

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Catherine Clevenz, MWF President

Hello Everyone!

Finally, it's March! With Spring being just around the corner, I am looking forward to going to a few rock and mineral shows. My goal is to attend at least one every month.

I am hoping to learn more about how other clubs set up their venues, as well as seeing what they do to increase membership. The best part will be checking out what the different vendors have to offer.

I hope that the different clubs are using, and will use, our Facebook page to advertise their shows. Just search for "Groups Midwest Federation" on Facebook.

Your club still has time to enter the All American Club Awards contest. Yearbooks should be sent to MWF Merit Awards Chair Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich by April 15, 2022. The top three get to go to the

(Continued on page 4)



IN MEMORIAM TOM WHITLATCH

Thomas B. Whitlatch, former MWF President and former Iowa State Director, died Jan. 14th from an aggressive cancer that had just been diagnosed the previous month. He was 65 years old.

He is survived by his wife, Julie Whitlatch, four children, eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, two brothers, and three sisters.

Tom, a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was the owner of Lapidary Liquidator, selling new and used lapidary equipment and rough rock. He previously worked at Sign Productions, also in Cedar Rapids, which makes interior and exterior signage.

He was a longtime member of the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, Iowa Gold Prospectors, and the Comahawk Computer Club. He was president of the MWF in 2016-17.

His obituary, on the Cedar Memorial Park website (cedarmemorial.com), reads in part, "He had a passion for and loved teaching others about rocks and minerals, as well as hunting for gold in Iowa. He enjoyed spending time with his family."

(Continued on page 2)

WHAT'S INSIDE?

AFMS Official Magazine Makes Offer	4
A Call for Editors and Young Artists.....	3
Deadline Calendar.....	2
Executive Committee Will Meet in April	2
Glue or Wax Dops Can Prevent Flying Rocks.....	5

In Memoriam Tom Whitlatch	1
Maybe Quarry Produced World-Class Specimens.....	4
Michigan Club Honors Tomaszewski.....	3
President's Message.....	1
Upcoming Events.....	6-7

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DEADLINE CALENDAR

Deadline to send 2021 entries to the annual **MWF Bulletin Editors Contest** is **March 1, 2022**. For more information, see the article on page 3, or contact Sharon Marburger, mamamar7880@outlook.com.

The spring **MWF Executive Committee meeting** will be held **April 2, 2022**, in Des Plaines, Illinois, in conjunction with the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's annual show. For more information, see the article on this page.

North Lakes Academy is sponsoring a nationwide **Youth Poster Contest** for students in grades 1 through 8; deadline for entries is **May 1, 2022**. See the article on page 3, or contact Michelle Cauley, mcauley@northlakesacademy.org, for information.

Entries for the **All American Club Award** yearbooks should be sent to MWF Merit Awards Chair Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich by **April 15, 2022**. The top three MWF entries will be submitted to the national AFMS contest. For more information, contact mafergusonrich@gmail.com.

The annual **MWF Convention** will be held **Oct. 22-23, 2022**, in Springfield, Missouri, hosted by the Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society. Details will be announced in future issues of MWF News.

Rockhound of the Year Awards may be submitted at any time for certificates and a mention in the MWF News. Contact Jeanine Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com.

IN MEMORIAM TOM WHITLATCH, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

Tammy Jeanneret of the Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club wrote, among the Cedar Memorial Park condolences, "He was always willing to share his vast knowledge of rocks with anyone who had a question. He will be missed. Prayers for Julie and his family."



Tom Whitlatch, proudly sporting his MWF and Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society badges. Photo from his obituary at cedarmemorial.com.

Memorial donations to the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society are suggested; the email address is cvrms@cedarvalleyrockclub.org. Condolences can be sent to his wife Julie at 1147 Staub Court NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN APRIL

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The spring MWF Executive Committee Meeting will be held Saturday, April 2nd, in Des Plaines, Illinois, beginning at 9:15 a.m. The hosting club is the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society, whose show will be held that weekend. Show hours will be 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The meeting and show will both be held at the Des Plaines Park District Leisure Facility, 2222 Birch Street. No host hotel has been selected, but this is near O'Hare Airport, so there are lots of options. Be aware that some hotels and motels do NOT have free parking, so be sure to ask about that when making reservations.

Every State Director and Permanent Committee Chair needs to send a report of activities of their state or committee. If nothing is happening, just write a short report about what your committee is able to do for the clubs. Send the reports to me, mwfsecretary@gmail.com, before March 5th.

A CALL FOR EDITORS AND YOUNG ARTISTS

Young artists and newsletter editors still have time to enter two exciting competitions!

March 1st is the deadline to enter the **MWF Bulletin Editors Contest**. Editors may enter one month's edition of a whole newsletter and/or individual articles and poetry that were published in the newsletter and/or special publications issued by their clubs. Entries must have been published in 2021.

You can read the complete contest rules in the June, 2021 edition of the MWF Newsletter. You can find that edition on the MWF website, mwfed.org, by clicking "Newsletters" on the home page, then going to page 6 of the June, 2021 newsletter. (The deadline stated in that article was later postponed to March 1st.) Official entry forms in all categories can also be found on the MWF website by clicking "Resources" and then "Forms."

For more information, contact Sharon Marburger, mamamar7880@outlook.com, 402-429-3323.

May 1st is the deadline for entries to the **Youth Poster Contest** sponsored by the North Lakes Academy Rockhounds. This is open to all students in first through eighth grades. Students do not have to be members of an affiliated rock club or society, which allows the AFMS and MWF to reach out to families beyond our normal circles.

Entries must be postmarked by May 1st. Posters should be on 12" by 18" paper (no three-dimensional posters) in pen, crayon, paint, photography, or any other medium. If pictures not drawn by the student are used, the source must be cited. Title must be on the front of the poster, and the name, address, and school grade of the child on the back.

This year's theme is "Did You Know: Dinos." Students may pick one favorite dinosaur and devote the whole poster to it, or create a "Top 10 Dinosaur Facts" poster. For further information, contact Michelle Cauley, mcauley@northlakesacademy.org. Entries should be mailed to:

North Lakes Academy Rockhounds
c/o Michelle Cauley
4576 232nd Street N.
Forest Lake, MN 55025

MICHIGAN CLUB HONORS TOMASZEWSKI

The **Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club** of Wyoming, Michigan honors **Kreigh Tomaszewski** as the 2022 Rockhound of the Year. Kreigh's name is familiar to many of us. He hosts and leads the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group, and his reports on the club's meetings run often in the MWF News.

As president, Kreigh has led the Indian Mounds club through the trying times of Covid-19. He is also the show chairman. When a critical club office is open, such as treasurer, secretary, field trip chair, or newsletter editor, Kreigh performs the duties until a qualified candidate is found. He then helps the new person to understand the duties of his or her office. On several occasions, Kreigh has performed the duties of three or four positions at the same time. Without Kreigh, the club may not have survived.

His rockhound adventure began at age 9, when Kreigh joined a club for juniors sponsored by a local club, which met at the Grand Rapids Museum. He also volunteers at the museum and has helped organize, identify and inventory hundreds of boxes of rocks. Kreigh strongly supports activities for young rockhounds, generously giving of his knowledge and time.



Kreigh Tomaszewski congratulates Delaina on her prize-winning entry in the Juniors Educational Display category at the club's annual Best of Year Competition. Photo and caption courtesy of Jeanine Mielecki.

Kreigh led many trips to the Alabastine Gypsum Mine in Wyoming, Michigan until it was closed to collecting. He has demonstrated at the club's annual show and recently added faceting to his repertoire of lapidary skills.

An accomplished speaker, Kreigh has given many presentations to our club and to other organizations, including rock clubs and schools. Thank you, Kreigh, for your rock-solid contributions that ensure the future of our hobby.



MAYBEE QUARRY PRODUCED WORLD-CLASS SULFUR AND CELESTINE SPECIMENS

Dr. Christopher J. Stefano and William B. Barr, Jr.
 From the January, 2022 Michigan Mineralogical
 Society Conglomerate
 Via the Strata Data of the Three Rivers Gem & Mineral
 Society (IN)

The Maybee Quarry, located in central Monroe County, Michigan, is well known among local collectors in southern Michigan and northern Ohio as a source of world-class sulfur and celestine specimens. This gem of a locality has remained somewhat obscure on the national and international collecting scene, but the appearance of our article about it in the May-June 2021 issue of the Mineralogical Record may well make it better known.

Although the geology and mineralogy of the locality are relatively simple, there are important lessons to be learned from Maybee, perhaps most importantly concerning how native sulfur may be generated in sedimentary rocks. In 1906 Walter Hunt first worked out this geochemical process at Maybee, and it is summarized in the Mineralogical Record article.

The Maybee Quarry has a surprisingly rich history, dating back to the 1850s. When Michigan state geologists visited around 1900 to study the quarry's stratigraphy, they also noted the excellent sulfur and celestine crystals. Around 1905, Edward Kraus, founder of *The American Mineralogist*, visited the locality with his student, Walter Hunt, and wrote about the crystallography of the celestine and the origin of the sulfur.



This celestine specimen from the Maybee Quarry is in the collection of the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum of Michigan Tech. Photo from museum.mtu.edu.

At that time, the quarry was being worked as a source of building stone but, with the decline of that market prior to the first World War, the quarry was abandoned and flooded. New owners eventually drained the quarry and put it back into production circa 1960, just as America's "rockhounding" craze was beginning, and so Maybee saw many visits by "rockhounds" between 1960 and circa 1990. It was during this period that most currently extant Maybee specimens were collected.

The lion's share of the good pieces remain today with the collectors who found them, but others have made their ways to local museums, especially Michigan Technological University's A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum. Fine Maybee specimens are only rarely encountered on the international market.

AFMS OFFICIAL MAGAZINE MAKES OFFER

Rock & Gem, the official magazine of the AFMS, is making a special subscription offer. The magazine is well known for its beautiful photography of minerals and articles about digging destinations and lapidary techniques; it also includes articles for young people and a monthly show calendar. A one-year subscription is being offered, along with "The Frugal Collector," for \$35.95. "The Frugal Collector" is a book by Rock & Gem Senior Consulting Editor Bob Jones, and offers information about popular collector minerals and their sources, including insights for identifying specimens at bargain prices. For more information, contact Beckett Media, 855-777-2325.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

AFMS contest! If you have any questions please get hold of Mary Ann, mafergusonrich@gmail.com.

I also want to mention that those who are going to the spring Executive Committee meeting April 2nd in Des Plaines, Illinois, should please get their hotel reservations in as soon as possible. I am hoping to see a large turnout of those who are required to be there. I hear that the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society show is really nice also!

GLUE OR WAX DOPS CAN PREVENT FLYING ROCKS (USUALLY)

Daniel Hogan, Vice President
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)
From the April, 2021 Strata Data

Hand-polishing stones on a lap or wheel sure can be fun. Just grab a stone and start working it. At some point your fingers start to get tired or even sore. Then there is that little slip, and then - **PTEW!!** Your stone rockets across the room! It ricochets off the walls! Women and children run for cover! Pets dive under the furniture! Chaos and mayhem ensue!

When the shrapnel finally settles and the dust clears, you find all your hard work lying in pieces all over the floor. Tears begin to flow and there are fits to be thrown. Now could you have avoided all this agony and heartache? You bet you could! But it's a sticky situation.

Dopping stones is the best way to secure and work with your stone. From the early days of using pitch to modern waxes and adhesives, there are some great options.

The first system we used is affordable and very simple – a plain wood dowel and some super glue. We started with this system and it works well. Simply cut a small dowel and glue it to the back of the stone. Let it sit for a couple hours to cure and you're ready to go.

Now there are those who use nails and metal dops. Those work well too. We just haven't had the opportunity to try them out. It's a great idea to have multiple sizes of dowels to accommodate the size of stone you are cutting.

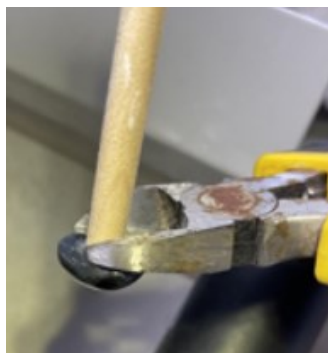


Photo from the April, 2021 Strata Data.

Once you are finished, use a pair of side cutters. Gently squeeze at the glue joint, work your way around, and the stone should come free. There will be some adhesive left over. You can use acetone, but we

just use a flat lap to remove what's left. The plus is that it is easy and affordable. It is literally pennies to the dollar and it works well, but it's not perfect.

As you are working, the stone can break loose. Now your dowel is wet, so you either have to wait or get a new dowel. This can get annoying because, with this method, your only point of contact is where the dowel meets the stone. You will deal with stones coming off from time to time.

The other downside is that you will go through a lot of dowels. Removing them chews up the end so you either have to recut it or get a new dowel. We were lucky that we found this handy little chop saw at the hardware store. It does a really great job making us nice straight dop sticks.



Photo from the April, 2021 Strata Data.

I was getting frustrated with stones coming off the dop. So that was when I switched to wax. Like pitch, dop wax gives us a much better hold on the stone. Now you have a larger area in contact with the stone and a better feel.

The main thing is to not only get the wax on the dop, but also to heat your stone up as well. That way you get a really good bond. I found that a coffee warmer does a fantastic job! It doesn't take long to heat up at all, so be on top of it. We don't want any burnt or broken stones. (Fingers too! Be careful.)

An alcohol lamp is what I use to melt the wax onto the dop as the stone heats up. I take the stone off the warmer and place the waxed dop onto the stone. The wax should still flow gently on the stone because of its warmth. Then I set the dopped stone back on the warmer for a few more seconds. Take it off and let it cool for a bit. To remove the stone when we are done is

(Continued on page 8)



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.** The Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society's silent auction, originally on **March 12th**, has been postponed.

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
Feb. 18-20 Fri 4-9, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Rock Hobby Club	Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, Kirkwood, MO	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburt@juno.com
Feb. 19 Sat 11-4	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club rock swap	Grace Baptist Church, 205 E. Halleck, Papillion, NE	Tammy Jeanneret, 402-873-6515
March 4-6 Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society	Kuhlman Center, County Fairgrounds, 861 Salisbury Road, Richmond, IN	Judy Burton, JLeeBurton@ who.rr.com
March 5-6 Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4	River Valley Rockhounds	County Fairgrounds, 22770 Old Highway 169, Fort Dodge, IA	Jim Baumer, jbaum@frontier.net
March 5-6 Sat 11-5, Sun noon-5	The Roamin Club auction (cash only)	Schoolcraft Community College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI	Todd Gall, roaminrockhound@ gmail.com
March 11-13 Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City	KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Am- bassador Drive, Kansas City, MO	Bruce Stinemetz, 816-795-5159
March 12-13 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Geodeland Earth Science Clubs	Ballroom, Student Union, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL	Jim Travis, boatnick@aol.com
March 12-13 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Kettle Moraine Geological Society	County Fair Park, 3000 Highway PV, West Bend, WI	John Rettler, johnrettler@gmail.com
March 19 Sat, 10-5	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society rock swap	St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI	Louis Talley ltalley1970@gmail.com
March 19-20 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois (ESCONI)	County Fairgrounds, 2015 Man- chester, Wheaton, IL	Chris Berg, chrisrocks9779@gmail.com
March 25-27 Fri 4-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Rock Hobby Club	Machinist Hall, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburt@juno.com
March 26-27 Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Badger Lapidary & Geological Society	Craig Center, County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Avenue, Janesville, WI	Laurie Trocke, glowyrocks@gmail.com
March 26-27 Sat 8:30-6, Sun 9:30-4	Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society	Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6 th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA	Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
March 26-27 Sat & Sun, 9-5	Stark County Gem & Mineral Club	County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave. NW, Canton, OH	Scott Walton, ltimothy412@att.net
April 2-3 Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Columbus Rock & Mineral Society	Ohio Building, Ohio Expo Center, 717 E. 17 th Avenue, Columbus, OH	Craig Kramer, 614-436-4511

CALL BEFORE ATTENDING – DUE TO CHANGE IN VENUE, SHOW MAY BE POSTPONED

UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED

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
April 2-3 Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-4	Des Plaines Valley Geological Society	Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch Street, Des Plaines, IL	Mike Hanley, geodeguy@att.net
THE SPRING MWF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS SHOW.			
April 2-3 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club	Lancaster Event Center, 4100 N. 84 th Street, Lincoln, NE	Jayne Beer, jbeer60070@aol.com
April 2-3 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Neville Public Museum Geology Club	Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay, WI	Randy Westberg, bay45@hotmail.com
April 7-9 Thurs, Fri, Sat 9:30-9	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club	Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 28 th Street SW, Wyoming, MI	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
April 9-10 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Fulton County Rockhounds	Donaldson Center, Wallace Park, 250 S. Avenue D, Canton, IL	George Coursey, courseyfarm@gmail.com
April 9-10 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Southern Illinois Earth Science Club	Marion City Pavilion, 1602 Sioux Drive, Marion, IL	Mike Chontofalsky, chontofalsky@att.net
April 10 Sun 11-5	Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society	Waterloo Center for the Arts, 225 Commercial Street, Waterloo, IA	David Malm, davidmalm@cfu.net
April 16 Sat 9-1	St. Croix Rockhounds	Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN	stcroixrock@gmail.com
April 23-24 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club "Gemboree"	Emidio's Expo Center, 48 E. Bath, Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Becky Kosco, summitlapidary@gmail.com
April 23-24 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society	County Expo Center, 5530 Lorch, Eau Claire, WI	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
April 23-24 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Miami County Gem and Mineral Club	Duke Lundgard Bldg., County Fairgrounds, County Road 25-A, Troy, OH	Dewey Buck, deweybuck12@gmail.com
April 23-24 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Rockhounds of Central and Southern Illinois	The Venue, 2882 N. Dineen, Decatur, IL	Rita Winter, ritasacfp@yahoo.com
April 30 Sat, 10-4	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society rock swap	Johnson Pavilion, Burns Park, Military Drive and Eldor Johnson Drive, North Little Rock, AR	Bill Alcott, mrbill@fidmail.com

April Issue Submission Deadline Is March 1st!

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor
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GLUE OR WAX DOPS CAN PREVENT FLYING ROCKS (USUALLY), CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)

so easy. Toss it in the freezer overnight and the stone just pops off.

The downside of using the alcohol lamp for me was that some of the wax would drop onto my bench. I thought a warmer would work better. Instead of a dop station, I figured I could use a small crock pot that I had laying around.

It melted the wax, but it took forever because it only heated on the sides. Then the bottom lost too much heat. That caused me to use too much wax for small results. Weeks later, I found that the wax had caked onto the bottom and had become unusable. I had to throw the whole thing out. I know many artists who use dop stations with great success, but I have gone back to my lamp. I like the immediacy of it and it works well.

The advantage to wax is that you get a much larger point of contact and the stones are much less likely to come loose (unless you are working in an unheated garage in the middle of winter in northern Indiana and the wax gets too cold). You are much less likely to lose stones and gain more control over the

piece. You also can reuse your dops over and over again. That saves money and waste. I like that a lot.



*Wax or glue? You decide!
Photo from the April,
2021 Strata Data.*

There is still another category of dops that exists – the faceting dops. I’d like to get into that, but it is a whole different story for another time.

There is much controversy over these methods in our studio. DeAndra is a stout glue user, whereas I am the wax king. To be fair, either method works. **Whatever method suits your needs best is the one for you.**

Although, I will tell you this: Anytime I hear DeAndra rocket a stone across the room, I say “I’ve got wax, if you need it.” That is usually followed by something rocketing towards my head.