

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

April 2022 - Issue No. 611

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Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Catherine Clevenz, MWF President

Hello, everyone!

Rock garden season is here . . . excuse me. Rock show season is here and in full swing!

I have my leaverite collection in its own special rock garden bed and am looking forward to picking up some nice rocks from shows I plan to visit. I will most likely use them to complement the other stones and few plants that are there.



Speaking of rocks, I received some in the mail the other day that came from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. There were beautiful samples of copper, fossils and even a Yooperlite!

One of the clubs that I belong to is talking about going to copper country to try our hand at collecting

*(Continued on page 2)*

## MISSOURI PROFESSOR IS MWF HONOREE

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich,  
MWF 1st Vice President

We are proud to announce the scholarship honoree for the Midwest Federation this year. Dr. Douglas Gouzie, a professor of geology at Missouri State University, will be selecting our two scholarship recipients.

Gouzie's professorial work includes expertise in the development and management of cave and karst systems. He is the current Director of Graduate Studies at Missouri State University's Department of Geography, Geology & Planning.

He has mentored 14 master's-degree students, and 12 out of the 13 Missouri State University students he has mentored completed their master's, nine of those "on-time" (in two years or less). He has published numerous papers in peer-reviewed publications.

He earned a bachelor's degree in geology/geophysics, in 1981, and a Ph.D. in geology in 1986,

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### DEADLINE CALENDAR

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**. The meeting and show will both be held at Des Plaines Park District's Leisure Facility, 2222 Birch Street. The meeting will begin at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday; the show's hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. No host hotel has been selected, but Des Plaines is near O'Hare Airport, so there are lots of options. Be sure to check whether your hotel has free parking.

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.

### HELP MAKE THE SILENT AUCTION GREAT

Silent Auction Request  
Susan Stanforth, MWF Silent Auction Chair

Howdy, friends! I'm hoping to convince you to clean out your rock/fossil closet and set aside material for our grand and glorious auction to be held at the 2022 MWF Convention in Springfield, Missouri, in October. And I do hope you will include name of item and where it was found (as all good rockhounds do).

You can bring them to me this spring/summer at rock shows in the Chicago area (Des Plaines Valley Geological Society on April 2nd and the Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association show in St. Charles, Illinois on Memorial Day weekend). Or hand them over to J.C. or Donna Moore in central Illinois, or contact me at sstanforth123@yahoo.com.

I truly truly appreciate your amazing donations. Thank you.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 1)*

from the mines. Who knows? Maybe the two clubs can meet up and dig up some fun!

On a serious note, I want to remind the clubs that if you haven't done your taxes, then step to it! There are many issues (like fines) for not being on time. I am just thankful for not being fined for writing my letters for this publication late! My apologies to the editor of this fine publication. I hope to see some of you at an upcoming show!

### WILDACRES OFFERS LAPIDARY CLASSES

The dates for 2022 workshops at Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina, sponsored by the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, will be May 16-22 and September 5-11. The May session will include classes about gem trees, gem identification, intarsia, silver art clay, scrimshaw, silversmithing, stained glass, and wire-wrapping.

Eastern Federation members usually have first dibs on the classes, but they may have room for Midwesterners as well! For more information, contact Suzie Milligan, smilligan@stny.rr.com.

## HOW THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WORKS

Sandie Fender  
AFMS Scholarship Foundation President

The question often comes up of “What does AFMS Scholarship Foundation do?” Well, one thing that the AFMS Scholarship Foundation does is sponsor scholarships for graduate students.

The Foundation was established in 1964 with the purpose of financially aiding young men and women to acquire an education in the field of earth sciences. The first scholarship was given in 1965. The first scholarship was for one student for \$300.00 per year for two years. It is now given to two students per participating federation in the amount of \$4,000.00 each.

The Scholarship Foundation allows each of the regional federations to honor a member of their community by naming a Scholarship Honoree from its region. Since 1972, each participating regional federation has selected its own Honoree, who then selects the school(s) and assists with the selection of the students who are given the scholarship grants. This indirect method has served our purpose perfectly in that it benefits students.

The funding comes only from donations!! Finances have been very difficult for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, like everyone else, due to the Covid pandemic. Now that we are starting to regain some normalcy, the Foundation is requesting donations.

A generous donation would be \$1 per member from each society. If a society could donate more than that, it would be wonderful!

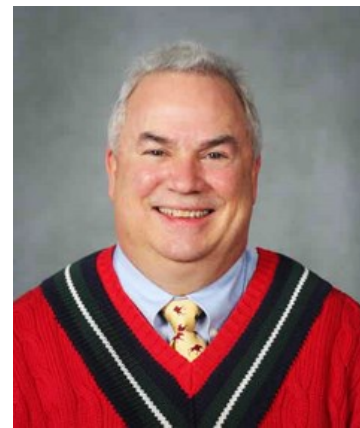
## CORRECTION

The photo in the March MWF News of Kreigh Tomaszewski (Rockhound of the Year for Michigan’s Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club) and Delaina, a junior member of the club, was simply credited “Photo and caption courtesy of Jeanine Mielecki.” While Mielecki did forward the picture and information, the photo was taken by Craig Stoker. Information for the caption was provided by Joan Stoker, who also obtained permission from the parents for the use of the child’s picture. Thank you both very much for your contributions!

## GOUZIE IS SCHOLARSHIP HONOREE, CONT.

*(Continued from page 1)*

from the University of Kentucky. Prior to joining Missouri State’s faculty in 2005, Gouzie’s career included work as a private environmental consultant and more than ten years of government service, including with the California Environmental Protection Agency. He worked for two federal agencies, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.



*Dr. Douglas Gouzie, this year’s MWF Scholarship Honoree. Photo via missouristate.edu.*

Gouzie has performed or managed dozens of groundwater investigations involving karst or fractured rock aquifers, along with a number of contaminated site investigations and environmental health evaluations of sites on, or proposed for, the NPL (Superfund) List.

He has a broad background in environmental monitoring, remediation, and management, and is a Registered Professional Geologist in Florida, Georgia, Missouri, and North Carolina.

He has served as president of the Missouri Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists, and as chair of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America. He is chair of the joint North-Central/South Central Geological Society of America meeting that will take place in 2024.

Congratulations to Dr. Gouzie! We look forward to meeting him at our convention in Springfield, Missouri in October and presenting the scholarships.

## HONOR YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS (AND REFRESHMENT MAKERS) AS ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

Ellery Borow, AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Committee

From the Summer 2021 EFMLS News,  
Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies

Think of the work of a Safety Committee. Think it is an easy job? A fun job? It is far more work than one might imagine. Take most any committee chair and chat with them. You will likely get an earful, not to boast, but to describe the work that goes on behind the scenes.

Give a look-see at your committee chairs. They often get lost in the goings-on within a club. Clubs are run by people, volunteers one and all. Committees, day in and day out, year in and year out, do an outstanding job with serving your club. Why not give a shout out to your deserving committee chairs for their over-and-above dedication to the club? They deserve it.

At the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year (ACROY) Committee, we like to encourage clubs to recognize their best members' volunteer effort. It matters not what effort a club deems to be a shining example of dedication, devotion, and demeanor with supporting their club. Maybe the best refreshment maker, the best program speaker, the best secretary, the

best assistant of the manager of show committee, dealer chair, the best lapidary shop instructor, the best whatever you decide surely deserves recognition for their great work.

The ACROY program is a means for a club to publicly honor their best members. When your club selects a person to honor, put together a brief write-up of their effort and send the write-up to your federation chair, along with the names of the club and the person submitting the information. The chair of the MWF Club Rockhound of the Year Committee is **Jeanine Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com**. We will ensure that your honoree is mentioned in the pages of the AFMS newsletter. Please keep the write-up to about 70 words. And yes, I realize that the effort, dedication and enthusiasm of your honoree might take several pages to describe, but there are space limitations.

There are a few rules in the ACROY program - the limit is one person (or a couple) per year per club, please. Also, one junior member may be honored per club per year. Next year your club will have a new opportunity to honor another outstanding volunteer.

Please thank your members who do their best in serving your club. They don't do it for the thanks. But thanking them is a mighty nice gesture.

## INDIAN MOUNDS CLUB KIDS EARN FUTURE ROCKHOUND BADGES AND AN AWARD

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (MI)  
December 2021 Arrowhead News

Congratulations to Lulu for earning the Future Rockhounds of America Rockhound Award! This award is given when a junior member earns six badges and "graduates" from a Future Rockhound to real rockhound status.

And congratulations to the following juniors for badges presented in November:

Collecting Badge: Bella and Brianna

Field Trip Badge: Luke, Brianna, Garet V., and Mathew

Gemstone Lore & Legend Badge: Lulu, Asher K., Toryn, Hope, Maddie, Brinley, and Rory



*Photo of Lulu by Jillian Duffy.*

*(Editor's Note: Future Rockhounds of America is a juniors' program of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the umbrella group for the Midwest Federation and its sister federations. Those interested in beginning an FRA program in their club can read about it at [amfed.org/fra/fut\\_rock.htm](http://amfed.org/fra/fut_rock.htm), or contact the AFMS Junior Activities Chair, Lora Hall, at [youth@amfed.org](mailto:youth@amfed.org).)*

## HOW MINERALOGISTS SERVED IN WWII

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

I am finding really wonderful stories in old copies of *The Mineralogist* for future articles for you. The magazine was publishing long before the AFMS was founded. What is so special about the old publications are the stories about federation news and news of mineralogy at the time.

Once I find an interesting history topic, I then go looking for more information on the subject, if there is any to find. As rockhounds and mineralogists, we have quite a remarkable history that we can feel very proud to be a part of.

During World War II, there were hundreds of experienced mineral collectors who, although too old to qualify for military service, played a highly important role for the security of our country. Quartz and sapphires were essential to the war effort.

Mineral collectors cut quartz crystals for frequency control in communication instruments and radar. Sapphires were cut to make precision instruments used in airplanes, bombers and battleships. In a bomber, there were about one-hundred sapphires in the plane's instruments. In a battleship, there were about four thousand sapphire bearings. Pilots' lives and the success of their missions depended upon the lapidary skills of the gem cutter.

In 1940, America was completely dependent on Europe for sapphires. When the war came, an American company, Linde Air Products, created the synthetic sapphire. The creation of synthetic sapphires was vital to the war effort. The stones were only used for the war effort and not for jewelry.

Quartz crystal was used for frequency control in radio transmission, radar and other precision devices. The quality of the quartz crystal mines in Arkansas was considered finer than Brazil's, and the mines in Arkansas came under federal control during the war.

Gemstones, minerals, and the gem cutter have always played important roles throughout history, all around the world. No wonder mankind holds cutters and their stones in admiration.

## THE LONG HISTORY OF HONEYCOMB ROCKS

Petra Schmalbrock, Editor  
Columbus Rock and Mineral Society (OH)  
From the November, 2021 Glacial Groove

Just before our recent trip to West Virginia, I came across a brochure for Honeycomb Rocks in Monongahela National Forest, which is in West Virginia. I thought, I've got to see them! So we followed scenic Route 150 up from the Greenbrier Valley, along a high ridge, essentially following the Allegheny front at elevations around 3,000 feet. The route had superb views over the forested Williams River Valley, and, in mid-October, the most spectacular color display I have seen.

After winding down and crossing the Williams River, we found the parking lot for the Honeycomb Rocks Trail.

I checked the RockD app to learn about the bedrock. The lower elevations are the Mississippian Mauch Chunk Group, about 350-360 million years old and dominated by shale, overlain by the Pennsylvanian Pottsville Group, dominated by sandstone. This sandstone was formed from sand deposited in a marine environment about 340 million years ago from erosion of even older rock. To form sandstone, the grains of sand had to be cemented together, and in this region and time, the cementing agent was kaolinite [ $\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)\text{OH}_4$ ], a clay mineral.

During the Allegheny orogeny, 300 to 200 million years ago, the Pennsylvanian rock layers were moderately folded into anticlines (wave crests) and synclines (wave troughs). This is not the topography seen in today's landscape. There is more erosion at the anticlines than at the synclines.

Picture bending a sponge upwards. The holes in the sponge will become bigger where the sponge is stretched the most; bending it downwards will make the holes smaller. The same happens with rock. At the anticline crest, rock will be stretched the most, leading to bigger cracks and fractures. More water and ice can get in the cracks and break the rock apart and erode it.

So the highest ridges of the Allegheny Mountains seen today are the most erosion-resistant sandstone. Today's valleys were carved by rivers into the softer shale below.

*(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.**

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>March 19</b> Sat, 10-5	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society rock swap	St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Road, <b>Taylor, MI</b>	Louis Talley ltalley1970@gmail.com
<b>March 19-20</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois (ESCONI)	County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester, <b>Wheaton, IL</b>	Chris Berg, chrisrocks9779@gmail.com
<b>March 25-27</b> Fri 4-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Rock Hobby Club	Machinist Hall, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, <b>Bridgeton, MO</b>	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburt@juno.com
<b>March 26-27</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Badger Lapidary & Geological Society	Craig Center, County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Avenue, <b>Janesville, WI</b>	Laurie Trocke, glowyrocks@gmail.com
<b>March 26-27</b> Sat 8:30-6, Sun 9:30-4	Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society	Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6 <sup>th</sup> Street SW, <b>Cedar Rapids, IA</b>	Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
<b>March 26-27</b> Sat & Sun, 9-5	Stark County Gem & Mineral Club	County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave. NW, <b>Canton, OH</b>	Scott Walton, ltimothy412@att.net
<b>April 2-3</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Columbus Rock & Mineral Society	Ohio Building, Ohio Expo Center, 717 E. 17 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, <b>Columbus, OH</b> Masks required	Craig Kramer, 614-436-4511
<b>April 2-3</b> Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-4	Des Plaines Valley Geological Society	Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch Street, <b>Des Plaines, IL</b>	Mike Hanley, geodeguy@att.net
THE SPRING MWF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS SHOW.			
<b>April 2-3</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club	Lancaster Event Center, 4100 N. 84 <sup>th</sup> Street, <b>Lincoln, NE</b>	Jayne Beer, jbeer60070@aol.com
<b>April 2-3</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Neville Public Museum Geology Club	Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, <b>Green Bay, WI</b>	Randy Westberg, bay45@hotmail.com
<b>April 7-9</b> Thurs, Fri, Sat 9:30-9	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club	Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 28 <sup>th</sup> Street SW, <b>Wyoming, MI</b>	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
<b>April 9-10</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Fulton County Rockhounds	Donaldson Center, Wallace Park, 250 S. Avenue D, <b>Canton, IL</b>	George Coursey, courseyfarms@gmail.com
<b>April 9-10</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Southern Illinois Earth Science Club	Marion City Pavilion, 1602 Sioux Drive, <b>Marion, IL</b>	Mike Chontofalsky, chontofalsky@att.net
<b>April 10</b> Sun 11-5	Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society	Waterloo Center for the Arts, 225 Commercial Street, <b>Waterloo, IA</b>	David Malm, davidmalm@cfu.net
<b>April 16</b> Sat 9-1	St. Croix Rockhounds	Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, <b>Woodbury, MN</b>	stcroixrock@gmail.com
<b>April 23-24</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club "Gemboree"	Emidio's Expo Center, 48 E. Bath, <b>Cuyahoga Falls, OH</b>	Becky Kosco, summitlapidary@gmail.com

**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.**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>April 23-24</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society	County Expo Center, 5530 Lorch, <b>Eau Claire, WI</b>	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
<b>April 23-24</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Miami County Gem and Mineral Club	Duke Lundgard Bldg., County Fairgrounds, County Road 25-A, <b>Troy, OH</b>	Dewey Buck, deweybuck12@gmail.com
<b>April 23-24</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Rockhounds of Central and Southern Illinois	The Venue, 2882 N. Dineen, <b>Decatur, IL</b>	Rita Winter, ritasacfp@yahoo.com
<b>April 29-May 1</b> Fri 4-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society	Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake, <b>Kalamazoo, MI</b>	Wrifton Graham, wrifton@greatlakesgeneralstore.com
<b>April 30</b> Sat, 10-4	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society	Johnson Pavilion, Burns Park, Military Drive and Eldor Johnson Drive, <b>North Little Rock, AR</b>	Bill Alcott, mrbill@fidmail.com
<b>May 6-8</b> Fri noon-7, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Central Missouri Rock and Lapidary Club	Knights of Columbus Hall, 2525 N. Stadium Blvd., <b>Columbia, MO</b>	Mary Wozny, lmwoz@msn.com
<b>May 7-8</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Cuyuna Rock Club	Curling Club, County Fairgrounds, 2000 SE 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, <b>Brainerd, MN</b>	Ed Opatz, opatz1@att.net
<b>May 7-8</b>	Northwest Ohio Rockhound Club	St. James Lutheran Church, 4727 Sylvania Ave., <b>Toledo, OH</b>	Meg Barnhizer, superscouts@bex.net
<b>May 13-15</b> Fri and Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3	Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin Historical & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker, <b>Joplin, MO</b>	Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net
<b>May 14-15</b> Sat noon-7, Sun 10-5	Rock Hobby Club	Eagles Lodge, 707 W. Congress, <b>Pacific, MO</b>	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburt@juno.com
<b>May 14-15</b> 10-4:30 Sat, 10-4 Sun	Wisconsin Geological Society	Muellner Bldg., Hart Park, 7300 Chestnut, <b>Wauwatosa, WI</b>	Paul Schmidt, pvs@wi.rr.com
<b>May 21-22</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Cincinnati Mineral Society	Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Road, <b>Sharonville, OH</b>	Terry Huizing, tehuizing@fuse.net

*May Issue Submission Deadline Is April 5th!*

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**THE LONG HISTORY OF WEST VIRGINIA’S HONEYCOMB ROCKS, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 5)*

After the Pottsville group sandstone at the ridgetop cracked during the Allegheny mountain formation, iron-rich water percolated through the cracks. This provided a new mineral, hematite (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), for cementing the sandstone blocks. The cracked rock blocks were “glued” back together and thus the sandstone was “repaired.” Over time, the “repaired” sandstone cliffs were exposed and continued to weather, cracks and crevices formed, and large blocks came tumbling down when the shale and soil below could no longer support them. This is where we see them lying in the forest today.

But what makes the unusual honeycomb patterns? It turns out that the original kaolinite-cemented sandstone erodes more easily than the hematite-cemented sandstone. So as time went on, the kaolinite parts were worn away, and the hematite-cemented ribs were left standing out, producing the interesting boxwood-patterned rocks.

Although uncommon, boxwood formations can be found elsewhere in West Virginia and, famously, in Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota.



*Photo by Petra Schmalbrock.*

Sadly, I had no samples to show at the rock club meeting, too big to carry for a rockhound. And of course these honeycomb rocks should stay where they are. Fortunately, the site is protected for the public to enjoy.

*[Summarized from the many informational panels along the trail. Additional information came from Roadside Geology of West Virginia by Joseph Lebold and Christopher Wilkinson (Mountain Press Publishing, 2018).]*