



MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

October 2021 - Issue No. 605

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Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Stanforth, MWF President

My term is nearly over. Next month, this message will be written by Catherine Clevenz, who is following me in the presidency. I know she will do a great job – she's a sharpshooter and very experienced at club leadership.



I'll still be around doing my work as chair of the Silent Auctions Committee for MWF conventions. I'm also now assistant to the Public Image Committee chair, Joan Stoker, due to my interest in promoting our organization and encouraging more interactions. I'm sure my friend Regina Kapta will guide us in this pursuit.

I have also filled openings. New State Directors are Bruce Stinemetz for Missouri/Arkansas; Marcia Opatz for Minnesota; and Michele Yamanaka for Indiana. These are incredibly talented people and I wish them the best. I am So So grateful that they have agreed to serve our MWF.

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BULLETIN CONTEST DEADLINE EXTENDED

Sharon Marburger, Chair
Bulletin Editors Aids Committee

The deadline for 2021 entries to the Bulletin Editors Contest has been extended to March 1, 2022!

At the AFMS convention in Big Piney, Wyoming, it was learned that the new date for the 2022 AFMS Convention will be October 6th. The convention was originally scheduled for earlier in the year, which made for a very early deadline, and the contest was only able to accept articles and bulletins published in part of 2021. As a result of the later convention date, entries published from January through December, 2021 will be accepted.

Entries must be submitted no later than March 1, 2022. Other rules remain the same, as published in the June 2021 issue of the MWF News. Paper entries should be sent to:

Sharon Marburger
Post Office Box 64
Hickman, NE 68372-0064

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NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING ROCKHOUND

Mary Ann Ferguson Rich,
Incoming MWF 1st Vice President

Hello again, everyone. We have had some nominations sent, but there is still time to nominate your amazing rockhound for the MWF Scholarship Honoree award for 2022.

The Scholarship Honoree selects a school, and two graduate students at that school, to receive a one-time scholarship grant of \$4,000 each. It can be someone from your own club or another club, or an individual in the professional world, such as a professor at a university or college, who you feel has gone above and beyond for the cause of earth sciences.

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

MWF Board of Selectors
c/o Mary Ann Ferguson Rich
1166 Broadview
Tallmadge, OH 44278

Or the nomination can be emailed to mafr43@hotmail.com.

Please discuss this at your next club meeting and get your nominations in ASAP.

CONTEST DEADLINE EXTENDED, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

Electronic entries, or general questions about the contest, should be sent to mamamar7880@outlook.com; contest entries should have a subject line of "BEAC Competition."

Those who won a first-place award in 2020 or 2021 are ineligible to enter the contest in the same category this year. The following are ineligible in these categories:

The Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club (MN) and the Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN), in the category of Small Bulletins; the Minnesota Mineral Club, in the category of Special Publications.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

I just attended the MWF Convention in Bowling Green, Ohio, sponsored by the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club. It's their 50th Anniversary, so congratulations are in order.

And now I just want to say THANK YOU to MWF members for allowing me to serve you the last three years. I just hope that my work has added to the value and viability of this Federation. I hold you all in the highest regard. Onward, to the future. If you want to make me president forever, I'm your gal (**just kidding, Donna**). It's been a lot of FUN!!!

DEADLINE CALENDAR

The deadline to send 2021 articles and newsletters for the annual **MWF Bulletin Editors Contest** has been extended to March 1, 2022. For more information, see the article on page 1, or contact Bulletin Editors' Aids Committee Chair Sharon Marburger, mamamar7880@outlook.com.

Rockhound of the Year Awards, presented by MWF clubs to valued members, may be submitted at any time for certificates and a mention in the MWF News. Contact Jeanine Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com for more information.

TERROR AT THE IMPERFECT DOME: A HORROR STORY FOR LAPIDARISTS

By Daniel Hogan

From the September, 2021 Strata Data
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)

It was a dark and stormy night. The whirring of the motor almost seemed soothing in the corner of the laboratory. Water delicately dripped in tiny droplets onto the spinning wheels as I worked feverishly to finish my creation. I kept an eye out for the local inhabitants. Many deemed my endeavors as dark and/or unnatural, as someone who went against the natural order of things. They wanted to leave things as they were. But NO! I must follow my passion! I must find the beauty in something so raw, so chaotic, so unrefined. I must form it and give this beautiful thing life!

I was in the final stages. It began to glow in my hands as I worked with such care to make sure that she was perfect. My eyes filled with delight as she took on that beautiful shine. She was going to be my masterpiece!

And as I was admiring this gorgeous luster, it suddenly appeared. Small, but it was right there for everyone to see. It was a scratch! My joy turned to horror as I witnessed this blemish on my work of purity! My mouth was agape. I tried to remove this blasphemy but it would not leave! It mocked me with every turn of the wheel! All my work was for naught! I tried even harder to remove the scourge! It eluded every attempt, laughing louder and louder with each failure! My mind was spinning into an abyss of despair! **What did I do to deserve this!!**

“Dummy! You left a flat spot.”

The key to getting a great polish consistently is to make sure that you have a complete and perfect dome.

Doming is the most time consuming and patience-wearing part of forming any cabochon. This is where most people get caught in the process. Eagerness to move on will most generally lead to a lot of time backtracking and chasing down these problems. You think that you'll get it on the next wheel and by the time you notice that there are scratches, you are almost to your final polish. Then all that time is wasted because you have to go back and start over again

The grinding wheel will always leave some flat spots but, even then, that will not prevent you from developing a nice well shaped dome. Leaving a flat surface is going to make scratches that will not come out over the next polishing wheels. That will be the bane of your existence.

Thinking that the expansion wheels will do the job is going to come back and bite you like a werewolf on a full moon! Even though the surface of the wheel is flat, because it is a rubber wheel, it will flex as you apply any pressure to it. That will therefore leave the tiniest of gaps. Just enough for your scratch to flourish and thrive like some alien predator. You think it's not there, but you would be wrong to dismiss it. It's hiding there, waiting for its next victim!

So how do we exorcise this demon from our midst? Do we call for a priest? Do we perform some archaic ritual involving speaking in languages no one has ever heard of? Do we call the Ghostbusters?

Nope. Just use a marker.

Take a marker and scribble on the face of the stone, making sure you cover where the scratches are. Now just go back to your grinding wheels and start doming the stone again. Do you see the marker? Yes? Then keep going. You have not expelled that demon yet! And no. We don't need holy water for this either. Tap water is just fine. Just keep shaping that dome until all of the marker is gone. Then you can get back to polishing.

Now we have a beautifully polished piece that shines with a heavenly brilliance. There is joy and laughter once again in the laboratory. It's alive! It's alive!

Suddenly there is a pounding at the door! It's the villagers! I see torches! They demand entry! They're yelling my name!

The doors burst open! I am surrounded! There is nowhere to run!

Someone snatches up my masterpiece! **No!!!!**

“How much is this cab going for?”

These gem shows can be a real nightmare.

BOULDERS WITH HUGE FELDSPAR CRYSTALS WERE NO MATCH FOR GLACIERS

Dr. Bill Cordua, Chair, MWF Geology Committee
From the April, 2021 Rock Rustler's News
Of the Minnesota Mineral Club

I once gave a talk to my club about an amazing 10-ton boulder with huge plagioclase feldspar crystals that was found in glacial drift in Baldwin, Wisconsin. Large feldspar crystals as big as a human head are indeed unusual, and caused a lot of curiosity among Baldwin residents when the boulder was unearthed during a subdivision excavation. The residents fondly called it the "Holstein rock," and made it a destination on evening walks. The boulder is now prominently displayed outside the library on Cedar Street in Baldwin. It is visible from space – see Google Earth: 44° 57' 25.11"N 92° 22' 06.14"W zoom to 1150'.



The Baldwin Boulder, with large ovoid plagioclase feldspar crystals. Photo courtesy of Dr. Bill Cordua.

The question arises as to where the glaciers got that rock. At the time of my talk, I had no idea, but new information has come to light.

The glacier depositing the boulder was from one of the older advances in the Ice Age – sometime between 800,000 and 2 million years ago. These glaciers tended to come out of the northwest, rather than from due north. This put the boulder's likely source in northwestern Minnesota or Manitoba – "up glacier" from where it was found.

A while ago I got an email from a man named Nick Stafford who had come across a photo of the Baldwin boulder on line. He sent me a photo of a boulder he found in glacial drift near Brainerd, Minnesota and had transported to his home. It is a very

close match for the Baldwin boulder – not as large, but texturally a virtual twin! The phrase "separated at birth" comes to mind. Anyway, it put me again on the scent of a source to the north – northwest in Minnesota or Manitoba.



The Brainerd boulder. Photo from Nick Stafford.

I posted a photo of the Baldwin boulder on the discussion page of the MINDAT web site. I asked if anyone familiar with the bedrock geology of Manitoba to let me know if the boulder looked similar to outcrops there.

Recently I got a message from Todd Braun of Altona, Manitoba. Outcrops of a rock with giant plagioclase feldspar crystals are well known from near Bernic Lake, Manitoba, where the rock is called "ovoid anorthositic gabbro."

Now that is a mouthful, but it does make sense. The feldspar crystals are somewhat ovoid in shape. Gabbro is a dark rock that forms when the same magma that makes basalt cools slowly below the earth's surface. Anorthositic means the rock has a very high concentrations of plagioclase feldspar, which the Baldwin boulder certainly has.

Bernic Lake is in eastern Manitoba, about 120 miles northeast of Winnipeg. Geologic descriptions of this rock note that plagioclase crystals up to 6 inches across are not uncommon in that body.

Todd had another potential source site, near the Pipestone Lake in Manitoba, where it is called, not surprisingly, the "Pipestone Lake Anorthositic Complex." This is about 250 miles due north of Winnipeg. It forms a long slender body nearly 20 km

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BOULDERS NO MATCH FOR GLACIERS, CONT.

(Continued from page 4)

long, thought to have formed by multiple injections of magma about 2.75 billion years ago. Plagioclase crystals occur in it that are over 30 cm across.

Outcrop of the Pipestone Lake Anorthosite Complex, Manitoba. Note the hammer (circled) for scale. Photo by Dr. L.D Ashwal, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.



This is a good match for the crystal sizes in the Baldwin and Brainerd Boulders. If these rocks were the sources of the boulders, we can plot these localities on a map and make a guess as to the track of the glaciers that brought these boulders to where we found them.



Map showing the possible source and track of the Baldwin and Brainerd boulders. Courtesy of Dr. Bill Cordua.

All this is based on circumstantial evidence, but it does not seem unreasonable. If this is true, we can only marvel at the power of glaciers to transport a 10-ton boulder for 500 miles.

WHAT COULD YOU DO IN AN EMERGENCY?

Deb Wehinger,
Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society (IL)

I started packing a small first-aid kit when my daughter was doing Irish dance. We would go through tons of bandages, salve, wraps, ice packs, etc. As time went on, I started using that same compact carrier on field trips. I use a shoe-box size plastic container that is clear (easy to identify), with a handle. You would be surprised what you can get into that container, if you pack it right. My rockhounding first-aid kit includes:

- A bottle of rubbing alcohol
- A bottle of hydrogen peroxide
- Bandages of various sizes and shapes, waterproof and non-waterproof
- Medical tape
- Gauze
- Neosporin salve
- A small pair of scissors
- A small compact that contains needle and thread
- A tube of Cortizone (for bug bites and other itchies)
- A small pack of baby wipes or alcohol wipes
- Small pack of Kleenex
- Moleskin
- Ace bandage
- Instant ice pack
- Tourniquet (These run about \$30. CAT tourniquets are very good; they can be applied with one hand)
- Thermometer
- A few hard candies for those that are dealing with diabetes or low blood sugars
- One last item – Preparation H

I know, I know, you’re thinking OMG, what is she talking about? Right? Well, let me tell you how this came about.

When my daughter was doing Irish dance, blisters were an everyday occurrence. I used to see a dance dad carrying around a large tube of Preparation H at the dance competitions and I always thought to myself, wow, he’s really putting it out there, that he has “issues.”

Finally, at a dance competition, I worked up my courage to ask him why he was always carrying it

WHAT COULD YOU DO IN AN EMERGENCY?, CONTINUED

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around. I was floored by his response. He used it on the blisters! It reduces and shrinks them! Something so simple can have a huge impact on you if you're out in the field and develop blisters. This works like a charm! Okay, now you know my "secret weapon"!

I had never really given a tourniquet any thought until I heard of a rock collecting trip where someone fell down quite a way on a rock pile and almost severed his hand. A makeshift tourniquet was needed. You never know when you might need it. It could save someone's life, including your own.

Each collecting trip, you need to plan. Items you may need can vary with each collecting area. For example, if you're collecting where snakes are noted to reside, make sure you have snake gaiters on. Carry a walking stick with you if you're trudging through thick underbrush – you can poke ahead of you for signs of snakes. You may want to invest in an anti-venom kit.

In bear country, get bear spray, tie bells on your backpack to make noise. Carry a whistle. Be aware of your surroundings. If you're in water, make sure you have a life jacket on. Even the best swimmers can drown. If you're in the mountains, make sure you're dressed appropriately for quickly changing weather. Carry something to eat and drink with you.

Wear appropriate footwear. Always let someone know where you're going and when you will be back. It could save your life!

If you are a Trip Leader, always make sure EVERYONE is accounted for and that no one is left behind. And if the trip is strenuous, let everyone know.

Some may not realize it could be a difficult trip, and they may not be physically up to it.

If you have a medical condition and you do not have a companion with you who can relate info if something happens, let the trip leader know so they're prepared in an emergency. Example, diabetes (passing out, etc.), heart condition (would they need a nitroglycerine tablet?). I realize this may not be possible with large groups, but it's something to consider and just an example.

This reminds me of a field trip I led some years ago. I had given out all kinds of information, what the trip would entail, stating it would be strenuous, what and where we were going. As we got into the trip, we were literally in the middle of nowhere, a couple of miles in, climbing cliffs. One of the participants came up to me and said he was having chest pains and then proceeded to tell me he had a heart condition and that he really shouldn't have done the trip, but he wanted to collect. He wasn't sure if he could make it back out.

My mind was racing and my first thought was, if this man collapses, how on earth would we get him back out, to get him help? I made him sit down in the shade, drink some water and rest. Thankfully, he was able to make it out on his own steam. That has stayed with me all these years, always in the back of my mind. What if there is a medical emergency? What would you do?

Learn first aid and CPR. There are classes all the time for these life saving practices.

Plan your trip, be careful and be prepared. Happy rockin'!

*November Issue Submission Deadline Is
October 5th!*

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 |
|---|--|---|--|
| Sept. 24-26 Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3 | Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society | Joplin Historical & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker, Joplin, MO | Christopher Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@ sbcglobal.net |
| Sept. 25-26 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4 | Brown County Rock & Mineral Club | Brown County History Center, 90 E. Gould Street, Nashville, IN | Rhonda A. Dunn, BCRM2010@gmail.com |
| Sept. 25-26 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 | Minnesota Mineral Club | State Fairgrounds, Dairy Building, 1694 Judson, Falcon Heights, MN | Earl Netwal, enetwal@gmail.com |
| Sept. 25-26 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4 | Oshkosh Earth Science Club | Sunnyview Exposition Center, 500 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI | Bob Fox, foxbooks@att.net |
| Oct. 2-3 Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4 | Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club | Cherryland VFW Hall, 3400 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI | Jared Bowen, JaredJBowen@gmail.com |
| Oct. 2-3 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5 | Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (LOESS) | State Fairgrounds, Orr Bldg., 801 E. Sangamon, Springfield, IL | Ed Wagner, loesseditor@gmail.com |
| Oct. 2-3 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 | Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society | County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk, Belleville, MI | Bill Barr, wbarr@umich.edu |
| Oct. 8-10 Fri 9-6, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5 | Michigan Mineralogical Society | Macomb Expo Center, Bldg. P, 14500 E. 12 Mile Road, Warren, MI | John Peters, joopett13@hotmail.com |
| Oct. 9 Sat 10-5 | Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois (ESCONI) | County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester, Wheaton, IL | Dave Carlson, fossil54@att.net |
| Oct. 15-17 Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5 | Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society | County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll, Fort Wayne, IN | Bev Jenkins, cabsbybev@gmail.com |
| Oct. 16-17 Sat & Sun, 10-5 | Flint Rock & Gem Club | Carter Middle School, 300 Rogers Lodge Drive, Clio, MI | Bill Wendling, BWRockBarn @centurytel.net |
| Oct. 16-17 Sat & Sun, 10-5 | South Suburban Earth Science Club | Prairie State College, 202 S. Halsted, Chicago Heights, IL | Jan Podbielski, SSESCUS@yahoo.com |
| Oct. 22-24 Fri 6-9, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4 | Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society | County Fairgrounds, Main Pavilion, 700 E. Ash Street, Mason, MI | Robin Smith, rsmith@radssmith.com |
| Oct. 23-24 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5 | Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club | Emidio's Banquet Center, 48 E. Bath, Cuyahoga Falls, OH | Becky Kosco, kingtoast@aol.com |
| Oct. 23-24 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30 | Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society | Expo Convention Center, 635 E. St. Louis Street, Springfield, MO | Mark Northrup, omgms.57@gmail.com |
| Oct. 30-31 Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4 | Badger Lapidary & Geological Society | County Fairgrounds, Craig Center, 1301 Craig Ave., Janesville, WI | Laurie Trocke, glowyrocks@gmail.com |

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Please notify the Secretary of any violations.

UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED

| Date and Time | Organization | Place | Contact |
|--|--|--|--|
| Nov. 6-7 Sat 8:30-6, Sun 9:30-4 | Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society | Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4100 6 th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA | Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com |
| Nov. 6-7 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 | Racine Geological Society | Fountain Hall, 8505 Durand Avenue, Highway 11, Sturtevant, WI | John Lowman, 262-989-9193 |
| Nov. 8 Monday, 7 p.m. | Michigan Mineralogical Society annual auction | Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, MI | Brad Zylman, Brad.Zylman@mrm.com |
| Nov. 13-14 Sat 9-4, Sun 10-4 | Northwest Illinois Rock Club | Eagles Club, 1200 W. Galena Ave., Freeport, IL | Brian Green, Bgreen57@hotmail.com |
| Nov. 19-21 Fri 3-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5 | St. Louis Gem & Mineral Society | White-Rodgers Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO | Melissa Perucca, melissa5301@aol.com |
| Nov. 20 Sat 10-5 | Gem City Rock Club | Quincy Mall, 32 nd and Broadway, Quincy, IL | Brad Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com |
| Nov. 20-21 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 | Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club | Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive North, Crystal, MN | Martha Miss, martha@rock-biz.biz |
| Nov. 20-21 Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-5 | Madison Gem & Mineral Club | Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI | Nevin Franke, burniesrockshop@gmail.com |