

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Catherine Clevenz, MWF President

Hello everyone! I don't know about you, but I am very excited about going to the MWF Convention! One of the reasons I'm looking forward to going is the simple fact that I have never been there before. I also enjoy getting to meet new people and learn about different areas of our United States. If you can remember, please donate some rocks for our silent auction that is held on Sunday at the convention. They can easily be sent along with your club's delegates.



All of the clubs should have received their ballots for the 2022-23 officers by now. I want to remind you to please mail it back to us by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all of you who participate in voting!

Finally, I want to thank you for letting me be MWF's president this past year. I have enjoyed meeting  
*(Continued on page 4)*

## BADGERS ARE GOOD AT PROMOTION

Allison Conrad,  
MWF Assistant State Director for Wisconsin

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society of Janesville, Wisconsin has been doing a great job in promoting their club with T-shirts, hats, and calendars.

Any of these items can be purchased by club members, who then wear the hats and T-shirts at club events, shows, and out in public generally. They can also buy extra and give as gifts to family and friends. What a great way to start a conversation, and promote your club and the hobby with someone you meet while wearing the hat or T-shirt.

If anyone is interested in doing this for your club, please don't hesitate to contact Laurie Trocke, BLGS Treasurer, and she would be happy to send you some details for how and where to get these items. Her email address is [glowyrocks@gmail.com](mailto:glowyrocks@gmail.com).

Thank you, Laurie, for allowing me to share your club's promotion efforts, and kudos to you and BLGS for continuing to promote these items!

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### MWF OFFICERS

President: Catherine Clevenz  
1334 Melvin Drive  
Toledo, OH 43615  
419-340-5276  
clevenz@gmail.com

1 <sup>st</sup> VP: Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich 1166 Broadview Tallmadge, OH 44278 330-630-9625 mafergusonrich@gmail.com	2nd VP: Cheryl Neary 42 Jefferson Avenue Patchogue, NY 11772 516-449-5341 ciervo.neary@gmail.com
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Secretary: Donna Moore 25235 N. Illinois Highway 97 Cuba, IL 61427 309-789-6501 mwfsecretary@gmail.com	Treasurer: Sandy Fuller 8445 Grange Boulevard Cottage Grove, MN 55016 651-459-0343 mwftreas@rock-biz.biz
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### DEADLINE CALENDAR

The annual **MWF Convention**, hosted by the Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society, will be **Oct. 22-23, 2022**. The Springfield Expo Center in Springfield, Missouri will be the site of the convention and the Society's rock show; the host hotel is the nearby University Plaza Hotel (417-864-7333). Information about the convention, and forms, can be found at [mwfed.org/convention](http://mwfed.org/convention).

**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](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com).

### GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66 WHILE TRAVELING TO THE CONVENTION

By Sue Eyre, Wisconsin Geological Society  
From the September, 2022 Trilobite

Are you planning to go to the MWF Convention in Springfield, Missouri in October? If you'll be heading south, here is a sample of things to see and do along the way. My husband and I spent three days getting to Springfield this past May on a road trip along old Route 66. Maybe one of the following attractions may entice you to make the trip.

We started our trip going south from Milwaukee on I-43 to Beloit, then South on I-39/55 to start our adventure in Pontiac, Illinois.

If time is an issue, I-40 parallels Route 66 most of the way. Many of the sights I'll mention here are a fairly easy on/off I-40 if something trips your trigger. Here is a picture review of what you can see . . .



Murals and museums in Pontiac, Illinois. Museums include the Route 66 Museum, the Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum, and the Museum of the Gilding Arts. Photo by Sue Eyre.



The Museum of the Gilding Arts was created by the Society of Gilders, an international organization that preserves the history of gold- and silver-leaf gilding. Photo from [societyofgilders.org](http://societyofgilders.org).



Chain of Rocks Bridge, a bicycling and pedestrian bridge, over the Mississippi River. One end is on Chouteau Island, Madison, Illinois; the other is just north of St. Louis, Missouri. Photo by Sue Eyre.

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## WINNERS OF THE MWF BULLETIN EDITORS' CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Sharon Marburger, MWF Bulletin Editors Chair

The 2022 MWF BEAC Competition is now in the books. There were 16 entries. The results below do not tell the whole story. All of the entries in the Adult Articles category scored within the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Those newsletters and articles that placed first through third in their categories have been sent to the Bulletin Editors' Competition of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, where they will compete in the nationwide competition. The results of that competition will be announced at the AFMS Convention Oct. 14-16 in Westwego, Louisiana.

Congratulations to these winning authors and editors. You should be proud.

### NEW EDITORS

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**     **Mary Myers.** Summit Lapidary Club Newsletter (OH).

### SMALL BULLETINS

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**     **The Quarry.** Editors Jim & Judy Budnik, Cincinnati Mineral Society (OH).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**     **The Pick & Dop Stick.** Editor Rachele L. Best, Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society (IL).

### LARGE BULLETINS

**4<sup>th</sup> Place**     **Midwest Faceter's Guild Newsletter** (MI).

### ADVANCED ADULT ARTICLES

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**     **"The Dead River of Illinois"** by Rachele L. Best, Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society (IL).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**     **"Poet, a Collector, and a Geologist"** by Antonio Peso, Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society (IL).

### ADULT ARTICLES

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**     **"It's a Sticky Situation"** by Daniel Hogan, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**     **"The Glacial Grooves of Kelleys Island"** by Susan Satchwill, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**     **"Tourmaline: A Multicolored Gem with a Complex Chemical Composition"** by Nick Smith, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

**4<sup>th</sup> Place**     **"Labeling Your Collection"** by Steven Dumortier, Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (MO).

**5<sup>th</sup> Place**     **"Magnificent Microminerals from Merelani Hills, Tanzania"** by Johan Maertens, Cincinnati Mineral Society (OH).

### WRITTEN FEATURES

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**     **"I Have a Scratch and I Can't Itch It"** by Daniel Hogan, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**     **"Hematite, Iron Mines, Rock Shops, and Rainbows, a Rockhounding Trip to Michigan"** by Susan Satchwill, Three Rivers Gem Mineral Society (IN).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**     **"A Rock Show (At Last) and the Grandeur of Wyoming"** by Steven Dumortier, Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (MO).

**4<sup>th</sup> Place**     **"Wishful Thinking"** by Marilyn Russell, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

### JUNIOR ARTICLES – UNDER 12

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**     **"The Shah Diamond"** by Amelia Rosholt, Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society (IL).

*November Issue  
Submission  
Deadline Is Oct.  
4th!*





## OHIO AND INDIANA CLUBS ANNOUNCE THEIR ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

### SUSIE SHOFFNER SUMMIT LAPIDARY CLUB (OH)

The **Summit Lapidary Club** of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio honors **Suzanne “Susie” Shoffner** as the 2022 Rockhound of the Year.

A real go-getter, Susie is always ready to step up and support the club. She takes countless steps behind the scenes to keep the members happy. Susie is the one who keeps the refrigerator stocked with soda and water and the bathrooms with toilet tissue and towels. It's Susie who cleans and sweeps the clubhouse regularly, mops up the water that seeps into the basement after every rain, and offers to keep the basins of the club's rock saws free of muck.

A dynamo at the club's semi-annual Gemboree, Susie does what it takes to make the club's big event succeed. She is a warm and welcoming presence in our rockhound community, always bright, cheerful and making life fun for all. Thank you, Susie!



*Suzanne “Susie” Shoffner, as usual, doing the work of two as she and Summit Lapidary Club members Jerry Hartung and David Moore get out the buckets to prepare for the club's semi-annual Gemboree. Photo by Mary Myers, caption by Jeanine Mielecki.*



### JOSH KLOSINSKI MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY (IN)

The **Michiana Gem and Mineral Society** of South Bend, Indiana proudly acclaims **Joshua “Josh” Klosinski** the 2022 Rockhound of the Year.

As the MGMS show chairman, Josh outdid his previous efforts. He guided the club's annual show to a record-breaking attendance in 2022. While the previous show record for attendance was a healthy 2,700 attendees, the MGMS's 2022 show eclipsed 4,650 in August. On all three days of the show, attendance broke daily records by 150%. All of the vendors experienced record-breaking sales as well.

None of this could have been possible without Josh volunteering considerable time and effort to make his club and its show outstanding. And, at the end of the show all Josh could say was, “Let's get started on next year.”

A great big, thankful shout-out goes to you, Josh!



*Josh Klosinski, Show Chairman for the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, enjoys a well-deserved rest after a record-breaking show that broke daily attendance records by 150% and drew 4,650 attendees over three days in August. Photo by Liezl Sison, caption by Jeanine Mielecki.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 1)*

folks at some of the shows I went to and learning how they operate their shows. I still have a few “rocks to uncover” and take care of this month, but am glad to pass the book along to the next president and wish her well!

Please remember to stay safe out there while looking for rocks, and look up once in a while to enjoy the great outdoors and your surroundings! Hope to see you out there!

## ROCKHOUND SAFETY: CREATURES TO WATCH FOR IN THE FIELD

Sharon Marburger, Editor  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE)  
From the May, 2022 Pick & Shovel

Here are a few safety items to keep in mind while getting out in the field to hunt rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Rattlesnakes are the largest of the venomous snakes in the United States. They can accurately strike at up to one-third their body length. Rattlesnakes may be found sunning themselves near logs, boulders, or open areas. These snakes may be found in most work habitats including the mountains, prairies, deserts, and beaches. If bitten, seek medical attention as soon as possible. Dial 911 or call local emergency medical services. Keep still and calm.

Bees, wasps, and hornets are found throughout the United States and are most abundant in the warmer months. Nests and hives may be found in trees, under roof eaves, or on equipment such as ladders. Stinging or biting insects, spiders, ticks, and other arthropods can be hazardous to you. Health effects range from mild discomfort or pain to a lethal reaction for those allergic to the venom. If a person is stung by a bee, wasp, or hornet, have someone stay with them to be sure that he or she does not have an allergic reaction.

Scorpions usually hide during the day and are active at night. They may be hiding under rocks, wood, or anything else lying on the ground. Some species may also burrow into the ground. Most scorpions live in dry, desert areas. However, some species can be found in grasslands, forests, and inside caves.

Venomous spiders found in the United States include the black widow, brown recluse, and hobo spiders. Spiders are usually not aggressive. Most bites occur because a spider is trapped or unintentionally contacted.

Tick-borne pathogens can be passed to humans by the bite of infected ticks. Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in the United States. Areas with woods, bushes, high grass, or leaf litter are likely to have more ticks. Some common symptoms of infection with tick-borne diseases include body/muscle aches, fever, headaches, fatigue, joint pain, rash, stiff neck, and facial paralysis.

Check your skin and clothes for ticks every day that you're in the field. Shower or bathe as soon as possible after working outdoors to wash off and check for ticks. Remember to check your hair, underarms, and groin for ticks.

Immediately remove ticks from your body using fine-tipped tweezers. Clean the area with soap and water. Wash clothes, then dry them in a hot dryer, to kill any ticks present. If you develop symptoms of a tick-borne disease, seek medical attention promptly.

## KID SAFETY NEEDS A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Ellery Borow, Chair, AFMS Safety Committee  
From the March, 2022 EFMLS News

Kid safety begins with adult safety. Adults learn in multiple ways. Some read the directions and instantly understand the material and get the nuances. Some need to read material, see demonstrations, and ask questions. Some rarely read the book, don't ask questions, and somehow manage with the trial-and-error approach. They are all genuine and useful approaches to learning, but each has various pros and cons.

Kid safety is different. Most kids do not have the background to read a manual and then understand all the material. For kids (and adults) the trial-and-error approach to learning safety is a non-starter. The middle option is usually the best for safety — read the material, work with instructors, see demonstrations and ask questions. Many kids are not all that interested in reading safety manuals nor being lectured by adults. So here we are with what is left: part instruction, part demonstration, and part asking questions.

Many safety matters require a measure of judgement. Adults may have had sufficient experience with safety to make good judgements. Kids do not usually have as much experience. Keep that in mind so that more complete explanations of safety matters can be offered to kids when presenting demonstrations and discussions.

Safety requires a good measure of effort. We want our kids to be safe; we want our kids to share in the family hobby we love, and have fun in the process.

*(Continued on page 11)*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>Sept. 23-25</b> Fri & 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-wiseman@sbcglobal.net
<b>Sept. 24-25</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Brown County Rock and Mineral Club	County 4-H Fairgrounds, 802 Memorial Drive, <b>Nashville, IN</b>	Rhonda Dunn, bcmc2010@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 24-25</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4	Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club	VFW Hall, 3400 Veterans Drive, <b>Traverse City, MI</b>	Lauren Vaughn, maple2b@aol.com
<b>Sept. 24-25</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Minnesota Mineral Club	Dairy Building, State Fairgrounds, 1694 Judson Ave., <b>St. Paul, MN</b>	Earl Netwal, enetwal@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 24-25</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Oshkosh Earth Science Club	Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Road Y, <b>Oshkosh, WI</b>	Bob Fox, foxbooks@att.net
<b>Oct. 1-2</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society	Cabot Event Center, 508 N. Lincoln Street, <b>Cabot, AR</b>	David Murray, 501-346-5990
<b>Oct. 1-2</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (LOESS)	Orr Bldg., State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., <b>Springfield, IL</b>	Ed Wagner, loesseditor@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 1-2</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society	County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, <b>Belleville, MI</b>	Bill Barr, wbarr@umich.edu
<b>Oct. 1-2</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4 Auction 6-7 on Sat	Worthen Earth Searchers	County Fairgrounds, 4200 Archer, <b>East Moline, IL</b>	Mike Shumate, 217-219-2315
<b>Oct. 7-9</b> Fri 9-6, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Michigan Mineralogical Society	Bldg. P, Macomb Sports & Expo Center, 14500 E. 12 Mile Road, <b>Warren, MI</b>	John Peters, joopett13@hotmail.com
<b>Oct. 8-9</b> Sat 9-8, Sun 9-3	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society rock auction	Amana RV Park, 39 38 <sup>th</sup> Ave., <b>Amana, IA</b>	Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
<b>Oct. 14-16</b> Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll, <b>Fort Wayne, IN</b>	Bev Jenkins, 3riversshow@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 15-16</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Des Moines Lapidary Society	Elwell Center, State Fairgrounds, East 30 <sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Ave., <b>Des Moines, IA</b>	Ken Belzer, DMLS@DMLapidary.org
<b>Oct. 15-16</b> Sat & Sun, 10-5	Flint Rock and Gem Club	Carter Middle School, 300 Rogers Lodge, <b>Clio, MI</b>	Bill Wendling, 810-638-5796
<b>Oct. 21-23</b> Fri 1-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., <b>Mason, MI</b>	Robin Smith, rsmith@radsmith.com

## UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>Oct. 22-23</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society	Convention Center, 333 S. John Q. Hammons, <b>Springfield, MO</b>	Mark Northrup, omgms.57@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 22-23</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Summit Lapidary Club	Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Road, <b>Cuyahoga Falls, OH</b>	Becky Kosco, summitlapidary@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 29-30</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club	Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive North, <b>Crystal, MN</b>	Martha Miss, martha@rock-biz.biz
<b>Nov. 5</b> Sat: sales tables 6, oral auction 7	Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society auction	First Assembly of God Church, 5650 Telegraph Road, <b>Dearborn Heights, MI</b>	Dwayne Ferguson, shelby0671111@yahoo.com
<b>Nov. 5-6</b> Sat & Sun, 10-5	Mid-Michigan Rock Club	Chippewa Nature Center, 400 Badour Road, <b>Midland, MI</b>	Debra Young, debiyoung@yahoo.com
<b>Nov. 5-6</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Racine Geological Society	Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand (Highway 11), <b>Sturtevant, WI</b>	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
<b>Nov. 12-13</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club	Scott Conference Center, UNO, 6450 Pine Street, <b>Omaha, NE</b>	Tammy Jeanneret, tjeanneret@hughes.net
<b>Nov. 12-13</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Illinois Rock Club	Eagles Club, 1200 W. Galena Ave., <b>Freeport, IL</b>	Brian Green, Bgreen57@hotmail.com
<b>Nov. 14</b> Mon, 7	Michigan Mineralogical Society annual auction	Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Ave., <b>Bloomfield Hills, MI</b>	Brad Zylman, Brad.Zylman@mrmm.com
<b>Nov. 18-20</b> Fri 3-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society	Affton White-Rodgers Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, <b>St. Louis, MO</b>	Melissa Perucca, melissa5301@aol.com
<b>Nov. 19</b> Sat, 10-5	Gem City Rock Club	Quincy Town Center, 32 <sup>nd</sup> and Broadway, <b>Quincy, IL</b>	Brad Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com
<b>Nov. 19-20</b> Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-5	Madison Gem & Mineral Club	Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Energy Center Way, <b>Madison, WI</b>	Nevin Franke, shows@madisonrockclub.org

## MAPS MEANS FOSSILS (BELIEVE IT OR NOT)

Deborah Hamilton, Lincoln Orbit  
Earth Science Society (LOESS) (IL)

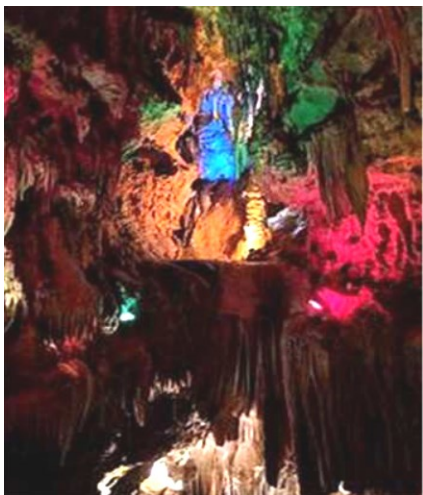
Fossils, fossils everywhere! Picture it, you enter a room filled with fossils from wall to wall from all over the world. These are the things that a rockhound's dreams are made of, but this show is no dream. I'm talking about the show of the Midwestern American Paleontological Society (MAPS). I have been coming to this show for 16 years now (which is so weird to think about in retrospect)! Not only are the fossils amazing, it is a chance to hear from some of the greatest minds in paleontology field. Save the dates, Oct. 21-23; the fossils will be at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, and a more general gem, mineral, and fossil show will be at the Northfield Inn Oct. 19-22.





## GET KICKS GOING TO CONVENTION, CONT.

*(Continued from page 2)*



Meramac Caverns in Stanton, Missouri. Photo by Sue Eyre.



Giant rocking chair in Stanton, Missouri. Photo by Sue Eyre.

While you're in Springfield, take time to visit Fantastic Caverns, just outside of town. Fantastic Caverns is North America's only completely ride-through cave tour and well worth the admission price. A Jeep pulls your cart for almost an hour (with stops) inside this beautiful cave that was discovered by a dog and first explored by a group of female spelunkers.

The club hosting the MWF convention, the Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society, has arranged for a field trip to Fantastic Caverns on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>; for more information about this field trip or about other aspects of the convention and rock show, see [mwfed.org/convention](http://mwfed.org/convention).

## THE AMAZING VIDEOS OF "ITCHY BOOTS"

Don Van Dyke

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (MI)

From the May, 2022 Arrowhead News

Do you need a bit of time to unwind? Relax and travel via the internet to places one may never have the chance to visit from the seat of a motorcycle, with a knowledgeable guide who is a trained geologist and a lover of beautiful scenery. Via YouTube I have met her, and highly recommend her videos. (As many others have – she has over 1.1 million subscribers!)

She is a Dutch woman in her mid-30's with a passion for traveling alone via motorcycle to far-off places. Her name is Noraly, better known as "Itchy Boots" (the title of her videos.) She is a graduate geologist whose first job was as an exploration geologist looking for gold in Australia. In two years, she made enough to retire and backpack to many far-off places for two years.

Then she worked as a geologist for five years for a Dutch dredging company, again in far-off places. Her feet were itching for adventure so she quit, went to India, and bought a motorcycle and everything else needed to travel by herself to far off places.

I picked up her adventures with the video titled "Itchy Boots," Season 1 episode 1. Season one has some 60 videos; each 8-20 minutes long covering the events of one day's ride.

She starts in Delhi and travels through northeast India, Myanmar, and Malaysia, then has her motorcycle flown to Oman. She ferries to Iran, and drives all the way through the "Stans" to Russia, Armenia, Turkey, the Balkans and on to Holland.

Season two is from Argentina to the tip of Patagonia/Chile, then along the Andes to Peru. The peoples and customs, scenery, mountains, deserts, salt lakes, etc. are awe-inspiring. One video shows silver mining at Potosi (inside a working silver mine) in the richest mountain in the world, mining begun there in 1545 by the Spanish.

Her hopes of traveling from Patagonia to Alaska were stopped in Peru by the COVID pandemic. In 2020 she made a series traveling in Europe. Last year she was in Africa, and now has resumed her trip, with episodes coming out every few days.



## THE HEART AND THE DARK ZONE: PATTY JO WATSON AND CAVE ARCHAEOLOGY

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor  
Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (MO)  
From the April, 2022 Crinoid Courier

When Dr. Thomas J. Grant began his talk about “Dark Zone Archaeology” by saying it was a love story, I assumed he was speaking metaphorically; someone had fallen in love with cave exploring, or something similar. And in a way that’s what the lecture was about; but in another way, he was telling the literal truth.

Grant is a Research Affiliate of the University of Kansas’ Biodiversity Institute. He gave his lecture at the recent Gem and Mineral Show presented by the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City.

The dark zone, Grant explained, is the area of a cave that is so deep it is never reached by natural light. Because of that fact, he said, archaeologists and cave explorers were for centuries “totally different people.”

Archaeologists concentrated on excavating only near the cave entrance, looking for remnants of human civilization; cave explorers didn’t bother much with such remnants, focusing on pushing as deeply into wet, muddy caves as they could go, going down ropes perhaps hundreds of feet, making maps as they went.



*A slide from Dr. Grant’s lecture, which he contrasted with a picture of archaeologists cheerfully brushing away dirt from bones on a sunny day.*

Even in the 1960s, Grant said, there was “little communication or interest between the groups. . . What was needed was someone who had interest in both.”

Enter Dr. Patty Jo Andersen, who had done archaeological work in Iraq along the way to obtaining her doctorate in archaeology, with a dissertation about early farming in the Levant, at the University of Chicago. One of her key contributions was to be able to chronicle the onset of agriculture from the examinations of ancient seeds.

(And thanks to Sylvia, our club’s Nebraska connection, for her research in finding Patty’s maiden name. She and her husband Donn live in Superior, Nebraska, which was actually Patty Jo Watson’s birthplace!)

Patty had begun making a name for herself in archaeology of the ancient Near East, when a funny thing happened: She fell in love with Richard “Red” Watson, an enthusiastic cave explorer and professor of philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis, and he with her. They were married until Richard’s death in 2019; Patty Jo is still alive.

According to Grant, an adviser and colleague of Patty’s strongly advised her not to follow her heart to St. Louis. He was certain – and this being the early 1960s, you can understand his concern – that if she married, she would be considered merely an extension of her husband and her promising career would be buried. But Patty wouldn’t be deterred, and moved to St. Louis, where she found herself caught up in Red’s passion for cave exploration.



*Patty Jo Watson at work. Photo via Digital Encyclopedia of Archaeologists, [msu-anthropology.github.io](https://msu-anthropology.github.io).*

Red Watson was among the people who were exploring Mammoth Cave in Kentucky at the time. It was believed that the cave was the longest in the world

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## THE HEART AND THE DARK ZONE: PATTY JO WATSON AND CAVE ARCHAEOLOGY, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 9)*

(although it wasn't until 1972, when a connection to the Flint Ridge cave system was found, that Mammoth Cave blew away all contenders for biggest cave system with its 420 miles in length). There were signs that humans had been in the cave well into its dark zone – bare footprints 2,500 years old among them.

Combining her interest in ancient agriculture of the Near East with a growing interest in pre-Columbian Native American culture, Watson delved into explorations of the cave. She went into the cave using the cane torches that ancient people had used to light their way; she labeled the layers in the rock walls.

Her group found stone tools, made by people who hadn't yet advanced far enough to create pottery but who made the torches that allowed them to go a couple of miles into the cave.

Salts Cave, a part of the Mammoth Cave system, proved particularly productive. Many human artifacts, Grant pointed out, are eaten by bacteria long before archaeologists can find them. But the salt in Salts Cave discourages bacterial growth; explorers have found undestroyed dead bodies that have mummified, cane torches, baskets, and clothes. "Nowhere else in the world will you find these kind of products in this condition," Grant said.

One of Watson's major contributions related to human waste left in the cave. The fecal matter wasn't old enough to have fossilized, so, desiccated as it was, it could be examined to determine the Native Americans' diet, what pollen they'd ingested (showing what time of year it was), what kind of parasites beset the people, their DNA, and seeds. The latter particularly showed whether the people were eating wild or cultivated plants.

And so, Grant said, it developed that instead of Watson's career being cut short by her marriage, it flourished. She published hundreds of books and papers, including 1971's "Explanation in Archaeology: An Explicitly Scientific Approach" and 1999's "From the Hilly Flanks of the Fertile Crescent to the Eastern Woodlands of North America."

She taught archaeology at Washington University, eventually being named the Edward



*Dr. Thomas J. Grant giving his talk at the 2022 Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show. Photo by Valerie J. Meyers.*

Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor, until her retirement in 2004.

Watson was named to the National Academy of Sciences in 1988; Discover magazine listed her among the "The 50 Most Important Women in Science" in 2002. The Archaeological Institute of America gave her its Pomerance Award for Scientific Contributions to Archaeology in 2007.

While Grant did discuss other aspects and practitioners of dark zone archaeology, his main focus was on Watson. His concluding words were, "The moral is, follow your heart – even if it takes you into a cave."

## THE DANGERS OF OVERLOADING EQUIPMENT

Eric Fritzsich  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE)  
August, 2022 Pick & Shovel

I want to share an experience I had in my collection this morning. My circuit breakers had popped. I went to turn them back on and they kept popping. I could smell a faint electronic smoke and when I went to investigate it near a multi-plug, it exploded into a fireball.

Luckily, I saw the fire and could put it out with minimal damage, but it could have been a lot worse.

Check electrical plugs and make sure you haven't overloaded them. Check to make sure that saws, grinders, lights, and laps don't overload your house. Get rid of flammable materials like boxes, paper, etc. if possible. Stay safe in your hobby.

## KID SAFETY NEEDS A DIFFERENT APPROACH, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 5)*

Putting all that together, we adults need to make a concerted effort to devise safety plans to make the learning as fun as possible for kids. The thing that makes this easier is that kids are like sponges – they soak up all they see, hear, touch, taste, and smell. To grow and become a part of the world, kids will absorb all that interests them. Even that which might not yet be so interesting is still taken inside for future reference.

Kids watch one another and they watch adults. One of adults' greatest teaching aids is to be a role model of good safety practices. Take the guy who is walking across a loose pile of rock and slip sliding along the way. Kids will look at that and think, "Okay, it's being done by an adult and it's okay to do." And yet, it is so very easy to lose one's footing and fall down the slope as they try such a traverse.

If kids see an adult chipping a rock with a rock pick while not wearing safety goggles, the kid might think to themselves that it is safe for them to do so as well. Yes, kids watch their parents set good examples, however, they also watch all adults. Adults, ALL adults, should model good safety practices.

Kids may see and hear a demonstration on the importance of wearing gloves. They may be told how sharp quartz shards can be after hammering. Some might be curious as to what they can cut with it. They might try cutting the draw string on their hoodie, cutting their new shirt's sleeve, or their shoelaces. Kids learn by doing. What better way to judge sharpness than by cutting something? So, give kids some corrugated cardboard to cut. Give kids a direction or opportunity to utilize their energy safely.

Face it, some kids in the family will be interested in rocks and some may be not so enamored. To keep less interested kids busy, try to find interesting rock things – colors, patterns, and shapes. Then ask them to describe or draw what they saw. Encourage them to come up with interesting ideas of how the colors, patterns, and shapes are formed. Other kids may be happier exploring rock history, identification, or use.

There will be kids who are more interested in reading a mystery novel. That, too, is cool, so long as they don't start exploring away from the dig site. Even if kids are not interested in rocks, sometimes they will watch other kids and begin participating in discovery. Sometimes those kids will share in the excitement of

other kids as they discover their treasures. They may even enjoy a new friendship in the process.

Make demonstrations of safety easier for kids to accept. Have adults describe and put on goggles or safety glasses first. Kids will then see it is OK for them to do so. There are decorative and festive elastics that can be used with goggles to dress them up for kids (and some adults as well).

Most OSHA, MSHA, NISC, and NIOSH approved hard-hat suspension systems will fit young adults. One can make hard hats fun with name personalization, rock stickers, and other decorations. Please be aware, though, that some companies have policies that do not allow such adornment.

Kid's gloves have some festive styles, although most of them are the garden style glove, not the heavy work glove. Some small, leather gloves in women's styles will fit junior size hands.

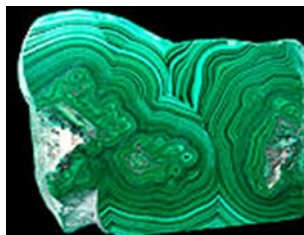
Working with kids can be a rewarding, frustrating, cooperative, enlightening and an otherwise challenging enterprise, but it is worth the effort to keep kids safe. Always remember that everyone's safety matters – short or tall, big or small.

## IMA APPROVES MINERAL ABBREVIATIONS

Kreigh Tomaszewski

West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group

In 2021 the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) approved 5,744 mineral name abbreviations by combining four methods of nomenclature based on the Kretz symbol approach. Just as every element has a one- or two-letter symbol, minerals now have unique symbols/abbreviations. The paper with the list of approved minerals and symbols can be found at [cnmnc.main.jp/imacnmnc\\_approved\\_mineral\\_symbols.pdf](http://cnmnc.main.jp/imacnmnc_approved_mineral_symbols.pdf).



*Good ol' Mlc! Photo of malachite by Didier Descouens, via Wikimedia Commons.*

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
vjmwriter@yahoo.com  
Post Office Box 13456  
Overland Park, KS 66282-3456

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