

MWF News

**Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

October 2023 - Issue No. 625

Web Site - www.mwfed.org

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, MWF President

MWF has had a productive and enjoyable year. The 2023 directory shows that nearly all of our clubs maintained their membership, and it is clear that events and shows are abounding throughout our 12 states.

We have had a slate of dynamic officers this year, and I am grateful particularly to Cheryl Neary, who stepped up to be First Vice President, and Bill Smith, who did the same for Second Vice President, when we were in need of those leadership positions at the beginning of my term.

I thank also Stephen Shimatzki, who became our new Treasurer and is doing a terrific job.

Thanks as always to our long-standing Secretary, Donna Moore, who is the rock we always rely upon, and her husband, J.C., who is working his way up the ladder to become the AFMS president. A whole lot of thanks go to our MWF News editor Valerie J. Meyers, who does a fantastic job each and every

(Continued on page 7)



CONVENTION MINUTES REVEAL DISCUSSIONS

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The Midwest Federation's annual Council of Delegates convention took place Sept. 16th in Howell, Michigan. Cari Jacob, president of the Livingston Gem & Mineral Society, welcomed everyone. The club's vice president, Cinda Dawson, said they had brought back their science table this year for the first time since COVID.

MWF President Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich called the meeting to order. J.C. Moore offered the invocation. Mary Ann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Ann introduced the MWF Officers, including First Vice President Cheryl Neary, Secretary Donna Moore, and Treasurer Stephen Shimatzki. MWF Past Presidents who were in attendance included Susan Stanforth, Cindy Root, David Root, John Donker, David Rich, and J.C. Moore.

Mary Ann then introduced Cheryl Neary, who is presently the AFMS President. Cheryl urged members to support their own federations, go back to their clubs and share what they learn here, and to find out more about the juniors program.

(Continued on page 2)

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Convention: Committee Chair Reports.....	11
Convention Minutes Reveal Discussions.....	1
Convention: Officers' and State Directors' Reports.....	7
MWF Contestants Are Awarded Twice.....	5

MWF T-Shirts Are Perfect for Rock Collectors.....	3, 16
President's Message.....	1
Upcoming Events.....	12

CONVENTION MINUTES, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

Mary Ann read the list of those members who had passed away this past year. There was a moment of silence in their honor.

Parliamentarian Cindy Root reviewed the Rules of Order for the Meeting.

Credentials Chairman David Root reported that we had a quorum for the meeting.

Donna Moore noted that printed copies of minutes of the 2022 MWF Council of Delegates Meeting held in Springfield, Missouri, were available on the report table. The minutes had also been published in the MWF Newsletter. David Root moved to accept the minutes as presented. Susan Stanforth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Stephen Shimatzki had printed copies of the Treasurer's report. He reviewed expenses and income. He noted that there is a list of clubs that had paid dues and how many members each had. J.C. Moore moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Catherine Clevenz and Sandy Shorter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mary Ann introduced the State Directors in attendance, which included Illinois Director Susan Stanforth, Indiana Director Michele Yamanaka, Michigan Director John Donker, and Missouri/Arkansas Director Bruce Stinemetz; Ohio Director Catherine Clevenz was present on Zoom, as was Nebraska Director Jim Marburger. Assistant Director for Ohio Joyce Kish was present.

Michele Yamanaka added that the printed Indiana report was not the latest one. She read her report from September (which has been changed in the reports on the website). She reported that the clubs in Indiana are sharing field trips and newsletters. A group which owns quarries in Indiana is encouraging clubs (not individuals) to visit to collect, with prior arrangements. This is to improve their public relations. Tom Barnhizer asked about the point of contact for this group. Michele will send it to Secretary Donna Moore.

John Donker reported that the Michigan clubs are coming back from COVID. They are having meetings, tailgates, and shows. Sales are going well.

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Juniors' clubs are getting larger. They have 20 clubs with more members. Michigan is on the move!

Jim Marburger had nothing to add to his Nebraska report, but had an inquiry from a possible new club in Indiana. He will send the membership packet to Michele to reach out to them.

Joyce Kish reported that she had attended eight of the shows in Ohio. All went well with increased attendance, except one that had a competing event.

Cheryl asked for reports from the MWF Permanent Committees.

Archaeology – Skeeter Kish added to his written report that the clubs are getting older, and they are having trouble getting new members. Also he noted that politics are causing problems in the field of archaeology.

Boundaries – Sandy Fuller had reported there was nothing new at this time.

Bulletin Editors – Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich reported there were seven or eight winners in the MWF Bulletin Editors Contest, which awards would be presented at the banquet. She had both AFMS and MWF awards. The AFMS Convention is earlier in 2024, so the deadline for the Bulletin Editors Contest will be earlier. She will send out the date.

(Continued on page 4)

MWF T-SHIRTS ARE PERFECT FOR COLLECTORS OF ROCKS (AND T-SHIRTS!)

Sandy Shorter, Chair
MWF Public Image and
Courtesy Committee

No one can ever have enough T-shirts celebrating rockhounding and earth science clubs, and now your club can order T-shirts with the official Midwest Federation logo!

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 15th, and the shirts are expected to be delivered by mid-December.



Members can fill out an individual order form from 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. A club order form is printed on the back page of this newsletter.**

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.

Additional order forms, both for individuals and for clubs, are available on the MWF website (mwfed.org). 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.

Please let us know if we can add your club name, show name, and show dates to the list of participating shows handing out a few prizes. **Thank you in advance for your support.**

*November Issue Submission Deadline Is
October 18th!*

CONVENTION MINUTES: COMMITTEE REPORTS, CLUB ROTY TO PROGRAM REQUESTS, CONT.

(Continued from page 2)

Club Rockhound of the Year – Jeanine Mielecki had sent a written report.

Conventions and Shows – J.C. Moore had a written report. He said we are all enjoying it here in Livingston. Members should stick around, visit the show and spend money. Next year's MWF Convention will be August 24-25, in East Peoria, Illinois. The 2025 convention is planned for April 5-6 in Lincoln, Nebraska, and 2026, which is our turn to host the AFMS, will be at the Chicagoland Show at the Kane County Fairgrounds in the Chicago area May 23-24. This show will have wholesale as well as retail sales. J.C. noted that he needs volunteer hosts for 2027 and beyond. He noted that the conventions are always a great time to get together. It is like having a big family reunion each year.

Credentials – David Root said we barely had a quorum, and the deadline for voting in the MWF Election was September 30.

Director of Supplies is now Sharon Marburger. She has directories she can mail out if requested. The transfer of the rest of the supplies is still in transition, but will be worked out soon. In the meantime, publications can still be mailed. Sharon hopes to scan the publications and have them to Cindy Root by January 1 for the website. This is so publications can be accessed in a more timely manner and with less postage to mail them.

Education – No report.

Endowment Fund – Cindy Root said reports were slow coming in. There was a tricky tray with tickets for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Susan drew the tickets at the end of this meeting.

Directory – Extra copies are available for \$4.00. Sharon Marburger also has copies.

Environment and Legislation – No report.

Geology – No report.

Historian – Report in the packet.

Insurance – Report in the packet. There was a question about certificates of insurance. J.C. Moore

noted that there is a form on the website to submit for insurance certificates. The insurance company is very good about getting the certificates back, but would like at least two weeks to do so. Any questions should be addressed to Insurance Chair Sue Goedert. Our insurance is liability insurance on the landowner for field trips. Joyce Kish asked if there needed to be a separate certificate for each field trip. She was assured that each field trip needed a separate certificate.

Junior Activities – This position is presently vacant and really needs a new chair. Contact Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich or Sandy Fuller if interested or you have questions. Copies of the junior activity booklet put together previously by Michele Yamanaka are available from the supplies chairman. They are \$4.00 plus \$2.00 postage. Joan Stoker thanked Newsletter Editor Valerie Meyers for including information about and for juniors. It was noted that there is now a newsletter by and for kids included on the new AFMS junior's website. Printed copies were available at the meeting.

Lapidary Arts – David Root had a short report in the packet.

Long Range Planning – No report.

Membership – Jim Marburger had a report in the packet. He added that State Directors needed to make sure to get ahold of him for membership packets if there is interest in a new club forming in their state.

Merit Awards – Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich reported no entries in the MWF this year. There had only been one entry in the whole AFMS this year. In 1957 there were 200 entries in the MWF.

Mineralogy – No report.

Newsletter – Valerie needs articles for the newsletter each month.

Paleontology – No report.

Program Competition – No report.

Program Requests – Bob Powers had a written report.

(Continued on page 5)

MINUTES: PROGRAM REVIEW-SCHOLARSHIP

(Continued from page 4)

Program Review – No report.

Public Image – Sandy Shorter reported she had the new MWF Shirts for sale this weekend. The object of the shirts is to give recognition to the MWF. Encourage people to wear them at shows. Encourage shows to enter names of those wearing the shirts at their shows for little prizes. Valerie had sent the information and forms out to those who receive the MWF Newsletter by e-mail. The date for orders to be sent in had to be extended to November 15. The possibility of the MWF providing some sort of prizes for the first 10-15 clubs to give out was discussed. Michele Yamanaka suggested that recognition in the newsletter might be good. Sandy stressed that the clubs need to be sure the shirts are to be delivered to a viable address that is checked daily so the shirt order for the club is not lost. The forms will be put on the MWF Facebook page.

Safety and Field Trips – No report.

Scholarship – Marge Collins had a written report. She added that there was still confusion about who the checks should be written to. The checks should be written to the AFMS Scholarship Fund. They have over \$1 million invested. Each of six regional federations receives \$4,000 to give each of two students each year. She suggested not only doing memorials, but giving living recognition of club members. She was planning to hand out certificates at the banquet for clubs that have reached a new \$1,000 mark in their donations. Cheryl Neary noted that the honoree person or couple does not need to be a member of a club. It can be a professor or other person who has contributed programs and assistance to the club. Students selected need to be graduate students.

Marge introduced Julia and Bob Sherwood, this year's Scholarship Honorees. They shared that it was a great honor to be recognized. They were nominated by a couple of people from the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Bob was in his 23rd year on the board of the club. He is almost a charter member of the club. He had led field trips for about 15 years and was known for his long-distance trips. Julia assists or corrects other positions in the club. She fills bags for the kids at the show. Since 2007 she estimates she has filled 29,700 bags for the shows. The two students selected are from

(Continued on page 6)

MWF CONTESTANTS ARE AWARDED TWICE

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
Bulletin Editors Committee Chair

The winners of the Midwest Federation Bulletin Editors' Contest, and the MFW winners in the American Federation contest, were both announced at the MWF convention in September. All of the Midwest Federation winners took awards in the national contest. Congratulations to these award-winning authors, editors, and poets. Great work!

SMALL BULLETINS

Rock Chatter. Editor Greg Brown, Dayton Gem & Mineral Society (OH). First Place in the MWF, Fourth Place in the AFMS.

LARGE BULLETINS

Rock Rustler's News. Editor Stuart Reid, Minnesota Mineral Club. First Place in the MWF, Honorable Mention in the AFMS.

ORIGINAL ADULT ARTICLES

"Top Ten Rarest Gems in the World: Red Beryl" by Nick Smith, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). First Place in the MWF, Second Place in the AFMS.

WRITTEN FEATURES

"There's a Mastodon in My Sink!" by Kay Beemer, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). First Place in the MWF, Fifth Place in the AFMS.

"Soldier, Policeman, Polisher of Stone – The Life and Collection of Theodore Schultz" by Susan Satchwill, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). Second Place in the MWF, Honorable Mention in the AFMS.

ORIGINAL ADULT POETRY

"The Foolish Dinosaur" by Michele Yamanaka, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). First Place in the MWF, Seventh Place in the AFMS.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

"Field Trip Photo Album." Editor Stuart Reid, Minnesota Mineral Club. First Place in the MWF, First Place in the AFMS.

CONVENTION MINUTES: OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, ADJOURNMENT

(Continued from page 5)

the two colleges supported by the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club. Since 1977, the club has given over \$55,000 to the two colleges from its show profits.

Uniform Rules – J.C. Moore had a report in the packet. He added that last year there were three competitive exhibits in Springfield, Missouri. This year we had none.

Website – Report in the packet.

Website Competition – A report was in the packet.

Old Business

Everything had been discussed and no other old business was brought up for discussion.

New Business

Cheryl Neary had worked with Michele Yamanaka on a New President's Booklet that would give new presidents of clubs an idea of what was available to them from the MWF. She asked the State Directors to meet with her at the conclusion of the meeting to finalize their thoughts on this booklet.

There was a proposal to amend the bylaws to allow official meetings to be held by Zoom. This is included in the packet and will be voted on at the Council of Delegates Meeting in 2024. Some discussion was held on how to hold a hybrid meeting. It was felt that this may be the only way we will be able to have a quorum at some of our meetings.

Awards Banquet – J.C. Moore shared that attendance for the Awards Banquet is dropping. The primary reason seems to be the cost for the banquet, which is often \$40. We need some way to honor those receiving awards, which has traditionally been done at the banquet. He asked for suggestions on how to make the banquet more economical. Some suggestions were to hold the awards during the lunch, at the meet and greet, have pizza and salad in a meeting room, finger foods with no main meal. A lower no-cost area with a potluck or even rent a room with a potluck. Many rock club gatherings do manage to have potlucks. Mary Ann appointed J.C. Moore to chair a committee to explore what clubs want to do about the awards banquet. He will ask them to give him ideas to explore.

Cindy Root held the tricky tray drawing, which was a fundraiser for the Endowment Fund. Sandy Shorter reminded those in attendance that she still had some MWF shirts available for sale.

Cindy auctioned off E-Bear. Bruce Stinemetz paid \$175 for the privilege of taking E-Bear back to Missouri until the spring meeting of the MWF Executive Committee, which will be at the Badger Lapidary Show in Janesville, Wisconsin, March 16, 2024.

The 2024 MWF Convention will be held August 24-25, with the Council of Delegates Meeting held on August 24, in East Peoria, Illinois.

Jim Marburger moved to adjourn the meeting. David Rich seconded the motion, and Mary Ann declared the meeting adjourned.

At the September MWF convention, J.C. Moore, Chair of the MWF Convention and Show Advisory Committee, presented Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich with a plaque thanking her for her year of service as MWF President.





OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

month of keeping us up-to-date and informed. I know how much hard work that involves!

Our spring Executive Committee meeting was held in Brainerd, Minnesota, on May 13th, and our hosts were the terrific members of the Cuyuna Rock, Gem and Mineral Society. Thank you for making it an enjoyable experience for the MWF Executive Committee.

The MWF annual convention was held September 16th-17th in Howell, Michigan, and the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society hosted a wonderful event, with a large, comfortable room for our meetings and a fantastic banquet at a nearby restaurant.

President Cari Jacob, Show Chairman Ed Oller, and club members were so welcoming, offering a Friday night meet-and-greet, gift bags for all convention attendees, and dolomite centerpieces that

were given away to lucky winners at the banquet. Our MWF Endowment Fund Silent Auction, held at the show, was highly successful! Thank you, Livingston Gem and Mineral, for making it a truly great convention!

We received a number of entries in the Bulletin Editors Contest, and one in the Website Competition. The results of the MWF and AFMS Bulletin Editors Contests are listed on page 5 in this issue. I encourage our members to enter all of the contests offered for next year.

Don't forget to order your MWF T-shirt through your club (see page 3). Thanks to Sandy Shorter, our Public Image Chair, who designed and arranged production of the shirt to promote MWF.

Thanks to all the members of the Executive Committee who diligently worked so hard in 2023 to keep our organization viable and moving forward. I welcome my successor, Sandy Fuller, and look forward to a great year under her leadership in 2024.

CONVENTION: OFFICERS' AND STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS GIVE INFORMATION

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT BILL SMITH

I am not sure how to start this report. I guess I can use age and medical problems. Janet was admitted to the hospital a week before the AFMS show and meeting in Billings, Montana, causing us to miss the event. Janet was operated on August 14 at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City and is still in the hospital August 20. I hope she is strong enough to come home this week.

This may sound like a negative report, but Janet and I have had a great year in this hobby and as part of the Midwest Federation. It all started with us joining the Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society of Springfield, Missouri, where we entered displays in their annual show. It also coincided with the annual MWF Convention we attended, and you so graciously elected me your second vice president.

It was on to the big show in the KCI Expo Center in Kansas City, Missouri. I had the most fun I have had in years being the auctioneer for the live auction. We sure slaughtered some of those mineral

names. I am not sure but what some thought they were getting a new mineral. Then on to Brainerd, Minnesota for the midyear meeting and the show at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds. I purchased the best banded agate I have seen in 50 years.

We are looking to move to Alaska in October, but that is even turning out to be doubtful.

You just don't know how much I wanted to be your first vice president this coming year and to continue this great hobby and the association with the many Midwest friends we have met along the way, but things don't always go as planned. So I will say ADIOS, MY FRIENDS.

**AFMS 1ST REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
J.C. MOORE**

This year's AFMS meeting was in Billings, Montana. An informative presentation on the updated juniors program was given by Lora Hall and Joan

(Continued on page 8)

CONVENTION: STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, ILLINOIS AND INDIANA (CONT.)

(Continued from page 7)

Stoker. This new emphasis on juniors is needed to ensure that our hobby continues to grow. Following the meetings, field trips were available for those attending the meetings.

ILLINOIS STATE DIRECTOR SUSAN STANFORTH

Keith Robitschek, president of the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, reported that his club is still going strong with a membership of more than 320 members and their families. They've reserved space for the next show March 16th-17th at Dupage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, Illinois. With all the road construction going on, hard rock quarries have not been very accessible. They still have access to Pennsylvanian time period spoil piles.

With Zoom meetings, they have reached out to great speakers, including Fablany Herrera, the Assistant Curator of Paleobotany at the Field Museum. He will give a talk titled "Tropical Rainforests: A 300-Million-Year-Old History." Check out the website at ESCONI.org.

Daniel Stoehr of Northwest Illinois Rock Club reports that the club had a spring field trip for geodes and fossilized coral. The geodes were cracked at their annual picnic. The club has its annual show Nov. 11th-12th. Daniel is organizing a trip to collect moonstones in Wausau, Wisconsin this fall.

Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society is working hard to rebuild the ranks of its members after the pandemic. Jeanine Mielecki reports that their 72nd annual silent auction in March was one of the best ever, thanks to the generosity of a longtime member who donated her entire collection, spanning decades in the club. The election of officers was held in June and Dale Snyder is the new president.

John Furman of Gem City Rock Club in Quincy reports the club went on a field trip near Liberty, Illinois to hunt for specimens. Members went on various trips for collecting. They attended local shows and got specimens to show and tell. The club had a silent auction for the membership. They have had programs at meetings and have a library open for use by the members. They have identification meetings as well.

Mike Chontofalsky of Southern Illinois Earth Science Club in Centralia reported that they had another successful show with more than the 3,450 people they had in 2022. Dr. Jarek Trela gave their August program, titled "Rare Earth Element Enrichment from a Mantle-Derived Carbonatite at Hicks Dome." Very interesting program and exciting times for Southern Illinois.

INDIANA STATE DIRECTOR MICHELE YAMANAKA

Based on the decision made at the last MWF board meeting to create a packet for new club presidents, with the expectation that state directors would provide input, and based on the comments I had received about wanting better communication with other Indiana clubs, I hosted a short Zoom meeting on April 17th with the Indiana clubs. Of our nine clubs, we had five represented: four were presidents, one was me. We discussed what they wished they had known about the MWF when they became president. The MWF Directory was seen as a great asset, but a new president may not know there is such a thing.

From our discussion, the Indiana clubs would like to see something short and simple that would cover some basics in an easy to find format – perhaps a booklet, "What you need to know about the MWF, but don't know to ask":

What is the MWF?

What does the MWF offer a club?

What kind of paperwork does a club need to file regularly with the state and government (particularly a 501(c) something)?

How to count membership for insurance and dues.

What does MWF insurance cover? What doesn't it cover?

Explain the scholarship program.

Names and contact info for the other clubs in their state.

Now it is true that all of the above can be found in the Directory, **IF** you have a directory and **IF** you know where to find it in all of those pages. But a new club president often has no idea about the MWF and no directory. So we suggest a small booklet which will cover the above topics, each on its own page (one page

(Continued on page 9)



CONVENTION: STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, MINNESOTA TO MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 8)

maximum), to be sent to every new club president once the MWF learns about him/her. On the page about what the MWF offers, it can include the fact that there is a very useful directory available which even includes program ideas. It should also explain how to get a copy.

All the presidents shared a concern about the lack of field trip opportunities, the great distances required to get to a collecting site and the desire to get to know more about the other clubs in their state. Together we decided that each club will try to set up at least one field trip each year to which the other state clubs will be invited. This will increase the pool of collecting opportunities and bring clubs together. The collecting sites may or may not be within Indiana, and may still be some distance, but just knowing that such a trip is open to them will encourage members in other clubs.

We will have another short (30-minute) Zoom meeting in the fall. For now, all of us are beginning to share ideas and suggestions with each other.

MINNESOTA STATE DIRECTOR MARCIA OPATZ

Anoka County Gem and Mineral Society – This club is still limping along. Members are aging with few new members. Even incentives to bring in new members don't work.

Carlton County Gem and Mineral Club – They had another successful show in mid-July. Miraculously, it was not hot, but that seemed to be somewhat detrimental on Sunday, as people must have chosen to be elsewhere; the show wasn't as busy as normal. They did have trouble getting members to volunteer for working at their show.

Cuyuna Rock, Gem, and Mineral Society – Had another successful show in mid-May. Has seen a pretty large influx of new members, especially after the show. The club is starting the process of attempting to get a central Minnesota park to change its policy (law) to allow collection of bighamite. Currently there is nowhere in the state to collect, except on private land, which is difficult, at best.

Minnesota Mineral Club – This is by far the largest club in the state, with 700+ members. Their annual show is set for September 23-24.

New Ulm Gem and Mineral Club – This club does not meet during the summer, so doesn't have a lot to report. They have gained a couple of new members during the summer, despite not having any meetings. They will meet again in September.

Steele County Gem and Mineral Club – This club is at approximately 50 members, including a number of juniors, and has been slowly growing over the past five years.

On social media there have been postings about a gathering/meeting in the southeast part of the state. I was unable to attend, but will send out feelers to see if there may be another club in the making. Overall the state has a feeling of an uptick in interest in agates, minerals, and other rocks. Most clubs have been benefitting from the new interest.

MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS STATE DIRECTOR BRUCE STINEMETZ

Missouri Clubs

Central Missouri Rock and Lapidary Club – The club hosted their annual show on May 12–14th. The show was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. I was able to attend this show, and was impressed by the large crowds. It appeared to be a big success. I also had the pleasure of meeting some of club's officers.

Independence Gem and Mineral Society – The Independence club sponsored a field trip to Odell, Nebraska in June to collect quartz, calcite, and barite. The quartz and calcite occur in gnarly masses and geodes in the road cuts east of Odell. Most of the quartz crystals are small, being less than a half-inch. Occasionally the crystals will have a light purple color, so yes, there is amethyst in Nebraska.

The barite crystals are found west of town near Diamond Lake. Most crystals are small, flattened singles and are known as "Odell Diamonds." Occasionally they form small rosettes. One club member found a crystal the size of a postage stamp, which is the largest I've ever seen.

(Continued on page 10)

CONVENTION: STATE DIRECTOR OF MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS HAS MUCH TO DISCUSS

(Continued from page 9)

Club members will be participating in the November show sponsored by Shows of Integrity in Kansas City the first weekend in November.

Mozarkite Society of Lincoln – Members of the club worked at a booth sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at the Missouri State Fair. Currently they are preparing for their annual show, which will be held September 15th-17th in the city park. Unfortunately, this is the same weekend as the MWF convention. It's a very nice outdoor show.

The Osage Rock and Mineral Club – The Osage club held its annual show June 23rd-25th in Eldon, Missouri. In March they took a field trip to Camdenton, Missouri to view some unusual outcrops of bedrock.

Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society – This club, which hosted last year's MWF convention, held a spring gem fair on the grounds of the Prince of Peace Church June 2nd and 3rd. Their fall show is coming up and will be held October 28th-29th at the Springfield Expo Center.

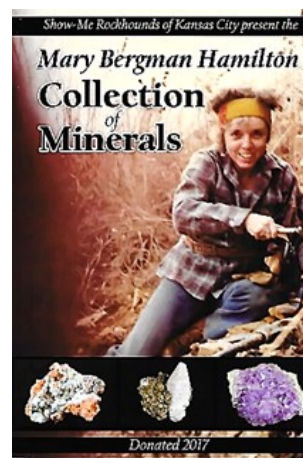
Rock Hobby Club of Greater St. Louis – The Rock Hobby Club has been busy promoting shows. On February 17th-19th they sponsored at a show at the Kirkwood Community Center, and on March 24th-26th a show was held at the Machinists Hall in Bridgeton, Missouri. On May 20th-21st a show was held in Pacific, Missouri. Their members were also at the St. Louis Association show held in August.

Saint Louis Gem and Mineral Society – The club has been very busy this year with numerous field trips. Last October they visited a gravel bar in the Mississippi River and Jacob's Cave in Versailles, Missouri. In November they collected druzy quartz at Haunted Ridge in Cadet, Missouri. This is a relatively new fee area which is open to the public. In March they collected barite and quartz at Potosi, Missouri, and in April they visited the St. Francois Mountains in Missouri. In May they collected geodes at Wayland, Missouri, and in September they are planning to collect in Arkansas.

In addition to all the field trips, they have had lots of other activities. These include judging at the St. Louis Science Fair and holding their annual picnic and

holiday party. They participated in the annual St. Louis Association show that was held August 18th-20th. They are preparing for their annual club show, which will be held November 18th-20th at the Affton White-Rodgers Community Center.

Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City – The Show-Me club has published a book. The mineral collection of an avid and organized collector was donated to the club, and they decided to publish a book cataloging the collection and including other information of interest to rockhounds in the region. The book is titled *The Mary Bergman Hamilton Collection of Minerals*. It can be purchased for \$15 from club president Dan Snow. His email address is snowxsnow@outlook.com.



Now that's a happy rockhound! Photo of Mary Bergman Hamilton courtesy of her family, on the cover of the Show-Me Rockhounds' book.

Club members will be participating in the November show in Kansas City the first weekend in November. The club also made a trip to Baldwin City, Kansas, and purchased some specimens from a long-time collector.

Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society – This club in Joplin held a spring show May 19th-21st. They are preparing for their fall show, which will be held Sept. 22nd-24th. Their shows are held at the Joplin History and Mineral Museum. If anyone is in Joplin, the museum is certainly worth a visit.

Arkansas Clubs

Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geological Society – The club held a mineral auction in August.

(Continued on page 11)



CONVENTION: REPORTS OF STATE DIRECTORS NEBRASKA-OHIO (CONTINUED)

Their annual show is coming up, Oct. 7th and 8th, at the Cabot Event Center in Cabot, Arkansas.

Ozark Earth Science, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club – The club took a trip to the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Mineral Museum in Piggot, Arkansas. They are struggling with an aging membership, but they have decided to have their annual show in December at the Baxter County Fairgrounds in Mountain Home.

**NEBRASKA
STATE DIRECTOR JAMES MARBURGER**

The Nebraska Mineral and Gem Club in Omaha has been very busy this summer. Meetings had programs like Christmas in July, where they exchanged white elephant gifts, and gem show preparation in August. September is the final prep for their gem show, the Omaha Gem and Mineral Show. It will be held September 30th-October 1st at Scott Center in Omaha.

One major project has been exploring a location for the club to open a club shop for the members to use and teach the lapidary arts. This project has been many years in the making and has culminated in a signed lease. They hope to have it open after the show.

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club has been busy this summer during our summer break from meetings. We have had many hours of setup of our new location for the club lapidary workshop, located in the new lapidary shop Hidden Gems by the Jewelry Connection, Ltd. The shop equipment was moved from the old location because in 2020, our sponsor ceased support of the Lapidary classes along with a change of use in the building. September will be the start of meetings for the club. Many collected items will be on display at this meeting.

**NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE DIRECTORS HARLAN & ALETHA
HOOGETERP**

There is no news from the club in Fargo, North Dakota.

The Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, continues to be active, with a fairly stable membership. We had a club booth at the local Harrisburg Days celebration this summer, and at the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls, on the first

weekend of the fair. Attendance was down for the fair due to rain.

Our sixth annual rock show on July 29th was very successful, for our area, with an attendance of 415 paid admissions, and 17 vendors. We had a couple of field trips in April and May, and have a couple more planned for September and October.

**OHIO
ASSISTANT STATE DIRECTOR JOYCE KISH**

Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Society – Membership in both societies is doing well. The Summit Lapidary Junior program is still meeting and doing classes, working on merit badges and doing field trips. We just finished a trip to Fantasia Rock shop, and plans are being made for a trip to Diamond Hill Quartz mine in South Carolina, and a dig at the Nethers Flint Ridge mine for flint.

We finished our spring show with a close-to-record attendance of over 2,400. We have been working on our fall show in October.

Stark Gem & Mineral Society – Membership is at approximately 50 members. The spring show at the end of March was very successful. We had a summer picnic in June. Plans include a September trip to Fantasia Mining in Massillon, Ohio, and a dig at Flint Ridge Nethers Mine for flint in October.

CONVENTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

**ARCHAEOLOGY
SKEETER KISH, CHAIR**

The State Archaeological Society of Ohio is holding meetings in central Ohio. Chapters have held several summer meetings featuring personal artifact displays and finds. There have been several very informative chapter presentations on the topics of archaeology, anthropology, and paleontology. Our chapter conducted its summer picnic and silent auction. This was very successful.

There are several archaeological digs being conducted by professionals with the help of amateurs. Interest in archaeology generally seems to be healthy.

(Continued on page 13)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
Oct. 7-8 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (LOESS)	Orr Bldg., State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL	Ed Wagner, loesseditor@gmail.com
Oct. 7-8 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society	County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Belleville, MI	Bill Barr, wbarr@umich.edu
Oct. 13-15 Fri 9-6, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Michigan Mineralogical Society	Bldg. P, Macomb Sports & Expo Center, 14500 E. 12 Mile Road, Warren, MI	John Peters, joopett13@hotmail.com
Oct. 20-22 Fri 1-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 700 Ash Street, Mason, MI	Robin Smith, 517-290-4891
Oct. 20-22 Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Road, Fort Wayne, IN	Bev Jenkins, 3riversshow@gmail.com
Oct. 21-22 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Des Moines Lapidary Society	Elwell Family Food Center, State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA	Ken Belzer, DMLS@DMLapidary.org
Oct. 21-22 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club	County Fairgrounds, 2606 W. Burlington Avenue, Fairfield, IA	Mike Messer, ressem52@aol.com
Oct. 28 Sat, 9-1	St. Croix Rockhounds	Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN	Dave Rusterholz, stcroixrock@gmail.com
Oct. 28-29 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club	Emidio Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Evelyn Tryon, summitlapidaryclub.com
Oct. 28-29 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Evansville Lapidary Society	CK Newsome Community Center, 100 E. Walnut Street, Evansville, IN	Nancy Jones Dassel, nancythings449@gmail.com
Oct. 28-29 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30	Ozarks Gem & Mineral Society	Springfield Expo Center, 635 St. Louis Street, Springfield, MO	Mark Northrup, omgms.57@gmail.com
Oct. 28-29 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Racine Geological Society	Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand, Highway 11, Sturtevant, WI	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
Nov. 4 Sat 6 pm; auction begins at 7	Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society annual auction	First Assembly of God Church, 5650 Telegraph Road, Dearborn Heights, MI	Dwayne Ferguson, shelby0671111@yahoo.com
Nov. 4 Sat, 10-5	Gem City Rock Club	Quincy Mall, 32 nd & Broadway, Quincy, IL	Brad Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com
Nov. 4-5 Sat & Sun, 10-5	Mid-Michigan Rock Club	Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour Road, Midland, MI	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, Troy, OH	Mary Manning, manningsrockshop@live.com



CONVENTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS, BULLETIN EDITORS-PROGRAM REQUESTS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 11)

BULLETIN EDITORS

MARY ANN FERGUSON-RICH, CHAIR

The awards for the MWF and AFMS Bulletin Editors Contests were presented at the convention. MWF did well! See the article on page 5 of this issue for the complete results.

CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

JEANINE N. MIELECKI, CHAIR

Likely due to the clubs taking their summer breaks, no new MWF Rockhounds of the Year have been named since the Spring Executive Committee meeting. Come fall, this should change.

CONVENTION AND SHOW ADVISORY

J.C. MOORE, CHAIR

Last year's convention in Springfield, Missouri was well attended, with two field trips on Sunday. The MWF Spring Executive Committee Meeting will be held March 16, 2024, at the Craig Center, Rock County Fairgrounds in Janesville, Wisconsin, hosted by the Badger Lapidary & Geological Society. In 2024, the convention will be held in East Peoria, Illinois at Eastside Center, 1 Eastside Drive, August 24th-25th.

In 2025, the convention April 5th-6th will be hosted by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club in Nebraska. The Joint AFMS/MWF convention, which occurs once every seven years, will be held in St. Charles, Illinois, May 23-24, 2026.

CREDENTIALS

DAVID ROOT, CHAIR

Make sure you return your ballots as soon as possible.

SUPPLIES AND INFORMATION

SHARON MARBURGER, CHAIR

The Midwest Federation is still trying to get the rest of the supplies to Sharon Marburger. She does have extra copies of the directories, of which she has already sent out one order.

ENDOWMENT FUND CINDY ROOT, CO-CHAIR

Endowment activity has been slow. Remember that donations are accepted any time of the year.

HISTORIAN AND ARCHIVES

CINDY ROOT, CHAIR

Google Drive is still there and loaded with information. If you need access, let me know.

INSURANCE

SUE GOEDERT, CHAIR

I don't have anything to report. Things have been running very smoothly. I won't be able to attend the meeting.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

We need a new chair for this committee.

MEMBERSHIP

JAMES MARBURGER, CHAIR

Requested information packets were emailed.

MERIT AWARDS

MARY ANN FERGUSON-RICH, CHAIR

All American/Merit Awards had no entries for 2022. It's not too late to get a 2023 entry ready. If you have questions, contact me, mafergusonrich@gmail.com. The national AFMS Convention is earlier in 2024, so the deadline for submissions will be earlier. Let's do the MWF proud this year!

PROGRAM REQUESTS

ROBERT POWERS, CHAIR

MWF member clubs are continuing to request and show programs through the DVD program library regularly. The fee is \$5. Mailing envelopes were purchased in advance at a discount compared to the US Post Office price. Sending through the Post Office as "Media" further reduces the cost to MWF members.

(Continued on page 14)



CONVENTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS, PUBLIC IMAGE-SPECIAL COMMITTEE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 13)

The current master listing of available DVDs is in the 2023 MWF Directory. Please look over the MWF Programs pages. There is a wide range of very interesting material at your disposal. Consider a DVD as a great way to back up a speaker who may unexpectedly need to cancel. **“Last minute” requests are often available.** Select what your organization finds most interesting, and it will be delivered to you at your request with minimal cost.

PUBLIC IMAGE & COURTESY SANDY SHORTER, CHAIR

MWF T-shirts are for sale. We are asking member clubs to show their support for the MWF by purchasing and promoting our new T-shirts. We are also asking local clubs to support the MWF by giving a few prizes to people that wear the MWF T-shirt to their shows. People love gifts and prizes!

[Editor's Note: See the article on page 3.]

Order forms should already be available at your clubs, but additional order forms, as well as copies of the artwork, are available at the convention or on our MWF website. Each club is to send in one order form with total amount of shirts needed for that club, along with payment. We will not accept individual order forms. Payment in full is due by Nov. 14th, and T-shirts will be mailed to each club approximately the second week of December.

Thank you in advance for your support.

UNIFORM RULES J.C. MOORE, CHAIR

At this year's AFMS meeting there was extensive discussion about making the uniform rules for judging competitive exhibits more user-friendly. The uniform rules will be available on the AFMS website in January. It is hoped that with these revisions the interest in competitive exhibits will increase.

WEBSITE CINDY ROOT, CHAIR

Check your club's information on the website and make certain it is correct. If you have anything else you would like to add, send it my way.

WEBSITE COMPETITION LORI CARTER, AFMS WEBSITE COMPETITION CHAIR

Thank you to all of the webmasters for participating in their regional website contests! Thank you to the regional contest chairs for running their regional contests. And thank you to Don Shurtz for judging at the AFMS level. Here are the results:

First Place: Lorrilee Stackhouse, Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society, RMFMS

Second Place: Gina Manso, Cascade Mineralogical Society, NFMS

Third Place: Sarianne Rittenhouse, Payson Rimstones Rock Club, Inc, RMFMS

Honorable Mention:

Aaron Nelson, Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, MWF.

Other Honorable Mention winners, in alphabetical order, were: Judi Allison, Hatrockhound Gem and Mineral Society, NFMS; Walter Beneze, The Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society, SCFMS; Bob Shively, Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society, SFMS; Michael K. Smith, Paleontological Society of Austin, SCFMS; Laurie Tossy, The Villages Gem and Mineral Society, SFMS.

Congratulations to all of these webmasters!

Keep an eye out for the 2024 contest rules, scoring criteria, and deadlines. Because the AFMS annual meeting will be in May 2024, the 2024 website contest will start in **October 2023.**

Special Committees

SCANNING SHARON MARBURGER, CHAIR

Sharon Marburger will be receiving MWF literature about federation procedures and about the hobby generally, and is planning to scan the materials as soon as she receives them. Delivery from Illinois to Nebraska has had several delays.

(Continued on page 15)



MWF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
MARGE COLLINS, CHAIR

Each and every contribution is appreciated. We look forward to recognizing your group next year. Have you considered contributing a percentage of show profits?

It's a sign of respect to send a memorial contribution honoring a deceased member. But don't forget that you can make a "Living Memorial" to honor one or more members who have earned some extra recognition, for years of service "above and beyond." Why wait? Reward members before you lose them!

CONTRIBUTIONS
AUGUST 31, 2022 TO AUGUST 1, 2023

Club (in order received)	Donation	Participation*	Cumulative*
Credit to Minnesota Mineral Club	\$500.00	4,300%	\$15,112
Sac & Fox Lapidary Club (IA)	\$25.00	1,100%	\$492
- Memorial: Florence Stevens			
Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI)	\$10.00		
- Memorial: Florence Stevens			
- % of Annual Auction	\$73.00	5,600%	\$6,768
Minnesota Mineral Club annual donation	\$1,000.00	4,500%	\$16,112**
Sac & Fox Lapidary Club (IA)	\$25.00	1,200%	\$517
- Memorial: Dorothy Rathbun			
Sac & Fox Lapidary Club (IA)	\$25.00	1,300%	\$542
- Memorial: Barbara McSorley-Smith			
Credit to Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI)	\$200.00	5,900%	\$6,968
- Memorial: Chuck Collins			
Credit to Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI)	\$200.00	6,200%	\$7,168 **
- Memorial: Chuck Collins			
Credit to Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI)	\$200.00	6,500%	\$7,368
- Memorial: Chuck Collins			
Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI)	\$10.00	6,600%	\$7,378
- Memorial: Chuck Collins			
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Soc. (IN) % of show profits	\$900.00	1,300%	\$1,901**
Credit to West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club			
- Memorial: Chuck Collins	<u>\$50.00</u>	5,800%	\$2,146
TOTAL	\$3,218.00		

* *What is Participation %??* This represents a club's "generosity," based on membership. A club with 100% Participation has contributed (as of this date) \$1.00 per current member. 200% indicates \$2.00 contributed (over time), based on current membership. So, a small club that donates significant amounts can increase its percentage quickly.

*Cumulative is the total contributed since the first gift.

** Each new \$1,000 cumulative total earns a certificate, presented at the annual MWF Awards Banquet.

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor
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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.

SEE THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3 ABOUT ORDERING THESE T-SHIRTS!

MWF T-Shirt Sale

Club Master Order Form to MWF

Club Name _____ State _____
 Contact person Name _____
 Contact person email _____
 Contact person phone _____
 SHIP TO Address _____
 City _____ State _____ zip _____

*****Please be certain the shipping address is checked daily to avoid theft.**

Youth med - adult XL are \$12.50 each, additional cost for larger sizes.

Size	Youth Med	Youth Lg	Youth XL	Adult Smal	Adult Med	Adult Lg	Adult XL	2XL add \$2.00	3XL add \$3.00	4XL add \$4.00	5XL add \$5.00
Quantity per size											
Total Cost											

***Please return this form with total amount of each size needed

Make checks payable to your MWF
 send to:



Sandy Shorter/MWF Public Image
 8510 Grouse Ridge Dr
 Chardon OH 44024

Grand total
