

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

November 2022 - Issue No. 616

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

Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, MWF President

I am happy to be beginning my term as your President. As I am writing this message, I am packing to go to New Orleans for the AFMS Convention. I have never been there and I look forward to my first meeting (I'm on the Scholarship Committee this year).



I will be seeing many of you shortly in Springfield for our MWF convention, held in conjunction with the Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society show. Thank you for serving as our hosts. The convention is October 21-23, and show days are the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Now that we have, for the most part, been able to resume our lives and club activities despite COVID, we can look toward 2023 as a time of many excellent shows and events in our region. I will work hard as your president to promote MWF and its goals and activities. (It is also my plan to acquire many new rocks and new rockhound friends along the way.)

## FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS HAVE A NEW AWARD

Lora Hall, AFMS Junior Programs Chair

The AFMS Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) program has a new award for juniors age 10-17 who have contributed 20 hours or more of volunteer hours to their sponsoring club or society before turning 18. Teens and pre-teens can be an asset to your club. In fact, some of them will become the lifeblood of your club in a few years. The FRA Junior Volunteer Award is meant to start them down that path.

Junior members often help set up and take down at meetings, assist at rock shows, and maybe even help teach younger kids. Whether it's working at a show, filling grab bags, or making cookies for the next club big event, they deserve recognition. This award requires real work and provides real acknowledgement, and gives older juniors pride as they mature into adult members.

A junior member of the of the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club in Michigan just received the FRA Junior Volunteer Award. We would like to

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Treasurer: To Be Announced

### 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).

### FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS HAVE A NEW AWARD, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 1)*

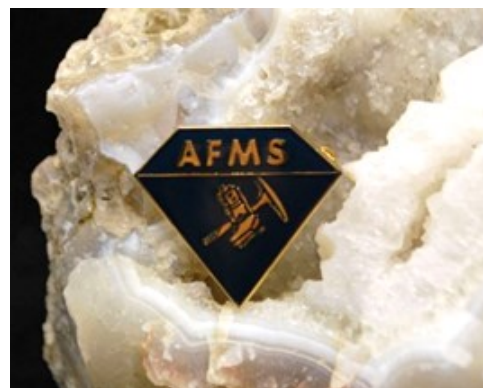
recognize **Cade Peters** for his efforts in helping his club and earning this award.



*The FRA Junior Volunteer Award pin; sadly, geode not included. Photo courtesy of the FRA.*

Future Rockhounds of America is probably best known for its badge program, in which participating juniors can earn badges in 20 different categories ranging from basic earth science to showmanship to lapidary arts. Those dedicated juniors who complete all 20 badges earn the coveted status of Rock Star!

We would like to recognize two MWF youth members who earned the prestigious designation of **Rock Star** this past year: **Delaine Cook** and **Olivia Long**, also of the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club. Congratulations to these talented and dedicated youth members!



*The Rock Star pin; photo courtesy of the FRA.*

In addition to the Junior Volunteer Award and Rock Star, junior members in the Midwest Federation have earned over 199 badges since November 2021. Eleven of them earned the Rockhound Patch for earning six of the 20 badges, which means they are well on their way to Rock Star status.

We would also like to welcome the following Midwest Federation clubs, all from Indiana, that have new Future Roundhound of America (FRA) programs: Brown County Rock and Mineral Club, Evansville Lapidary Society, and Michiana Gem and Mineral Society.

For more information about FRA awards and badges, and other AFMS youth programs, visit our new website at [www.juniors.amfed.org](http://www.juniors.amfed.org).

## HOW TO MASTER THE WORST JOB IN LAPIDARY

James Marburger, Board Member  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE)  
From the April, 2022 Pick & Shovel

I have been in the lapidary hobby for 60 years and have enjoyed all aspects of the hobby, starting with the excitement of finding a rock that has an intriguing outside. Now this rock is a beauty, but it is on to a tumbler to polish its outside. A beauty for sure, but what is inside? Now to a saw. Oh man! I am hooked. Saw-saw-saw.

Whoa, the saw is full of rock dust and oil. This oil must be cleaned up so I can continue the sawing of rocks. Armed with a putty knife, bucket, many rags, and some elbow grease, I begin the cleaning. What an unbelievably dirty job that is. I can't tell you how many saw cleanings I have done, from a 6-inch trim saw to the big boy 24-inch saw. There must be a cleaner and easier way to tackle this job.

Fast forward to 2022. I have just found a way to clean the saw with a shop vacuum cleaner. Now I don't use just a shop vacuum; that would introduce saw oil to the filters and foul the shop vacuum. But when I add a cyclone dust separator to the shop vacuum, it collects all the dust or oil before it enters the shop vacuum.

Harbor Freight has the Bauer cyclone dust separator kit for a 5-gallon bucket for a cost around \$40. Add a 5-gallon bucket and a length of soft Tygon 1-inch tubing to reach the bottom back of the saw, and you have a mean cleaning machine. On the suction Tygon tubing, a screen should be added to prevent chunks from plugging the hose. Start the vacuuming with the heavy sludge first, then the "cleaner oil" to flush the tubing of the heavy sludge.



*Inline setup. Photo courtesy of James Marburger.*

With the shop vacuum setup, I now can clean the saw in about 15 minutes, instead of spending hours of dirty work with oil to the elbows. One side note: Be sure you know how much oil is in the saw, since the bucket holds only 5 gallons. I suggest emptying the bucket after 3 gallons to prevent overfilling.

Once the oil has been vacuumed, the oil sludge can be filtered by placing it in a brown paper bag that is placed in a bucket with holes in it. This bucket is placed over another bucket to catch the filtered oil. I use a plastic plant pot to hold the paper bag which is a bit larger than a paper lunch bag. The oil will filter and the sludge will stay in the bag.

I leave the sludge bag draining until more oil is needed to be filtered. This bag can be placed in a plastic trash bag and sent with the trash to the dump. The filter can be upscaled to use a large paper grocery bag if larger amounts of oil need to be filtered. Good luck and happy cleaning your saw.

## INDIANA JUNIORS GET BADGES AND BAGS



From the September, 2022 Strata Data  
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)

Juniors Evelyn, Callen, Elwyn, and Chris (not pictured) show the Special Effects badge they earned from the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program, along with a canvas collecting bag on which patches can be sewn. The Special Effects badge is earned by learning about some minerals' unusual qualities, such as magnetism, double refraction, chatoyancy, and inclusions. The four juniors have now begun learning about how to make show displays, and started activities that will earn a Gold Panning and Prospecting badge. (Photo by Bev Jenkins.)





## CLUBS WHO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS BY JAN. 15TH HAVE TWO ADVANTAGES

The 2023 Midwest Federation forms for renewing club memberships are on the following two pages of this issue of MWF News. Please alert club officers to collect information for the forms.

One important piece of information needed is the total number of individual adult and youth members during the year completed during 2022. These figures are used for dues and insurance calculations. The rationale is that your total membership, by the end of the year, is usually about the same, so you always pay the current year dues based on your past experience. The treasurer needs this information **before January 15** so our insurance can be activated on time.

The Midwest Federation will only publish each club's public contact information. Please make sure that the mailing address is checked at least weekly and the phone number connects to a real person who can answer questions about your club. We still need direct contact information that will be distributed on a need-to-know basis to Federation leaders.

Clubs are encouraged to provide name, position and email address for additional officers, board members and members who would like to receive the *MWF News*. This information will only be distributed to our editor and secretary. This is a great way to make sure that all of your officers are "in the know."

Clubs who renew on time will receive an email subscription to the juniors publication Mini Miners Monthly, distributed only via email. If you wish to have the Mini Miners Monthly subscription sent to someone other than your editor (1<sup>st</sup> choice) or president (2<sup>nd</sup> choice), please provide a name, position and valid email address for that individual and indicate that they are to receive the Mini Miners materials.

Use the EVENTS form to submit details of shows and events during the coming year. You may include a flyer, printed on white paper, as additional information. If this information is submitted with the dues, we will make sure it gets to the website, newsletter and directory coordinators. If it is submitted later, or separately, it is more likely to get overlooked.

Insurance will stay the same for 2023. Our current rate is \$4.50 per club member, and all members must be covered. Clubs that submit their dues on time

(postmarked no later than January 15, 2023), may take a discount of 25¢ per member.

**Remember:** The Federation insurance policy will cover groups of clubs jointly sponsoring shows or events **only if** all of the sponsoring clubs are current federation members and all of the sponsoring clubs purchase federation insurance. Requests for insurance for these jointly sponsored events must include a list of all sponsoring clubs.

Questions about your MWF forms or dues? Contact Stephen Shimatzki at 567-868-8794 or [sjs132@gmail.com](mailto:sjs132@gmail.com). Direct insurance questions to Sue Goedert at 616-337-1162 or [<sonbeams2000@yahoo.com>](mailto:sonbeams2000@yahoo.com).

## HERE'S ONE WAY TO PRESERVE FOSSILS

Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge, Board Member  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE)  
From the May, 2022 Pick & Shovel

Lynn Borysenko from Ainsworth, Nebraska recommended a product for preserving fossils. A MINWAX water-based protective finish, Polycrylic, provides a crystal clear finish, is fast-drying, and is easily cleaned with soap and water. Use the clear satin finish for a natural appearance. Besides the obvious advantages, it provides a rock-hard (excuse the pun) finish and is dissolved by acetone.



*Fossil turtle sealed with Minwax Polycrylic. Photo by "Woolly" Wooldridge.*

Polycrylic is normally used on interior wood surfaces and furniture. My wife used it to seal the knotty pine walls in our cabin and I used it to restore the coffee table pictured. It is important to use products such as finishes and glues that can be dissolved, usually by acetone, in case you make a mistake.



# Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

## Annual Dues, Insurance and Club Contact Information

(Use black INK. Please print, type or complete form on-line. Submit original.)

CLUB NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

### 2023 Club Dues

Use membership figures from completed by December 31, 2022

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

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

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

### 2023 Club Insurance (Optional, but if chosen, must pay for all members)

Total number of members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.50 (\$4.25 for qualifying clubs\*) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

(\*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2023 receive a discounted insurance rate of \$4.25 per member)

(Make check payable to Midwest Federation) TOTAL DUES AND INSURANCE REMITTED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**FORM, DUES, INSURANCE & EVENTS are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2023**

Mail to: MWF, %Stephen Shimatzki, 4295 County Rd 16, Woodville, OH 43469

### Club Public Information for Directory & Website

Club mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Info Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook Name \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_

Check following that apply to your club: ☐ Kid friendly ☐ FRA Club ☐ Lapidary workshop ☐ Field trips  
☐ Rock Show ☐ Educational outreach

### Direct Contact Information for Mailings (THIS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED)

Individual (other than Treasurer) designated to receive official Federation materials:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB BULLETIN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please use separate sheet to list additional officers and members (name, position, email) who would like to receive the Federation newsletter and/or juniors materials via email.



## Calendar of Events Listing Information

### For Publication in MWF Directory, Website & Newsletter

(Use Black INK! Please print, type or complete form on-line. Submit original.)

CLUB NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

Show Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Event Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Show \_\_\_\_\_ Rock Swap \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Days/Times: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility/Location Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

#### Optional Information:

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

#### ADDITIONAL EVENT:

Event Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Show \_\_\_\_\_ Rock Swap \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Days/Times: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility/Location Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

#### Optional Information:

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

**\*\* Please include event listings for January, February, March and April 2024. \*\***

Mail completed form with your dues. Questions? Call 651-459-0343

**DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2023**

REMEMBER, this information, including contact information, will be published in the *MWF Directory*, posted on the MWF Website, and listed in the *MWF News*.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<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
<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@mrm.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

*December Issue Submission Deadline Is  
Nov. 8th!*

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**Please notify the Secretary of any violations.**  
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### **PETRIFIED WOOD CAN BE COLLECTED AT A RANCH NEAR A NATIONAL PARK**

By Sue Eyre, Wisconsin Geological Society

My husband and I just returned from a road trip down Old Route 66. And yes, the price of gas is outrageous! But if your rockhounding brings you anywhere near Petrified Forest National Park, you need to visit Rhonda at the Dobell Ranch.

Rhonda Dobell is the third-generation owner and operator of 40 acres of prime petrified wood fee-collecting property adjacent to the southwest border of the national park. Her uncle already owned the property in 1929 when her grandfather quit his job in Cincinnati and moved to Arizona to start the business before the National Park was established in 1963.

You need to call ahead to visit Dobell Ranch. It's a three-mile easy dirt-road drive off of Highway 180, about a mile west of the south entrance to the park. Rhonda's cell phone number is 928-245-9010. (GPS for entrance off Highway 180: N 34 48 02.8 W 109 54 30.1)

We stopped by her ranch twice—going out and coming home—in May of 2022. At that time, she was considering raising her price from \$45 to \$50 a 5-

gallon bucket of beautiful agatized petrified wood. You can choose to pick it up off the ground, or dig it yourself.

**Important Note: Either visit Dobell Ranch after visiting the National Park, or be sure to ask Rhonda for a receipt. The park rangers can and probably will at least ask or even check your car for specimens of wood. It is ILLEGAL TO COLLECT SPECIMENS IN A NATIONAL PARK!**



*Photo of petrified wood at Dobell Ranch by Sue Eyre.*