

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

May 2024 - Issue No. 632

Web Site - www.mwfed.org

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sandy Fuller, MWF President

So, how many readers thanked people in their club for the good job that they are doing? I hope you are one of those who raised your hand.

This month I am going to Ventura, California to represent the MWF at the national AFMS convention. Each year the AFMS, following a preordained schedule, has its convention in a different regional federation. In 2026, it will be our turn to host the national gathering, and the Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association has already thrown its hat into the ring to host this event.



I will be joined at the meeting by our first vice president, Cheryl Neary, and the AFMS regional vice president for the MWF, J.C. Moore, as well as a representative of our Uniform Rules Committee. However, titles are a little misleading, since each formal position has a vote, but no single person can vote twice. We take care of this by asking federation members to substitute for individuals who hold two or

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MWF CONVENTION BEING PLANNED

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The Peoria Academy of Science, Geology Section, is getting the details worked out for the MWF Convention that they are hosting this summer in East Peoria, Illinois. The meetings of the MWF Executive Committee as well as the MWF Council of Delegates are scheduled for Saturday, August 24. The awards ceremony will be that evening.

The details of the schedule, etc., will be in the June issue of the MWF News. They will also be posted on the website as soon as they are finalized. For now, if you need to reserve a hotel room, there will not be a host motel. Several suggestions will be included in the information or just check out hotels in East Peoria, Illinois.

The host club's show will be held at the EastSide Centre, 1 Eastside Drive, in East Peoria. The meetings will be at the Fondulac District Library, 400 Richland Street, East Peoria. The location for the meet and greet on Friday evening is still to be determined.

We hope, since this convention is centrally located in the federation, that more clubs will send

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EXECUTIVES' SPRING MEETING MINUTES

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The Midwest Federation's Executive Committee Spring Meeting was held March 16, 2024, in Janesville, Wisconsin. MWF Second Vice President, Tom Barnhizer, called the State Directors meeting to order.

Illinois State Director Susan Stanforth said she had gotten hold of 11 of the 16 Illinois clubs. She noted that a club had asked about a database of dealers available throughout the state or neighboring states, including fees, etc. She was informed that costs are set by clubs, so other than contact information such a database would not be possible.

John Donker, Michigan State Director, said he had attended two club meetings. Both had junior clubs and were doing fine. Some of the clubs in the state that don't want to support juniors are not doing well.

Michele Yamanaka, Indiana State Director, attending via Zoom, had nothing to add to her written report.

Jim Marburger, Nebraska State Director, attending via Zoom, had a written report. He noted that the club in Omaha was moving to a new facility. J.C. Moore asked Sharon and Jim if they were ready for us (MWF) to come to their show next year. Sharon reported they will begin preparations after their show this year.

Steve Shimatzki announced that E-Bear had arrived safely.

Catherine Clevenz, Ohio State Director, had a written report with contributions from Sandy Shorter and Joyce Kish. She said she was finally able to contact the new club in Finley, which was another spinoff from Toledo. Right now the club has eight members.

The following state directors had written reports, but were not present: Timothy Hill, Iowa; Bruce Stinemetz, Missouri/Arkansas; and Harlan and Aletha Hoogeterp, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Tom reported that he wanted to improve communications. He urged the state directors to share all their contact information. His information will be changing. He will be sure we have it when it changes.

Sandy Fuller then called the Executive Committee meeting to order. Tom Barnhizer led the pledge to the American flag.

Sandy recognized the MWF past presidents who were present. They included J.C. Moore, Catherine Clevenz, David Root, Cindy Root, Susan Stanforth, John Donker, and Sandy Fuller. Jim Marburger was present via Zoom.

She then read the names of those rockhounds who had passed away:

Bill Lea, Chippewa Valley Gem and Mineral Society (WI)
John Boland, Sr., Coulee Rock Club of La Crosse (WI)
Lyle Kugler, Edwards River Earth Science Club (IL)
Keith Peregrine, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (IL)
Elizabeth Schellenger, Northwest Illinois Rock Club
Dee Schuster, Des Plaines Valley Geological Society (IL)

MWF OFFICERS

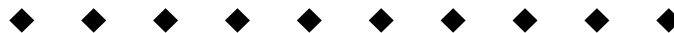
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 5060 Arbor Way
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 25235 N. Illinois Highway 97
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 309-789-6501
 mwfsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Steve Shimatzki
 4295 County Road 16
 Woodville, OH 43469
 567-868-8794
 woodvillerocks@gmail.com



ILLINOIS CLUB NAMES ROCKHOUND OF YEAR

The **Des Plaines Valley Geological Society** (DPVGS) of Des Plaines, Illinois is delighted to proclaim **Rick Bobula** Rockhound of the Year.

Rick is a newer member who has jumped in from the beginning to help the club and any of its members who are in need. He has built tables for the club's members to use at a rock site to help identify different rocks to collect. In addition, Rick has helped the members of DPVGS set up at regional shows in Illinois, including the Chicagoland Gem & Mineral Association (CGMA) show in Saint Charles and the International Gem & Jewelry Show in Schaumburg and Rosemont.



Rick Bobula always has a smile and a helping hand for the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society. Photo courtesy of Connie Lavin.

At the DPVGS annual show in Des Plaines, Rick is on site to load and unload materials from the club's storage unit to the location of the show and again, load and unload these back in to the storage unit. Rick is always on hand, always capable, and always willing to help DPVGS and its members in any way he possibly can.

Congratulations, Rick, and thank you for all you do.

DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR CONVENTION

Donations are being gratefully accepted for the silent auction at the MWF Convention in August. The silent auction benefits the MWF Endowment Fund, which provides funds for federation projects and benefits for member clubs. If you have something to spare from your collection, contact Silent Auction Chair Susan Stanforth, ssanforth123@yahoo.com.

MWF CONVENTION BEING PLANNED, CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

delegates to the MWF Council of Delegates meeting on Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. This is when your club gets to have a say in the business of the Midwest Federation.

If someone from your club finds they can attend closer to the time of the convention, registration can be turned in at the door of the meeting. However, we do like to know how many people to plan on, since we need a quorum to conduct business.

Two forms for the convention are included in this issue: the delegate registration form and the form for those who want to enter a competitive display in the PAS Geology's show. Those forms are on pages 4 and 5.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

more voting positions. This is just one of the reasons why it is helpful to have members attend the national convention.

It's interesting (and fun) to attend shows outside of your home area. Their exhibits, displays, and club table tell a lot about a club, and sometimes have things that are worthy of being emulated. Their speakers and merchandise show what can be found in the area and what is popular in other parts of the country.

Join us, if you are able.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

The annual **MWF Convention** will be held **Aug. 24-25** in East Peoria, Illinois. Meetings will be held at Fondulac District Library; rock show sponsored by PAS Geology (the Geology Section of Peoria Academy of Science) will be held at EastSide Centre. See the article on page 1 and forms on pages 4 and 5.

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.

AUGUST 24, 2024 MWF CONVENTION COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

The completed form is due by **August 9, 2024**, and it must be signed and dated. Mail the completed form to:

J.C. Moore
25235 N. Illinois HIGHWAY 97
CUBA, IL 61427

Or email the form to jcmoore3rd@gmail.com

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Name of Club/Society: _____

Exhibitor Group: Master _____ Advanced _____ Novice _____ Junior _____ Society _____ Junior Society _____

Division: _____ Exhibitor Class: _____

EXHIBIT CASE AND SPACE INFORMATION

There will be 24-hour building security, however neither the MWF nor their affiliates assume any responsibility for loss or damage.

Exhibit Setup Time: Friday August 23, 2024, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

I will use my own case: Yes _____ No _____

If I will use my own case, its dimensions are: Width _____ Height _____ Depth _____

Do you need a case provided? Yes _____ No _____

All cases will be assigned space. Bring your own risers if needed. If your case has its own stand, please let us know.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the current AFMS Uniform Rules and agree to abide by them. I understand that competitive exhibitors are to be society members in good standing and eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to the Uniform Rules. The rules are available at <http://www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm>.

I agree to leave my exhibit on display until 5:00 pm Sunday, August 25, 2024.

Exhibitor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

If Junior Entry, date of birth: _____



MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
Executive Meeting and Council of Delegates Meeting, August 24, 2024

Delegate Registration Form **Deadline August 9, 2024**

The Midwest Federation's annual Council of Delegates meeting will be held in conjunction with the PAS Geology (Geology Section of the Peoria Academy of Science) show at the Fondulac Library, 400 Richland Street, East Peoria, Illinois. Each member club/society is entitled to one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate to represent it. An Alternate may vote only in the absence of a Delegate. Guests are invited to attend the meeting, but are ineligible to vote.

The meeting will convene on Saturday, August 24th at 1:00 p.m., with delegate registrations beginning at 12:30 p.m. The delegate appointed by your club or society will represent your interests, and may bring up pertinent discussions and proposals. However, in order to expedite matters, if your society intends to have its delegate present any special motion at the meeting, please notify the MWF President, Sandy Fuller (sandy@rock-biz.biz), and MWF Secretary, Donna Moore (mwfsecretary@gmail.com), as to the nature of the subject, so that it may be placed on the agenda. This needs to be presented in written form, and should be done at least one month prior to the meeting.

DO NOT send this form to the show registration committee. Please fill out the form and return it to the Credentials Chairman Assistant, SIGNED BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT. Thank you for your promptness.

Credentials Chairman Assistant J.C. Moore
25235 N. Illinois Highway 97
Cuba, IL 61427

Jcmoore3rd@gmail.com (309) 231-1952

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE TO AVOID ERRORS

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT _____
Name of your club on this line

OF _____
City and State on this line

HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING DELEGATE TO THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MIDWEST FEDERATION:

DELEGATE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

ALTERNATE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNED _____, CLUB PRESIDENT _____ DATE _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
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, gemboreelead@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, 9-5	Livingston Gem and Mineral Society pop-up show	Christ Lutheran Church, 5987 Williams Lake Road, Waterford, MI	lgms.mich@gmail.com
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 10-6, Sun 10-5	Parma Lapidary Club	Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain Road, North Olmsted, OH	parmalapidary@yahoo.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 25-26 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association	County Fairgrounds, 525 S. Randall, St. Charles, IL	cgmashow.com
MWF member clubs participating in the show will be the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society, Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society, Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, and the Elgin Rock Club.			
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, theminerallhouse75@ gmail.com
June 9 Sat beginning at 10	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club rock auction	Lake Zorinsky East Shelter, 3808 S. 156 th Street, Omaha, NE	Tammy Jeanneret, tjeanneret@hughes.net
June 15 Sat, 10-2	Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club	Osseo United Methodist Church, 16 2 nd Avenue SE, Osseo, MN	Martha Miss, martha@rock-biz.biz
June 21-23 Fri 10-6:30, Sat 9-6:30, Sun 10-4	Lawrence County Rock Club	County Fairgrounds, Highway 50, Bedford, IN	lawrencecountyrockclub. org
June 28-30 Fri 2-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-3	Osage Rock & Mineral Club	Eldon Community Center, 309 E. 2 nd Street, Eldon, MO	Steve Rudloff, ormc2024show@gmail.com
July 12-13 Fri & Sat, 10-6	Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club	Lakeland High School, 9573 State Highway 70, Minocqua, WI	Dan Erickson, neatrocks@gmail.com
July 13-14 Sat & Sun	Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club	Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Ellens Drive, Moose Lake, MN	Roger Biebl, rogerbiebl@gmail.com
July 20 Sat, 10-1	Des Moines Lapidary Society rock swap	DMLS clubhouse, 2608 24 th Street, Des Moines, IA	Ken Belzer, DMLS@lapidary.org
July 27-28 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Indianhead Gem & Mineral	Frederic High School, 1437 Clam Society Falls Drive, Frederic, WI	Roy Wickman, rktswick@chibardun.net

SPRING MEETING MINUTES: IN MEMORIAM, COMMITTEE CHAIRS (ARCHAEOLOGY-ENDOWMENT)

(Continued from page 2)

Steve Dumortier and **Gene Laverentz**, Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (MO)

Bobbi Goslee, Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society (MO)

Burnell “Burnie” Franke, charter member of both Madison Gem & Mineral Club (WI) and Rock River Geological Society (IL), owner of Burnie’s Rock Shop

Richard Snyder and **Charles Swanson**, State Line Gem & Mineral Society (MI)

Jim Spencer, Stark County Gem and Mineral Club (OH)

Jack Cramer, **Nancy Spalenka**, **Leona Crabbs**, Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (MI)

Richard Tanner, **James Rives**, **Lois Menert**, **Carol Werner**, Michigan Mineralogical Society

James Daly, Michiana Gem & Mineral Society (IN)

Bill Zima, longtime member Des Plaines Valley Geological Society (IL)

Pete Kodat and **Joan Bledig**, Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois

Johnny (No Table) Fay, Racine Geological Society (WI)



Topography in Badlands National Park, South Dakota. Photo taken by Steven Craig Dumortier, one of the MWF members who passed away in the last year. Photo via the Facebook page of Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City.

Cindy Root reviewed the rules of order for the meeting.

The minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting held in Howell, Michigan, September 16, 2023, had been printed and distributed. J.C. Moore moved to

approve the minutes. Cindy Root seconded the motion, which carried.

Steve Shimatzki (via Zoom) gave the Treasurer’s report. Catherine Clevenz moved to approve the report. J.C. Moore seconded the motion, which carried. (Copies were distributed to those in attendance later via e-mail). T-shirt sales amounted to \$569.70.

Cheryl Neary asked for reports from the chairpersons of the permanent committees. *[Editor’s Note: The full written reports will be in the June issue of MWF News.]*

Archaeology – Skeeter Kish had a written report with nothing to add.

Boundaries – Sandy Fuller had nothing to report.

Bulletin Editors Contest – Mary Ann Ferguson Rich reported that entries are down because of the early deadlines resulting from the early AFMS Convention.

Club Rockhound of the Year – Jeanine Mielecki had a written report.

Convention & Show Advisory – J.C. said he would have more in new business.

Credentials – David Root reported, that including the people on Zoom, we had a quorum.

Director of Supplies and Information – Sharon Marburger had a written report.

Directory and Calendar of Events – Copies of the new directory for 2024 were available. The rest would be mailed the following week.

Education – No report.

Endowment Fund – Cindy Root reported she had a glitch with the information. Some donations were sent directly to Alan Hukill, the Endowment Fund Treasurer. They have worked it out now that if he receives money, he will let her know.

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SPRING MEETING MINUTES: COMMITTEES (ENVIRONMENTAL TO WEBSITE), CONVENTIONS

(Continued from page 8)

Environment and Legislation – Catherine Clevenz reported that the BLM in California is trying to make it a criminal offense to collect along the Mohave Desert. HR 12 is still in committee in Congress. There is a question as to whether collecting rocks on a large scale should be held to mining regulations. ALAA is recommending collecting no more than a 5 gallon bucket of material. Tom Barnhizer noted that in Michigan there is a limit of 25 pounds of material per year. Donna Moore noted there is a limit on petrified wood collection.

Geology – No report.

Historian & Archives – Cindy Root had a written report. She also reported that she had received a box of material from Judy Budnik in Ohio. She scanned what was pertinent. There is now an endowment section on the website.

Insurance – Written report.

Junior Activities – The new chairperson, Reinee Hildebrandt, was present and had a written report.

Lapidary Arts – Written report.

Long Range Planning – No report.

Membership – Jim Marburger reported that he had sent a couple of packets to interested clubs. Cindy Root asked if we could get the membership information for the website. Jim said he would get it to her.

Merit Awards – Mary Ann Ferguson Rich reported she had received the first entry in several years.

Mineralogy – No report.

Newsletter – Valerie had a written report.

Paleontology – No report.

Program Competition – Bob Powers had a written report.

Program Requests – Bob Powers had a written report.

Program Review – No report.

Public Image & Courtesy – Sandy Shorter had a report and was participating via Zoom.

Scholarship – Marge Collins was on Zoom and had a report.

Silent Auction – Susan Stanforth had a written report.

Technology Resources – There was an article in the April MWF News.

Uniform Rules – J.C. Moore reported that the rules have been simplified by the AFMS and are available on the AFMS website, www.amfed.org. He said people could contact him if they need information or have questions.

Website – Cindy Root had a written report. She added that there is a forms page on the website. Publications have been scanned and added. The juniors booklet on the junior page was changed with Joan Stoker. Two clubs did not put down the date and time of their shows. Any changes should go straight to Cindy, d-root@comcast.net. If there is a mistake and you don't let her know, she won't be aware and won't change it.

Sandy Shorter added that we have prizes for wearing shirts that can be sent to individual clubs to give out as prizes at their shows. She will send the list of clubs who ordered shirts to Donna Moore.

Conventions – J.C. Moore reported that the convention in Howell, Michigan in September 2023 was well attended. Everyone had a good time. Thank you to the Livingston Gem & Mineral Society for hosting us.

The 2024 convention will be held in East Peoria, Illinois, August 24-25. They are in the process of getting everything together. There will not be a host hotel, but a list of some possibilities will be offered.

The 2025 convention will be hosted in Lincoln, Nebraska. Sharon Marburger of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club does an excellent job of planning when they host. It will be the first weekend in April (April 5-6, 2025). The 2026 convention will be held at the

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SPRING MEETING MINUTES: CONVENTIONS, OLD BUSINESS, AND NEW BUSINESS

(Continued from page 9)

Chicagoland Show at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles, Illinois, on Memorial Day weekend.

J.C. noted that John Rutledge from the Kettle Moraine Geological Society in Wisconsin was present to present a bid for the 2027 convention. John noted that their club was formed in 1961, and they joined the MWF in 1962. Their show is the second weekend in March. There are hotels within one and three miles of the show, and numerous places of interest including the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area, St. Mary's, and Kettle Moraine State Forest.

They are thinking they may be able to rent a tour bus to see some of the sites of the area, making it a three- or four-day event. Their show is south of West Bend, 30 miles from Milwaukee. Everything will be right there together. It is in Washington County, Wisconsin. J.C. recommended accepting the bid from Kettle Moraine Geological Society to host the MWF Convention in 2027. Cindy Root seconded the motion, which carried.



Scene from the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Photo by Yinan Chen, via Wikimedia Commons.

Old Business

T-shirt sales – Sandy Shorter recommended that T-shirts and sweat shirts (zip-up hoodie) be offered. Catherine Clevenz moved that we have another shirt sale with T-shirts and sweat shirts. Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich seconded the motion, which passed. It was asked if we could have youth sizes this time. Sandy thought that would be fine. This would be another design and color. Previously there was a holdup with getting information to the clubs in time for them to order.

Sandy suggested that we need six months and had to watch out for Christmas. It was suggested that earth tones such as beige or tan with a black imprint might be good this time. Or, maybe they could be bright green to use as field trip shirts. The committee will move forward. Sandy will design the shirt and refer it to the committee, who will report in August at the convention.

Scanning – Sharon Marburger, Supplies Chairperson, has everything scanned. There are links for the AFMS publications. The only thing that has not been done is the MWF Operating Procedures, which are under revision.

Amend the By-laws – The By-laws need to be updated to allow for online attendance at meetings through such programs as Zoom. Donna will contact the committee to get the wording ready to be acted upon in August, so people can be notified. David Root added if we would not have had Zoom at this meeting, we would not have had a quorum.

New Presidents Booklet – Cheryl Neary said it will be out by August. It will be published on the website.

New Business

AFMS Revision of Uniform Rules – J.C. Moore explained that the uniform rules for competitive exhibits have been revised and hopefully simplified by the AFMS. They are posted on the AFMS website, www.amfed.org.

Scholarship Honoree – Cheryl Neary announced that J.C. and Donna Moore had been selected as the MWF Scholarship Honoree for 2024. They will be privileged to pick two students to each receive a \$4,000 scholarship. This information will need to be sent to the AFMS Scholarship Fund President as soon as possible.

MWF Logo – Sandy Fuller explained that we (MWF) had received a letter from a member who objected to our logo because the “F” was similar to one used by a Nazi group. Our “F” has gotten separated from the circle in our logo and became more like the one described. A Jewish member found it offensive. It would be necessary to amend the by-laws to change the

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SPRING MEETING: LOGO, ADJOURNMENT

(Continued from page 10)

logo to make the “F” all straight lines and not have it interpreted as similar to the Nazi logo. (The by-laws specifically describe the logo as it is on the official seal of the MWF.) Cindy Root moved to make the change and Cheryl Neary seconded the motion.

The following comments were made in reference to the motion:

If people have a concern, we need to change it so some people are not upset. Just make it like a regular “F”. Sandy Shorter had modified it on the second run of MWF T-shirts that most of the clubs received. We have had it for 50+ years and this hate group not associated with us has something similar that is relatively new. Are we going to change our logo every time someone objects? A lot of fonts are available to use. It was felt this came to a head because of the October attack in Israel. One person complained and shared with their club. Organizations update their logos all the time. Now it is hard to tell what that “F” is. This is a current issue brought to light because of world conditions. Maybe changing the logo does no harm and results in better relationships. Maybe the “F” could be more pronounced and more obvious. The updated logo on the shirts is fine. Propose a new logo with a changed “F” as on the T-shirts. It can be accepted in August at the Council Meeting.

It was voted to accept the motion as moved.

The next MWF Executive Committee Meeting will be August 24, 2024, in East Peoria, Illinois.

J.C. Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Root seconded the motion. Sandy Fuller adjourned the meeting.

**An important note
from MWF President Sandy Fuller:**

I am seeing more “creative” emails, so PLEASE -- If you get an email you think is from an officer, check the email of the sender. If you don’t recognize it, please do not respond.

SPRING MEETING: OFFICERS’ REPORTS

CHERYL NEARY, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

At the MWF convention in September 2023, I worked primarily with Michele Yamanaka on the manual for new club presidents. I was hoping to have all the edits addressed in time for this meeting. That did not happen, primarily because I filed the paperwork in a safe spot – so safe I have not found it yet myself. I will have the manual for distribution in August, and I believe it will also be posted on the website once the Executive Committee approves it.

The MWF Scholarship Honoree was discussed at the meeting under new business. *[Editor’s Note: See “New Business” in the meeting’s minutes on page 10 to find out the name of the honoree – or should we say co-honorees?]* The honoree will then choose two (2) candidates that are entered in a graduate program, from a college or university of the honoree’s choice. The main objective is to award scholarships to individuals who are already in the graduate program and who meet the criteria set forth by the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

I received requests from two individuals, one in Wisconsin and one in Michigan, requesting information about clubs located near them. I was able to provide them with the information. Thankfully, the directory helps tremendously when scouting information.

I look forward to reading the reports of the various committee chairs. I will be calling the chairs for a report for the August convention. All committee chairs should plan on attending the meeting, preferably in person or by Zoom, if necessary. These meetings are important for communications.

Should any committee chair have any issues, please contact me.

TOM BARNHIZER, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

I am new in my position and still have much to learn. Specifically, I need to know how best I can help the State Directors to be as effective as possible with their respective clubs. I have the impression that the clubs do not yet fully appreciate how important their input is to the MWF. We need to know what they need and how best we can support them.

SPRING MEETING: STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, ILLINOIS TO INDIANA

ILLINOIS

SUSAN STANFORTH, STATE DIRECTOR

Illinois has 16 clubs and I managed to contact 11 of them. I asked for answers to three simple questions: How many new members did you have in 2023? Was your 2023 show more or less successful than the previous year? Did any of your member pass on this year? We put together a memorial. Please list their names.

Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society in Skokie had a few new members recently but membership is down. Their club auction was in March. They and three other MWF member clubs are part of the Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association, which is having its show May 25th and 26th. It is a very large event.

Des Plaines Valley Geological Society in Des Plaines reports no new members but a more successful show attendance than the previous year. They lost Dee Schuster this year.

Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois in Glen Ellyn had 77 new members, many back from COVID-19. The club's 2023 show was just as successful as 2022's. They lost members Pete Kodat and Joan Bledig.

Gem City Rock Club in Quincy had four new members. Their 2023 show was more successful than last year's.

Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society in Springfield gained 10 new members. Their 2023 show was in line with average attendance. Keith Peregrine had passed.

Northwest Illinois Rock Club in Freeport had several new members due to their November show, which was well attended, as usual. They lost a very special longtime member, Elizabeth (Boo) Schellenger.

Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society in Rockford (my club) had seven new members. Rock Swap in the fall and our open house last weekend were very successful. We don't have a juniors program, but tons of kids always enjoy the open house. Lots of rock gifts for them.

Southern Illinois Earth Science in Benton had eight new members. The 2022 record attendance at their show was 3,450, and their 2023 show was even better, including 900 children.

West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club in Macomb had 18 new members, which is amazing considering that they are a smallish club. Their show had the best attendance ever in 2023, and surpassed that by 400 in 2024.

Worthen Earth Searchers in Davenport, Iowa have plans to increase their membership. Their show attendance was much better.

All in all, I had very positive responses compared to the COVID years. I think we're getting better and better. Good Job, Illinois Clubs!!!!

INDIANA

MICHELE YAMANAKA, STATE DIRECTOR

We had our spring Indiana Clubs President/ Representative Zoom meeting and received the following feedback:

They liked the MWF T-shirts.

At least one club is using the expanded program competition to inspire its members to write more articles.

At least one club is encouraging its members to go online and read the MWF newsletter to be informed.

Our plan to have each club share its newsletter with the other clubs is somewhat successful. Not all of the nine clubs are doing this, but those that are have benefited from the information about other clubs.

Our plan that each club try to set up at least one field trip that the other nine clubs may share is proving to be welcome, and several clubs have provided such trips for other Indiana clubs.

Although all nine clubs are invited to the Zoom meetings, we need to work on participation. Since the idea is relatively new, it may gain better participation as time goes on.

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SPRING MEETING: STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, INDIANA TO IOWA

(Continued from page 12)

The **500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis** and the **Indiana Society of Paleontology** worked with the Visitor's Bureau to get a count of attendees at their show using cell phone information. The Visitor's Bureau set up geo fencing that identified when a cell phone came to the show, from where, how long it stayed, where it went from the show and if it returned. There was no charge for this since it was a method to promote business for the city.

I sent all nine clubs a draft of "What New Presidents Need to Know about the MWF but Didn't Know to Ask" booklet, and the suggested revised version (renamed "MWF New President's Packet") sent by Cheryl Neary to get feedback, but so far no one has given me any comments.

I have not heard any more from the Evansville Junior Rock Club that asked about MWF membership last year. I did send them information about their next steps.

IOWA TIMOTHY HILL, STATE DIRECTOR

The Iowa State Director forwarded reports from Iowa clubs.

River Valley Rockhounds, Fort Dodge

River Valley Rockhounds will continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The meeting location has changed to Deer Creek Apartments, 700 South 17th Street, in the Friendship Room. The meetings run from September through May.

Our show on March 2nd and 3rd was a great success. I believe we had six to ten new memberships. Next year we are hoping to have a bigger event to celebrate our 60th show.

Our members have been presenting their trips and finds during our monthly meetings. I am jealous because I have not traveled far. One member's sister has land in Nebraska right by Ashfall. He had some great specimens. Robert Wolf, our marine fossil guy, talked about his collecting skills, reinforcing the history

of inland seas. Iowa has a mammoth skeleton on exhibit in southern Iowa in Mahaska County.

Our club will be doing volunteer work for the Fort Museum and Frontier Village in Fort Dodge by cleaning and relabeling the rock and mineral collection on display. The display is housed with Fort Dodge's Cardiff Giant.



This mammoth tooth and mammoth tusk are part of the natural history display at the Fort Museum and Frontier Village in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Photo by Thomas T. of Maura, Norway, via tripadvisor.com.

Our club hopes to host a monthly field trip this year.

Deb Davis, President

Des Moines Lapidary Society, Des Moines

The club's website is www.dmlapidary.org. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month, except during the summer months.

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, Hiawatha

The club meets from September through May (except December) on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting place is the Hiawatha Community Center, 101 Emmons Street.

The theme of the club's annual show in March was "Coral: One of Iowa's Bedrock Fossils." The annual auction (September 21-22) will have more than 1,200 flats of material, along with machinery and equipment. We continue to produce an outstanding monthly newsletter.

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SPRING MEETING: STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, IOWA TO MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS

(Continued from page 13)

We have several quarry field trips planned, along with Bill's Annual Big Bus Boogie (usually to museums).

Several members are doing outreach programs in schools and with various community groups. A collection is taken at our holiday party in December for the Linn County Food Bank and HACAP.

Our Facebook page now has over 3,000 members facebook.com/groups/Cedarvalleyrocks and our club website can be found at www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org.

Kim Kleckner, MWF Liaison

Sac & Fox Lapidary Club, Fairfield

No report. The club president is in New Mexico collecting and attending the big show at Deming. We all feel sorry for him; but someone has to be willing to do such things.

Chicauqua Rockhound Society, Mt. Pleasant

The club is active but not meeting at this time.

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society, Waterloo

The club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month September through June at Waterloo Center for Arts, 225 Commercial Street, Waterloo.

MICHIGAN

JOHN DONKER, STATE DIRECTOR

Michigan clubs have been working on their spring and summer shows. We are looking forward to

our summer tailgates and field trips around Michigan and the Midwest.

Michigan is a great place to find different rocks around the Great Ladies and in the Copper Country of the Upper Peninsula. So if you are looking for some place to go this summer for a field trip of a day or more, we have different rocks from one end of our state to the other end. Hope you find good hunting in our state.

Michigan clubs are growing.

MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS BRUCE STINEMETZ, STATE DIRECTOR

I hope the spring meeting went well. I wasn't present, as my son decided to get married that weekend.

I'm happy to report that all the clubs in Missouri and Arkansas have paid their 2024 dues to the federation.

No reports were received from Arkansas clubs. The following are reports from Missouri clubs.

Independence Gem and Mineral Society, Independence

Things are going well. Several new members have joined. The annual Christmas party was held. Interesting programs were presented at the monthly meeting. At the February meeting, grab bags were filled for the Kansas City Gem & Mineral Show presented in March by the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City. Most of the Independence club's focus was on preparing for this show.

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*June Issue Submission Deadline Is
May 7th!*

SPRING MEETING: STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS TO THE DAKOTAS

(Continued from page 14)

Osage Rock and Mineral Club, Osage Beach

The club has had a tough time bouncing back from COVID. Their membership dropped to a low of 11 members. Things are starting to turn around and they have been gaining members each month. In February, Keith Sampino spoke about Keokuk geodes and one of the members baked a geode cake. The club is preparing for their annual show to be held in Eldon, Missouri on June 28-30. Admission is free. Additional information can be found on the club website.

Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society, Springfield

Their fall show was held in October. This is the club that hosted the MWF convention last year. I really wanted to attend the show, but I was still recovering from medical problems. In the field trip department, they went to Stockton, Missouri to look for geodes, coral, and brachiopods. In mid-March they planned to collect drusy quartz near Potosi, Missouri. Their current focus is on their two-day outdoor show June 7th and 8th. Sadly, Bobbi Goslee has passed away.

Rock Hobby Club of Greater St. Louis

The Kirkwood, Missouri show was held in February and the St. Louis show in March.

St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society

The club has been pretty active. Several field trips have been taken. In October they went to Grafton, Illinois to hunt trilobites; in January they went to Roy Hurlburt's house to view his collection; in February a trip was taken to Bluff View Farm in Washington, Missouri to hunt for barite, galena and drusy quartz, and a second trip to Washington was planned for March.

Last October they helped members of a local Scout troop earn their Geology badges. Other activities include the annual fall show held in November and the annual holiday party. There have been interesting programs presented at the monthly meetings. Some of the topics were "Coal Mining in Illinois" and "Union Road Agates." The topic scheduled for March is

"Missouri Prehistoric Igneous Activity Including Volcanism and Eruptions."

Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City

In February a field trip was taken to visit the Sutton Geosciences Museum at the University of Missouri Kansas City. On Christmas Eve the group participated in a charitable event called "The Cave for Christmas Eve." (We have numerous underground limestone mines in Kansas City that the area residents call "caves.") The club donated rocks for the event, which was organized by Christmas Present, an organization for seriously ill children.

Other activities included the purchase of a rock collection consisting of approximately 9,000 pounds of rocks and other materials, and printing a second edition of the club's book, Mary Bergman Hamilton Collection of Minerals.

They have initiated a new way of doing monthly meeting presentations. Each month a different club member presents a topic of interest to him or her. Recent topics have included "Montana Sapphires," "Casting Precious Metals," "Faceting Gem Stones," "History of Amber," and "Twelve of the Most Dangerous Minerals in the World." I think this is a great way to keep the members involved and interested.

Sadly, two members passed away in 2023, Gene Laverentz and Steve Dumortier. Steve, who was also a member of the Independence Gem and Mineral Society, won two MWF Bulletin Editors Contest awards and an AFMS award in 2022 for two articles in the club's newsletter.

**NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA
HARLAN AND ALETHA HOOGETERP, STATE
DIRECTORS**

The **Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society** in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, continues to do well. We are greatly enjoying our new meeting location at Amy Stockberger Real Estate. They graciously allow us to use their computer projection technology for our video presentations, and we have been able to return to our original meeting date of the second Friday of the month.

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SPRING MEETING: STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, NORTH DAKOTA-SOUTH DAKOTA TO OHIO

(Continued from page 15)

We have many interesting programs and activities planned for this year, including our seventh annual show in July. Vendor invitations have been sent out and we are already 80% full, with only 12 tables remaining. We also have several field trips planned for this year, and have started a list of names and phone numbers of members who are interested in impromptu field trips to our South Dakota grasslands on weekends when the weather is nice.

OHIO

JOYCE KISH, ASSISTANT STATE DIRECTOR

Akron Mineral Society

AMS is a small club with a big show and tell session at the end of each meeting. A member who is a former Kent State professor and avid mineral collector has graciously been sharing and speaking about his mineral collection each month.

We announce a monthly color and encourage everyone to bring in a specimen, then discuss their differences and properties. The club is currently

preparing for our spring Gemboree April 27th and 28th, and is planning a road trip to Flint Ridge for Nethers flint.

Sandy Shorter

Summit Lapidary Club Report

Members are very busy getting ready for our spring show, Gemboree, April 27th and 28th. Numerous classes in the lapidary arts have been held and are ongoing. A dig is being planned for the members at Flint Ridge in the spring. Our past few shows have done well. Attendance is holding.

Joyce Kish

Stark Gem & Mineral Society

Our club holds the first show in our area in March. It is always well attended. We have many returning vendors. Our membership is very active in the club. We have plans for a spring dig at Flint Ridge and a possible Fantasia rock club trip.

Joyce Kish