



MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

December 2022 - Issue No. 617

Web Site - www.mwfed.org

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, MWF President

Thanks again to the Ozarks Gem and Mineral Society for hosting our convention. Their show had many vendors and large crowds and we had a lovely banquet at a nearby restaurant where both our Scholarship Honoree and two scholarship recipients were able to attend. How inspiring to hear young people at the beginning of their geological careers!

The AFMS has given out \$2 million in scholarships since the early 1960s. MWF is always high on the list of donors to the endowment. Let's all continue to support this program.

We are seeking a new Scholarship Honoree for 2023 and await our members' nominations.

A new contest for a MFW T-shirt slogan/design for 2023 was approved at the convention, and details will be announced in the MWF News. Sandy Shorter,

(Continued on page 14)



MINUTES OF THE 2022 MWF CONVENTION

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The MWF Council of Delegates met October 22, 2022, in Springfield, Missouri. President Catherine Clevenz called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by J.C. Moore.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 1st Vice President Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich.

Sandy Turk, representative from the host club, welcomed everyone to Springfield. She was surprised at how many made the trip with the high price of gas. She said their club has a lot of new members, so there have been some changes in the club.

Catherine recognized the past presidents who were present, including Sandy Fuller, David Root, Cindy Root, James Marburger, J.C. Moore, and David Rich. Honorary Member Barbara Sky was present, as well as incoming AFMS President Cheryl Neary.

(Continued on page 2)

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Cherry or Green, It's Tanzurine!.....	15
Clubs Honor Longtime Members.....	13
Clubs Name Rockhounds of the Year	7
Clubs Who Renew By Jan. 15th Have Advantages	10
Elections Have Results AND Are Ongoing	15
Garden of the Gods Rocks	16
In Memoriam Barbara Sky.....	3
Indiana Club Recommends Juniors' Geology Book.....	13

Membership Dues and Events Calendar Forms	11-12
Minutes of the 2022 MWF Convention	1
MWF Honors Scholarship Honoree and Recipients	8
Patches Are Awarded to Juniors	13
President's Message.....	1
Red Beryl Is Rare and Striking	9
Website Contest Award-Winners Announced	9
Wisconsin Club Keeps Things Clean.....	10



MWF CONVENTION MINUTES, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

Catherine read the list of those members who had passed away this past year:

Charles Meisinger – Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club (NE)

Roger Pittard – Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club (NE)

Anne Cook – Past MWF President, Scholarship Honoree, Past AFMS Secretary

Reuben Shalander – 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 (IA)

Jim Tubbs – Neville Public Museum Geology Club (WI)

Rick Janssen – Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society (SD)

Merwin Smith

Michigan Mineralogical Society – **Laurence Alexander, Sara Bergeron, David McIntyre, Edward Reynolds, Joseph Soncrant**

Ed Reynolds – founding father of Toledo Gem & Mineral Club (OH)

Marian Warner – Akron Mineral Society (OH)

Betty White and Bob Mansell – Independence Gem & Mineral Society (MO)

Gary Krause – Coulee Rock Club of LaCrosse (WI), founding member

Margaret Campbell Barr – Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI)

Bill (Wm.) H. Tite and Lloyd Buzzard – Tri-County Rock and Minerals Society (MI)

Chet Smith – Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club (MI)

William Krull – Michiana Gem and Mineral Society (IN)

Charlotte (Chuckie) Wild – Minnesota Mineral Club

Marie Newlander – honorary life member Minnesota Mineral Club, and possible St Croix Club

Ellis and Sandy Voss – longtime dealers out of Ames, IA (died within 10 days of each other)

Walt Wattenbarger – Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)

Mozarkite Society of Lincoln (MO) – **Anita Simmons**

Osage Rock and Mineral Club (MO) – **Norman Bashore, Ellis Bray, Travis Gilstrap**

Joe Claxton – former assistant state director, Illinois, Southern Illinois Rock and Mineral Club

MWF OFFICERS

President: Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

1166 Broadview

Tallmadge, OH 44278

330-630-9625

mafergusonrich@gmail.com

1st VP: Election being held

2nd VP: Election being held

Secretary: Donna Moore

25235 N. Illinois Highway 97

Cuba, IL 61427

309-789-6501

mwfsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Steve Shimatzki

4295 County Road 16

Woodville, OH 43469

567-868-8794

sjs132@gmail.com

Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois – **Mary Ricciardi, Betsy Rogers, Ray Sedivec**

Jim Parrish – Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (IL)

Marvin Koehler – Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club (MN)

Parliamentarian Cindy Root reviewed the rules of order for the meeting.

The minutes of the Council meeting from 2021 had been printed in the MWF Newsletter, e-mailed to the Executive Committee and printed copies were available on the table at the entry.

Cindy Root moved to approve the minutes as printed. David Rich seconded the motion, which carried.

Treasurer Sandy Fuller gave the treasurer's report which printed copies were on the table. She noted there are expenses for the president, 1st vice president and uniform rules chairman to attend the AFMS convention. She expected the treasury to finish the year in the black.

Jim Marburger moved to approve the treasurer's report. Carol Zem from the Minnesota Mineral Club seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2nd Vice President Cheryl Neary reported on the State Directors. They had met earlier during the

(Continued on page 3)

MWF CONVENTION MINUTES, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

executive committee meeting. She had a report on the table. Some state directors have not participated. Steven Shimatzki from Ohio is stepping down. Catherine Clevenz will be stepping up to fill that position. Catherine reported that she had prodded Steven to take the treasurer's job and had offered to take the state director's job for Ohio. Incoming President Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich had okayed that transfer and appointed Catherine as Ohio State Director.

The following state directors were present:

Jim Marburger from **Nebraska** had a written report to which he added that he had been in the hobby way too long. His basement is still full after starting to downsize. He had just recently retired from being in a dealership for 45 years.

Timothy Hill from **Iowa** had a written report and said the clubs are very active. Some shows are going on. The clubs in Iowa still have access to some quarries in which to collect.

Michele Yamanaka from **Indiana** had a written report to which she added that she is a member of Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Club. She is the leader for the juniors and is field trip coordinator. Indiana has nine clubs presently. Six of those have had shows which are going well. She noted there are common problems in the clubs – getting leaders to step up and serve, and finding field trips.

Marcia Opatz from **Minnesota** noted that she is not a rockhound, her husband is. They are working with the state legislature about collecting in state parks in Minnesota.

Bruce Stinemetz, representing **Missouri and Arkansas**, welcomed everyone to Missouri. He has been collecting for 50 years. He is a member of the Independence club, president of the Kansas City group that hosts the large show in March, and treasurer of the Midwest Friends of Mineralogy. He introduced his new assistant Fred Schovanez who is part of two St. Louis clubs. His other assistant is Sharon Waddell who is a dealer at this show. He is trying to get the clubs to work together.

(Continued on page 4)

IN MEMORIAM BARBARA SKY

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

Barbara Sky of Ballwin, Missouri, our MWF Honorary Member, passed away on October 27th. She had just participated in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention in Westwego, Louisiana and the Midwest Federation Convention in Springfield, Missouri. She was 92.

According to her obituary on Legacy.com, Barbara was an alumna of Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, and a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She was married for 30 years to William Sky, who passed away in 1983. She is survived by four children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

She was an active member of our hobby and usually could be seen helping at our conventions. When she first moved back to Missouri from Tennessee, she was the photographer for the MWF. She was always willing to serve as a judge for competitive exhibits. She organized an AFMS judges training session in St. Louis to train more judges for the MWF and other federations.



Barbara Sky, right, attended the 2018 AFMS annual convention with three other MWF members (left to right: J.C. Moore, Donna Moore, and Sandy Fuller).

She remained active with the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies as well as with the Midwest Federation. She had recently served as Uniform Rules Chairman for both federations.

At shows, Barbara was often found helping with the silent auction or other areas where she could assist. When she wasn't actively assisting, she could

(Continued on page 8)



MWF CONVENTION MINUTES, CONTINUED: PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS, A-I

(Continued from page 3)

Susan Stanforth, state director from **Illinois**, is ill. A card was sent around for her.

Kevin Ponzio is the **Wisconsin** State Director, but had no report.

Steven Shimatzki, who is stepping down as **Ohio** State Director, said he lives south of Toledo. Former director Tom Kottyan saw a problem of clubs not knowing what the MWF does. There were local concerns and interactions of clubs. He tried to go to shows and talk to the club president.

John Donker from **Michigan** used to come to shows in Ohio as well as Michigan.

Communications are important. There are three pages in the MWF Operating Procedures manual pertaining to state directors.

Permanent Committees

Archaeology – Written report.

Boundaries – Nothing to report.

Bulletin Editors Aid Committee – This position is open since Sharon Marburger has resigned after serving for several years. She reported there were 16 entries this year, 12 went on to the AFMS. The results will be announced at the awards banquet. Sharon is talking to some people about taking this job.

Club Rockhound of the Year – Jeanine Mielecki had sent a written report. The most recent nomination is from Arkansas. Send nominations to her. She has an updated certificate that is sent to the club nominees. The nomination is included in the MWF and AFMS newsletters. Now photos are being added.

Conventions and Show Advisory – J. C. Moore reported we had a great convention in Toledo, Ohio last year. Everyone was ready to get out after COVID. 2022 here in Springfield, Missouri, hosted by the Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society. There were great crowds after the streets were opened following a walk for breast cancer. 2023 will be held in Howell, Michigan, hosted by the Livingston Gem &

Mineral Society. They have a nice show and a wonderful workshop set up in an old school building. Their show will be held September 16-17, 2023.



Howell, Michigan, site of next year's MWF convention. Photo by Joshua Young, via Wikimedia Commons.

Credentials – David Root confirmed we had a quorum so we could conduct business.

Director of Supplies – Andrea suggested members check the MWF Website to see what is available. The Moores had extra copies of the MWF 2022 Directory for sale at the meeting.

Directory – Martha Miss announced there were copies available for \$4.00 each since no postage was required.

Education – No report.

Endowment Fund – A written report was included as well as the Endowment Treasurer's report. Tickets were still available for the tricky tray fundraiser which would be drawn at the end of this meeting.

Environment and Legislation – Written report.

Geology – No report.

Historian – Written report.

Insurance – Written report. Sue Goedert has saved us premium money. She is quite responsive to requests. Please give her as much time ahead as possible.

(Continued on page 5)

**MWF CONVENTION MINUTES, CONTINUED: PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS, J-U**

(Continued from page 4)

Junior Activities – Joan Stoker, delegate from Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was representing the AFMS Future Rockhounds. She reported the website has been updated and is easier to use. There was a juniors workgroup, which met over the course of a year to update the juniors program. Cheryl Neary participated. They suggested stuff to make life easier. “How Can Our Kids and Teens Join FRA (Future Rockhounds of America)?” This is for any kind of activity by any kid that is a member of a club with a juniors program. On the website is “Quick Start for Badge Program,” a 10-page quick start guide. Worksheet packets will go right through the badges.

Lapidary – Written report.

Long Range Planning – No report.

Membership – Written report.

Merit Awards – Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich reported there were no applications this year. Nor had we had any for several years. This is essentially a scrapbook of the activities of the club for the year. There were only three submissions nationwide. Many clubs are just getting back to normal activities.

Mineralogy – No report.

Newsletter – Written report. David Root commented that Valerie is doing a heck of a good job with the newsletter.

Paleontology – No report.

Program competition – No report.

Program Requests – No report.

Program Review – No report.

Public Image – Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich presented a Power Point presentation for Sandy Shorter proposing selling t-shirts to publicize the MWF. She suggested taking orders in March and April (all would have to be ordered ahead). They would be created to be available at the convention or as a T-Shirt of the Year. The shirts would include the MWF logo to advertise the MWF. Maybe a yearly contest could be held for a winning design and slogan. The cost would be kept low with a decision to be made where any profit might go. Cheryl Neary moved to accept the idea of T-shirts with a logo and design. We would hold contests for a slogan and artwork. Cindy Root seconded the motion, which carried.

Safety – David Rich reminded everyone to wear safety glasses, get COVID shots and check your batteries. He suggested taking walkie-talkies when out in the field because they can often work where there is no cell phone signal. David Murray, Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society, added that safety shoes are quite important. They had someone attend a field trip in flip flops.

Scholarship – Marge Collins had a written report. The honoree and two students would be introduced at the banquet.

Silent Auction – It would be held on Sunday. J.C. Moore said for people to not go home early so they could bid on items offered.

Technology Resources – No report.

Uniform Rules – J.C. Moore reported that this involved competitive cases judged by judges trained by the AFMS. Last year there were two entries in Toledo. This year we have three at this show – two minerals, one fossils. One of the exhibitors is a first-time exhibitor, which is encouraging that there is renewed interest.

(Continued on page 6)

January Issue Submission Deadline Is Dec. 6th!

MWF CONVENTION MINUTES, CONTINUED: OLD BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS

(Continued from page 5)

Concern was expressed that the rules for competition were too complicated and need a Cliff's Notes version. J.C. noted that this was brought up at the AFMS Uniform Rules meeting. There is a committee working on trying to make the rules more user friendly. They are trying to get it simplified.

Website – Written report.

Website Contest – No report. Sharon Marburger will present the AFMS awards in this category at the banquet also.

Old Business

Communication – Is information getting to the members? That is why we are here. Michele Yamanaka had received a question about a new president's packet or a welcome packet. A committee was formed with the task of having something to present at the Spring Meeting in May. Clubs that need help can always contact Cheryl or Mary Ann.

Junior Activities – Cheryl noted that last year she and Joan Stoker set up a table at the MWF Convention in Toledo, Ohio, to encourage leaders for juniors. Points made were that juniors are responsible to keep our clubs alive and well. Information needs to be upfront. You don't have to be a rockhound to handle children or use the AFMS materials.

Fred Schovanez asked how we are keeping adult members? Cheryl said Jim Brace-Thompson had started with the juniors. There is consideration for starting an adult badge program. Joyce Kish added that one person is needed to be in charge of e-mails to disseminate information to club members.

New Business

Report from the AFMS – David Rich reported there was Big Fun in the Big Easy. Their convention was like this only on steroids. Two scholarships were awarded for the MWF. The AFMS Scholarship Fund has given out over two million dollars since it began. He thanked the MWF for letting him be the 2nd regional vice president. J.C. Moore will be the 1st regional vice president starting November 1, 2022.

Next year's AFMS Convention is scheduled for Billings, Montana, August 3-6, 2023, with a week of field trips to follow.



Billings, Montana, site of next year's American Federation convention. Photo from visitbillings.com.

The first vice president's position for the MWF was still open. Cheryl Neary offered to move to 1st Vice President if we could find a person to serve as 2nd vice president. (After the meeting, Bill Smith offered to serve as 2nd VP if Cheryl would be 1st VP. Ballots were sent to Executive Committee Members as per the by-laws.)

Vacant Position for MWF Treasurer – Sandy Fuller had resigned effective when she could be replaced. Stephen Shimatzki had volunteered to serve as treasurer. Sandy Fuller moved to accept Stephen as MWF Treasurer. David Rich seconded the motion, which carried.

Sandy Fuller moved that a resolution would need to be passed for Stephen Shimatzki, Sandy Fuller and Donna Moore to be the signatories on the Huntington Bank account. Cindy Root seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The secretary will prepare a letter.

The suggestion to sell **MWF T-shirts** was brought up. Steve Shimatzki moved to hold a contest for the t-shirt design and slogan. David Root seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

J.C. Moore asked if there was any profit from selling the t-shirts, where would the money go? Previous t-shirt sales benefitted the MWF Endowment

(Continued on page 7)

MWF CONVENTION MINUTES, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

Fund. Martha Miss asked about tax implications. Carol Zem, Minnesota Mineral Club, said we need to check on that. Cindy Root suggested that each state director check on what is allowed in his or her state. Catherine clarified that we have not approved selling the t-shirts, only the contest for the slogan and design had been approved. She appointed a committee of the Second Vice President, Sandy Shorter and the state directors to investigate the implications concerning taxes.

There was further discussion considering shipping t-shirts to different locations. Sandy Fuller said the MWF has no sales tax incidental to our mission. It was decided to go ahead and do the contests for the design and slogan, then in May have the information ready on how we are going to handle it all. Janis Dietrich, Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society, moved to table the decision on the t-shirts until the MWF Spring Meeting of the Executive Committee until we find out our options. Cindy Root seconded the motion, which passed with one dissenting vote.

Announcements included the Spring Meeting of the MWF Executive Committee will be held in Brainerd, Minnesota, on May 13, 2023. The next MWF Council of Delegates Meeting will be held in Howell, Michigan, on September 16, 2023.

Cindy Root had the tickets drawn and prizes awarded for the tricky tray. David Root auctioned off E-Bear in absentia. Both were for the MWF Endowment Fund. Jeanine Mielecki bid \$100.00 on Zoom in honor of Susan Stanforth. Steven Shimatzki assured her E-Bear would be mailed.

Craig Heinze, Chicago Rocks and Mineral Society, moved to adjourn. James Marburger seconded the motion. Catherine declared the meeting adjourned.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: *The written reports or reports in the packet referred to in the minutes are posted on the MWF website (www.mwfed.org) so you can refer to them as you go through the minutes. They should be under Convention. Anyone who attended the meeting should have a printed copy of the reports. If you would like a printed copy of the reports, and are unable to print them out, please contact me at mwfsecretary@gmail.com and give me your mailing address for a printed set.*

CLUBS NAME ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

The **Spring River Gem and Mineral Club** (SRGMC) of Cherokee Village, Arkansas, proudly proclaims **David and Mary Thomas** its Rockhounds of the Year for 2022.

David and Mary research, plan and lead the club's field trips. Additionally, Mary always raises her hand when the club needs an officer or a committee chairperson. She is the Secretary of the SRGMC and serves as the club's interim treasurer.



Mary and David Thomas of the Spring Valley Gem and Mineral Club are a mighty team who help to make their club interesting and fun for all. Photo courtesy of Linda O'Neal.

David and Mary have led field trips to several museums, including the Belz Museum of Asian & Judaic Art in Tennessee, to view its jade sculptural treasures, the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum in Arkansas, which displays a worldwide collection of gems and minerals, and the Hampson Archeological Museum in Arkansas, to see artifacts by pre-Columbian people of the Arkansas Delta.

Thank you, David and Mary Thomas, for your dedication and the many hours of hard work invested on your part to make the SRGMC interesting and fun!



The **Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society** of Rockford, Illinois proudly announces that **Jake Roe** is its Rockhound of the Year for 2022. While he is fairly new to the club, Jake's fellow RRVGMS members have voted for Jake in appreciation for his tremendous interest in the club's activities and rocks in general. A rockhound 24/7, Jake earns his livelihood working in a quarry and he has made it possible for the club to have a field trip to a quarry.

Jake's long association with rocks has led him to enjoy many facets of our hobby, including collecting, cutting and polishing rocks. He is very deserving of the recognition bestowed upon him. Congratulations, Jake!



MWF HONORS SCHOLARSHIP HONOREE AND RECIPIENTS AT CONVENTION BANQUET

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, MWF President

At the annual convention October 22nd in Springfield, Missouri, Sarah Prost and Joseph Lane were named as the two students who received this year's scholarship grants from the MWF.

Douglas R. Gouzie, a professor of geology at Missouri State University, had been named as the MWF Scholarship Honoree of the year last April, meaning that he was chosen to work with MWF and the MSU faculty to select two students who would receive grants from the Scholarship Foundation of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Each federation of the AFMS (except for the Southeast Federation, which has its own scholarship program) receives funding for two \$4,000 grants annually.

The awards were also announced in "Two GGP graduate students receive national recognition," an article by Olivia Prost on blogs.missouristate.edu/cnas-newswatch.



Left to right: Scholarship Honoree Dr. Douglas Gouzie, grant recipient Joe Lane, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich (Director of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation and MWF President), and grant recipient Sarah Prost.

Sarah Prost grew up in St. Charles, Missouri. She has lived in the Springfield area for the last 10 years and received a bachelor's degree in comprehensive geology from Missouri State University. She is now working toward a master's degree from the Geography and Geology Program (GGP) at MSU.

Her interests in geology include tectonics and subtopics related to tectonics, such as volcanism, earthquakes, and orogenic events. Her thesis project is using minerals such as rutile, apatite, sphene, and zircon to apply temperature/age analysis of metamorphic rocks in the northern Rocky Mountains (western Idaho).

Olivia Prost's article quoted Dr. Matthew McKay, an adviser to the GGP students, as saying that Sarah "is a work magician. When she is given a task, it magically gets done. She makes it seem easy."

Joe Lane was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin. He is now working towards completing a master's degree at Missouri State University. He is interested in how metamorphism, structural geology, and tectonics play into the evolution of past, present, and future landscapes.

He is currently using computer modeling to see how minerals change over time at different compositions, temperatures, and pressures. With these models he is hoping to interpret the rate and timing of mountain building processes by comparing them to the minerals found in rocks from mountains around the world.

"Joe is a driven, curious, and relentless scientist," McKay said in the MSU website article. "He has all the characteristics that make him a great investigative researcher."

IN MEMORIAM BARBARA SKY, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

be observed working on the gem trees she was known for.

Barbara was always available to help with the official judging of competitive cases at conventions throughout the country. She was very knowledgeable and had a good eye for details. She was willing to offer suggestions and assistance to those competitors who were interested in how they could improve their displays. Until just recently, Barbara drove herself to most of the conventions. She would stop and visit friends and family along the route. She will be missed by those in our hobby.

WEBSITE CONTEST AWARD-WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR MWF AND AFMS

Brad Zylman, Chair
MWF Website Contest Committee

There were two entries in this year's Midwest Federation Website Contest. They were the Michigan Mineralogical Society, last year's MWF winner, and a newcomer to the field, the Midwest Faceter's Guild.

Both websites offer specific content for their members' passions, and the MMS website held out to win over the Midwest Faceter's Guild in a split decision between the judges. The judges were completely independent of both websites, and the scores were close. Both are excellent examples of what a great club website can be, not only at a regional level but at a national level as well. I will send out web prize badges to the winners to tag their websites.

Both MWF winners were entered in the national contest sponsored by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and we tied for third place! The winners were announced in October at the AFMS convention. The report by Don Shurtz, chair of the AFMS Website Contest Committee, read in part:

"I want to let you know how hard it was to judge the contest this year. There were less than 3 points between the scores of the 1st and 5th place winners.

"Over the years, I have told the judges that I would like them to work very hard not to have ties, or at least ties in the first three place winner's scores. This year I was the judge, and I worked very hard to break a tie between two potential third-place winners, but try as I might, I couldn't break the tie."

Here are the 2022 award winners in the AFMS Website Contest:

First Place: Robert E. Johnson, Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, denvergem.org (Rocky Mountain Federation)

Second Place: Lorrilee Stackhouse, Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society, www.snvgms.org (Rocky Mountain Federation)

Third Place (tie): Cristine Grimm, Midwest Faceter's Guild, www.midwestfaceters.org (Midwest Federation)

Third Place (tie): Brad Zylman, Michigan Mineralogical Society, www.michmin.org (Midwest Federation)

Honorable Mention: Mark Hohn, Cascade Mineralogical Society, www.cascademineralogical-society.org (Northwest Federation)

The volunteers who do the judging for this contest (and all MWF and AFMS contests) should be thanked and appreciated for their challenging work. I know I will be looking at how to beat the Denver website by stepping up the MMS offering, and I wholeheartedly welcome other clubs to take up the challenge too!

Important Note: Don Shurtz, chair of the American Federation Website Contest Committee, is retiring, and they are looking for a new person to lead the AFMS contest. If you are interested, please reach out to Don Shurtz at don.shurtz@gmail.com.

RED BERYL IS RARE AND STRIKING

Nick Smith
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)
From The Strata Data, March 2022

I've become interested in the rarest gems in the world. Some factors make certain gemstones rarer than others: requirement of exceptional geological processes to form, extremely small carat weight, exceptional color, small supply, and a limited number of locations to be found.

I will now present (in no particular order) my Top Ten Fun Facts about red beryl, one of the ten rarest gems in the world.

1. Red beryl of gem quality can only be found in one location, which is the Wah Wah Mountains of Utah.

2. It receives its red color from trace amounts of manganese.

3. According to the Utah Geological Survey "Only one red beryl crystal can be found for every one hundred fifty THOUSAND (150,000) diamonds." (So

(Continued on page 14)



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 (1st choice) or president (2nd 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. Direct insurance questions to Sue Goedert at 616-337-1162 or [<sonbeams2000@yahoo.com>](mailto:sonbeams2000@yahoo.com).

WISCONSIN CLUB KEEPS THINGS CLEAN



Members of the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society collected 10 bags of garbage in May from the stretch of highway they've adopted. Photo from the society's Rough 'n' Tumbled Times of May, 2022.



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*.

CLUBS HONOR LONGTIME MEMBERS . . .

By Marge Collins, Chair
MFW Scholarship Committee

Kettle Moraine Geological Society (KMGS) of Pewaukee, Wisconsin recently honored their oldest surviving Charter Member, **Bernice McCloskey**, with a Living Memorial contribution to the Scholarship Foundation of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

The club was formed in 1960. Bernice was the club's first newsletter editor and served almost every elected position over the years. Her interest in earth science led her first to a committee assignment for the Midwest Federation, and then she accepted the challenge of rising through the chairs of Midwest Federation and to the Board of AFMS.

Recently, the KMGS helped Bernice celebrate her 100th birthday. Bernice remains an inspiration, and so the Society decided to express their continued gratitude to her with a Living Memorial contribution. Bernice was our MFW Scholarship Honoree in 2018, selecting two Ph.D. candidates at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee to receive the Scholarship grants that year.

Summit Lapidary Club (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio) honored **Evelyn and John Tryon** with a Living Memorial for their many years of generous and dedicated service. John has since passed away and Evelyn continues as a very active member of the club.

To read about the students who received scholarship grants from the AFMS Scholarship Foundation via the Midwest Federation this year, see the article on page 8.

. . . PATCHES ARE AWARDED TO JUNIORS . . .

The kids of the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club in Michigan were as busy as ever this past summer, according to the September issue of the club's Arrowhead News. A new member, Eliza, joined the club's AFMS Future Rockhounds of America chapter, and three current members – Hannah, Toryn, and Asher – earned the FRA Rockhound badge for doing the activities that earned them six FRA patches.

In June and July, Toryn and Asher also earned Field Trip patches, along with Garrett K., Emersyn, Myla, and Aubrey. Aubrey also earned a Collecting patch. Hannah earned a Stone Age Tools patch, Lulu and Garet V.B. earned Showmanship patches, and Lucas earned a patch for Special Effects.



And in August, Audrey earned a patch for Stone Age Tools while Cade, Mathew, and Olivia won patches for Reaching Across Generations. Cade and Olivia also got patches for Rockin' on the Computer, and Mathew also earned a patch for Special Effects. Their justly proud Juniors Coordinator, Joan Stoker, stood with the four for this picture from the Arrowhead News.

. . . AND AN INDIANA CLUB RECOMMENDS A JUNIORS' BOOK ABOUT GEOLOGY

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

Explore Rocks and Minerals! By Cynthia Light Brown and Nick Brown offers kids ages 6 to 9 a fascinating introduction to geology. It investigates the geological forces that create and transform rocks, outlining the life cycle of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, and what they can tell us about the earth. It also explores fossils, and how they come to exist and are discovered.

Twenty hands-on activities bring learning to life. Kids create their own crystals, sculpt edible models of the planet, and bake volcanic meringue cookies. These easy-to-follow activities require minimal adult supervision and use common household products.

By combining an interactive component with jokes, fun facts, and cartoons, this book provides a fun, accessible introduction to geology.



RED BERYL IS RARE, STRIKING, AND HARD ENOUGH FOR JEWELRY (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 9)

maybe diamonds are not as rare as we have been made to believe?)

4. Red beryl is extremely rare for three main reasons:

a. There must be enough beryllium present to form this beryllium mineral.

b. Manganese must also be present at the same time and location to provide the red color.

c. Geochemically, beryllium, manganese, aluminum and silicon must all be present in the proper amounts. In other words, the proper recipe must come together.



A red beryl crystal from Violet Claims, Wah Wah Mountains, Beaver County, Utah. Photo by Robert M. Lavinsky, via Wikimedia Commons.

5. With a hardness of 7.5 to 8 on the Moh's Scale, it is hard enough for jewelry.

6. It forms doubly terminated hexagonal (six sides, like a hexagon) prismatic crystals with no etching (lines on the surface faces of the crystal). The lack of etching, as well as being hexagonal and not trigonal crystals, are clear indicators to distinguish it from pink or red tourmaline.

7. It is an igneous (lava mineral) that forms in the rock rhyolite.

8. Red beryl forms such tiny crystals that stones are rarely above one carat in weight.

9. It was originally called "bixbite," but that was too confusing because there is another mineral called "bixbyite." Both of these were found by the same person, with bixbyite being named after the founder, so you can see the confusion.

10. And one last exciting and incredible fact about red beryl: A stone over one carat in weight with exceptional color can be worth as much as \$50,000. You would need to save your money for a long time and hope you are able to find one to purchase, if you would want one.

I hope you have enjoyed these Top Ten Fun Facts about red beryl. To see pictures of red beryl, you can visit any of my sources below.

Sources:

<https://www.raregemcollection.com/gemstone-rarity-pyramid-2020-2021>

<https://geology.com/gemstones/red-beryl>

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/red-beryl-jewelry-and-gemstone-information>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

chair of our Public Image and Courtesy Committee, suggested that we create shirts to promote MWF. I suggested that we make it a contest with a \$50 prize for either a slogan or design.

After conferring with Sandy (who will be making the T-shirts), I think it will be best for this first-time effort to stick to a contest for slogans only (to be placed on the back of the shirt). The front will have the MWF logo. Details are still to be worked out, and a committee was established. Start thinking of clever slogans and you may be the winner!

Don't forget, it is dues-paying season again. Get your club signed up soon for another great year.

*Have Happy and
Safe Holidays,
Everyone!*

CHERRY OR GREEN, IT'S TANZURINE!

Stacy Walbridge
The Mountain Gem, May 2022
Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin (NC)
Via The Glacial Drifter of the
Topeka Gem & Mineral Society

At the Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers show in Franklin I was cruising the tables and stopped at Ariel Treasures. The owner, Jonathan Bartky, asked if I would like to see a relatively new mineral.

From under the table he pulled out a cherry red rock, which is called Tanzurine. There is a red variety (cherry) and a green variety (emerald) from his mine in Tanzania. The name, Tanzurine, was coined and patented by Bartky. These two gem deposits are near Tanzania's border with Kenya and in Maasai tribal land.

In 2017, samples were provided to Dr. Loretta D. Dickson at Lock Haven University for analysis. Dr. Dickson found that the cherry Tanzurine was quartz with inclusions of pink mica that is most likely lepidolite. The crystals are aligned within the quartz host, which results in differing shades of red depending upon the orientation of the cut.

The green Tanzurine quartz was colored by inclusions of the chromium variety of muscovite known as fuchsite. The fuchsite crystals also have a parallel orientation within the quartz but are much smaller than the lepidolite crystals. Reference: Rock & Minerals, volume 93.



Jonathan's enthusiasm for Tanzurine convinced me to buy a sample of the cherry-colored quartz. Back home, I cut a slab and made a small cabochon. As shown in the above photograph, this cab is similar in color to rose quartz. (Note: a cerium oxide polish put a nice shine on the cab). It has potential for some interesting pieces.

ELECTIONS HAVE RESULTS AND ARE ONGOING

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The following people were elected in the regular MWF Election. Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich was elected MWF President, Cheryl Neary was elected 2nd Vice President, and Donna Moore was elected Secretary. There were four nominees to the two open positions on the Nominating Committee; the two top vote-getters were Susan Stanforth and Pamela Hecht.

The MWF Nominating Committee will be headed by immediate past president Catherine Clevenz. The two new members will be joining Jeanine Mielecki, Deb Wehinger, Sharon Marburger and Jim Travis. These members serve on a rotating three-year cycle.

At the annual meeting, Stephen Shimatzki was elected as MWF Treasurer to replace Sandy Fuller, who had asked to step down.

After the annual convention, Bill Smith offered to serve as 2nd Vice President if Cheryl Neary would move to 1st Vice President. Since this has to be approved by the Executive Committee if done outside the annual meeting, the secretary prepared and mailed ballots to approve this action.

The ballots were sent to members of the MWF Executive Committee. This committee includes the MWF Officers, State Directors, Past Presidents, Permanent Committee Chairmen, State Directors and Honorary Members. The results of this action will be official after the end of November.

Catherine Clevenz was appointed as the new Ohio State Director by Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich.

We are looking for a new Junior Activities Chairperson as well as a new Bulletin Editors Aid Chairman. If anyone is interested in what is required in either of these positions, please contact Secretary Donna Moore.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

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

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

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fiatt, IL
Permit No. 1

It is MWF policy that its name and logo may not be used for commercial purposes.
Please notify the Secretary of any violations.

GARDEN OF THE GODS ROCKS SHOW LIESEGANG BANDS AND RUGGED BEAUTY

Cliff Thomas, president of the Badger Lapidary and Geological Society in Wisconsin, duplicated the text of a sign he saw on the observation trail in Colorado's Garden of the Gods Recreation Area. The text, along with Cliff's excellent pictures of the area, was published in the society's July, 2021 issue of Badger Diggin's.



“...dark, reddish-brown swirls, and rings on the rocks . . . are called Liesegang bands. When this sandstone was underground, it was saturated with groundwater mixed with iron. Chemical change caused the iron to rust between the rock particles. The raised dark bands have resisted weathering compared to the softer, light-colored rock. The patterns of the bands are the result of these chemical changes.”

