



MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

December 2020 - Issue No. 597

Web Site - www.amfed.org/mwf

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Stanforth, MWF President

PATIENCE is now my new motivator.

When COVID restrictions are finally lifted and a vaccine is available, won't we be so happy to get back to club meetings, the rock shows, and fellowship with all our "rockfriends"!



We will have a new appreciation for all things mineral, etc. We will have the opportunity to show all the lapidary items we have created in lockdown. (My friend David Rich made me one very awesome ring with a gorgeous polyhedroid attached.)

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SPECIAL NOTICE!

MWF Dues (although, alas, not insurance) will be HALF their normal cost this year. For more information, see article on page 4.

MWF ELECTS OFFICERS (WITHOUT TRAUMA)

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The results have been counted for the MWF Election.

One ballot was mailed to each club, and one to each member of the Executive Committee (officers, permanent committee chairmen, state directors, honorary members, and past presidents). They had to be postmarked by September 30th, with about a week allowed for any postmarked late to arrive at the credentials chairman's address.

The following officers have been elected to start November 1, 2020, and serve until October 31, 2021.

President – Susan Stanforth (Illinois)
1st Vice President – Catherine Clevenz (Ohio)
2nd Vice President – Debbie Hamilton (Illinois)
Secretary – Donna Moore (Illinois)
Treasurer – Sandy Fuller (Minnesota)

Of the four people nominated for positions on the nominating committee, the two receiving the most votes were Deb Weyhinger (Wisconsin) and Jeanine Mielecki (Illinois).

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MWF ELECTS OFFICERS, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

Thank you to all who agreed to run and serve. We also thank Credentials Chairman Tony Kapta and his able assistant Regina Kapta for receiving and counting the ballots, and reporting the results.

We are always looking for people who are willing to serve the MWF. A great way to do that is to volunteer to be an assistant on one of the permanent committees. These are listed in the MWF Directory (each club should have received a copy early this summer) or the MWF website.

There are also some permanent committees that need chairmen. I know the Endowment Fund needs a chair, and there are a few others whose chairs would like to be replaced. Talk to our new president Susan Stanforth or First Vice President Catherine Clevenz if you have questions or are interested.

ROCK & GEM FOCUSES ON CLUBS

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

Rock & Gem, the official magazine of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, has recently set up features that focus on individual clubs. A Show Dates calendar has been added to the magazine's sister website, www.myrockhub.com. Each issue of Rock & Gem now also features a Club Corner column for posting clubs' news items. And people who are interested can subscribe to Rock & Gem's free weekly e-newsletter by visiting www.rockngem.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

But for the time being . . . Virtual? Zoom? Facetime? How about an old-fashioned phone call, especially to older, single, or widowed club members? This continues to be a time that tests all of our mental health. As our family and friends are exposed to those who tested positive, we worry that we have been exposed.

Next topic, club Christmas parties. At my club, Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society in Illinois, our December banquet has usually included playing the "dice" game – so much fun and energy. Our gifts are hysterical and we steal from each other. Oh, boy!!! Can't play that game on Zoom. It will take a lot of creativity and adaptability to do a Secret Santa online. Light up your fluorescent cabinet for more Christmas cheer (I have a lot of red and green in mine).

Forgot to mention YouTube, which has been a great comfort to me. They have so many videos about rockhounding adventures all over the country. It's almost like you are there. And tons of how-to videos on lapidary activities. Give it a try.

Back to MWF business – time to send in dues/ insurance payments. Our new 2nd Vice President, Debbie Hamilton, will be tracking club membership for the amazing MICA Awards (Membership Increase Club Awards). Save your State Director the chore of reminder calls by sending in the forms in this newsletter, sooner is better. And you get a break on dues this year. Hallelujah.

And now, I'm sharing that my Favorite Rockhound of the month is the incredible Jim Marburger. He has been a huge part of the MWF and has served as President and Committee Chairperson. But what really impresses me is his presence on rockhound sites giving wonderful advice. He is always the first to share his lapidary expertise on Rockhound Connection. His immense knowledge is a benefit to all.

One more issue. I just hope that the divisiveness currently fracturing our country will not find its way into our clubs. Sure, we all have members that feel put out over one thing or another. But let's try and make more effort to be kind and understanding. Consider taking the Civility Pledge: "I pledge to conduct myself in a way that is honest, respectful, and considerate, even toward those with whom I disagree."



AFMS NATIONAL AWARDS GO TO MWF MEMBERS AND CLUBS

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

Clubs of the Midwest Federation recently won numerous awards on the national level in the 2020 Bulletin Editor's Contest and Web Site Contest of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The **Des Moines Lapidary Society** won an Honorable Mention in the **Web Site Contest**. **Ken Belzer** is the society's webmaster.

Winners of the MWF **Bulletin Editors' Contest** were announced in the October issue of this newsletter. The top three award-winners in each category were sent to the AFMS for its annual contest, competing against the six other regional federations. MWF winners in the national competition were:

NEW EDITORS

- 3rd Place** **Jim Elliott**, for the Arrowhead News of the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (MI).
- 5th Place** **Ming Zhu**, for the Show Me Geode of the Show Me Gems & Minerals Club (MO).

SMALL BULLETINS

- 1st Place** **Hidden Treasures**. Editor Jack W. Newcomb, Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club (MN).
- 2nd Place** **The Strata Data**. Editor Michele Yamanaka, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 5th Place** **The Pick and Dop Stick**. Editor Rachele L. Best, Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society (IL).
- 6th Place** **The Quarry**. Editors Judy and Jim Budnik, Cincinnati Mineral Society (OH).

LARGE BULLETINS

- Hon. Men.** **Ozark Earth Science News**. Editor Madelyn Anderson, Ozark Earth Science Club (AR).

- Hon. Men.** **The Conglomerate**. Editor Dawn Niedermiller, Michigan Mineral Society.

ADULT ARTICLE – ADVANCED

- 9th Place** **“Amateur Microscopic Mineralogy, Part 1”** by Glenn Shipley, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (IL).

ADULT ARTICLE

MWF winners for this category will be announced in an upcoming issue.

JUNIOR ARTICLES, 12-17

“Ohio's Isotelus Trilobite” by Rayni Rister, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

JUNIOR ARTICLES, UNDER 12

- 5th Place** **“Texas Two Step Dino”** by Ziri Boren, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- 8th Place** **“Triceratops”** by Nora Fey, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

WRITTEN FEATURE

- 4th Place** **“Our Quest to Quartzsite Pow Wow 2019”** by DeAndra McFarland, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- Hon. Men.** **“My Flint Ridge Field Trip”** by Daniel Hogan, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).
- Hon. Men.** **“Sylvania Quarry at South Rockwood, MI – Report”** by Nancy Carper, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

SPECIAL PUBLICATION

“Fluorescent Minerals” by Dan Snow, Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (MO).

Congratulations to all of our winners!



EVENTS CALENDAR FORMS, INSURANCE FEES, AND (HALF-PRICE!) DUES ARE DUE JAN. 15TH

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

The 2021 Midwest Federation forms for renewing club memberships are now available on our website (www.amfed.org/mwf) and in this issue of the MWF News. Look for them! Meanwhile, please alert club officers to collect information for the forms.

One important piece of information needed is the total number of individual adult and youth members during the year completed during 2020. 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 15** so our insurance can be activated on time.

There are several significant changes for this year:

Due to the pandemic and its impact on many club activities, the Federation will **reduce club dues by one half**, for this year only. Unfortunately, most of the Federation's expenses are constant, even when club programs are interrupted. The Federation will draw on our Endowment Fund to cover the other half of club dues this year.

In response to requests to restrict public release of personal contact information, the 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 MWF leaders.

Clubs are encouraged to provide name, position and email addresses 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 junior's publication Mini Miners Monthly, distributed only via email. If you wish to have the Mini Miners Monthly subscription sent to someone other than your editor (1st choice) or president (2nd choice), please provide a name, position and valid email address for that individual, and indicate that he or she is to receive the Mini Miners materials.

Insurance will stay the same for 2021. 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, 2020), may take a \$.25 per member discount.

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.

Use the EVENTS form to submit details of upcoming shows and events during the coming year. You may include a flyer, printed on white paper, as additional information. If this information is submitted with the dues, we will make sure it gets to the website, newsletter and directory coordinators. If it is submitted later, or separately, it is more likely to get overlooked.

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

*January Issue Submission Deadline
Is December 9th!*



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

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

CLUB NAME STATE

2021 Club Dues (Use membership figures from year completed by December 31, 2020)

Number of Adult Club Members X \$1.00 = \$

Number of Youth Club Members X \$0.25 = \$

How many MWF Membership Cards do you want? (can't exceed number of paid members)

2021 Club Insurance (Optional, but if chosen, must pay for all members)

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

(*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2021 receive a discounted insurance rate of \$4.25 per member)

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

FORM, DUES, INSURANCE & EVENTS are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2021
Mail to: MWF, c/o Sandy Fuller, 8445 Grange Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Club Public Information for Directory & Website

Club mailing address: City State Zip

Phone number: Website:

Email: Facebook Name

Meetings Location:

Date & Time

Direct Contact Information for Mailings (THIS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED)

Person to receive Federation materials: Position

Phone Alt. Phone Email

Address City State Zip

Treasurer: Email Phone

Address City State Zip

Club Bulletin Name

Editor Email Phone

Address City State Zip

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



Calendar of Events Listing Information

For Publication in MWF Directory, Website & Newsletter

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

CLUB NAME _____ STATE _____

Show Chair _____ Email _____

Event Type: _____ Annual Show, _____ Rock Swap, _____ Other _____

Dates: _____ Days/Times: _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Club Website: _____

Optional:

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

ADDITIONAL EVENT:

Event Type: _____ Annual Show, _____ Rock Swap, _____ Other _____

Dates: _____ Days/Times: _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Club Website: _____

Optional:

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

* * Please include event listings for January, February, March and April 2022. * *

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

DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2021

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

AFMS CONVENTION ATTENDEES GOT A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW IN 1950

Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

In 1950, those attending the AFMS annual convention in Wisconsin had the opportunity to take an aerial field trip of Wisconsin geology. Arrangements were made to charter two 21-passenger DC-3 planes. A tour director familiar with the geological aspects was on each two-hour flight, and each person on the trip was given a map of the terrain.

The cost of this flight per person was considerably less than the usual air travel rate at the time – only \$12.00 each for AFMS members. Those interested in taking the trip were able to sign up during the first day of the convention, or they could secure a seat on the planes by personally writing to the MWF's Planning Committee to hold their reservation.

Highlighted in the bird's-eye-view aerial trip was the opportunity to compare a relatively small part of Wisconsin's unglaciated terrain, the Driftless Area, to the features of the glaciated area left by the Green Bay Lobe of the Laurentide Ice Sheet: the Wisconsin Dells, the Drumlins, the Kettle Moraine Country between the Green Bay and Lake Michigan Lobes, and the Devil's Lake region known as "a geologist's paradise."



The Devil's Doorway in Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin. Photo by Kevin TR at English Wikipedia, via Wikimedia Commons.

Wherever we go – out for a walk while looking along the ground for a new beautiful find, the society show-and-tell or program, or a road trip by any vehicle to any place, the thrill never gets old for all of us involved in recreational rockhounding. Among the treasures that always last a lifetime even beyond our own, are the times cherished by those we've spent personal time with, inspiring them to fall in love with the lapidary arts and crafts, and falling in love with the rock and gem society participation we know as family.

[Editor's Note: Your kids – and you! – may enjoy a virtual tour of the geology of Devil's Lake State Park conducted by Park Naturalist Sue Johansen-Mayoeth. Look for "Geology Tour with Devil's Lake State Park" on YouTube.]

MALACHITE IS SOFT BUT BEAUTIFUL

By Nick Smith,
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)
From the club's Strata Data, June 2020

Have you ever seen a penny that has a bit of green on it and wondered what the green is? It is the mineral malachite. Malachite is a basic copper carbonate. The name most likely is because of the green color. The Greek word *malache* means green. A second possibility for the name is the Greek word *malakos*, which means soft, due to malachite being a considerably soft mineral (4 out of 10 on the Mohs scale.)

Photo of a malachite pendant by Nick Smith, from the June 2020 Strata Data of the Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (Indiana).



Malachite often forms from stalactites when copper-rich water drips down. More water present results in a lighter color, as seen in my pendant. It

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Please notify the Secretary of any violations.**

MALACHITE IS SOFT BUT BEAUTIFUL, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 7)

rarely forms crystals. Malachite often occurs with other copper minerals such as chrysocolla.

Russia used to be the main source for malachite, with huge blocks being mined. Now the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the main source.

Because of its softness, malachite is not the best gem to facet, but it does cab well with patience and time. Malachite has often been used for decorative purposes. Many royal palaces and religious buildings have inlaid walls of it. One such place is the Hermitage Room of the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia. When working with malachite, the lapidarist should best utilize the eye-like patterns. Bowls and boxes are most commonly made, as well as spheres and eggs.

Sources:

Jones, Bob (January 2020). Malachite: Examining The “Halcyon Days” of This Versatile Mineral. *Rock and Gem Magazine*, (Volume 50, Issue 1), pp. 50-56.

Schumann, Walter (2013). 192. *Gemstones of the World*. Sterling. New York.



A portion of the Malachite Room in the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. Photo by deepgoswami via Creative Commons (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/legalcode>).