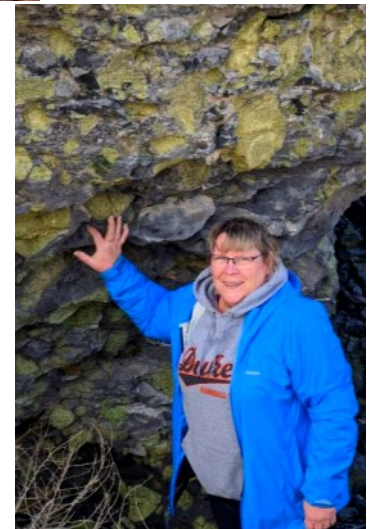
## ARIZONA TRIP BRINGS OUT SMILES

Stuart Reid took these photos as part of an article about a Minnesota Mineral Club field trip. It ran in the March 2023 issue of the club's newsletter, *Rock Rustler's News*.



A joyous Bill Michalko was surrounded by petrified wood at DoBell Mineral & Excavations near Holbrook, Arizona.

Sandy Dockstadter was photographed "holding up a wall of peridot seams" at Peridot Mesa Mine in San Carlos, Arizona, on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. Per Stuart Reid, "The mine is not open to be worked by non-tribal members. We were, however, allowed to tour the site and purchase peridot specimens."





# Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies 2024 Annual Club Dues, Insurance and Club Contact Information

FORM, DUES, INSURANCE & EVENTS FORM are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2024  
Use black INK. Print, type, or complete form online, then print out and mail to:  
MWF, c/o Stephen Shimatzki, 4295 County Road 16, Woodville, OH 43469

CLUB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2024 ANNUAL CLUB DUES (Membership as of Dec. 31, 2023)

Number of Adult Club Members: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$2.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Number of Youth Club Members: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$0.50 = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Do You Wish MWF Membership Cards: \_\_\_\_\_ YES / NO

### 2024 CLUB INSURANCE (Optional, but if chosen, must pay for all members)

Total number of members from above: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.50\* = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

(\*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2024 receive a discounted insurance rate of \$4.25 PER MEMBER)

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

### CLUB PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR DIRECTORY & WEBSITE

Club mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Info phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Check following that apply to your club:  Kid friendly  FRA Club  Lapidary workshop  Field trips  
 Rock Show  Educational outreach

### **DIRECT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MAILINGS (THIS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED)**

Individual (other than Treasurer) designated to receive official Federation materials:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB BULLETIN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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



### Calendar of Events Listing Information For Publication in MWF Directory, Website & Newsletter

Use black INK. Print, type, or complete form online, then print out and mail, with dues, to:  
MWF, c/o Stephen Shimatzki, 4295 County Road 16, Woodville, OH 43469

DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2024

**\*\* Please include event listings for January, February, March and April 2025. \*\***

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Website: \_\_\_\_\_



Questions? Call 651-459-0343

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



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
Nov. 4 Sat, 10-5	Gem City Rock Club	Quincy Mall, 32 <sup>nd</sup> & Broadway, <b>Quincy, IL</b>	Brad Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com
Nov. 4 Sat 6 pm; auction Begins at 7	Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society annual auction	First Assembly of God Church, 5650 Telegraph Road, <b>Dearborn Heights, MI</b>	Dwayne Ferguson, shelby0671111@yahoo.com
Nov. 4-5 Sat & Sun, 10-5	Mid-Michigan Rock Club	Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour Road, <b>Midland, MI</b>	Laura Foster, pop345corn@sbcglobal.net
Nov. 8 Wed, 7-9	Miami County Gem and Mineral Club holiday sale	Troyview Church of God, 1770 N. County Road 25A, <b>Troy, OH</b>	Mary Manning, manningsrockshop@ live.com
Nov. 13 Mon, 7	Michigan Mineralogical Society annual auction	Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Ave., <b>Bloomfield Hills, MI</b>	Brad Zylman, brad.zylman@mrm.com
Nov. 17-19 Fri 3-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society	Aftton White-Rodgers Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, <b>St. Louis, MO</b>	Beth Schlegel, beth.schlegel@att.net

**MICHIGAN STUDENTS EARN GRANTS, CONT.**

*(Continued from page 1)*

geology, Szydlowski taking a specialized degree in geology-chemistry.

Both students returned to their alma mater to attend the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America’s North-Central Section, which was held at GVSU this past May.

Szydlowski is a graduate student at the University of Kansas, working on groundwater and aqueous geochemistry. Tuttle will begin her graduate studies, focusing on mineralogy and structure, this fall at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

"It is a special thrill to offer them this scholarship," Dr. Merritt DeLano Taylor, interim Unit Head of the Department of Geology at GVSU, wrote to MWF. "As you can appreciate, funding can be difficult and your support will have a tremendous impact on their capacity to focus on their studies as they continue to launch their successful geoscience careers."

**YOUR CLUB COULD NAME AN HONOREE**

Donna Young, MWF Secretary

Nominations for the 2024 MWF Scholarship Honoree(s) must be sent to First Vice President Cheryl Neary no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>. She has to notify the AFMS Scholarship Foundation who our nominee is by January 15<sup>th</sup>. If there are multiple nominees, the MWF must go through a selection process. All of this takes time.

Cheryl's contact information is in the list of MWF officers on page 2.

The process of nomination is outlined in the MWF Directory green section. Each club should have received a hard copy of the directory earlier this year. A copy can be obtained from supplies chairman Sharon Marburger for \$5, plus \$3 shipping.

The 2024 MWF Convention awards banquet will be held August 24<sup>th</sup>. It is always nice if the honoree can attend the banquet.



**Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!**

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

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

**INDIANA EDITOR REVIEWS TWO GEM-RELATED BOOKS**

Michele Yamanaka, Editor  
From the Sept. 2023 Strata Data  
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society

“Gem Hunter’s Guide,” by Russell P. MacFall, lists more than a thousand localities in the United States, Canada, and Mexico where gems have been and can be found. It tells you exactly where to go and what to look for when you get there.

Organized by states, it describes sites under the name of the nearest town and county. Here is a precise explanation of how to recognize the rock formations in which gems occur.

The tabular and pictorial information in Gem Hunter’s Guide enables the collector to test samples in the field for color, hardness, crystal formation, transparency, and other distinguishing characteristics.

Eight pages of color photographs, showing opal, topaz, emerald, ruby, and other gem minerals in the rough, form an invaluable tool for the identification of one’s own discoveries.

Michele Yamanaka, Editor  
From the June 2023 Strata Data  
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society

“Diamond: The History of a Cold-Blooded Love Affair,” by Matthew Hart, is a fascinating foray into the enigmatic, beautiful, and obsessive world of the diamond.

From the first discovery in 1869 by a native boy in South Africa to the recent discovery in 1999 by three small-scale miners in Brazil, the book traces the history of the much-sought-after jewel, revealing the true nature of the diamond trade and profiling the many individuals responsible for the largest diamond finds.

