



MWF NEWS

**Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

September 2026 – Issue No. 654

Website: www.mwfed.org

**Member of the American Federation
of Mineralogical Societies**



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Rettler, MWF First Vice President

Philanthropy - “a form of altruism that consists of private initiatives for the public good, focusing on quality of life”.

Being a novice to the leadership of both the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Midwest Federation, I was thoroughly impressed recently when I was introduced to many fellow officers and State Directors at the joint convention in St. Charles, Illinois.

Those in attendance not only exemplify a core of knowledge, experience, cooperation, and friendship, they also show a willingness to create and maintain an environment of educational advancement in the fields of geology, mineralogy, earth science, and the vast array of related topics.



UNCOMMON PHILANTHROPY

These attributes are exactly why they were elected by the over 8,000 members across seven regions nationally. The members should rest assured that they have chosen wisely.

As with any volunteer organization, personalities are set aside for the benefit of the desired outcome. Personal deficiencies or overcompensations are easily erased by the personal overwhelming desire to help others.

(continued on page 2)

A SOB FROM THE EDITOR

This is the first issue of MWF News in a long time that hasn't been produced using Microsoft Publisher. Microsoft has discontinued Publisher, the most user-friendly desktop publishing program available. For this reason, our formatting may look odd from time to time for a while. Please be patient.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Deadline Calendar.....	6
Illinois Junior's Project Going to the Fair	6
Convention: Committee Chair Reports	7
Convention: Editors Contest Winners.....	3
Convention: Hall of Fame Editors	6
Convention: Scholarship Winners	10
Convention: Website Winners Named	3
Executive Meeting Will Be in September	6
A Mammoth Poem	6

MI and IL Clubs Name Rockhounds of Year	5
Mineral Sites in Arkansas Field Trip	11
Minnesota Club Gets Gold Award.....	4
Museums Offer Paleontological Digs.....	2
MWF Member Visits West Coast Club.....	12
Reduce the Risk of Tick-Borne Diseases.....	10
Upcoming Events	13
Vice President's Message.....	1

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

This, in my opinion, is a selfless display of philanthropy.

Philanthropy is an uncommon virtue to be sure, as fewer people today share such an altruistic view of society to be willing to contribute to it. But these actors were not only willing to contribute financially, they invested their most precious memories and even more importantly their time, which is indispensable.

Sure, we all enjoy and understand the benefits of education. We are grateful for the ability to absorb knowledge and share with others the experiences we have acquired from our excursions. But anyone willing to give and share education and life experience for the benefit of others seeking knowledge without commendation or credit, other than appreciation or a smile, is deserving the honor of philanthropist.

There is no more noble cause than assisting youth. Traditional educational institutions teach how to learn; however, it's only an introduction to a life of learning. It's up to the student to achieve, as education without later learning is simply passing time.

Both the AMFS and the MWF are proficient in fulfilling their endeavors to promote education, by providing workshops and field trips, promoting family involvement in rockhounding vacations, and exploration of the earth's geological wonders.

Future generations benefit from those who provided the hands-on foundations provided by these uncommon philanthropists. The advanced studies provided by members of the MWF and AFMS go far beyond the parameters of traditional education, and set the stage for geological professionals and hobbyists for generations to come.

Time and experience are the most generous contribution to education, making it as personal an act of philanthropy as one can imagine. I am proud to be a small part of such a wholesome group.

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MUSEUMS OFFER PALEONTOLOGICAL DIGS

By Keith Robitschek, 2nd Vice President
From the June/July 2026 Earth Science News
Of the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois

I have learned of a new experience in the world of paleontology in of all places, Ekalaka, Montana. The best fossils are often found in remote regions, and Ekalaka is sure remote!

The CCM was Montana's first county museum and the first to display dinosaur fossils. According to its website, cartercountymuseum.org, "The museum was founded in 1936 by forward thinking locals who understood the importance of collecting, preserving, and cataloging historic artifacts and specimens of scientific significance found in the surrounding landscape."

The Carter County Museum is one of the attractions on the Montana Dinosaur Trail, fourteen museums and one state park that stretch across the high plains of Montana. The trail's website, mtdinotrail.org, states that the CCM is one of the trail sites that "operates or is formally affiliated with organizations conducting **paleontology field digs which are open to the public.**" The Great Plains Dinosaur and Field Station also offers field digs and

(continued on page 11)

CONVENTION: EDITORS CONTEST WINNERS

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, Chair
MWF Bulletin Editors Committee

Winners of the MWF Bulletin Editors Contest were decided earlier this year, and sent to the national AFMS contest to compete with entries from other federations. The winners of the AFMS contest were announced at the joint MWF/AFMS convention in May, and the Midwest Federation did very well!

LARGE BULLETINS

The Pick and Shovel. Editor Sharon Marburger, Lincoln Gem and Mineral Society (NE). First Place in the MWF, Third Place in the AFMS.

Rock Rustler's News. Editor Stuart Reid, Minnesota Mineral Club. No MWF award, as it went straight to national; 4th Place in the AFMS.

SMALL BULLETINS

The Quarry. Editor Judy Budnik, Cincinnati Mineral Club. First Place in the MWF, 2nd Place in the AFMS.

ADULT ARTICLES

"Micromounting Fossils" by Phillip Zink, Indiana Society of Paleontology. First Place in the MWF, 16th Place in the AFMS.

"Missouri's Buried Treasure" by Karen Frater, Minnesota Mineral Club. Second Place in the MWF, 13th Place in the AFMS.

ADVANCED ADULT ARTICLES

"Bubbly Looking Minerals" by Bill Cordua, Minnesota Mineral Club. No MWF award, as it went straight to national; Third Place AFMS.

"The Book on Mica" by Doug Moore, Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society. First Place in the MWF, Second Place in the AFMS.

"I Am Going to Be So Rich!" by Daniel Hogan, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). Second Place in the MWF, Sixth Place in the AFMS.

(continued on page 4)

CONVENTION: WEBSITE WINNERS NAMED

Brad Zylman, Chair
MWF Website Competition Committee

It was a great year in 2025 for the Midwest Federation Websites! We had a very strong showing at the national level, with three MWF websites being submitted!

Over the last couple of years, the American Federation Website Competition Chair has pulled the regional chairs together to work on the scoring rules. We have also refocused the website contest to be more about improvement and telling the stories of the clubs more fully. We hope this offers a chance for all AFMS clubs to participate and learn from the experience of submitting their websites in both competitive and non-competitive learning opportunities.

Here are the 2025 American Federation Results:

1. Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society (AL), Southeast Federation. Webmaster Leslie A. Malakowsky.

2. **Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE), Midwest Federation.** Webmaster Sharon Marburger.

3. **Wisconsin Geological Society, Midwest Federation.** Webmaster Sue Robinson.

Honorable Mention: Paleontological Society of Austin (TX), South Central Federation. Webmaster Trevor Thompson.

Honorable Mention: Columbia Gem & Mineral Society (SC), Southeast Federation. Webmaster Terry Gregory.

Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (MO) also entered the contest, and was one of the three MWF websites submitted to the national contest, but it did not place in the top five at the national level.

Please take some time to review each of these websites to see what their clubs offer their members, and how they communicate this to their community.

(continued on page 7)

CONVENTION: EDITORS CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ADVANCED ADULT ARTICLES, continued

“Garnet-Ugrandite Series” by Nick Smith, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). No MWF award, as it went straight to national; Seventh Place in the AFMS.

ADULT POETRY

“Woe Is Me” by Sharon Marburger, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Society (NE). First place in MWF, Second Place in AFMS.

“Untitled” by Bev Jenkins, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). Second Place in MWF, Ninth Place in AFMS.

“Rockhound Haiku” by Michele Yamanaka, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). Third Place in MWF, Seventh Place in AFMS.

WRITTEN FEATURES

“Glendive, Montana Field Trip” by Sandy Kenney, Minnesota Mineral Club. First Place in MWF, Tenth Place in AFMS.

“Fairbury Area Field Trip” by Corey Beer, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE). Second Place in MWF, Second Place in AFMS.

“Trip to Kokomo Opalescent Glass Company” by Elaine Klappel, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). Third Place in MWF, First Place in AFMS.

CRACK THE NEWS ARTICLES, UNDER 12
(This is an AFMS award only. Crack the News is the online newsletter written by juniors, at juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter.)

“The Difference Between Ammonites and Nautilus” by Lunnella Duffy, Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (MI).

JUNIOR ARTICLES, 12-17

“Quartz” by Sam Lapin, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). First Place in MWF, Eighth Place in AFMS.

“Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve” by James Gentrup, Minnesota Mineral Club. Fourth Place in AFMS.

JUNIOR POETRY, UNDER 12
(This is an AFMS award only)

“Ice Age Mammoth” by Landon Chichester, Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club (MI). First Place. (*See the poem on page 6!*)

“Dinosaur” by Brody Dymond, Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club (MI). Second Place.

DRAWN FEATURES, UNDER 12
(This is an AFMS Award Only)

“A Prehistoric Crayfish, *Enoplocytia porteri*” by Riley Newman, Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club (MI). Originally published in Crack the News.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

“Recipes for Rockhounds” edited by Stuart Reid, Minnesota Mineral Club. First Place in MWF, First Place in AFMS.

MINNESOTA CLUB GETS GOLD AWARD

Mary Ann Ferguson Rich, Chair
MWF Merit Awards Committee

The Midwest Federation had one entry for the All American Award for the 2025 contest. But it was a good one: For the second year in a row, the Minnesota Mineral Club received the highest recognition, the gold award, from both the MWF and the AFMS. Congratulations for an outstanding effort.

For 2027, the convention is in the fall, so there will not be an early deadline in 2027 for clubs to submit their 2026 yearbooks. When the AFMS announces their deadline, I will post the MWF deadline in the newsletter.

MICHIGAN AND ILLINOIS CLUBS NAME ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

The **Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society (CMLMS)** of Lansing commends **Theresa Hubbard** as its Rockhound of the Year 2026. Theresa is the corresponding secretary and the education and outreach chair for CMLMS.

As corresponding secretary, Theresa invites other clubs to CMLMS's annual banquet, mails get-well cards to members who are sick or recovering and sympathy cards to the relatives of deceased members, and coordinates family donation wishes.



Theresa Hubbard, left, holds the MWF 2026 Rockhound of the Year Certificate of Appreciation she received from CMLMS President Nate Krupp, right, at the club's annual banquet. Photo courtesy of CMLMS member Cindy Krupp.

As CMLMS's education and outreach chair, Theresa creates fossil kits for teachers and educational displays that are taken to science nights at schools and community presentations. Theresa is very much the public face of CMLMS as she organizes, volunteers for, and attends most of the science nights, and gives presentations on Michigan geology to community and school groups. She also gives presentations at our club meetings.

At CMLMS's annual show, Theresa organizes and manages the children's scavenger hunt, prizes and craft area, putting in many hours of preparation. She runs the tables all three days

of the show, usually getting covered in glitter while working with the young rockhound artists.

For your extraordinary dedication and cheerful service, we thank you, Theresa!



The **Northwest Illinois Rock Club (NWIRC)** of Freeport is deeply honored to name **Fran Ransom** as its Rockhound of the Year for 2026. Fran was a founding member of the club at Freeport Junior High School on January 27, 1965. She was the NWIRC's very first treasurer, and remains an active member to this day!



Fran Ransom, left, and the late Lois Toepfer of the Northwest Illinois Rock Club at the club's annual picnic in 2007, when both charter members were recognized for 42 years of service to NWIRC. This year Fran celebrates 61 years of service! Photo courtesy of the NWIRC archives.

Fran became interested in forming a club after taking a geology course with other founding members. She told a local paper, "I went originally because my children were interested and I couldn't identify anything." Her primary rockhounding interests are gemstones, petrified wood, obsidian, and thunder eggs.

She and her late husband Darrell, an expert flint knapper, took many trips with their kids to the Dakotas and further west, making sure along the way that every trip included some rockhounding.

(continued on page 6)

ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR, CONTINUED

Fran loves to collect and sell. She has been a staple at the club table of NWIRC's annual rock show for as long as anyone can remember. The club's records show Fran holding a variety of posts helping school groups and organizing the show.

Congratulations, Fran Ransom, and thank you for all you have done!

CONVENTION: HALL OF FAME EDITORS

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, Chair
MWF Bulletin Editors Committee

When an AFMS federation hosts a national convention, as the Midwest Federation did this year, bulletin editors from that federation can be nominated and admitted to the Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame. This year the following outstanding editors were admitted to the Hall of Fame:

Valerie J. Meyers for the MWF News.

Michele Yamanaka for the Strata Data,
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN).

Stuart Reid for the Rock Rustler's News,
Minnesota Mineral Club.

Regina Kapta for The Rockhound,
Rockhounds of Central and Southern Illinois.
Currently she is a co-editor at the Kettle Krier,
Kettle Moraine Geological Society (WI).

Congratulations to these hardworking and talented editors!

ICE AGE MAMMOTH

By Landon, age 7
Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club (MI)
From Crack the News, July 2025

Ice Age Mammoth
Large, hairy
Stomping, running, living
I wish they weren't extinct, don't you?

Crack the News is the AFMS newsletter by and for juniors, at juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter.

EXEC MEETING WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The MWF Executive Committee will be meeting on September 12th, 9 a.m., in Pratt Pavilion of Wood County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Road, in Bowling Green, Ohio. This is also the show site for the host club, the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club.

The club has arranged a block of hotel rooms for us. We have met at this site and I think used this hotel before. It's Quality Inn Perrysburg-Toledo South; the link is

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/AC17W0>.

IL JUNIOR'S PROJECT GOING TO THE FAIR

Tina Schallhorn, Member
Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois (ESCONI)
From the club's August, 2026 Earth Science News

A 4H Geology project about fossils assembled by Luke Schallhorn, a junior ESCONI member, has been selected as an entry from 4H Marshall-Putnam County to the Illinois State Fair! He will be showing it there on Sunday, August 16th. He used ESCONI reference books for identification of the specimens.

The project included a case of 20 Mazon Creek fossils, labeled and identified, and a poster discussing fossil collection.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

Registration will begin in September at Zeffy.com for the **2027 MWF convention**, to be held March 5-7 in West Bend, Wisconsin. Host club will be the Kettle Moraine Geological Society.

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.

CONVENTION: COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS, ARCHAEOLOGY TO CONVENTION AND SHOW

[Editor's Note: The Midwest Federation's annual convention was held in May, and the convention minutes, officers' reports, and state directors' reports were in the June issue of MWF News. Following are reports given at the convention by chairs of the permanent committees.]

**ARCHAEOLOGY
SKEETER KISH, CHAIR**

The State Archaeological Society of Ohio is holding meetings in mid-Ohio. All local chapters are now holding meetings and doing well. We have attended several very informative chapter presentations on the topics of archaeology, anthropology, and paleontology. Chapters are planning events and summer picnics featuring educational programs, food, displays, and silent auctions. There are several archaeological digs being conducted by professionals with the help of amateurs. 'Tis the season, happy hunting!

**CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR
JEANNINE MIELECKI, CHAIR**

Since the MWF's Executive Committee meeting this past October, five new Rockhounds of the Year for 2025 have been announced. These exemplary rockhounds, who have been honored by their respective clubs and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Midwest Federation, are:

Angi Bushbaum, Dayton Gem and Mineral Society (OH)
Bob and Nancy Lynch, Carlton County Gem and Mineral Club (MN)
Debbie Marner, Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society (IL)
Laura Pionek, Minnesota Mineral Club

Doubling the recognition, Judi Allison, AFMS Rockhound of the Year Committee Chair, ensures that the announcement of each Rockhound of the Year honored by the MWF is published in the AFMS Newsletter. Judi sends a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the AFMS, too, which is forwarded to the honoree's club.

**CONVENTION AND SHOW ADVISORY
J.C. MOORE, CHAIR**

The 2027 convention will be held March 5th to 7th in West Bend, Wisconsin, hosted by the Kettle Moraine Geological Society. The 2028 convention will be held October 7th and 8th in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, hosted by the Minnesota Mineral Club. We are still looking for locations for 2029 and beyond.

(continued on page 8)

WEBSITE COMPETITION WINNERS NAMED, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

If you are interested in signing up for the regional and ultimately the 2026 National Website contest, all the forms needed to do so are located at amfed.org/contests/website-contest. This is also where you can find the 2025 and previous years' results.

I will be sending out emails to all MWF webmasters in the next few weeks, petitioning them to enter for the national contest for next year. Please keep an eye out for a message from Brad Zylman to sign up and improve your website experience! Thank you for entering!

CONVENTION: COMMITTEE REPORTS, DIRECTOR OF SUPPLIES TO JUNIOR ACTIVITIES (CONT.)**DIRECTOR OF
SUPPLIES AND INFORMATION
SHARON MARBURGER**

There was a request in early 2026 for a MWF directory. I explained that the new one would be coming out soon and suggested they request it from the Secretary so she could update the mailing records. Otherwise, there would be a cost for the old one. No further contact was made.

There have been two requests for By-Laws. I explained they can be found in the directory. However, since a stand-alone copy was requested, I scanned the pages for one request and asked Martha Miss for a clean copy for the second request.

A request for a copy of the Safety Manual was received. I do not have that publication nor has it been scanned and put on the website. If a copy still exists, I would like to put it on the Supplies page of the website.

**DIRECTORY AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS
MARTHA MISS, CHAIR**

The 2026 directory has been distributed – one to each club and one to each Executive Committee member. Extra copies were available for sale at the Council of Delegates Meeting at the convention.

**ENDOWMENT FUND
CINDY AND DAVID ROOT**

I have accumulated several checks over the past few months. I have been waiting for someone to take over as MWF Endowment Fund Treasurer. It's not a difficult job, it just needs a warm body to take checks to the bank. Consider volunteering. It's time the same people didn't have to do everything.

**GEOLOGY
CHERYL NEARY, CHAIR**

To date I only wrote one article for the MWF News. I don't know if it's a promise or a threat, but there will be one a month after the summer hiatus.

If anyone has a question or fact involving the geology of the Midwest Federation states that he or she would like discussed, please contact me at ciervo.neary@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing from you!

[MWF Secretary's note: Dr. Bill Cordua is involved with family caregiving, so has stepped down from the Geology Committee chairmanship. He will remain as an assistant, and continue to provide articles for newsletter editors to use in their newsletters.]

**JUNIOR ACTIVITIES
REINEE HILDEBRANDT, CHAIR**

Twenty-five Midwest Federation clubs/societies participate in the AFMS Junior Rockhounds program, including three new participants this year. Below is the list of clubs and their status reports.

[Editor's Note: The list includes juniors' activities for the following clubs: Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society; Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society; the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois; Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (IL); West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club; Brown County Rock & Mineral Club (IN); Michiana Gem & Mineral Society (IN); Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN); Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club (MI); Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (MI); Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society (MI); White River Rock Gem and Mineral Club (MI); Minnesota Mineral Club; Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE); Dayton Gem & Mineral Society (OH); Cincinnati Mineral Society; Summit Lapidary Club (OH); Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club; and the Kettle Moraine Geological Society (WI). It is too long to print in the newsletter, but if you'd like to see the full report, drop me a line and I'll email it to you.]

As reported in 2025, many MWF clubs/societies have very active youth outreach at their rock and club shows. The activities include
(continued on page 9)

CONVENTION: COMMITTEE REPORTS, JUNIOR ACTIVITIES-PROGRAM COMPETITION (CONT.)



The Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE) offered junior activities at the Camp Creek Threshers Show in Waverly, NE. Here, Ed Ridge presides over the Touch Table. Photo by Mike and Donitte Stiles, from the club's August, 2026 Pick & Shovel.

egg carton collections, spin man's win, mineral and rock grab bags or purchases just for kids, fossil digs, fishing for grab bags, quiz boxes, "touch and feel" table items, geology- and paleontology-related coloring sheets, and geode racing, to name a few.

If you have ever wanted to start a junior program, your gem, mineral, fossil and/or lapidary show is a great place to set out a sign-up sheet for your first event. Sponsoring and organizing a trip to a local museum can be a great way to start.

Please know that if you have juniors or want to get more young families in your club, the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program is a good way to get started.

Please consider signing up your local club at juniors.amfed.org/about-fra. You can also contact Lora Hall at youth@amfed.org.

Please note that if you have had a change in leadership for your juniors program, you should let Lora Hall know so she can update her mailing list.

MEMBERSHIP **JAMES MARBURGER, CHAIR**

Since the last report I have had contact with two clubs interested in joining. I sent emails to them with State Director contact information.

MERIT AWARDS **MARY ANN FERGUSON-RICH, CHAIR**

Results will be announced at the awards banquet. *[Editors' Note: See the story on page 4.]*

NEWSLETTER **VALERIE J. MEYERS, CHAIR**

When Tom Barnhizer was unable to do the President's Message for the April MWF News, he got the MWF First Vice President, John Rettler, to do it. (By the way, Tom, thank you for making that arrangement.) However, I did need a picture of John to go with the article.

I emailed John twice, but got no response. I figured, things must be hopping in Wisconsin, he'll get back to me in a couple of days. Then I left for the Association of Earth Science Clubs' Gem and Mineral Show in Kansas City, Missouri.

I was working the busy ticket booth. During a lull, I was looking around the big lobby at KCI Expo Center, and noticed a few people wearing nametags, talking cheerfully. And then I gasped and yelled, "JOHN RETTLER!"

Looking (logically) a little unnerved, he came over. I told him who I am and what I wanted, and he promptly took a selfie and emailed it to me.

So when MWF executives write that shows and conventions are great places to meet people, renew friendships, and make useful contacts in the rock-hunting world, they're not just blowing smoke. You never know who you might run across!

Personal celebratory note: This September will mark my 10th anniversary of being the MWF News' editor. It COULD NOT be done without all the people who send in newsletters, articles, and suggestions. Thank you all so much!

(continued on page 14)

REDUCE THE RISK OF TICK-BORNE DISEASE

Alana Bartolai, B.S., M.S.

From the June/July 2026 Earth Science News
Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois

Warmer weather means pesty ticks. Ticks can be active year-round, but spring and fall are the peaks. If you plan to spend time outdoors, taking preventive measures to reduce your risk of tick bites is essential!

Here are a few tips:

Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing, and camping gear. It will remain through several washings. Follow the label directions to safely apply, and remember, permethrin is toxic to cats.

Use EPA-registered insect repellents such as ones that contain DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

After being outdoors, check clothing, gear, and pets for ticks. If possible, shower within two hours of coming indoors. Deer ticks must be attached to you for more than 24 hours to transmit Lyme disease, so tick checks after being outdoors can greatly reduce your risk of tick-borne diseases.

Throw clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 to 20 minutes. Ticks do not tolerate high heat, so this can kill any ticks that might have been crawling on your clothes.

If you do find a tick attached, use a tweezer, grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible, and pull upward. Add tweezers to your first aid kit! If you are bitten by a tick and you develop symptoms within a week, see your healthcare provider. For more information on ticks refer to: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>.

Alana is the Ecological Services Program Coordinator in the Lakes Management Unit/Environmental Health for the Lake County, Illinois Health Department.

CONVENTION: SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Sandy Fuller, 2026 MWF Scholarship Honoree
Former MWF President

As this year's AFMS Scholarship Midwest Federation Honoree, I was privileged to select the students who receive the scholarships. The awards are made possible through your donations to the Scholarship Fund.

This year's scholarship recipients are Michael Chiappone and Cameron Shepherd. Michael is completing his PhD, and Cameron is entering her second year in the Master's program, at the University of Minnesota.

Michael participated in Cretaceous vertebrate fossil excavations in Montana, Utah, Missouri, Texas and Argentina. He developed a vocal tract of a hadrosaur dinosaur for the Como Conservatory. Currently he serves as a Graduate Curatorial Assistant for the Bell Museum, Minnesota's official natural history museum, at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. He also creates content for the Earth Encompassed YouTube channel, and will earn his PhD this spring.



Photo of Michael Chiappone from the website of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities College of Science and Engineering, cse.umn.edu/esci/news.

Cameron is primarily interested in the evolutionary history of early branching large theropod dinosaurs. She works with 3D models and related physical specimens to make comparisons. She has been involved in dinosaur digs at Hell's Creek, Montana and the Chronister Dinosaur Site in Missouri. Recently she created a two-part program to educate kindergarten students about paleoethology. She is in her second and final year of her Master of Science program.

MONTANA DINOSAUR TRAIL MUSEUMS OFFER PALEONTOLOGICAL DIGS, CONT. FROM P. 2

information for both children and adults throughout the summer; the Montana Dinosaur Center, in addition to a museum, offers “public hands-on dinosaur dig programs throughout the summer.” Advance reservations are required for these dig experiences.



One of the exhibits at the Carter County Museum. Photo via mtdinotrail.org.

Other interesting activities on the trail include camping and hiking in Makoshika State Park, which doesn't have a museum, but does have a Triceratops skull in its visitor center (not every state park can make that claim!); planetarium shows as well as dinosaur specimens at the Museum of the Rockies; and a real fossilized dinosaur thigh bone available to touch at the Old Trail Museum.

Mtdinotrail.org provides specifics about all of the sites on the Montana Dinosaur Trail.

MINERAL SITES (AND SIGHT-SEEING) IN ARKANSAS FIELD TRIP

Marilyn Russell, Vice President
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)
From the September, 2025 Strata Data

We knew that our club's field trip to Arkansas in July was going to be scorching, since all the club's big trips are. I had checked out the weather forecast for Mt. Ida, Arkansas in order to pack the correct clothing. Then I did a quick Google search, trying to find any clothing-optional alternatives. Then I rethought that choice, because of the image of the resulting sunburn.

We made a couple of stops on our way to the rockhounding sites (wearing presentable clothing befitting our representation as Hoosiers.). One really interesting place was Central High School in Little Rock, where in 1957 the Little Rock Nine broke the public-school racial barrier. The place is now a National Historic Site, with a museum across the street from the school itself. The museum was wonderful. The school is still in use, but we declined the opportunity to stroll around the school grounds, for fear of excessive sweat stains.

Tuesday morning dawned clear, and still hot and sticky, as we drove over to Michele Yamanaka's house to get updated on the sites we would visit. First stop was the Sweet Surrender mine near Story, Arkansas. After a short safety meeting, in which the staff points out the restricted places and every one of us suddenly yearns to dig ONLY in those places, we started.

(continued on page 12)

MINERAL SITES (AND SIGHT-SEEING) IN ARKANSAS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

My husband George immediately began to hack out a vein that looked promising, while I listlessly wandered around, trying not to trip, picking up only surface stuff. We both ended up with the same number of specimens, though he expended triple the amount of calories.

Despite having travelled 12 hours to get there, we happily squandered our afternoon away, showering, napping, and shopping at one of the dozens of rock shops in the area. They had much nicer quartz than we had found! But I didn't care, because there is something special about finding it yourself. That night we met fellow rockhounds for dinner at a nice Mexican restaurant.

The next morning had the possibility of being slightly cooler than the previous day. I'm not sure if it was cooler, but we could mine in the shade! Wegner's Crystal Forest Mine in Mt. Ida was a very nice mine, too. We met early in order to fill out the usual waivers and then were trucked out to the actual mine area.

At this place, one didn't have to do more than scratch the surface to find lots of little near-perfect clear crystals of quartz. I was in heaven, being able to just sit in one place in the shade and pick up dozens of tiny stones.



Photos of some of Michele's finds. The middle crystal was found in a rest area parking lot! Photos by Michele Yamanaka.

After a couple of hours, we all had loads of quartz. For me, it wasn't that much weight, but I was much happier with the quality of quartz pieces from Wegner's than from the Sweet Surrender eater. I would definitely go back to this place! In addition, there was a very nice gift shop with

incredible, museum-quality specimens and nice trinkets too!

That afternoon, while many of our group went off to dismember another mine, George and I took off for Hot Springs National Park. I have learned over the years to never be surprised by national parks (one is a small three-story building in downtown Seattle), but this came close.

As I understand it, long before there was a national park system, a lot of rich people built their opulent spas on federal land. When the park system was founded, these lands were transferred to Hot Springs National Park, and the buildings came too. Several of them are rented for frou-frou restaurants, spas, and stores. One beautiful one is the park headquarters, used as a museum to show what state-of-the-art spas were like at the turn of the century.

The next day, we all left for home. It was an uneventful trip but left us with one last suggestion: If you are ever passing near Dix, Illinois, stop for ice cream at Yellin Helen's! Yum!

MWF MEMBER VISITS WEST COAST CLUB

Cornelia Lutz, Assistant Editor
Minnesota Mineral Club
From the May, 2026 Rock Rustler's News

While I was in the Ocean Beach area of San Francisco recently, I stumbled on the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society's open house.

Like our club, the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Unlike our club, their clubhouse is just a few blocks away from the ocean! The clubhouse has a library, a museum of mineral specimens, and a lapidary shop.

The clubhouse is at 4134 Judah Street, San Francisco. I am very grateful to the members who showed me around their space. I hope this inspires you to investigate local mineral clubs the next time you travel!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
Aug. 29-30 Sat & Sun, 8-4	Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Town of Wheaton Ball Parks, 3900 38 th Street, Elk Mound, WI	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
Sept. 11-13 Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis	4-H Fairgrounds, 620 Apple Street, Greenfield, IN	Tom Odom, tomodom650@gmail.com
Sept. 11-13 Fri, Sat, & Sun, 10-5	Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club	Pratt Pavilion, Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Road, Bowling Green, OH	Jerri Heer, Jheerxl@aol.com
Sept. 12 Sat, 9-3	Coulee Rock Club	Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI	Apryl Bottner, aldenny99@gmail.com
Sept. 12 Sat, 9:30-3:30	Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society	A-American Companies, 1665 Elmwood Road, Rockford, IL	Therese Cushing, RRVGMS@gmail.com
Sept. 12-13	Kalamazoo Geologic & Mineral Society tailgate sale	St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7211 Oakland, Portage, MI	Dave Haas, stonehouserock@cs.com
Sept. 18-20 Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Mozarkite Society of Lincoln	Lincoln City Park, behind Bullseye, Lincoln, MO	Pam Radu, mozarkiterocks@gmail.com
Sept. 18-20 Fri & Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club	Community Center, 12343 James Street, Holland, MI	Jodi Miller, jsmillerlady@gmail.com
Sept. 19-20 Sat 9-8, Sun 9-3:30	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society	Amana RV Park, 39 38 th Avenue, Amana, IA	Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
Sept. 19-20 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Livingston Gem & Mineral Society	Hartland Consolidated Schools, 9525 E. Highland Road, Howell, MI	Joe Musolf, jlmusolf@mtu.edu
Sept. 19-20 Sat 10-8, Sun 10-5	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society	Taylor Town Trade Center, 22525 Ecorse Road, Taylor, MI	Mike Bomba, 313-381-8455
Sept. 25-27 Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker Ave., Joplin, MO	Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 26-27 Sat & Sun 10-5	Flint Rock & Gem Club	Crossroads Village, 6140 N. Bray, Flint, MI	Bill Wendling, bwrockbarn@century.net
Sept. 26-27	Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club	Cherryland VFW Post 2780, 3400 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI	Lauren Vaughn, gtarmc@tcrockhounds.com
Sept. 26-27 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club	Papillion Landing Fieldhouse, 1046 W. Lincoln St., Papillion, NE	Tammy Jeanneret, tjeanneret6515@gmail.com
Sept. 26-27 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Oshkosh Earth Science Club	Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI	Mike Lenz, 2817@sbcglobal.net

CONVENTION: COMMITTEES, PROGRAM REQUESTS-SCHOLARSHIP (CONT. FROM PAGE 9)**PROGRAM COMPETITION
BOB POWERS, CHAIR**

Some MWF members have expressed an interest in submitting new programs for the Program Competition. The AFMS has recently posted their Program Competition forms on its website. The MWF will be using the same scoring and judging criteria for programs for our competition.

The MWF has an updated submission form and a separate review committee. If interested in submitting a program, please contact Bob Powers at AkronMineralNews@aol.com. Look for the MWF submission form to be published in the newsletter and posted on the MWF website.

**PROGRAM REQUESTS
BOB POWERS, CHAIR**

The program lending library of DVDs and VHS tapes continues to be active. Jane Huelsmeyer of the Gem City Rock Club in Fowler, Illinois is a frequent user of the program. Their recent rentals include DVD 7 ("Geology of Caves and Caverns"), DVD 50 ("Opal Fever"), DVD 59 ("Rhodochrosite – Red Treasure of the Rockies"), and a perennial favorite, DVD 30 ("Agates Over All").

In recent years, some of the VHS tapes have broken while being played, due to their age and brittleness. Dave Rusterholz of St. Croix Rockhounds in Minnesota, offered to rent some of the VHS tapes and converted them to DVDs for the MWF at no charge! He has completed several of these conversions. Thanks so much for doing that! Those titles will be added to the list of available DVDs with the next directory publication.

Just a reminder on ordering from the library:

The Midwest Federation's library of DVDs and VHS tapes are suitable for use at Club meetings, shows, study groups, classrooms, community groups or individual study. Any member may borrow these programs for such use.

- Programs are available year-round.
- Program Topics and the Order Form are listed in the MWF Directory. The MWF is working to include them on the MWF website as well.
- Decide on a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of programs.
- Complete the order form. The form is in the directory, which also has a complete list and descriptions of the available programs.
- Place the order at least 14 days in advance of the use date to allow adequate time for shipping.
- Scan or take a picture of the completed form and email to me at AkronMineralNews@AOL.com, or mail to:
Bob Powers
18270 Buccaneer Drive
North Royalton, OH 44133
- If you have any questions, call or text Bob at (440) 237-6170.
- After viewing, mail the program back as "Media" for a lower mailing cost. Include a \$5 check made out to the Midwest Federation, to help offset the postage cost. Keep the mailing receipt in case the program is damaged in mailing, so that the MWF can purchase a replacement program.

**SCHOLARSHIP
MARGE COLLINS**

Thanks to numerous donations, the MWF has forwarded a generous amount to the AFMS Scholarship Fund this year. We would like to recognize your contribution in the year ahead. Each donation is appreciated.

It is also noteworthy that we will award four certificates to clubs for new \$1,000 levels. [See the list of clubs and contributions on page 15.]

(article continued on page 16)

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: MWF DONATIONS TO AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND
FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2025 CONVENTION REPORT, TO APRIL 15, 2026**

<u>Club Contributions (in order received)</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Participation*</u>	<u>Cumulative*</u>
Northwest Illinois Rock & Mineral Club	\$ 250.00	600%	\$ 359.00
Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (IL)	50.00	2900%	7,981.00
Credit to West Central Illinois Rock & Mineral Club Memorial honoring Sue Hogge	50.00	7,000%	2,346.00
Credit to Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI) Memorial honoring Chuck Collins	200.00	7,400%	7,976.00
Credit to Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club (MI) Memorial honoring Julia Sherwood	50.00	4,100%	5,538.00
Credit to Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club (MI) Memorial honoring Julia Sherwood	25.03	4,100%	5,588.00
Northwest Illinois Rock & Mineral Club Memorial honoring Darrell Ransom	250.00	1,400%	609.00
Southern Illinois Earth Science Club	77.50	3,300%	2,090.00
Credit to Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club (MI) Memorial honoring Julia Sherwood	100.00	4,100%	5,688.00
Minnesota Mineral Club Memorial honoring Bernard Sporre Memorial honoring Lois May Allen	200.00	5,100%	19,312.00
Independence Gem & Mineral Society (MO)	500.00	8,200%	4,694.00
Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (MO) Living Memorial honoring Dan Snow	1,000.00	2,400%	1,967.00**
Credit to Minnesota Mineral Club	500.00	5,200%	19,812.00
Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI)	115.00	7,400%	8,091.00**
Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI) Memorial honoring Carol Nagy	10.00	7400%	8101.00
Minnesota Mineral Club	1,000.00	5,400%	20,812.00**
Tri-County Rocks & Minerals (MI) Memorial honoring Gayre Cardis	50.00	3,200%	960.00
Osage Rock and Mineral Club (MO)	<u>1,693.07</u>	6800%	2,313**
Subtotal of Club Contributions	\$6,120.60		
<u>Individual Contributions</u>			
Cash donated at Executive Board Meeting in Lincoln, NE	350.00		
Sandy Fuller and Martha Miss Living Memorial Honoring J. & M. Hoxie	50.00		
J. C. & Donna Moore Memorial honoring Lauren Williams	<u>50.00</u>		
Subtotal of Individual Contributions	\$ 450.00		
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$6,570.60</u>		

* What is Participation Percentage? This represents a club's 'generosity,' based on membership. A club with 100% Participation has contributed (as of this date) \$1.00 per current member. 500% indicates \$5.00 per member, given over time. So a small club that donates regularly can increase its participation percentage quickly.

*Cumulative: the total contributed since the Club's first gift.

** Each new \$1,000 cumulative total earns a Certificate, presented at the annual Awards Banquet.

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PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF ANY VIOLATIONS.**

CONVENTION: COMMITTEE REPORTS, TECH RESOURCES-WEBSITE CONTEST (CONTINUED)

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES SANDY FULLER, CHAIR

An article was written for the MWF News.

UNIFORM RULES DONNA MOORE, CHAIR

The Uniform Rules committee encourages members to put together and display competitive exhibits for the conventions. The rules for the displays are listed in the Uniform Rules section of the AFMS website, amfed.org. I would like to see more MWF members enter competitive exhibiting. J.C. and I would be glad to help or advise anyone who is interested. This year we only have two entries in the regional federation level.

WEBSITE CINDY ROOT, CHAIR

The website should be up to date. Please check your club and show information and let me know if there are any changes that need to be made.

Although I identify as "goddess," when you send me show information that does not include dates, places, and or times, I cannot add them to the calendar unless I pick that information out of the air. I have contacted several clubs who have sent in incomplete forms and never heard from them. Others have been great about getting back with me. Also, if I can't read it, you're out of luck in terms of it being included.

Additionally, if I don't receive the original forms through Treasurer Steve Shimatzki, it doesn't make the website. That's how I determine if your dues are current.

WEBSITE COMPETITION BRAD ZYLMAN, CHAIR

See the story on page 3.

*October Issue Submission
Deadline is September 10th!*