



# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

December 2021 - Issue No. 607

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

Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Catherine Clevenz, MWF President

Hello Everyone!

Here we are, heading into the holiday season! With the ice and snow that goes along with the winter months to come, I find it a good time to clean up and put away my rock collecting gear, since I do not care to be out in the cold. This will be the time of enjoying my collection of rocks. I don’t just “look” at them. I look up information about them, make pieces of jewelry, and pick out the best of my collection to display at home. Also, rocks make a nice gift to other rockhounds!

The winter months are a great time to utilize our library of programs to use during meetings. We have a wonderful collection of DVDs and tapes that are listed in the gold section of the MWF Directory. If you have



*(Continued on page 2)*

## NEW MWF WEBSITE WILL BE VERSATILE

Cindy Root, MWF Website Committee Chair

We are now using Google Workforce for our website. Not only does this program give us the ability to have a website, it also has various means for communication. “Slides” is the Google equivalent to Power Point. “Meet” is the Google equivalent to Zoom. I will be creating email addresses for officers and state directors so that they will be able to use these programs.

Next, Lori Carter from the Southeast Federation is helping me with the creation of a form to be used by our clubs. At this point my thought is to give access to state directors so that they can fill out the information for their clubs.

This will include whether they have a show, a youth program, do field trips, etc. It will also include whether the club has a website and/or a Facebook page. Once the form comes back to me, it will be

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### **NEW MWF WEBSITE, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 1)*

included in a spreadsheet that will be used for various and assorted things.

The most significant item, and the reason I hope to get you enthused about using this form, is that it will help create a map of the Midwest Federation where there is a pin for each club. When you click on the pin, you will receive information about that club and have the ability to get directions to the actual club's address.

Keep in mind that the holidays are coming, but depending on schedules I am hoping this might be accomplished by the end of January. If you would like a peek at what this would look like, go to [www.southeastfed.org](http://www.southeastfed.org). It is my understanding that the new American Federation website will have a similar map that will include all of its member federations. That is why I need you to get excited about completing these forms.

When you go to the old website, you will notice at the top of several pages a link to that page on the new website. I do not plan on updating that website, as it is on an old computer and gives me fits whenever I try to make a correction. Those links will remain for a period of time and eventually the content will be deleted. It will be a couple of months. Be certain to change any links you have to our website to [www.mwfed.org](http://www.mwfed.org).

Last, but of course not least, you may now reach me at [webmaster@mwfed.org](mailto:webmaster@mwfed.org).

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 1)*

any questions about the programs, please contact Bob Powers, the MWF Program Requests Committee chair, for help. His email address is [AkronMineralNews@aol.com](mailto:AkronMineralNews@aol.com), and his other contact information is on the last page of the gold section.

As we are coming to the end of the year, I want to remind clubs that it is dues time. Please make sure to get the MWF Annual Dues, Insurance and Club Contact Information sheet and Calendar of Events Listing Information filled in and mailed as soon as possible. Let's face it, no one likes to receive reminder calls from the State Directors to pay their dues. If you have questions concerning dues and the forms, then please contact your State Director. They want to help the clubs in their district as much as possible.

Finally, I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Blessed New Year!

### **DEADLINE CALENDAR**

**Dues and insurance forms** for membership in MWF are due **Jan. 15, 2022**. Forms and information are on pages 4-6; if more information is needed, contact Sandy Fuller, [MWftreas@rock-biz.biz](mailto:MWftreas@rock-biz.biz).

Deadline for clubs wanting to enter the **MWF Website Competition** is **Feb. 15, 2022**. For more information, get in touch with Brad Zylman, [brad.zylman@mrm.com](mailto:brad.zylman@mrm.com).

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

*January Issue  
Submission Deadline  
Is December 3rd!*

**YOUR CLUB CAN CELEBRATE ITS VALUED MEMBERS AS ROCKHOUDS OF THE YEAR**

Jeanine N. Mielecki, Chair  
MWF Club Rockhound of the Year Committee

Every year, each club in the Midwest Federation has the opportunity to show their appreciation and gratitude for the one individual, couple or family who has gone above and beyond by nominating them as your club's Rockhound of the Year. In addition to receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from the MWF, the name of your club's honoree(s), along with the great things they do for your club, will be published in the MWF News and the A.F.M.S. Newsletter!

All you have to do is write 75 to 100 words telling us who deserves to be your club's Rockhound of the Year and about their contributions to your club's ongoing success. This year's ROTY recognitions from two MWF clubs below are great examples.

Then email this information along with your name, phone number, and the name of your club to Jeanine N. Mielecki at [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com), or call 312-623-1554 for my mailing address. I'll take care of the rest. Now is the time to give your club's most valued members the shout-out they deserve. Saying thank you is priceless!

**500 Earth Sciences Club (IN)  
Tammy Habegger-Spice**

The **500 Earth Sciences Club** of Indianapolis recognizes **Tammy Habegger-Spice** as the 2021 Rockhound of the Year. Tammy has served as secretary for the club since 2018. Her leadership in organizing, innovating and executing the duties of Secretary has been exceptional. She has navigated the club through complex venue changes for monthly meetings among her regular duties.

Tammy also leads the activities necessary to conduct the silent auction at the Club's annual show. She has expanded the collection of donations, increasing revenue. She catalogues, labels and maintains donations. This year, Tammy and her husband, William, donated safety supplies for the 2021 show.

Tammy volunteers to participate in all Club outreach endeavors. She communicates effectively with the public, inspiring future rockhounds. Thank you, Tammy!

**Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society (IL)  
Brian and Cindy Green**

The **Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society** of the greater Rockford area honors **Brian and Cindy Green**, who have made a significant contribution to the success of this club, as Rockhound of the Year. As the members of the club know, if you see one of the Greens working hard on a project, attending a meeting or setting out rocks and jewelry for a club event, the other is right there also.

The Greens help not only the RRVGMS with club activities; Brian and Cindy are the backbone of the Northwest Illinois Rock Club in Freeport, Illinois. The countless hours they have spent being helpful, and their knowledge shared of rocks, minerals, polishing stones, and jewelry making are greatly appreciated. Congratulations, Brian and Cindy Green!

**SILENT AUCTION SUCCEEDS DUE TO DONORS**

Susan Stanforth, Silent Auction Committee Chair

I'm ever so happy to report a stunningly successful auction at the MWF convention held in September. We made \$875 on Sunday. Special thanks go to Donna and JC Moore and to Cathy Clevenz for spending an exhausting day filling out bid sheets and refilling auction items.

Wonderful specimens were donated by wonderful people, including the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society of Illinois, Joyce and Steven "Skeeter" Kish, Jerri Heer, Susan Stanforth, Cheryl Neary, Steve Shimatzki, Ed Oller, David Rich, the Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society of Michigan, the Gem City Rock Club of Illinois, the Toledo Gem and Mineral Society, the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club of Michigan (thanks to the Sherwoods – those septarians are so in demand!) and so many more. Hope I didn't forget anyone. I am so grateful.

## DUES AND INSURANCE FORMS ARE DUE JAN. 15TH; BE ON TIME FOR INSURANCE DISCOUNT

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

The 2022 Midwest Federation forms for renewing club memberships are now available on our website ([www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)) and in this issue of the Midwest Federation News on the following two pages. 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 2021. 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.

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 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 a subscription to the juniors publication Mini Miners Monthly, distributed only via email. If you wish to have the Mini Miners subscription sent to someone other than your editor (first choice) or president (second 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.

Use the Events form to submit details of 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.

Insurance will stay the same for 2022. 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, 2022), may take a 25¢-per-member discount.

**Remember**, 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? Call me at 651-459-0343, or send me an email to [MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz](mailto:MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz). Direct insurance questions to Sue Goedert at 616-337-1162, or email her at [sonbeams2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sonbeams2000@yahoo.com).

## MYSTERIOUS OBJECT Baffles MINNESOTA ROCKHOUSES



Entire mysterious object.



Close-up of one end.

From the November, 2021 Agate Picker  
Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club (MN)

**WHAT IS IT?** Alice Vesel brought this specimen to the October meeting for identification. "Old banana" was the most common guess, but the presence of small shells debunked that theory. Zoom in and see what you think! *[Editor's Note: Send educated guesses to the newsletter's editor, Jill Koski, [jill@mkoski.com](mailto:jill@mkoski.com).]*



# 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** \_\_\_\_\_

**2022 Club Dues** Use membership figures from year completed by December 31, 2021

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

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

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

**2022 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, 2022 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

**EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)**

Contact Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Optional Information:*

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
**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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Optional Information:*

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
 \* \* Please include event listings for January, February, March and April 2023. \* \*  
 Mail completed form with your dues. Questions? Call 651-459-0343

**DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2022**  
**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**

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
<b>Nov. 19-21</b> Fri 3-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	St. Louis Gem & Mineral Society	White-Rodgers Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, <b>St. Louis, MO</b>	Melissa Perucca, melissa5301@aol.com
<b>Nov. 20</b> Sat 10-5	Gem City Rock Club	Quincy Mall, 32 <sup>nd</sup> and Broadway, <b>Quincy, IL</b>	Brad Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com
<b>Nov. 20-21</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club	Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive North, <b>Crystal, MN</b>	Martha Miss, martha@rock-biz.biz
<b>Nov. 20-21</b> Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-5	Madison Gem & Mineral Club	Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, <b>Madison, WI</b>	Nevin Franke, burniesrockshop@gmail.com

**MINNESOTA MINERAL CLUB HAS A GREAT SHOW-AND-TELL**

Below are photos of rocks from the collections of Minnesota Mineral Club members, published in the May, 2021 Rock Rustler’s News:



Fossilized reptile skin from the collection of an anonymous member. The newsletter commented, *“That reptile skin almost looks like a snake’s head with that ‘eye socket’”!*



“Ben Chorn found this stunningly beautiful Bear Canyon agate in the Pryor Mountains of Montana in 2017.”



“Before-and-after photos,” the Rock Rustler’s News wrote, “of what Gwen Martin calls ‘My favorite agate; found in a dry creek bed in Rapid City, SD.’”





## MWF ELECTION RESULTS ARE FINALIZED

J C Moore, MWF Credentials Committee Chair

In August of 2021, 157 ballots were mailed to all MWF clubs and the executive committee, requesting that they be returned to me by September 30th. Allowing for postal delays, the chair waited until October 15 to finalize the of votes. A total of 74 ballots were returned with the following results:

### OFFICERS

President	Catherine Clevenz
First Vice President	Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich
Secretary	Donna Moore
Treasurer	Sandy Fuller

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jim Travis	40 votes (elected)
Sharon Marburger	37 votes (elected)
Diana Dady	32 votes
Tom Whitlatch	30 votes

I would like to thank all that returned their ballots and the those who volunteered to be nominated for these positions. I would like to also congratulate Catherine, Mary Ann, Donna, Sandy, Jim, and Sharon on being elected for their terms as officers and members of the nominating committee.

## GOT AN OLD ROCK MAGAZINE TO SPARE?

Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian  
From the April 2021 A.F.M.S. Newsletter

As I continue my hunt for old copies of early rock, gem and mineral magazines and newsletters, rarely do I find a lot of what I am searching for. It is always a treat when someone contacts me to ask if I would be interested in a long-forgotten old issue found in a society or family storage, or a small bundle of what I call "faded glory." Sometimes I find someone who has scanned and downloaded some of the older issues, which is a thrill for an AFMS Historian. Some of these issues date back to the 1800s and early 1900s. If your society or family member find old issues they don't wish to keep, even if they look worn, please let me know. Most likely I will want them for the AFMS Historian archives. I will be happy to pay for the postage.

## DOES ACID AFFECT FLUORESCENCE?

Calvin Harris, South Suburban  
Earth Science Club (Illinois)

### Introduction

All too frequently, I read articles about a specimen subjected to a highly corrosive agent such as hydrochloric or phosphoric acid to partially remove or completely eradicate its matrix. The goal of this practice is to improve the aesthetic qualities of a certain mineral, but it may inadvertently harm any scientific or educational value related to the luminescent attributes of the specimen. This paper explores how the luminescent attributes of fluorescent calcite and wollastonite within a matrix can be impacted by acid treatment.

### Geological Setting

This specimen was collected from an area within the Sierra de Cruces (Coahuila, Mexico) range, which consists of skarn resulting from igneous intrusion and subsequent metasomatism of deposits primarily consisting of limestone and lesser amounts of dolomite. The area underwent contact metamorphism from high temperatures and minerals such as grossular and wollastonite were formed. They were followed by low-temperature minerals such as calcite, which formed as suitable conditions materialized. Aside from calcite, grossular and vesuvianite, no other fluorescent minerals were reported from this site.

### Specimen Description

The dimension of the specimen is approximately  $5\frac{1}{4}'' \times 2\frac{1}{8}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$ . The matrix, which features calcite and wollastonite, has a rugged and corroded appearance, indicative of a non-metallic mineral substance that had undergone rigorous acid treatment; however, the type of acid has not been determined. The top area appears most affected by an effort to expose the grossular crystals more distinctly than in other parts of the specimen. A section measuring  $2'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{5}{8}''$  has been sawn from the bottom of the specimen. The reason for this removal is unclear.

Trace quantities of divalent manganese ( $Mn^{+2}$ ) cause fluorescence in grossular. Divalent manganese

(Continued on page 9)



**DOES ACID REMOVAL OF MATRIX AFFECT FLUORESCENCE?, CONTINUED**

(Continued from page 8)

coupled with trace quantities of lead produce fluorescence and *flash* (intense phosphorescence of short-lived duration) in calcite and wollastonite.

**Test Equipment**

The equipment used for testing fluorescence and phosphorescence include three SuperBright II lamps that emit wavelengths 254nm (shortwave), 312nm (mid-wave) and 351nm (longwave). A SuperBright III lamp that emits a 370nm (longwave) wavelength was also used. These products are manufactured by UV SYSTEMS, Inc. A Vivitar 283 photographic flash unit was used to test the matrix for *flash*. Safety glasses rated SH Z87+ were used to guard against reflected ultraviolet light.



*The specimen in daylight, photographed by Calvin Harris.*

**Test Procedures**

Testing was conducted in a darkened environment. Viewing phosphorescence proceeded fluorescence to eliminate the need for eyes to readjust from the relative brightness produced by fluorescence. The ultraviolet lamps were placed 3-4 inches from the specimen when testing for fluorescence, and approximately 1-2 inches from the specimen to observe phosphorescence. A 10-second exposure time proved adequate to assess phosphorescence. The photographic flash unit was held approximately 2 inches from the sample to determine *flash* quality. This unit was used at its maximum output setting and observation was conducted by avoiding the intense outburst of visible light.

<b>Shortwave (254nm)</b>	<b>fluorescence:</b> light blue, Moderate/bright intensity.	<b>phosphorescence:</b> blue coloration similar to scheelite fluorescence; moderate/bright intensity that dissipates rapidly; 10 sec. exposure, 10 sec. duration.
<b>Mid-wave (312nm)</b>	<b>fluorescence:</b> blue with green tint; Moderate/bright intensity.	<b>phosphorescence:</b> blue with green tint; moderate/bright intensity that dissipates rapidly; 10 sec. exposure, 9 sec. duration.
<b>Longwave 1 (351nm)</b>	<b>fluorescence:</b> light blue, low Intensity.	<b>phosphorescence:</b> color similar to MW, low intensity, low rate of dissipation. 10 sec. exposure, 5 sec. duration.
<b>Longwave 2 (370nm)</b>	<b>fluorescence:</b> similar to LW1.	<b>phosphorescence:</b> similar to LW1.
<b>Photographic flash unit</b>	<b>fluorescence:</b> (non-applicable)	<b>phosphorescence:</b> as <i>flash</i> : none.

(Continued on page 10)



## DOES ACID REMOVAL OF MATRIX AFFECT FLUORESCENCE?, CONTINUED

The specimen under shortwave radiation. Photo by Calvin Harris.



(Continued from page 9)

### Findings

The acid treatment of the calcite and wollastonite specimen may have caused some detrimental effect on luminosity, but the extent is unclear. Although a standard or control is needed to determine the full impact of acid treatment, some interesting findings were discovered from this study.

There was no evidence of the familiar orange-red fluorescence and *flash* attributed to divalent manganese coupled with lead. Both minerals are known to display this effect. The fluorescent test results were comparable to the published findings,

while the phosphorescent responses differed. The publication described a white phosphorescent response, while the test results of this study indicate a blue effect, as well as some variation.

The fluorescence and phosphorescence attributed to shortwave and mid-wave radiation were fairly similar in terms of color and intensity. Interestingly, the shortwave radiation generated phosphorescence that was richer in color than the fluorescence. Another noteworthy feature was the rapid decay of phosphorescence when shortwave and mid-wave radiation were applied. Both longwave emissions provided similar fluorescent color compared to the shorter wavelengths, but their intensities were reduced and the phosphorescent decay rates were more transitory. These effects appear consistent with outcomes related to organic activators, but this cause is not certain.

### Selected References

Lueth, Virgil W., and Robert Jones. 2003. "Red Grossular from the Sierra de Cruces, Coahuila, Mexico." *Mineralogical Record, Mexico, Special Edition III*, Vol. 34, No. 6, Nov./Dec. 2003; pp. 73-79.

## THIS HANDY CHECKLIST CAN HELP ROCKHOUDING TRIPS

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

Each year as I get ready to plan my rockhounding trips, I pull up a list that I've made. It helps tremendously, reminding me of things to bring along for the trip. Over time, I've added and deleted items, but I make sure to keep it saved on my computer.

Here's an example of such a list:

- Water. Stay hydrated!
- Maul
- Crack maul and crack hammer
- Chisels
- Gloves
- Flashlight
- Safety glasses
- Gazetteers

- Hat
- Backpack
- Buckets
- Bucket carrier from Broll Tools – worth every penny!
- Corn rake
- Shovel
- Suntan lotion
- FIRST AID KIT
- Bug spray
- Snake gaiters
- Steel-toed boots and muck boots
- Rain poncho
- Packing material

Okay, you get the idea. Make your list and add items as you need. This saves so much time, and you don't have to worry if you've forgotten something; you just check off items on your list.



**SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS HELP MIDWEST STUDENTS, HONOR CLUB MEMBERS**

The good cause? Grants to college students in the earth sciences. The better cause? Memorializing the contributions of an invaluable member of your club.

The MWF and other regional federations pool their donations in the AFMS Scholarship Foundation – a perpetual fund. Each participating federation gets to select a Scholarship Honoree, honored by that federation for his or her contributions to the field of earth sciences, and the Honoree then awards two one-time grants of \$4,000 to two students working on an advanced degree in earth science at a college or university in our region. More detailed information is published in the Green Pages of the MWF Directory.

*You receive acknowledgment and next of kin are notified of donation, if address is provided.*

*Contributions to the foundation are tax-exempt. Make checks payable to AFMS Scholarship.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Donor / Club name (please print) Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Donor Address

Donation honoring: \_\_\_\_\_  
Underline one: living deceased

Next of Kin, if honoree is deceased: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name) (relationship)

\_\_\_\_\_ Next of Kin Address

Send this form, with contribution, to: Marge Collins, MWF Scholarship Chair  
3017 Niles-Buchanan Road, Buchanan, MI 49107



*Thomas Moran painting, "The Chasm of the Colorado." Photo from the Department of the Interior website, doi.gov.*

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor  
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Overland Park, KS 66282-3456

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\*\*\*\*\*  
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**Please notify the Secretary of any violations.**  
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**DON'T LET YOUR ROCKS (OR THE FUTURE OWNERS) FORGET THEIR ROOTS**

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Chihuahua, Mexico; the Torres mine is in Guanajuato Municipality, Guanajuato, Mexico.

I was cleaning off a desk in the basement this week and found a few specimens in white cardboard boxes, lost behind/under a stack of papers. The sales receipt that was with the specimens was dated 2013. I will probably never know how the specimens got lost and forgotten. Needless to say, the specimens came upstairs so I could get them cataloged and properly stored in my mineral collection.

The lesson I want to share is that specimens that are found after being tucked away often come with some mystery. With science we can often remove much of the mystery. But it is very difficult, and usually impossible, to answer the question "Where did this specimen come from?" without a label.

One specimen came with two labels; the visible label (from former MWF President Kevin Ponzio) was "Acanthite pseudo / Argentite Cubic Xls" from Mina Inglaterra, the second label (from La Plata y Oro), hidden under the cotton padding in the box, was "Acanthite with Silver" from the Torres Mine. My guess was that Kevin just labeled a flat of purchased Acanthite specimens individually, and was not aware of the hidden second label with this specimen.

If you have boxes, buckets, or bags of specimens you collected gathering dust in your garage or basement, please go through them this month and at least label them with where they were from. You probably know, since you collected them, but if something happens to you that information will be lost without a locality label.

The two mines are not very close to each other: Inglaterra Mine is in Aquiles Serdán Municipality,

Specimens that don't know where they come from lose most of their value to science, and to collectors. Treat your specimens with respect and identify where they came from. The collectors who will care for your specimens after you pass them on will thank you for the location information.