



# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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Member of the American Federation of  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Catherine Clevenz, MWF President

Looks like April showers do bring May flowers! It also brings on more rock, gem and mineral shows. Speaking of shows, I really enjoyed the show given by Des Plaines Valley Geological Society from Des Plaines, Illinois. The members I had an opportunity to meet were absolutely wonderful! The vendors had top quality products at reasonable prices. The item that really caught my attention was their kids' area. They had many different things for the kids to do, like a treasure hunt. It also taught the children more than rocks and definitely kept them entertained!



It was wonderful to read the different reports about what is happening with the MWF and the different club members. If you get a chance, please take the time to read them in this issue. Also, I want to thank all of those who attended the Spring Meeting in person and on Zoom. It was greatly appreciated.

That's all for now. Happy rockhounding to you!

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The Spring MWF Executive Committee Meeting was held April 2, 2022, in Des Plaines, Illinois. President Catherine Clevenz called the meeting to order.

Due to members being unable to attend in person, several members were on Zoom – Jim Travis, Susan Stanforth, Mary Ann and David Rich, Joyce and Skeeter Kish, and Sandy Shorter.

J.C. Moore gave the invocation. Catherine led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Catherine introduced the past presidents who were present. Those included Susan Stanforth on Zoom, Sandy Fuller, Cindy Root, David Root and J.C. Moore.

She then read the memorial list of those club members who had passed away, including:

- Charles Meisinger and Roger Pittard of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Come to the Convention This Fall. . . . .	3
. . . Come Home With Memories of Fun.....	3
Deadline Calendar.....	2
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes.....	1
Executive Meeting: MWF Committee Reports.....	11

Executive Meeting: State Director Reports .....	8
Help (Very Badly) Wanted .....	4
President's Message.....	1
Upcoming Events.....	12-13

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**DEADLINE CALENDAR**

North Lakes Academy is sponsoring a nationwide **Youth Poster Contest** for students in grades 1 through 8; deadline for entries is **May 1, 2022**. Contact Michelle Cauley, mcauley@northlakesacademy.org, for information.

The annual **MWF Convention** will be held **Oct. 22-23, 2022**, in Springfield, Missouri, hosted by the Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society. See the articles on page 3.

**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.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: IN MEMORIAM, TREASURER'S REPORT, STATE DIRECTORS**

*(Continued from page 1)*

- Anne Cook – Past MWF President, Scholarship Honoree, Past AFMS Secretary.
- Reuben Shalander of the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society, Indianhead Gem & Mineral Society, and Stillwater Gem & Mineral Society.
- Tom Whitlatch, Past President of the MWF, Past Iowa State Director, member of Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Club.
- Jim Tubbs of the Neville Public Museum Geology Club.
- Rick Jassen, Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society.
- Margaret Campbell-Barr
- Merwin Smith
- Bill (Wm) H. Tite
- Laurence Alexander, Sara Bergeron, David McIntyre, Edward Reynolds, and Joseph Soncrant of the Michigan Mineralogical Society.
- Ed Reynolds, founding father of Toledo Gem & Mineral Club.
- Marian Warner of the Akron Mineral Society.
- Betty White and Bob Mansell of the Independence Gem & Mineral Society.

Cindy Root, parliamentarian, reviewed the rules of the meeting.

Sandy Fuller presented the end-of-year treasurer's report with a comparison as well as the current year to date. There have been \$39,185 in

revenue so far and \$28,911 in expenses. State Director for Missouri/Arkansas asked about a budgeted amount for his office. Sandy explained it was for incidentals and legitimate expenses that he chose to turn in. J.C. Moore moved to accept the treasurer's report. Cindy Root seconded the motion, which carried.

Cheryl Neary called the State Directors portion of the meeting to order. Her written report was available. Those present included Bruce Steinmetz, Missouri/Arkansas Director; Betty Novak, Assistant Director for Illinois; Michele Yamanaka, State Director for Indiana; Joyce Kish, Assistant Director for Ohio; and Timothy Hill, State Director for Iowa.

Bruce reported that the Kansas City show was just completed, with over 13,000 attending the three-day event. Other shows seemed to be having large attendance also.

Bruce said the host club had asked about a speaker from the MWF for the convention. It was suggested telling about what the MWF has to offer to the clubs and members. Cindy Root volunteered to speak in Springfield in October. It was noted that we need more participation in MWF activities and events. One big thing offered by the MWF is the insurance. The public relations committee of Sandy Shorter and Susan Stanforth have been working on an article of what the insurance does for our clubs. Michele Yamanaka asked if there wasn't a brochure that

*(Continued on page 5)*

**COME TO THE CONVENTION THIS FALL. . .**

The annual convention of the Midwest Federation will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 22-23, in Springfield, Missouri, in conjunction with the annual gem and mineral show of the host club, the Ozark Gem and Mineral Society.

This is the annual meeting at which delegates from the MWF's member clubs raise and vote on issues that will affect the future actions of the federation. There will be a meet-and-greet social on Friday night. The State Directors' meeting, Executive Committee meeting, and the Council of Delegates meeting will all be held on Saturday; there will also be a lunch for attendees, as well as a dinner followed by the annual awards banquet. Sunday will feature two field trips, one for fossils in the morning and one to Fantastic Caverns in the afternoon.

The show, which will include rock and gem identification, a kids' corner, and a gem mine, will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. Masks are recommended. An all-day silent auction presented by the MWF will be part of the show on Sunday.

Most convention events, as well as the show, will be held at the Springfield Expo Center, 635 E. St. Louis Street. The Friday-night social will be held at the convention's host hotel, the University Plaza Hotel, diagonally across the street from the Expo Center. There will be a discounted rate for convention attendees, but reservations must be made before September 10<sup>th</sup> to receive the discounted rate. The hotel phone number is 417-864-7333.

Other hotels in the area include the Tru by Hilton Downtown (417-249-1400), Baymont by Wyndham I-44 (417-986-1636), Hampton Inn & Suites (417-869-5548), Home2Suites by Hilton Springfield North (417-864-6632), and the Holiday Inn & Suites I-44 (417-865-8600).

Registration forms for attendance at the convention meetings and at the social events and field trips will be issued soon.

For more information about the convention, contact J.C. Moore, [jcmoore3rd@gmail.com](mailto:jcmoore3rd@gmail.com). For more information about the show, contact the Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society, [omgms.57@gmail.com](mailto:omgms.57@gmail.com).

**. . . COME HOME WITH MEMORIES OF FUN!**

Two field trips will be held on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, for people attending the MWF Convention in Springfield, Missouri. But these two excursions won't be the only interesting attractions available.

**Fossil Field Trip:** According to the club, "As much as we'd love to have tons of opportunities for different rocks to hunt on local field trips in the area, the Springfield area has few locations for rockhounding." But there are fossils in them thar shale formations! The club will obtain access to local properties for digging; pre-registration will be required.

**Fantastic Caverns Tour:** A group tour of Fantastic Caverns, which visitors ride through in trams, has been arranged. The fully guided tour lasts approximately 55 minutes through the underground cavern left by ancient underground rivers leaving behind beautiful cave formations including stalactites, stalagmites, columns, soda straws, flowstones, cave pearls, and draperies. The history of human activity in the cave is interesting, as well. The cave temperature remains a comfortable 60 degrees throughout the year.

General admission for adults is \$30 and for children aged 6 to 12 is \$17. This is why you'll want to pre-register for the MWF excursion; if there are 20 or more people in the group, adult admission drops to \$18.50 and child admission to \$7.

And if you're wondering what else Springfield has to offer . . .

**Springfield Botanical Gardens:** The attraction includes themed gardens, the Lions Club History Walk with granite lawn markers about Americans who made a difference, and the South Creek Greenway for walking, running, biking and wheelchairs.

At the time of the convention, attendees will have about one week to walk through the beautiful Mizumoto Stroll Garden, a Japanese garden with a koi lake, moon bridge, and meditation garden. For more information, see [parkboard.org/274/Springfield-Botanical-Gardens](http://parkboard.org/274/Springfield-Botanical-Gardens).

**Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium** includes a 1.5-million-gallon aquarium with 35,000 live fish, mammals and reptiles, as well as a

*(Continued on page 4)*

## COME HOME WITH FUN MEMORIES, CONT.

*(Continued from page 3)*

museum with many exhibits, including American national parks, African wildlife, and a gallery dedicated to the journey of Lewis and Clark.

Attached to the Bass Pro Shops store, the museum also includes exhibits of mounted deer heads and an exhibit dedicated to U.S. presidents who were avid fishermen. For more information, see [wondersofwildlife.org](http://wondersofwildlife.org).



*The Polar Expedition and Penguin Cove is among the exhibits at the museum and aquarium. Photo from [wondersofwildlife.org](http://wondersofwildlife.org).*

**Missouri Institute of Natural Science:** The museum includes displays of minerals and fossilized bones; visitors are encouraged to hike up the hill and hunt for their own fossils among exposed boulders. It's open Monday through Saturday. For more information, see [monatsci.org](http://monatsci.org).

**Route 66 Car Museum:** Exhibits of cars from pre-World War I through the modern era, including classics and cars used in TV shows and movies. It's open seven days a week; for more information, see [66carmuseum.com](http://66carmuseum.com).

## HELP (VERY BADLY) WANTED

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

I've had a great run as the MWF Treasurer for the last 14 years, but it is time to retire and turn in my abacus, adding machine, calculator and ledger book to someone with a computer and Excel or QuickBooks. Just like all MWF offices and committee chairmanships, the Treasurer is a volunteer position – i.e., no pay.

The MWF Executive Committee is looking for a new Treasurer to take over as soon as reasonably possible. I will be available to assist with the transition and act as a mentor. We are looking for someone who is:

- Familiar with basic accounting (not-for-profit accounting background is preferred).
- Detail oriented – likes to find the “missing penny” when balancing the checkbook.
- Willing to make a multi-year commitment.
- Can make a time commitment of approximately two to three hours a month March through November, and 20 hours a month December through February.
- Treasurer needs to maintain membership in a MWF club.

The Treasurer will be appointed by the Executive Committee to finish out my term and then will be on the ballot in the fall. Attendance at Executive Committee meetings is expected.

If you are interested in the Treasurer position, or know of someone in your club who may be, please contact me at [mwftreas@rock-biz.biz](mailto:mwftreas@rock-biz.biz) and/or Donna Moore, MWF Secretary, at [mwfsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mwfsecretary@gmail.com). A complete version of the job description can be requested from either of us.

*June Issue Submission Deadline Is May 3rd!  
Last edition before the two-month break!*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: COMMITTEE CHAIRS, ARCHAEOLOGY TO MERIT AWARDS**

*(Continued from page 2)*

highlighted what the MFW does. J.C. Moore found copies in the supplies that were at the meeting.

Betty Novak of Illinois reported that the Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society last year did Zoom meetings. They postponed their auction, but are now starting in-person meetings. West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club lost their meeting site and are now meeting at the Lizzadro Museum. South Suburban Earth Science Club had also lost their meeting place. The Elgin Rock Club is trying to get back to in-person meetings. Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association is going ahead with their show Memorial Day weekend in Kane County.

Joyce Kish said that Ohio is active again. She and Skeeter were on their way to the show in Columbus as she spoke. Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club planned their show for April 30-May 1. Catherine Clevenz added that the Northwest Ohio Rockhounds had a rock and craft show scheduled.

North and South Dakota were trying to get up and running again.

Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri/Arkansas, and Nebraska had written reports.

**Reports from the Permanent Committees**

**Archaeology** – Skeeter Kish had a written report and added that things were starting to pick up.

**Boundaries** – Sandy Fuller, new chairman, reported nothing to report.

**Bulletin Editors** – Sharon Marburger had a written report. She has resigned from the chairmanship and we are looking for a replacement. She has offered to assist a new chairman.

**Club Rockhound of the Year** – Craig Heinze represented Jeannine Mielecki, who had a written report.

**Convention and Show Advisory** – J.C. Moore said he would report later in the meeting.

**Credentials** – David Root reported there was a quorum.

**Director of Supplies** – Andrea Morehead had no report. There was a question about MFW shirts. Originally gray polo shirts with MFW patch attached that had been sold. Now, several members had attached their own with the permission of the MFW.

**Directory and Calendar of Events** – Martha Miss was a dealer at the show. She reported the new 2022 MFW Directories were at the meeting and the rest will be mailed out soon.

**Education** – No report.

**Endowment Fund** – Cindy Root had a written report. Alan Hukill had an Endowment Fund Treasurer's report. He had added that there were \$18 in banking fees that were not included in the report.

**Environment and Legislation** – Catherine Clevenz had a written report. She added there was a lot going on. She would post the link for a new bill. She reported the government goal is that 30% of all public lands will be closed off so nothing can be done on them by 2030. She suggested members call their congressmen to vote no on this legislation. We will lose 23 million acres. We can no longer hunt on 1,000 miles of rivers, etc. The Bureau of Land Management has eliminated a lot of camp sites.

**Geology** – Dr. Cordua continues to be active on his Facebook page updating on Wisconsin and Minnesota geology.

**Historian & Archives** – Cindy Root had a written report.

**Insurance** – Sue Goedert had a written report.

**Junior Activities** – No report.

**Lapidary Arts** – David Root had a written report.

**Long Range Planning** – No report.

**Membership** – Jim Marburger had a written report.

**Merit Awards** – Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich reported that she had not received any entries for the

*(Continued on page 6)*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: COMMITTEE CHAIRS, CONVENTION PLANS, OLD BUSINESS

*(Continued from page 5)*

MWF Contest. She said the All American Competition for the whole nation is still gummed up because of COVID. Her deadline was April 15, so she was hoping for a late entry or two. Clubs are just now resuming activities.

**Mineralogy** – No report.

**Newsletter** – Valerie had a written report thanking all the editors of, and writers of articles in, club newsletters. David Root said he thought Valerie was doing an amazing job on the newsletter.

**Paleontology** – No report.

**Program Competition** – Bob Powers had a written report.

**Program Requests** – Bob Powers had a written report.

**Program Review** – Jim Travis had a written report. He added that he is not seeing much in the way of new programs.

**Public Image & Courtesy** – Sandy Shorter had a written report. Susan Stanforth added that they are working on a more complete explanation of the insurance offered by the MWF.

**Safety & Field Trips** – No report.

**Scholarship** – Marge Collins had a written report.

**Silent Auction** – Susan reported there will be an MWF Silent Auction on Sunday at the convention in Springfield, Missouri in October. She needs people to donate stuff. (If you are not attending the convention, maybe you could send donations with someone else who is attending.)

**Technology Resources** – Nothing to report.

**Uniform Rules** – Nothing to report.

**Website** – The new MWF website is at [mwfed.org](http://mwfed.org). The old site will be deleted soon.

**Website Competition** – Brad Zylman had a written report.

**Nominating Committee** – Susan Stanforth had a written report asking people to get involved.

**Conventions** – J.C. Moore reported that Toledo had a nice show last year. COVID has played havoc with our schedule, but we have accomplished quite a bit. The Silent Auction took in over \$800 for Sunday only. He thanked the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club for hosting the 2021 Convention. It was noted they had a really nice setup, with a meeting room right at the entrance to the show. J.C. noted that if the meetings can be kept at the show site, it helps show attendance. That keeps a captive audience.

The 2022 convention will be held in Springfield, Missouri, hosted by the Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society. It will be held October 22 – 23. The host hotel is right across the street from the show site. Friday night there will be a meet and greet with the MWF Officers at the hotel at 7:00 p.m. Sunday there are two field trips. He repeated what he always says, “Don’t change your show to host the MWF.”

The 2023 convention will be in Howell, Michigan, hosted by the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society in September.

J.C. has reached out to the Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association to see if they would like to host the next time we host the AFMS (2026), since it is centrally located with a major airport nearby. They are looking into it. Cindy Root asked about us going to Arkansas. J.C. has looked into that since three clubs are in the MWF, but the state actually has clubs in three federations. Bruce Stinemetz said he would put out some feelers.

### Old Business

**Filling MWF Chairmanships** – A lengthy discussion was held about how to get more people involved on the committee level of the MWF. Some of the discussion included the following from various people. Either you want to do it or you don’t. If you agree to take the position, do the job. Zoom is a tool, but we like to get together at different shows and meet the club members and let them see who the MWF executives are. Take the responsibility to get to the meetings. See what is on the way or in the area and

*(Continued on page 7)*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: NEW BUSINESS, AFMS REPORT, ZOOM DISCUSSION**

*(Continued from page 6)*

make it a mini-vacation. Maybe rewards and fun and games would be an incentive. This is a volunteer organization and the positive reward is participating. Should we look at mileage compensation for those who travel a long way? That might be very expensive. According to 501(c)(3) rules, compensation is not legal. It is legal to take off mileage for volunteer travel on your income taxes. Cindy Root moved to table this discussion until the convention meetings. J.C. Moore seconded the motion, which carried.

### **New Business**

Catherine noted that Sandy Fuller has resigned as MWF Treasurer. She has performed for the MWF so well it will be hard to replace her. No one has stepped up. Sandy noted that there are people in our clubs who know spreadsheets, QuickBooks, etc., and are familiar with non-profits that could serve as treasurer. There is an article in the newsletter asking anyone interested to contact Sandy or secretary Donna Moore.

Cindy Root brought up that she, Regina Kapta, and Tom Whitlatch were the administrators for the MWF Facebook page. Tom has passed away and Regina is not active right now, so we need another administrator. Tom had it set up so everything put on the page had to be approved. She had to take that off because she did not have the time to approve each thing that came up. It can be put back that way. She is working to update the page. David Rich offered to be an administrator.

Report from the AFMS by David Rich – The convention this year is to be in New Orleans in October. Information should be on the AFMS website. There is a new junior rockhound page on the AFMS website. He urged people to keep up with Catherine, the chair of the Environment and Legislation Committee, and the American Lands Access Association.

David also reported that his home club, Summit Lapidary Club, likes Zoom and it should continue to get more people involved. He feels like he is able to participate (he was presently in Arizona for this meeting).

Cindy Root noted that Google Meeting is available through our new website. There are other meeting programs as well. It will be decided later if we will include Zoom as an option for the convention. It was noted that, in person, people can keep up with the meeting. Those Zooming often drop off. A comment was made that if we keep Zooming, it might be the end of the MWF. Another noted that Zoom is okay for a meeting or two, but, as Catherine Clevenz said, part of it all is meeting and socializing in person with all the people throughout the federation. She would like to see other people as impressed with the MWF as she has become.

Cindy Root moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandy Fuller seconded the motion, which passed. Catherine adjourned the meeting.



*This display by Brett Jurgens and James Marburger of amazing pink Crooked River petrified wood from Oregon won People's Choice Second Place at the Lincoln (Nebraska) Gem & Mineral Club's annual show in March. Photo by Sharon Marburger.*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECEIVED REPORTS FROM STATE DIRECTORS: ILLINOIS, INDIANA

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT CHERYL NEARY

As second vice president, it is my responsibility to oversee the state directors and to provide guidance to them on issues that may occur. It has been my pleasure to deal with the many state directors in the Federation. I am happy to report that at this time there have been no major issues. The state directors, along with President Catherine Clevenz, Secretary Donna Moore, and Treasurer Sandy Fuller, have had several Zoom meetings to discuss membership within the territory of each state director. Thanks to Sandy for providing the information to all the state directors – guiding them to make the reminder calls to several clubs.

On one Zoom meeting we discussed how to have more participation from the clubs and what the federation presently offers our members and possibly should be offering to our members. As with any organization run by volunteers, the Federation needs more active volunteers to help maintain and guide the Federation. Your state directors can always use assistants if you are interested in participating or participating more! This is an excellent way to learn more about the Federation. It is an opportunity for you to express ideas. To paraphrase John F. Kennedy; “ask not what your Federation can do for you – ask what you can do for your Federation.”

We all joined a club due to an interest in the hobby, whether your interest is largely for an education experience or to learn “how to.” For your club to succeed, you need members who are willing to participate. The same on the federation level – members willing to participate. What makes your club successful? This also works for our federation.

Sharing ideas and experiences at the federation level is an important task. It is also an important task to maintain the clubs and help guide them with any issues – minor or major. Maintaining communications is a necessary task of your state directors. I commend them for their active participation and hope others will ask to join as their assistants.

### ILLINOIS

#### STATE DIRECTOR SUSAN STANFORTH

I recently emailed all of the Illinois clubs to request information based on four easy questions: 1) What are the club’s strengths, 2) Age demographics, 3)

Do they have any professional geologists as members, and 4) Is it difficult to get members to volunteer for offices.

My fav Ed Wagner of Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society immediately responded. He estimated the club’s strengths as 50% shows, 25% meetings/programs, and 25% trips and picnics. He estimated the membership to be 20% juniors, 30% weathered rockhounds, 20% young adults, and the rest in the middle. LOESS is lucky to have quite a few professional geologists. He emphasized that it is VERY HARD to get volunteers.

The wonderful Connie Lavin of Des Plaines Valley Geological Society contributed to my query. Her club’s strengths are 95% lapidary and 5% field trips. And they have club members doing recent presentations about petrified wood from the Southwest, the Lake Superior loop, and gemstone identification and necessary equipment. She also added that attendance is low and some are still in COVID lockdown, with fears of contracting any variants.

Paige Elsea of Rockhounds of Central & Southern Illinois was kind enough to report. Her club’s strengths are education, workshops and field trips. Age is 50/50 young and old. They have a geologist in membership. Her answer about the difficulty of getting people to volunteer was clearly IMPOSSIBLE.

My club, Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society, is having a heck of a time finding locations for meetings and a venue for our Fall Swap. Our wonderful President Ruth Wheaton-Cox has been so very busy working overtime to solve our club concerns. Good officers are absolutely hard to find.

### INDIANA

#### STATE DIRECTOR MICHELE YAMANAKA

I have only been the State Director for Indiana for two months, so not much has happened. We have nine clubs in Indiana. As State Director, I contacted all the clubs that had not yet sent in their dues as of Jan. 1, 2022, and encouraged them to do so by Jan. 15. I reminded them that they would be entitled to a discount on MWF dues if submitted by the due date, and would also be eligible to get a free Diamond Dan Mini Miner

*(Continued on page 9)*



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECEIVED REPORTS FROM STATE DIRECTORS: IOWA TO MINNESOTA**

*(Continued from page 8)*

Monthly subscription for use with juniors and their newsletter. I am happy to report that all nine clubs have sent in their dues.

### IOWA STATE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY HILL

#### **Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society, Waterloo**

The club had a show at the Waterloo Center for the Arts on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, Cedar Rapids**

I had the pleasure of attending the CVRMS show on March 26, 2022. Before the doors even opened the parking was overflowing into the muddy wet grass area. It was windy, and about 19°, but this show was packed. All ages; and people were buying from the dealers. Prices were outrageously high, but that did not seem to slow down the buyers. Mineral specimens seemed to be the target for the purchasing crowd this year. I did not see a lot of high-end stuff going home with the visitors.



*Photo of this year's CVRMS show by Timothy Hill.*

#### **Chicauqua Rockhound Society, Mt. Pleasant**

Club remains in limbo. I am the president, as well as a board member for Geodeland Earth Science Clubs in Illinois.

#### **River Valley Rockhounds, Ft. Dodge**

Deb Davis writes:

Our meeting is Tuesday where we will have updates with show information if that helps. We had several new sign ups.

#### **Sac & Fox Lapidary Club, Fairfield**

Club president Mike Messer writes:

The Sac & Fox Lapidary Club has resumed regular meetings since last fall. We are not requiring masks at this time but have a few members who still wear theirs. We have a lot of things planned for this spring and fall. Dates are not finalized but we plan to do this in the next month. We will have our 3rd annual Geode Cracking Party planned for sometime in early May and our rock show in October.

We are in the process of planning three field trips for this year: geodes in March or April, druzy quartz and Missouri lace agate in the Potosi, Missouri area in April or May, and Mazon Creek fossils in Illinois in May or June. August 18th will be our club picnic. We will have many updates as time gets nearer to these activities. Keep on Rockin'!

### MICHIGAN STATE DIRECTOR JOHN DONKER

Michigan is back and clubs are meeting once again. Some Michigan clubs are working on setting up their shows, auction sales, tailgate sales and field trips for the year.

Michigan, like most states, has lost some members due to COVID-19. We hope everyone is well and ready to get out again.

### MINNESOTA STATE DIRECTOR MARCIA OPATZ

I emailed all the Minnesota clubs to see what speakers we have available as a state. Not a very big response, but maybe it will grow in the future.

The Minnesota Valley Gem & Mineral Club in Mankato is in danger of folding. A majority of members won't attend meetings due to COVID, and officers have resigned. The Club did not pay their

*(Continued on page 10)*

## EXECUTIVES RECEIVED REPORTS FROM STATE DIRECTORS: MISSOURI-ARKANSAS TO NEBRASKA

*(Continued from page 9)*

MWF yearly dues, due to their questionable state. There are a couple of members who are hoping to kick-start the Club again.

The North Lakes Academy Rockhounds is a unique club because its membership is made up entirely of junior members. They have a dynamic, energetic leader, Michelle Cauley, who is working on her Master's degree in a geology-related field.

The Minnesota Mineral Club will be hosting the second year in a row at a new location. Last year they did reasonably well for a change of site AND a change of dates, from October to September.

The Cuyuna Rock, Gem, and Mineral Society is gearing up for their show in May. Last year's show was extremely successful, probably in part due to people wanting to get out.

The New Ulm Gem & Mineral Club is gaining membership, after numbers had been stagnant for a while. This may be caused by the upswing in the interest about the rock sciences.

The Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club is excited to be getting back to in-person meetings. Member Ted Chura is preparing a program on Minnesota minerals for the April meeting. Members are excited for the annual picnic and auction in June, and the Agate Stampede is back on the event line-up at the 53rd Annual Agate Days Gem & Mineral Show in July after a two year hiatus.

### MISSOURI-ARKANSAS STATE DIRECTOR BRUCE STINEMETZ

Well, happily, all of the Missouri and Arkansas clubs have paid their dues. It took a while to get all the money in, but we didn't lose any clubs.

The Independence Gem and Mineral Society celebrated the club's 74<sup>th</sup> birthday on Feb. 12 with cake and a silent auction. Over \$1,000 was raised and every item was sold.

The Kansas City Gem & Mineral show was March 11-13. Two MWF member clubs, the

Independence club and Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City, both participated in this association show.

This year there will be a total of five shows held in the St. Louis area. The Rock Hobby Club of Greater St. Louis held a show in Kirkwood, Missouri in February. This was formally called the Cabin Fever Show. It was originally to be presented by a private promoter, but the promoter gave it up and the Rock Hobby Club took it over. The show was a great success. Rock Hobby also hosted a show in Bridgeton, Missouri in March, and will be presenting a show in Pacific, Missouri in May.

The other two St. Louis-area shows are a St. Louis association show and a club show by the St. Louis Gem & Mineral Society.

The Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society will be hosting the MWF convention this fall. At one of the Zoom meetings held by the executive board, field trips were brought up, and it was hoped that a field trip would be a possibility at the convention. I contacted Amy Hinkler, the club president, and discussed the possibility of a field trip with her.

### NEBRASKA STATE DIRECTOR JIM MARBURGER

Spring is trying to start here. The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club had a show April 2 and 3. We have missed two years of shows, and had to learn how to do the show with a smaller group of members. Everyone is happy that the show is back. We are also planning for our second swap at the Beer Farm, an outside event June 25 and 26.

The Nebraska Mineral and Gem Club in Omaha is busy with planning their live auction June 11 at Zorinsky Lake, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is a consignment auction. They are also planning for their show November 12 and 13 at Scott Center in the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society in Columbus is just starting meeting this spring and will have a show this fall.



## MWF COMMITTEE REPORTS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: ARCHAEOLOGY TO ENVIRONMENT

### ARCHAEOLOGY SKEETER KISH, CHAIR

The Archaeology Society of Ohio is beginning to meet again. Many chapters have already begun conducting meetings. The local chapters will be following the same as time goes on.

### BULLETIN EDITORS AIDS SHARON MARBURGER, FORMER CHAIR

In 2022, the Bulletin Editors Aids Committee had 16 entries in the annual Bulletin Editors' Contest for judging. Twelve of those entries achieved first, second, and third places in the MWF competition. These have been forwarded to the AFMS to be judged nationally. Scores were very close.

I have submitted my resignation as BEAC Chair. I hope someone out there will step up to fill the position.

### CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR JEANINE N. MIELECKI, CHAIR

Since the MWF's Fall Convention, eight Rockhounds of the Year have been announced in the MWF News, and the announcement of the ninth is in the works. The eight Rockhounds of the Year who have been honored by their club and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Midwest Federation are:

- Tammy Habegger-Spice, 500 Earth Sciences Club, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Brian and Cindy Green, Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Rockford, Illinois.
- Linda and James O'Neal, Spring River Gem and Mineral Society, Cherokee Village, Arkansas.
- Joe and Gretchen Brafford, Dayton Gem & Mineral Society, Ohio.
- Kreigh Tomaszewski, Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club, Wyoming (Greater Grand Rapids), Michigan.

Doubling the recognition, Judi Allison, AFMS Rockhound of the Year Committee Chair, ensures that the announcement of each Rockhound of the Year named by the MWF is published in the A.F.M.S. Newsletter. Judi sends a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the AFMS, too, which is forwarded to the respective clubs.

### CREDENTIALS DAVID ROOT, CHAIR

I started my Credentials duties at our April meeting. My thanks to J.C. Moore for filling in during the lapse.

### ENDOWMENT FUND CINDY ROOT, CHAIR

We continue to receive donations on a random basis. At our convention in September we will again try a tricky tray. I have donations from the Moores and Julia Sherwood. I will also be adding to that list. If you have an item you would be willing to donate, please let me know and bring it along with you. It does not have to be rock or mineral in nature.

### ENVIRONMENT AND LEGISTRATION CATHERINE CLEVENZ, CHAIR

The federal Department of the Interior will be requiring that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) close hundreds of miles of roads, if a newly introduced bill passes in Congress. The name of this bill is H.R.1755. This is added to the rumors we're hearing that BLM is being directed to manage areas that are part of proposed wilderness bills as if they are wilderness. Even though the bills that are proposed to create these wilderness areas have small chance of passing in Congress, BLM will be exploring ways to close roads and manage them as wilderness anyway.

This massive wilderness bill will close 23 million acres of public land to the public in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington. Along with those lands are areas of camping and stretches of rivers. This bill will also prohibit boats, e-bikes, wheelchairs, and in some areas, even foot traffic. Conservation groups are pushing the 30 X 30 agenda more and more. What this means is that they want to protect 30% of all public lands and waters by the year 2030.

H.R.1755 was presented to Congress on March 10<sup>th</sup> and will be voted on very soon. To read this bill for yourself, go to [www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/hr1755/text/ih](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/hr1755/text/ih). To reach your State's Representatives and Senators, use the following links:

*(Continued on page 14)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<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> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Fieldhouse, Marshfield High School, 1401 Becker Road, <b>Marshfield, WI</b>	Cynthia Kelman, kelman@tznet.com
<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</b> Sat, 9-3	Coulee Rock Club of La Crosse	Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, <b>Onalaska, WI</b>	Apyrl Denny, aldenny@viterbo.edu
<b>May 14-15</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Parma Lapidary Club	Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain, <b>North Olmsted, OH</b>	Bod Doyle, parmalapidary@yahoo.com
<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
<b>May 28-29</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association	County Fairgrounds, 525 S. Randall, <b>St. Charles, IL</b>	Connie Lavin, nival48@hotmail.com
<b>June 3-5</b> Fri noon-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	State Line Gem & Mineral Society	Junior Fair Bldg., County Fairgrounds, 8514 State Route 108, <b>Wauseon, OH</b>	Sherman Kardatzke, sakardatzke@gmail.com
<b>June 4</b> Sat, 10-5	Gem City Rock Club	Boudreaux Visitor Center, Mark Twain Lake, <b>Monroe City, MO</b>	Brad Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com
<b>June 4-5</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Coulee Rock Club of La Crosse	Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, <b>Onalaska, WI</b>	Allison Conrad, rockinbabe@acegroup.cc

**UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>June 11</b> Sat, 9-noon	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club	Woodland Drive-In Church, 2600 Breton SE, <b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
<b>June 11</b> Sat, 9-4	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club rock auction	Main Shelter, Lake Zorinsky, 156 <sup>th</sup> and F Street, <b>Omaha, NE</b>	Tammy Jeanneret, tjeanneret@hughes.net
<b>June 11-12</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club	Fairhaven Hall, County Fairgrounds, 750 N. Home Road, <b>Mansfield, OH</b>	Tom Kottyan, themineralhouse@netzero.net
<b>June 24-26</b> Fri 10-6:30, Sat 9-6:30, Sun 10-4	Lawrence County Rock Club	County Fairgrounds, 11261 US Highway 50W, <b>Bedford, IN</b>	Kathy Shaffer, 812-671-8704
<b>June 24-26</b> Fri 2-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-3	Osage Rock & Mineral Club	Community Center, 309 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, <b>Eldon, MO</b>	Steve Rudloff, srudloff@fastmail.com
<b>June 25-26</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club rock swap	Beer Family Farm, 18701 Ashland Road, <b>Ashland, NE</b>	Jayne Beer, jbeer60070@aol.com
<b>July 15-16</b> Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5	Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club	Lakeland Union High School, 9573 State Highway 70, <b>Minocqua, WI</b>	Ron Zimmer, rzimmer@charter.net
<b>July 16-17</b> Sat & Sun, 9-5	Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club	Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Ellens Drive, <b>Moose Lake, MN</b>	Lynn Svercl, DanLynnSunriseFarm@yahoo.com
<b>July 30</b> Sat, 10-5	Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society	Bethany Reformed Church, 702 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, <b>Canton, SD</b>	Harlan Hoogeterp, rockswap@segams.org
<b>Aug. 8-14</b>	Copper County Rock & Mineral Club	Keeweenaw Week includes show, field trips to copper mine piles	George Schriver, pres@ccrmc.info
<b>Aug. 19-21</b> Fri 3-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs	Auditorium, Machinists Hall, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, <b>Bridgeton, MO</b>	Jerry Kubat, gkubat7911@sbcglobal.net
<b>Aug. 20</b> Sat 10-5	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Lot by Dunham Sports, 5601 US Hwy 10-E, <b>Stevens Point, WI</b>	Sandy Brandl, stonez@tds.net
<b>Aug. 20-21</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Expo Bldg., County Fairgrounds, Highway 48 North, <b>Rice Lake, WI</b>	Roy Wickman, rktswick@chibardun.net
<b>Aug. 27</b> Sat 10-5	Racine Geological Society	Bartlett Youth Foundation, 1120 N. Stuart Road, <b>Mt. Pleasant, WI</b>	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
<b>Aug. 27-28</b> Sat & Sun, 8-4	Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Town of Wheat lower pavilion and field, 6303 County Highway X, <b>Chippewa Falls, WI</b>	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
<b>Aug. 27-28</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Peoria Academy of Science Geology Section	Eastside Center, 1 Eastside Drive, <b>East Peoria, IL</b>	Jim Travis, boatnick@aol.com

**MWF COMMITTEE REPORTS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: HISTORIAN TO PROGRAM REQUESTS**

*(Continued from page 11)*

[www.house.gov/representatives](http://www.house.gov/representatives) and [www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm](http://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm).

**HISTORIAN AND ARCHIVES  
CINDY ROOT, CHAIR**

Files of the MWF remain on a Google Drive separate from the website. If you would like access to this information, e-mail me at [d-root@comcast.net](mailto:d-root@comcast.net). If you use any of the items from this site, it is asked that you give credit to the sources of pictures you use.

**INSURANCE  
SUE GOEDERT, CHAIR**

Insurance has been going pretty smoothly. It's more expensive this year, but only because we have more members! The insurance agency has been very quick to respond to any inquiry.

**LAPIDARY ARTS  
DAVID ROOT, CHAIR**

Need help with a particular lapidary skill? I have a list of people willing to mentor you.

**MEMBERSHIP  
JAMES MARBURGER, CHAIR**

Membership information has been sent to the clubs wanting to join the MWF.

**NEWSLETTER  
VALERIE J. MEYERS, CHAIR**

This isn't so much a report as a thank-you to all editors of, and writers of articles in, club newsletters. I know that it's not easy for a lot of editors to persuade their members to submit original articles, and it's not always easy to write an article – even one based on your personal experience. But original articles make a club's newsletter better – and more than that, they make the MWF News better when I can scoop them up and reprint them! So thank you all!

Don't forget that there won't be a July or August newsletter. If you have an article you'd like to put in the newsletter before September – and certainly if you have a show before September that you'd like to

have listed in "Upcoming Events" – be sure to get the article or information to us before the June issue deadline, which is May 3<sup>rd</sup>!

**PUBLIC IMAGE AND COURTESY  
SANDY SHORTER, CHAIR**

Public image committee is currently researching the insurance policy that is offered to our members.

We plan to send out short informative reminders of the many benefits the Federation offers, with the goal of reminding members to make use of them. Our hope is that, by expanding the use of our benefits, we can maintain and grow our membership.

**MWF PROGRAM COMPETITION  
ROBERT POWERS, CHAIR**

A request was made to DeLane Cox, the 2022 AFMS Program Competition Committee chair, for the Judging Form for submitted programs. These are said to be on the AFMS website, but site searches did not locate any. The Judging Form is necessary to evaluate the three programs that were submitted to the MWF. Also requested was the AFMS schedule for their competition.

DeLane was also requested to provide a replacement of the DVD "Beginning Intarsia." This DVD was not in the package when delivered to the requesting club. The replacement was requested earlier from her predecessor, Darrel Watkins. This DVD is no longer available for purchase, but the AFMS has rights to duplicate and provide it to member organizations.

**PROGRAM REQUESTS  
ROBERT POWERS, CHAIR**

MWF members clubs have significantly increased their use of the Program Library in recent months. In March 2022 alone, DVDs were returned from five rentals, along with the \$5 fee. Since the last report to the MWF Committee, program requests were received from multiple member organizations, including from clubs Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois and Ohio.

*(Continued on page 15)*

**MWF COMMITTEE REPORTS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: PROGRAM REVIEW TO WEBSITE**

*(Continued from page 14)*

The more recent acquisitions to the DVD library continue to be popular, as well as the earlier DVDs. The most recent DVD provided by the AFMS is DVD #86, Treasures of the Earth, from PBS' "Nova." There are three segments of 60 minutes each on this DVD: "Gems," "Power," and "Metals."

The master listing of available DVDs was updated in March. This includes the new titles and the addition of lengths of the DVDs. The updates will be published in the 2022 MWF Directory.

Please look over the Lending Library listing. There is a wide range of very interesting material at your disposal. Consider a DVD as a great way to back up a speaker, who may unexpectedly need to cancel. Select what your organization finds most interesting, and it will be delivered to you at your request with minimal cost.



*A publicity photo for Nova's "Treasures of the Earth – Gems." Photo from pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/treasures-of-the-earth-gems.*

**PROGRAM REVIEW  
JIM TRAVIS, CHAIR**

Sorry to say I haven't viewed anything good lately. I need to go through the library and see if there are any holes, I haven't done that.

**SCHOLARSHIP  
MARGE COLLINS, CHAIR**

This is an abbreviated format, since a detailed list of all donations is only customary for the convention (in September this year). Eleven donations totaling \$3779 were received between August 21, 2021

and March 1, 2022 – six from clubs and four from individuals.

A Living Memorial donation honors Bernice McCloskey. The Memorial donations honor Margaret Campbell-Barr, Anne and Bill Cook, Merwin Smith, and William (Bill) H. Tite.

These were sent by or credited to the Kettle Moraine Geological Society (Wisconsin), Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (Michigan), Show-Me Gems & Minerals Club (Missouri), Sac & Fox Lapidary Club (Iowa), Tri-County Rocks & Minerals Society (Michigan), Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society (Michigan), Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society (Minnesota), and the Minnesota Mineral Club.

As always, all contributions are sincerely appreciated! Several of the donations were very generous - helping to boost the total. Eleven contributions in six months is below the average – likely due to clubs having to cancel meetings and other activities this past year.

*Please consider – Why wait to make memorial donations? Why not honor one or more of your indispensable club members now? Is there an individual or a couple who have been 'pillars' of your club, sharing their time and talents over the years? A Living Memorial is a tribute for valued members and a the opportunity for a celebration when everyone can enjoy the recognition. All Memorials are added to the list in the MWF Directory. New additions are highlighted each year.*

Donations and Memorials payable to AFMS Scholarship should be mailed to:

MWF Scholarship Committee  
c/o Marge Collins  
3017 Niles-Buchanan Road  
Buchanan, MI 49107

**WEBSITE  
CINDY ROOT**

Our website has moved to mwfed.org. The old site is no longer being updated and will disappear when the old AFMS site disappears. I am looking for someone who would be interested in helping with the

*(Continued on page 16)*

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
vjmwriter@yahoo.com  
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**MWF COMMITTEE REPORTS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: ARCHAEOLOGY TO ENVIRONMENT**

*(Continued from page 15)*

website. I need an assistant who is able to fill in when I am not available. I would also like this person to contemplate taking over the website sometime within the next three to five years.

Additionally, with the passing of Tom Whitlatch, we need someone to take over the administration of our Facebook page. There are other administrators on the account, but we need someone to be in charge. Let me know if that is something that might interest you.

**WEBSITE COMPETITION  
BRAD ZYLMAN, CHAIR**

The MWF Website Contest has closed and we only ended up with two entries this year. However, the other federations had multiple entries and the American Federation contest should be a good one. Both Midwest entries were very strong and we hope that the Midwest will be well represented at the national contest.

Once the results are known to me, they will be sent to the MWF News editor for publication.

Congratulations to all who entered, and keep working on those club websites!

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
SUSAN STANFORTH, CHAIR AND  
IMMEDIATE PAST MWF PRESIDENT**

I have to admit that I have not encouraged committee members to find replacements for members who want to leave their posts. We have some very serious replacements to find – three that I can think of, people who have very important jobs in our Federation.

Truthfully, as president, I filled so many jobs that I cringe at the thought of having to persuade more people to get involved. I recently did a survey of Illinois clubs regarding filling officer positions and everyone said it was near impossible. We need to crack this nut. So, if I contact YOU to help, PLEASE be willing to help figure out a strategy to solve this serious problem. I have always leapt at the chance to do a MWF job. What's wrong with me????? There must be others who really enjoy getting involved at this high level to do rockin' work. Where are you?