



MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

January 2023 - Issue No. 618

Web Site - www.mwfed.org

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, MWF President

I wish all our members a joyous holiday season. Soon our thoughts will turn to next year's adventures in rockhounding. And speaking of next year, it is time for all clubs to submit dues, insurance payments (if applicable), and information about club shows for 2023. We want to make sure the word gets out about your club's events!

Those considering preparing an entry for the All American Award will have until April 1st to get it to me, as I am the chairman for that award. We are moving beyond COVID, so I hope we will have some entries from clubs active in 2022.

I am also announcing the opening of the T-shirt logo contest for 2023. A prize of \$50.00 will be awarded for the slogan selected for our MWF shirt. The shirt will be created by Sandy Shorter, chair of the MWF Public Image and Courtesy Committee, as part of her efforts to promote the organization. All entries should be emailed to me by March 1, 2023 to be considered. Let's come up with something that rocks!



MICHIGAN CLUB HAS TWO ROCK STARS

Joan Stoker, Juniors Coordinator
Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (MI)

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies began the Future Rockhounds of America program for youth a couple decades ago. One facet of FRA is the badge program, centering on Earth Science education through 20 different badge topics.

Completing all 20 badges takes perseverance. Only fifty Juniors in the entire USA have done it, and in doing so, they earn the AFMS Rock Star award.

Our own IMRMC members Delaina Cook and Olivia Long are #49 and #50!

The Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club began using this program in the fall of 2016. Olivia and Delaina were there, and they received their first badges in January 2017, at the ages of 11 and 12.

Since our club meets only once a month, and some months are special events, and a few badges take two months to complete . . . well, you get the picture. Getting the Rock Star award takes commitment.

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MWF TAKES AWARDS IN AFMS CONTEST

Valerie J. Meyers
MWF Newsletter Editor

The sixteen winners of the MWF Bulletin Editors' Competition were announced in the MWF News' October issue. Those entries placing first through third in the MWF competition were sent on to the national contest sponsored by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, to which all seven regional federations send qualifying entries.

The winners of the AFMS competition were announced at its October convention in Westwego, Louisiana. Out of more than 100 entries, the MWF took the following prizes – including a first-place award!

NEW EDITORS

4th Place **Mary Myers.** Summit Lapidary Club (OH).

SMALL BULLETINS

2nd Place **The Quarry.** Editors Jim and Judy Budnik, Cincinnati Mineral Society (OH).

6th Place **The Pick and Dop Stick.** Editor Rachele L. Best, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (IL).

ADVANCED ADULT ARTICLES

Honorable Mention **"The Dead River of Illinois"** by Rachele L. Best, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (IL).

ADULT ARTICLES

7th Place **"The Glacial Grooves of Kelleys Island"** by Susan Satchwill, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

8th Place **"It's a Sticky Situation"** by Daniel Hogan, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (MWF).

10th Place **"Tourmaline: A Multicolored Gem With a Complex Chemical Composition"** by Nick Smith, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

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WRITTEN FEATURES

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

4th Place **"Hematite, Iron Mines, Rock Shops & Rainbows – A Rockhounding Trip to Michigan"** by Susan Satchwill, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

6th Place **"A Rock Show (At Last!) and the Grandeur of Wyoming"** by Steve Dumortier, Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (MO).

JUNIOR ARTICLES – UNDER 12

6th Place **"The Shah Diamond"** by Amelia Rosholt (7), Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (IL).

Congratulations to all our MWF winners, and to everyone who wrote an original article for his or her newsletter this year! You all make a valuable contribution to the hobby!

*February Issue
Submission Deadline
Is Jan. 4th!*

INDIAN MOUNDS' FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA CHAPTER HAS TWO ROCK STARS

(Continued from page 1)

Each badge requires three major tasks from the FRA manual, and sometimes more to really comprehend the topic, even at a grade-school level. Our club gives more challenging activities for high-school level students.



Delaina displays all 20 badges in this frame and Olivia has them, with photos, in a scrapbook. Both items were shown at the club's September meeting celebration. Photos by Craig Stoker and Angie Hartley.

Besides completing the badges over the past five years, both Olivia and Delaina have participated in silent auctions, rock shows, field trips and other regular club activities. They both earned our own Junior Volunteer award three years ago by helping with many club projects.

Olivia wrote the first-ever junior article, about her wire-wrapping craft, for our club's Arrowhead News January 2020 edition. She used her skill last November to teach a group wire-wrapping for the Lapidary Arts badge.

As older teens, both young women's help at club events has been invaluable. Their assistance in working with newer juniors has also been very much appreciated, especially as the group has grown to more than 50 kids.

We also congratulate their parents for their own club participation as well as for supporting their daughters in the badge program.

All the juniors are thankful to the IMRMC Board and senior club members for our September Rock Star Celebration and for sponsoring the Future Rockhounds of America program within the Indian Mounds Club. Without the "big club" support, it couldn't have happened!

MINI-UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

The Kettle Moraine Geological Society (Wisconsin) will kick off its new Junior Rockhounds Club with a celebration Jan. 14, 2023, at the Germantown Community Library, N112 W16957 Mequon Road, Germantown, Wisconsin. The party, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, will feature a members' rock show, discussion of how the Junior Rockhounds program works, and pizza. For more information, contact Ori Ramsey, kmg.s.jrrockhounds@gmail.com.

The Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (Nebraska) will hold its mid-winter rock swap Jan. 28, 2023, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Bethany Park enclosed shelter, 64th and Vine Streets, in Lincoln. Currency will be Swapper Dollars, available at the door; attendees are asked to bring canned items for the Lincoln Food Bank. For more information, contact Sharon Marburger, mamamar7880@outlook.com.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

Entries for the **MWF T-Shirt Slogan Contest** are due **March 1, 2023**. Sandy Shorter, Chair of the Public Image and Courtesy Committee, is creating the T-shirt that needs a slogan; her email address is sandyshorter25@gmail.com. Entries should be emailed to MWF President Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, mafergusonrich@gmail.com.

Club yearbook entries for 2022 will be accepted for the **MWF All American Club Awards** until **April 1, 2023**. For further information, contact MWF Merit Awards Chair (and President) Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, mafergusonrich@gmail.com.



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).

SHE HAS TWO REASONS TO SMILE



What more could a rockhound want than a pile of rocks and a good buddy? This picture of Heidi and her sidekick Cowboy was the cover shot of the March, 2022 issue of Rock Trails, the newsletter of Michigan's State Line Gem & Mineral Society. Photo by Kathy Boyers, Rock Trails editor.



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*.

ADVICE ON TOURING BADLANDS NATL. PARK

Charles “Wooly” Wooldridge
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE)
From the August, 2022 Pick & Shovel

Recently Jackie and I spent a week in the Badlands of South Dakota. We parked our camper at the White River KOA campground. It is a beautiful area, fairly inexpensive, with all the amenities, shade at every campsite, and close by Badlands National Park. I do not recommend camping at the park campgrounds, as there is no shade.

Our National Parks lifetime permit provides free entry into the park. There is a loop drive with many scenic points of interest. The geology is amazing!

The visitors center has a gift shop, museum, and working paleontological lab. The paleontologist working the lab was familiar with paleontologists at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and had worked with Phil Geib, who is an archeologist at UNL and club member.

Ed, a smaller-animal paleontologist, showed me locations for rockhounding on a map. Chase, a docent, also circled places on the map where he looks for Fairburns, chalcedony, and other lapidary materials. All these spots were located in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. It is illegal to collect in the National Park.

We collected in several locations, finding black chalcedony, petrified wood, and Fairburn “signers.” I was searching for Lakota Blue Chalcedony, but did not find any. The black chalcedony was a good find. It is solid with some agatization, and it cuts and polishes well. An added benefit is that it fluoresces a strong green under ultraviolet light.

We took a couple of tours while in the Badlands. The first was a helicopter tour over the National Park. It was truly amazing to view the geological formations from the air! We then toured an area by horse. It was a totally different perspective.

If you haven’t spent time in the Badlands of South Dakota, I highly recommend it. It’s not that far and there is much to do! There are many other attractions nearby, including the Black Hills, hot springs, Mount Rushmore, and Crazy Horse, just to name a few.

OHIO CLUB NAMES ROCKHOUND OF YEAR

The **Dayton Gem and Mineral Society** (DGMS) of Ohio proclaims **Greg Brown** as Rockhound of the Year for 2022. A member since 2012, Greg is the club’s newsletter editor and has served as secretary and treasurer. He has kept the club’s meetings ongoing, setting up Zoom sessions during the pandemic until members could meet in person.

As treasurer, Greg did the considerable work required to secure 501(c)(7) non-profit status from the IRS for the club in summer 2022.



Greg Brown of the Dayton Gem and Mineral Society takes a break from searching for minerals and the select fossils that have been replaced by minerals, often calcite and pyrite, in southern Ohio. Photo courtesy of Greg Brown.

Greg began collecting fossils at an early age and turned his passion into a career. Prior to earning his B.S. in geology and mineralogy from Ohio State University in 1985, Greg worked in the geology museum on campus as part of the work-study program. He also prepared microfossils of conodonts for graduate students and specimens for electron microscopy. After graduation, Greg spent ten years as a hydrogeologist. For the past 22 years, he has worked for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency as a Geologist 3 to keep our groundwater and cities clean.

Greg continues to expand his collection, searching for minerals and the select fossils that have been replaced by minerals, often calcite or pyrite. Greg has traveled to Tucson three times for the big show and attends many local shows. Greg has been on many field trips and enjoys the camaraderie and enthusiasm of his fellow collectors.

Congratulations, Greg, the honor of Rockhound of the Year is well deserved.

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor
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Please notify the Secretary of any violations.

FIELD TRIP INCLUDES ROCK SHOW, MINE MUSEUM, AND ROCKHOUDING IN A QUARRY

Jack Cooley,
Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (MI)
From the September, 2022 Arrowhead News

Our club's last field trip of the year was so much fun. The open-air Ishpeming rock and mineral show was a rocking good time. A lot of venders, professional and local. I walked away with some nice treasures.

In the afternoon we visited Cliffs Shaft Iron Mine Museum and enjoyed a tour of some of the underground tunnels. For a taste of the day, you can visit our YouTube channel, Midlife Travelers.



Model of the Cliffs Shaft Iron Mine facilities. Photo by Jack Cooley.

Sunday was the big event for our field trip. We were off to the Linberg and Sons Gravel Pit/Quarry, to gather our share of the Kona dolomite that the area is famous for. Kona dolomite is made up of cherty dolomite that is interstratified with layers of slate, graywacke, and quartzite, and gradational sediments that makes beautiful patterns and exquisite colors.

Sample of beautiful Kona dolomite. Photo by Jack Cooley.



There were about 30 or so cars all together in the rockhound convoy weaving in and out of the giant trucks and conveyors until we reached the bottom of the pit. The mine was kind enough to scoop it all into long piles and as long as we honored the rules, we could gather our treasures to our hearts' content. I think we all tested our vehicles' springs. There is a video on Midlife Travelers if you want to see more.