

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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Web Site - www.mwfed.org

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sandy Fuller, MWF President

Volunteers are the backbone of our and many other organizations. In fact, they represent a unique part of American culture, in that like-minded people come together around common interests and work together to do good.

Volunteerism connects people from all walks of life, without regard to race, age, religion, or sex, to achieve a common goal. Better yet, studies show that those who volunteer feel more socially connected and have a greater sense of purpose in life. More recent studies suggest physical benefits of reduced risk of hypertension among those who volunteer.

Did you know that the folks involved in rockhound clubs serve without compensation? At all levels of the organization, including the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, volunteers provide the workforce. In many cases the individuals holding office or contributing in some other way started out by saying, "I can't do that!" But with help

(Continued on page 2)



CHECK OUT THE NEW AFMS WEBSITE!

Sandy Fuller, Chair
MWF Technological Resources Committee

The webmaster for the AFMS website notified me yesterday that the new website is now online and available for use. As you may have noticed, our MWF website also underwent a change recently. These are both part of an upgrade that allows the MWF and AFMS to use a free website to make these changes.

Some links from the AFMS to our local website are temporarily broken. If you wish to access these links, the old website is still available for your use.

The website group worked with several committees to streamline their operations. Uniform Rules was particularly receptive and recently finished reworking the requirements for display competition.

The Juniors program also did an extensive rework and expansion of resources for leaders and participants. They now have a separate website (juniors.amfed.org) linked to the new AFMS website.

If your club is a registered nonprofit, (has an EIN number), it is eligible to have a free website. Go to Google for Nonprofits (google.com/nonprofits/) and complete the grant application.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Check Out the New AFMS Website!	1
Deadline Calendar	3
Group Studies Red and Pink Minerals	4
Haunted Ridge Site Offers Large and Small Specimens....	8
Help for Clubs Using Social Media	2

Nebraska Club Gives Awards, Gets Attention.....	4
President's Message.....	1
Upcoming Events.....	5-7
Wisconsin Club Honors "Rockhound of the Century"	3
Your Rock Donation Really Helps	3

HELP FOR CLUBS USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair
From the February, 2024 A.F.M.S. Newsletter

After I published an article about integrating social media into public relations for your gem and mineral society, I received emails asking about resources for learning about social media avenues and strategies.

Because Facebook seems to be the number-one avenue used by most clubs, my first advice is to open a Facebook account, if you haven't already, and just start playing with it. As with lapidary arts, the best way to learn is by rolling up your sleeves and getting your hands dirty.

But there's also book-learning, and I've found one book that's quite helpful: "Social Media Marketing All-in-One for Dummies," by Michelle Krasniak, Jan Zimmerman, and Deborah Ng.

It bills itself as "9 books in one!," with large chunks devoted to 1) The Social Media Mix, 2) Cybersocial Tools, 3) Content Marketing, 4) Twitter, 5) Facebook, 6) LinkedIn, 7) Instagram and Pinterest, 8) Other Social Media Marketing Sites, and 9) Measuring Results and Building on Success. You can get it all at \$41.99, or get individual volumes like Facebook for Dummies at \$21.99. Go through Amazon, and you'll get them at significantly reduced rates.

Although it's part of Wiley's "for dummies" series, with the big volume weighing in at 760 pages I have to question whether this really is for a dummy like me. Maybe I should wait for the Reader's Digest condensed version?

Or not. The book is highly readable, well illustrated with screen shots to guide you along, tips and warnings, boxed asides offering more details, and lots of content provided as condensed bullet points, along with a highly detailed 39-page index. Okay, class: your reading assignment is Book Five: Facebook. Perhaps later I'll have a pop quiz? Have fun!

*May Issue Submission
Deadline Is April 9th!*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

from previous folks who held the position and cooperation from the group, they discover that they can.

When I first joined a club, I was asked to provide leadership for the banquet. They told me how there were people willing to do this and that but no one willing to assume the overall responsibility. I discovered that each member of the committee was capable, but no one had told them so. With encouragement, the next year one of these committee members took over the job while I moved on to other things. They were willing, but no one complimented them on what they did or encouraged them to do more.

So what about your club? Are you there to compliment and encourage? Do you give a person space to do the task? Do you go along with their ideas, even though it's not "the way we've always done it"? And most important, do you personally invite them to assist or lead your group with a particular task that you believe they can do?

April is National Volunteer Month. Have you thanked your volunteers? They are as near as your local club.

Resource: Dreyfus, Susan N., Stanford Social Innovation Review, August 29, 2018. Published online.

WISCONSIN CLUB HONORS A “ROCKHOUND OF THE CENTURY,” BURNIE FRANKE

The Madison Gem and Mineral Club of Madison, Wisconsin honors **Burnell “Burnie” Franke** as Rockhound of the Year 2023 – only, according to the club, because there is no “Rockhound of the Century” category. Burnie, in fact, was a man of a century, passing on his 100th birthday.

Burnie’s love of rocks and the lapidary arts spanned six and a half decades. He was a charter member of both the Madison Gem and Mineral Club and the Rock River Valley Geological Society of southeast Wisconsin. The “lapidary bug” first bit Burnie in 1958 when friends invited him to hunt for petrified wood and he soon began learning to cut and polish his finds, turning many into jewelry.

In 1968 Burnie opened a rock shop on Monroe Street in Madison. No visit to Madison is complete without a visit to Burnie’s Rock Shop, which is operated today by son Nevin and daughter-in-law Sonali Franke. Burnie was a legend in the Madison community and surrounding states.

word about anyone. His kindness and good nature were absolute and unshakeable, as were his bolo tie and smile.

“At club meetings there were usually refreshments, typically punch and cookies. Over the years, I just assumed that the club was supplying these and underwriting the cost. I was wrong – it was Burnie. And if he didn’t get to the meeting, Burnie would arrange for someone else to bring the treats. All, of course, behind the scenes,” wrote Karl.

A true gem among rockhounds, Burnie had a positive influence on many people. He passed away on June 29, 2023. We are all poorer for our loss, and richer for having had him in our lives.

YOUR ROCK DONATION REALLY HELPS

Susan Stanforth, Chair
MWF Silent Auction Committee

Hi, MWF folks! I’m pleading for donations for the silent auction at the MWF Convention August 24-25 in East Peoria, Illinois. I really appreciate those folks who always give donations, and encourage all of you to donate rock items big or small. Write me at sstanforth123@yahoo.com to make arrangements for a donation. Thank you.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

Programs on PowerPoint or certain other electronic media can be entered in the **AFMS New Programs Competition** before **April 2, 2024**. There are cash prizes top winners. Contact DeLane Cox, Competition Chair, delanec3@earthlink.com.

SAVE THE DATE: The annual **MWF Convention** will be held **Aug. 24-25** in East Peoria, Illinois. Save the dates for the meetings, banquet, and show sponsored by PAS Geology (the Geology Section of Peoria Academy of Science).

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.

Burnie Franke loved his bolo ties and cabochons. Here he exhibits his lapidary arts expertise at a Madison Gem and Mineral Club show. Photo courtesy of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club.



For many years, Burnie taught basic lapidary at Madison Area Technical College. The class was always filled to capacity. During class Burnie would walk among the students offering suggestions and guidance, frequently pressing a little lapidary jewel-to-be in a palm with, “See what you can do with this.” Burnie loved Montana moss agates and gave countless numbers of them for grab bags, door prizes and gifts.

“In the 40 or 50 years I knew Burnie,” said longtime member Karl J. Bethke, who submitted Burnie’s nomination, “I never heard him say an unkind

NEB. CLUB GIVES AWARDS, GETS ATTENTION

Sharon Marburger, Secretary
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, NE
From the March 2024 Pick & Shovel

Charles Wooldridge was awarded a Lifetime Membership at a recent meeting of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club. He has been a member since approximately 1988. (There is some dispute as to the actual year he joined, but the secretarial records show 1988.) Regardless, Woolly has been a member for a long time, and currently holds the 5th longest membership. Congratulations Woolly!

[MWF Editor's Note: Wooldridge also writes interesting and informative articles for the LGMC's newsletter, several of which have been reprinted in this publication. Thank you for the good content, Mr. Wooldridge!]

At the same meeting, Rockhound of the Year Awards were given to Clyde Ogg and Brett Jurgens. Clyde, although a fairly new member, has stepped up to do some tasks that no one else wanted to do, such as scheduling programs and researching various things. He also has taken over running the fluorescent display at the annual show.

This is Brett's second year as President, and fourth year as Junior Leader. He also does outreach work and tries to keep the rest of us motivated and sharing the hobby.



And speaking of Charles Wooldridge, he was featured in an article called "Unearthing Treasures: Rockhounding in Nebraska" in the March, 2024 issue of Nebraskaland magazine. Renae Blum, the author, went with Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club members to a field trip along the gravel beds of Big Nemaha River. The article includes sidebars on land access regulations and "Five Finds Worth Keeping" (including agates, gypsum, fossils, and petrified wood).

The magazine, published by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, features a variety of articles about outdoor activities and beautiful photography. The March issue can be viewed at magazine.outdoornebraska.gov/digital, scrolling to the bottom of the page to click on "View the Full Issue."

GROUP STUDIES RED AND PINK MINERALS

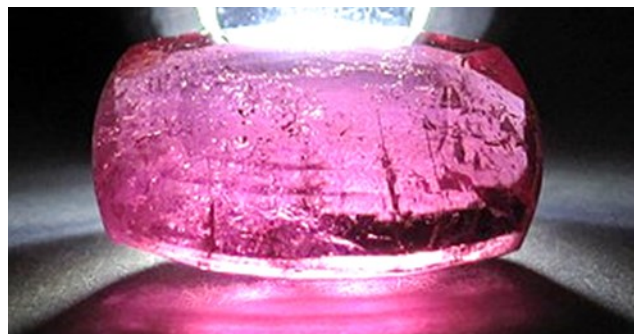
Kreigh Tomaszewski
West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group

For the last few years the West Michigan Midwest Federation Mineral Study Group has been looking at minerals from the perspective of the periodic table of elements. This month we started a new sequence of looking at minerals by color.

Color is not always a reliable key for mineral identification, but it is useful enough that some field guides use it as their primary key. We decided to run with it and go through the colors of the rainbow this year. In honor of Valentine's Day, we studied red and pink minerals in February.

The concept behind our color study is to have as many different minerals of a given color to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish among them. Our group came up with a lot of red minerals of various shades, and some of them were really amazing specimens.

We started with multiple specimens of the sulfide cinnabar, followed by the borate painite, which has a hardness of 8 and used to be known as not just the rarest gemstone, but also the rarest mineral on earth. After its discovery in the year 1951, there existed only two pea-sized specimens of painite for decades. Now there are painite mines and painite jewelry.



*Rubellite, the pink or red form of tourmaline.
Photo by James St. John, via Wikimedia Commons.*

We continued with the neosilicate rubellite, silica rose quartz, the light-sensitive sulfide proustite, the sulfide ruby jack sphalerite, the phosphate roselite- β , also known as anorthroselite, the borate hilgardite, the carbonates kutnohorite and pyroxmangite, and the

(Continued on page 7)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
March 22-24 Fri 4-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Rock Hobby Club	Machinists Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburtr@juno.com
March 23 Sat, 10-5	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society rock swap	St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI	Information at 734-837-8920
March 23-24 Sat 8:30-6, Sun 9:30-4	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society	Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6 th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA	Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
March 30 Sat, 9-1	St. Croix Rockhounds	Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN	Dave Rusterholz, stcroixrock@gmail.com
April 4-6 Thurs Fri & Sat, 9:30-9	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club	Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 28 th Street SW, Wyoming, MI	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
April 6-7 Sat 9-5, Sun 9:30-4	Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club	Keppy Hall, Mississippi Valley Fair- grounds, 2815 W. Locust Street, Davenport, IA	Bret Henderson, reminerals@gmail.com
April 6-7 Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Columbus Rock & Mineral Society	Rhodes Center, Ohio Expo Center, 717 E. 17 th Avenue, Columbus, OH	Craig Kramer, 614-436-4511
April 6-7 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club	Ag Society Hall, Sandhills Global Event Center, 84 th & Havelock, Lincoln, NE	Jim Marburger, 402-430-6703
April 6-7 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Neville Public Museum Geology Club	Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay, WI	Randy Westberg, mutualman@localnet.com
April 7 Sun, 11-5	Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society	Waterloo Center for the Arts, 225 Commercial Street, Waterloo, IA	David Malm, davidmalm@cfu.net
April 13 10-4	Langlade Gem and Mineral Club	811 Fifth Avenue, Antigo, WI	Jesse Richardson, wisconsinwrestler@ yahoo.com
April 13-14 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club	Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive N, Crystal, MN	Martha Miss, martha@rock-biz.biz
April 13-14 Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-4	Des Plaines Valley Geological Society	Des Plaines Leisure Center, 2222 Birch Street, Des Plaines, IL	Mike Hanley, geodeguy@att.net
April 13-14 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Fulton County Rockhounds	Donaldson Community Center, Wallace Park, 250 S. Avenue D, Canton, IL	Cindy Guerra, cindygemrock@gmail.com
April 13-14 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Southern Illinois Earth Science Club	Pavilion of the City of Marion, 1602 Sioux Drive, Marion, IL	Michael Chontofalsky, chontofalsky@att.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
April 20-21 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Miami County Gem and Mineral Club	Duke Lungard Bldg., County Fairgrounds, North County Road 25-A, Troy, OH	Dewey Buck, deweybuck12@gmail.com
April 27-28 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club	Emidio Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Mary Myers, gemborelead@gmail.com
April 27-28 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Chippewa Valley Gem and Mineral Society	County Expo Center, 5530 Lorch Ave., Eau Claire, WI	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
April 27-28 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	North West Ohio Rockhound Club	St. James Lutheran Church, 4727 W. Sylvania Avenue, Toledo, OH	Suzanne Shimatzki, sshimatzki@gmail.com
May 3-5 Fri 4-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society	Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI	Dave Haas, stonehouserock@cs.com
May 4 Sat, 10-3	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society rock swap	Eldor Johnson Pavilion, Burns Park, 1 Eldor Johnson Drive, North Little Rock, AR	Bill Alcott, mrbill@fidmail.com
May 4-5 Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Cincinnati Mineral Society	Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Road, Sharonville, OH	www.geofair.com
May 4-5 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Central Wisconsin Convention Center, 10101 Market Street, Rothschild, WI	Kim Opgenorth, billsmoonstones@gmail.com
May 4-5 Sat & Sun, 10-4	Worthen Earth Searchers	Dahl Ford, 1210 E. Kimberly Road, Davenport, IA	Mike Shumate, cc31068@yahoo.com
May 10-12 Fri noon-7, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Central Missouri Rock and Lapidary Club	Knights of Columbus Hall, 2525 N. Stadium Blvd., Columbia, MO	Mary Wozny, lmwoz@msn.com
May 11-12 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Cuyuna Rock Club	Brainerd Curling Club, 2000 SE 13 th Street, Brainerd, MN	Ed Opatz, opatz1@att.net
May 17-19 Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin History & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker Avenue, Joplin, MO	Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net
May 18 Sat, 10-2	White River Rock, Gem and Mineral Club tailgate sale	Montague Artisan Market, 8641 Water Street, Montague, MI	Chris Rogers, kilt.inspector32@gmail.com
May 18-19 Sat noon-6, Sun 10-5	Rock Hobby Club	Pacific Eagles Lodge, 707 W. Congress Street, Pacific, MO	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburtr@juno.com
May 18-19 Sat & Sun, 10-4:30	Wisconsin Geological Society	Arena Bldg., Waukesha Expo Center, 1000 Northview, Waukesha, WI	Paul Okruhlica, p.okruhlica@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
May 24-25 Fri 8-6, Sat 8-3	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club	Grandstand, McMillan Park, 405 E. Threshers Road, Mt. Pleasant, IA	Michael Messer, ressem52@aol.com
May 31, June 1-2 Fri noon-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	State Line Gem & Mineral Society	Junior Fair Bldg., County Fair- grounds, 8514 State Route 108, Wauseon, OH	Sherman Kardatzke, sakardatzke@gmail.com
June 1-2 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Coulee Rock Club	Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI	Allison Conrad, rockinbabe@acegroup.cc
June 7-8 Fri & Sat 10-5	Ozark Gem & Mineral Society outdoor show	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 815 E. Farm Road 182, Springfield, MO	Mark Northrup, omgms.57@gmail.com
June 8 Sat 10-4	Gem City Rock Club	Boudreaux Visitor Center, Mark Twain Lake, Monroe City, MO	Brad Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com
June 8 Sat 9-1	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club rock swap	Woodland Drive-In Church, 2600 Breton SE, Grand Rapids, MI	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
June 8-9 Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club	Fairhaven Hall, County Fairgrounds, 750 N. Home Road, Mansfield, OH	Tom Kottyan, themineralhouse75@ gmail.com

MWF GROUP STUDIES RED AND PINK MINERALS, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

oxide ruby. We took a break to talk about fluorescence in ruby.

We went back to passing specimens around the table with the halide villiaumite, the cyclosilicate pezzottaite, the carbonate rhodochrosite, the nesosilicate topaz, fossil opalized ammonites (known as ammolites), the pipestone clay known as catlinite, a specimen of fluorite tiffany stone that had red streaks, an agatized shark tooth, the tectosilicate thompsonite-Ca, some jasper, the phosphate variety of apatite known as oregonite (which is different from the sulfide oregonite), a Lake Superior agate, and a carnelian agate.

*Tumbled carnelian
from Botswana. Photo
by jaja_1985, via
Wikimedia Commons.*



Meetings of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group are held monthly in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Contact me, kreigh@gmail.com, for specifics about date, time, place, and which color we will be studying.

Our group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we also want to learn to hand-identify them. Hand identification is a skill you learn from holding and studying many different specimens of a given mineral.

We do our homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral theme of the month, but we also dig through our collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. We really do learn from each other.

We try to start and end on time (we often finish a little early); please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early.

All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other.

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

HAUNTED RIDGE ROCKS SITE OFFERS BOTH LARGE AND SMALL SPECIMENS

Jayne Beer, 2nd Vice President
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (NE)
From the December, 2023 Pick & Shovel

We made a quick trip to Missouri to Haunted Ridge Rocks to collect Missouri Lace Agate with drusy quartz on top. This is a great, quick weekend trip. The Crystal Collector was there with his dig machine, turning over new finds. If you don't follow him on Facebook and YouTube, you should; he goes to many places and has public digs in places that you cannot normally get into.

We left on Friday after the kids got out of school, and arrived at the dig site about 4 a.m. We slept in the van for a few hours and watched the sun come up over the dig site.

We were able to collect from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday. It was an amazing day. There were about 1,800 people there, but it never really seemed crowded. The folks who own the land and run the carts to take you to the dig site are extremely friendly and make it a fun trip for all.

The boys love digging in that red mud for the larger plates of crystals. They got into several great holes where they were able to fill several buckets with larger pieces. My sister and I went to an area that was a dry creek bed and collected surface material. This is where I get the smaller pieces that I can make jewelry out of.

We, as a group, collected 11 buckets and three large specimens that count as a bucket. This was about two-thirds less than we brought back when we last went in 2020, but it was enough for this trip.

Most of the rocks we transported still covered in the red mud to protect the crystals. So, until we got home to clean them up, we really didn't know what we had. On Sunday, we hosed off a few of the rocks we had collected, just to see what we brought back. Later we took them to our rock shop to soak them in Iron Out, to remove some of the iron staining. After that, we used a textile gun and the steamer as the final cleaning before putting them out in the store for sale.

We were able to do the whole trip by leaving Friday evening and returning Sunday night.