



MWF News

**Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

November 2024 - Issue No. 636

Website – www.mwfed.org

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

Hi all –

If you were unable to attend the August meeting in Peoria, Illinois, you missed a great time! The meeting was successful with a quorum – an important part of having meetings! Thanks to Sandy Fuller, Past President, for leading the way last year, and of course to the local club – Peoria Academy of Science, Geology Section – for hosting a wonderful show and convention. Thanks to J.C. Moore for finding host clubs, and providing networking opportunities to unite with old friends and to meet new people.

I live in New York. I drove to Peoria with Lucy Jackson. We had an enjoyable ride to and from Peoria – weather was great! On Sunday morning we traveled to Pennsylvania, where we stayed overnight. The following morning we were up and running, thinking we would be back in New York in the late afternoon –

(Continued on page 3)



2024-25 MWF OFFICERS ELECTED

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

Ballots received in the recent election of MWF officers and Nominating Committee members have been tallied, and the following were elected to serve starting November 1, 2024, for one year.

President - Cheryl Neary
1st Vice President - Tom Barnhizer
2nd Vice President - David Rich
Treasurer - Stephen Shimatzki
Secretary - Donna Moore

Two candidates will now serve on the Nominating Committee, Deb Coursey and J. C. Moore, for three years.

Thank you to these people who are willing to serve the federation. We are always looking for people interested in serving as officers. Or, for those who want to become familiar with the proceedings of the MWF, new assistants are needed for the executive committees. These are listed on the website at www.mwfed.org/leadership.

Congratulations to our new executives!

WHAT'S INSIDE?

2024-25 MWF Officers Elected.....	1
Chair Calls for Entries to Two Contests	3
Club Dues & Insurance and Events Forms	5, 6
Clubs That Renew on Time Get Benefits	4
Convention Reports: Officer and State Directors	2
Crystals Become Beautiful Décor.....	4

Deadline Calendar.....	11
Lapidary Work Safety.....	12
President's Message.....	1
Upcoming Events.....	9
Website Contest Winners Announced	11



REPORTS FROM MWF CONVENTION

[The MWF's annual Council of Delegates convention was held in August in East Peoria, Illinois. The October issue of MWF News contained the minutes of the convention, and reports from the committee chairs. In this issue, we present convention reports by Cheryl Neary and by MWF State Directors.]

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT CHERYL NEARY

As 1st Vice President this year, I was quite happy to report that our Scholarship Committee submitted and voted on both Donna and J.C. Moore to be the MWF Scholarship Honorees for the 2023-24 year. We all know they truly have donated much time and effort to this Federation!

I have completed the New President Binder, and will be bringing 25 copies with me to the meeting. Michele Yamanaka of Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (Indiana) was instrumental in seeing this through.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention.

ILLINOIS STATE DIRECTOR SUSAN STANFORTH

Per Tom Barnhiser (MWF Second VP), we agreed to ask three simple T/F questions to my 17 Illinois Club reps. Only nine responded, despite phone calls.

Has your club had at least 1 field trip this past year?
6Y, 3N

Has your club considered developing a Junior Rockhound program? 6Y, 3N

Does your club do "rock talks" to community groups? 8Y, 1N

Betty Novak, Assistant State Director, was highly pleased with juniors in the Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society for doing exhibits. This is a great idea for other junior programs. She said adults are getting motivated. I'm a big believer in providing displays at our shows – very educational. As we age, field trips are difficult, but that wouldn't stop us doing exhibits.

That's all, folks.

MWF OFFICERS

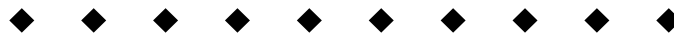
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567-868-8794
woodvillerocks@gmail.com



INDIANA STATE DIRECTOR MICHELE YAMANAKA

We had our Fall Indiana clubs President/Representative Zoom and email meeting on Aug. 3.

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society reported: We are getting ready for our annual show at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds. We have had two field trips this year: One to the agate beds in South Dakota, and the other collecting geodes in the Harrodsburg area of Indiana. Next year we are spending a week in central Wyoming rock hunting with members of the Riverton Wyoming Rock Club. We are also setting up a bus trip to Franklin, North Carolina in the spring. We have reinstated our scholarship program working with professors from the University of Notre Dame. We will be awarding two \$2,000 scholarships. Along with that we will have a mini-field trip to an 1863 farm. A geology professor from Notre Dame will be demonstrating the use of ground penetrating radar and what information they garner from the data collected.

The Michiana club also pointed out a needed addition to the New President's booklet. Under the section on financial requirements, add, after the short blurb about getting to be a 501(c): Ensure that the club files a 990 form every year with the IRS to maintain the club's tax-exempt status. Failure to file for three years will cause the club to lose its non-profit status. Ensure that the club files a Business Entity as often as required with the Secretary of State. Otherwise, the

(Continued on page 7)

**CHAIR CALLS FOR ENTRIES TO BULLETIN EDITORS' AND ALL AMERICAN CLUB CONTESTS**

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

Chair, MWF Bulletin Editors Committee and MWF Merit Awards Committee

I hope you are all busy planning your entries for the **Bulletin Editor's Contest** for the year 2024. The forms you are to send to me, as well as the rules, are on the American Federation website, amfed.org/contests/bulletin-and-special-publications. Because the convention is so early, please **scan** your entries and forms, and email them to me by **January 10, 2025**. Mailed entries are just not going to work for me this year as I am transitioning to Tucson for three months, and must be there by January 1. My email address is mafr43@hotmail.com.

The top entries in each category of our MWF contest will be sent on to the AFMS contest; since the AFMS contest wants hard copies, I will print copies of the MWF winners and send them on to national. Winners of both MWF awards and AFMS awards will be announced at the March AFMS convention in North Carolina.

The same deadline of **January 10, 2025** applies to the **All American Club Award Contest**. This is the contest in which clubs create a yearbook showing their club's activities and involvement with their communities during the past year. Information about this award is at amfed.org/contests/all-american-club. These entries are by electronic copy already so there is no change. This way I can quickly judge and pass on entries in both contests to the AFMS by the end of January. I hope to see lots of entries for both of these contests.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

until my car broke down! I had the car towed to New York, rented a car for a week, and still today my car is in the shop! Luckily for me, my car is being repaired under warranty and I hope to have it back by the end of the month!

Let's look ahead and plan our next meeting. It's always great to see people in person. Nowadays, there are avenues available for people to stay home and pop on through their computer or phone, but it is not anything like being at a place in person. I personally do not like meeting through a machine. It's hard to really carry on a conversation when there are many people involved. Sure, it's great if you cannot travel or are sick, but in reality, you do not get that full effect of being there in person – agreed?

Plan to attend our next meeting. It is being hosted by the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, who will be celebrating their 65th annual show! J.C. Moore, chair of the MWF Convention and Show Advisory Committee, will also be the president of the American Federation, and he would be honored to see you there to support him. The meeting will be held April 5 and 6, 2025, at Sandhills Global Event Center Ag Society Hall in Lincoln, Nebraska.

A little geography lesson: Lincoln is the capital city of Nebraska. It is the state's second most populous city and one of the top 100 largest cities in the United States. Originally, the area was salt marshes and arroyos – steep-sided gullies formed by fast-flowing water in an arid or semi-arid area. The area was settled in 1856 and called the village of Lancaster, but was renamed to honor President Abraham Lincoln, and became the state capital in 1869. In 1869, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln was also founded.

The first settlers to the area were attracted by the abundance of salt. Salt was a huge commodity. Today, Lincoln is home to Capitol Beach Lake – also known as Salt Lake. The lake is private with no public beach access, but the Saline Wetland Park is located at the east end of Capitol Beach Lake and provides a glimpse of restored and preserved rare land and a historic bowstring bridge. Access is free! I hope to see you there!

More information to follow about the convention – and the MWF! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via my email, ciervo.neary@gmail.com, or via my cell (leave a message or text), 516-449-5341.

CLUBS THAT RENEW ON TIME GET TWO GREAT BENEFITS

The 2025 Midwest Federation forms for renewing club memberships are on the following two pages of this issue of MWF News. Please alert club officers to collect information for the forms.

One important piece of information needed is the total number of individual adult and youth members during the year completed during 2024. These figures are used for dues and insurance calculations. The rationale is that your total membership, by the end of the year, is usually about the same, so you always pay the current year dues based on your past experience. The treasurer needs this information **before January 15th** so our insurance can be activated on time.

The Midwest Federation will only publish each club's public contact information. Please make sure that the mailing address is checked at least weekly and the phone number connects to a real person who can answer questions about your club. We still need direct contact information that will be distributed on a need-to-know basis to Federation leaders.

Clubs are encouraged to provide name, position and email address for additional officers, board members and members who would like to receive the *MWF News*. This information will only be distributed to our editor and secretary. This is a great way to make sure that all of your officers are "in the know."

Clubs who renew on time will receive an email subscription to the juniors publication *Mini Miners Monthly*, distributed only via email. If you wish to have the *Mini Miners Monthly* subscription sent to someone other than your (1) junior program coordinator or your editor, please provide a name, position and email address for that person and indicate that he or she is to receive the *Mini Miners* materials.

Use the **EVENTS** form to submit details of shows and events during the coming year and the first four months of 2026. If the Events form is submitted with the dues, we will make sure it gets to the website, newsletter and directory coordinators. If it is submitted later, or separately, it is more likely to get overlooked.

Insurance will stay the same for 2025. Our current rate is \$4.50 per club member, and all members must be covered. Clubs that submit their dues on time (postmarked no later than January 15, 2025), may take a discount of 25¢ per member.

Remember: The Federation insurance policy will cover groups of clubs jointly sponsoring shows or events **only if** all of the sponsoring clubs are current federation members and all of the sponsoring clubs purchase federation insurance. Requests for insurance for these jointly sponsored events must include a list of all sponsoring clubs.

Questions about your MWF forms or dues? Contact Stephen Shimatzki at 567-868-8794 or woodvillerocks@gmail.com. Direct insurance questions to Sue Goedert at 616-337-1162 or sonbeams2000@yahoo.com.

CRYSTALS BECOME BEAUTIFUL DECOR

By Charles Wooldridge, Board Member
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club
From the August, 2024 Pick & Shovel

This spring I took my good friend and neighbor, Kieth, and his geologist friend from Oregon on a field trip to south-central Nebraska. We visited, among other places, a clay pit and road cut where we gathered specimens of selenite. Kieth gave a bunch of the crystals to his niece. She made this beautiful lighted wall hanging and gave it to him. What a creative and beautiful way to display them!





Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies 2025 Annual Club Dues, Insurance and Club Contact Information

DUES AND INSURANCE FORM, AND EVENTS FORM, ARE DUE BY JANUARY 15, 2025
Use black INK. Mail to: MWF c/o Steve Shimatzki, 4295 County Road 16, Woodville, OH 43469

CLUB NAME: _____ STATE: _____

2025 Annual Club Dues Use membership figures from year completed December 31, 2024

Number of Adult Club Members: _____ X \$2.00 = \$ _____.

Number of Youth Club Members: _____ X \$0.50 = \$ _____.

Do You wish MWF Membership Cards: _____ YES / NO

2025 Club Insurance (Optional, but if chosen, must pay for all members)

Total number of members from above: _____ X \$4.50* = \$ _____.

(*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2025 receive a discounted insurance rate of \$4.25 PER MEMBER)

(Make check payable to Midwest Federation) TOTAL DUES AND INSURANCE REMITTED: \$ _____.

Club Public Information for Directory & Website

Club mailing address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Info phone number: _____ Website: _____

Email: _____ Facebook Name: _____

Meetings Location: _____

Date & Time: _____

Check following that apply to your club: ☐ Kid friendly ☐ FRA Club ☐ Lapidary workshop ☐ Field trips

☐ Rock Show ☐ Educational outreach

Direct Contact Information for Mailings (THIS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED)

Individual (**other than Treasurer**) designated to receive official Federation materials:

Name: _____ Position: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Alternate phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Treasurer _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CLUB BULLETIN NAME: _____

Editor: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please use separate sheet to list additional officers and members (name, position, email) who would like to receive the Federation newsletter and/or juniors materials via email.



Calendar Of Events Listing Information For Publication In MWF Directory, Website & Newsletter

Use black INK. Print, type, or complete form online, then print out and mail, with dues, to:
MWF, c/o Stephen Shimatzki, 4295 County Road 16, Woodville, OH 43469

DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2025

*** * Please include event listings for January, February, March and April 2026. * ***

CLUB NAME: _____ STATE: _____

Show Chair: _____ Email: _____

Event Type: ____ Annual Show ____ Rock Swap ____ Other: _____

Dates: _____ Days/Times: _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Club Website: _____

ADDITIONAL EVENT

Event Type: ____ Annual Show ____ Rock Swap ____ Other: _____

Dates: _____ Days/Times: _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Club Website: _____

Questions? Call 651-459-0343

REMEMBER, this information, including contact information, will be published in the *MWF Directory*, posted on the MWF Website, and listed in the *MWF News*.

CONVENTION STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, INDIANA AND MINNESOTA

(Continued from page 2)

club will no longer be recognized as a valid organization in its state.

The 500 Earth Sciences Club reported: Their show will be in Greenfield. They have expanded to three buildings, one pavilion, and outside vendors. They are adding a display area with a featured display and are encouraging vendors and club members to do a display too. (Have not had displays for some years.) They do school presentations but have not been successful in attracting juniors yet. They are looking for a way to set up their own lapidary workshop. They hope to set up a field trip after their show to which other Indiana clubs may join.

The 500 Earth Sciences members really enjoyed a new type of program that they learned about from another Indiana club newsletter. They purchased buckets of material from North Carolina, had a talk on North Carolina geology, and sent members home with some of the material to sort through on their own (because it would be too dirty to do at the library in which they meet). At the next meeting, members brought in the great specimens they found in their portion of the buckets.

We are still working on getting our other clubs to join our Indiana State club meetings.

MINNESOTA STATE DIRECTOR MARCIA OPATZ

The Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club now hosts TWO successful rock shows each year. The club added a new annual April rock show, while it continues to host its annual October show. Board planning, club volunteers, and a strong publicity campaign worked together to accomplish the goal of adding a second rock show. The club also had a successful annual May live & silent auction.

The Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club in Cloquet had a successful show again in mid-July, despite the heat (again). They are struggling, however, with membership, and therefore had trouble providing enough volunteers at the show, and really didn't have security.

Membership of the Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society in Brainerd has been growing steadily

over the past year, with just over 200 members. The club hosted another successful show in the spring, with approximately 3,500 in attendance. There were 42 inside vendors and 29 outside. A member who took on the job of looking for locations to search for Lake Superior agates was quite successful, securing one owner with numerous farms. The club will also have field trips to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and east central Missouri this fall. The club meets the second Saturday of the month, when machines are available for members to use, there is a rock store, and speakers share information on a variety of topics.



Now you don't suppose those nice people tried to smuggle that beautiful boulder away, do you? Photo of the Minnesota Mineral Club's July, 2024 Thunder Bay amethyst field trip, from the club's website, minnesotamineralclub.org.

The Minnesota Mineral Club has scheduled 16 field trips to over 25 rock collection locations across two countries in 2024. Membership has been inching slightly upward into the mid-800's. Their annual show at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Dairy Building will be on September 28th and 29th. Dates are locked in for 2025 and 2026.

We have been busy scanning paper archives from 1945 to the mid-2010's. The MMC wanted all past newsletters and club activities over our nearly 80-year history (established 1945) to be brought forward into the digital age and posted to the website for all past, present, and future generations to enjoy!

(Continued on page 8)

CONVENTION STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, MINNESOTA TO MISSOURI & ARKANSAS

(Continued from page 7)

The New Ulm Gem & Mineral Club in Morgan has grown slightly in membership. In 2023 members went to Keokuk to look for geodes. The club meets September through May.

St. Croix Rockhounds is a small but enthusiastic club that meets in Stillwater, Minnesota, but draws members from Minnesota and Wisconsin – both sides of the St. Croix Valley. We have maybe 15 active members. We had a public show at Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury this past March and plan to have another show at the same location in late October.

In April we had an outing near Burkhardt, Wisconsin to look for agates, resulting in a couple of happy finds. In July several members of the club participated in a field trip to the Rapid City, South Dakota area, where we looked for prairie agates, rose quartz, and tourmaline. A few of us will be participating in another small trip to look for plume agate in western Texas in October.

Except in the summer, we meet on the third Tuesday of each month and enjoy a short educational program and a lively exchange of rock-collecting stories.

Steele County Gem & Mineral Club in Owatonna – No report.

**MISSOURI & ARKANSAS
STATE DIRECTOR BRUCE STINEMETZ**

I'm sad to report that one of my Assistant State Directors, Sharon Waddell, is resigning due to ill health. I'm currently in the process of recruiting a replacement. I appreciate the work that Sharon has done in support of our hobby.

Arkansas Clubs

Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society – The club has been very active and is doing well. In March they held their annual show. In April they held a club auction. Another auction is scheduled for August. They took field trips to Magnet Cove, Arkansas, the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum in Piggot, Arkansas, and the Museum of the Red River in Ida Bell, Oklahoma. They have also had some interesting

programs at their meetings, including talks on ultraviolet light and fossil sharks and rays. A Christmas party is planned for December.

Ozark Earth Science, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Club – The news from this club is not so good. Their membership is in decline. They voted to not hold any meetings until December. At that time, they plan to meet to try and re-organize.

Missouri Clubs

Central Missouri Rock and Lapidary Club – This club is doing well. They held a show in May in Columbia that was very successful. I was able to attend this show and found it to be a very nice club show. They have taken a field trip to collect druzy quartz and a trip to Lincoln, Missouri to collect Mozarkite. They are planning a trip to the Keokuk, Iowa area in October to collect geodes. They also sponsor a display at an area library. The only real problem they have is a lack of youngsters.

Independence Gem and Mineral Society – Club members participated in the Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show that was held in March. They will also be attending the Kansas City Association picnic that will be held in August. A commercial show is held in Kansas City at the KCI Expo Center the first weekend in November, and club members have been invited to participate. A Christmas party is planned for December. This club also has a problem with a lack of junior members.

Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society – No report received.

Mozarkite Society of Lincoln – This club has been active and is doing well. They will operate a booth at the Missouri State Fair. They also operated a booth in Stover, Missouri for an animal-rescue fund raiser. The event is called Rocks for Paws. Planning is also under way for their annual show in Lincoln. The dates for the show are September 20-22, and it will be held in the city park.

Osage Rock and Mineral Club – No report.

Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society – This club held a swap in June that was very successful.

(Continued on page 10)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
Oct. 19-20 Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Des Moines Lapidary Society	Elwell Food Ctr., State Fairgrounds, 300 E. Grand, Des Moines, IA	Ken Belzer, DMLS@dmlapidary.org
Oct. 26 Sat, 9-1	St. Croix Rockhounds	Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN	Dave Rusterholz, stcroixrock@gmail.com
Oct. 26-27 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club	Emidio's Expo Center, 48 E. Bath, Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Mary Myers, gemboreelead@gmail.com
Oct. 26-27 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-6	Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club	Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive North, Crystal, MN	Martha Miss, martha@rock-biz.biz
Oct. 26-27 Sat 9-5, Sun 9:30-4	Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club	Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W. Locust St., Davenport, IA	Bret Henderson, reminerals@gmail.com
Oct. 26-27 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Evansville Lapidary Society	CK Newsome Community Center, 100 E. Walnut Street, Evansville, IN	evansvillelapidary1304@ gmail.com
Oct. 26-27 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Ozark Gem & Mineral Society	University Plaza Convention Center, 635 E. St. Louis St., Springfield, MO	Mark Northrup, omgms.57@gmail.com
Nov. 2 Tables open 6 pm; Auction begins 7	Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society auction	Democratic Club, 23400 Wick Road, Taylor, MI	Dwayne Ferguson, shelby0671111@yahoo.com
Nov. 2-3 Sat & Sun 10-5	Gem City Rock Club	Quincy Mall, 32 nd & Broadway, Quincy, IL	B. Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com
Nov. 2-3 Sat & Sun 10-5	Mid-Michigan Rock Club	Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour Road, Midland, MI	Laura Foster, pop345corn@sbcglobal.net
Nov. 2-3 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Racine Geological Society	Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand Ave. (Highway 11), Sturtevant, WI	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
Nov. 9-10 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Illinois Rock Club	Eagles Club, 1200 W. Galena Ave., Freeport, IL	Brian Green, BGreen57@hotmail.com
Nov. 11 Mon, 7 p.m.	Michigan Mineralogical Society auction	Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, MI	Brad Zylman, brad.zylman@mrm.com
Nov. 13 Wed, 7-9	Miami County Gem and Mineral Club auction	Troy View Church of God, 1770 N. County Road 25A, Troy, OH	Mary Manning, manningsrockshop @live.com
Nov. 22-24 Fri 3-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society	Affton Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO	B. Schlegel, beth.schlegel@att.net
Nov. 23-24 Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-5	Madison Gem & Mineral Club	Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI	Nevin Franke, burniesrockshop@gmail.com
Nov. 23-24 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Northwest Ohio Rockhound Club	St. James Lutheran Church, 4727 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo, OH	Suzanne Shimatzki, sshimatzki@gmail.com

CONVENTION STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, MISSOURI TO NEBRASKA

(Continued from page 8)

They are currently planning for their fall show that will be held October 26-27. This show is held at the Springfield Expo Center in Springfield, Missouri. I've personally attended this show in the past and it's a very nice show, with lots of activities and a good variety of dealers. They have also been sponsoring lapidary workshops three times a month. Several field trips have been taken, including trips for druzy quartz and a trip to St. Genevieve County, Missouri to look for copper minerals. They have seen a healthy increase in their membership.

Rock Hobby Club of Greater St. Louis – This club is primarily an association of mineral dealers focused on promoting gem and mineral shows. This year they have had three successful shows at various locations in Missouri.

St. Louis Gem and Mineral Society – The St. Louis show in August will be a past event by the time of the convention. In the past this has been a good show, so hopefully I'll be able to give a positive write-up in my next State Director's report.

Show Me Rockhounds of Kansas City, Missouri are doing very well. Their membership has grown quite a bit in the last year, with some very talented people joining and sharing their craft and special interests. As a regular feature every month they have a member or outside speaker present a program. Also, they have an opportunity for all members to show and talk about their rocks, minerals, and fossils, and a drawing for door prizes. These monthly activities seem to contribute to the enthusiasm and casual camaraderie in the club.

Show-Me Rockhounds' 2024 field trips included going to the Sutton Geosciences Museum at UMKC, hosted by Dr. Jim Murowchick. In April there was a field trip to the Great Salt Plains in Cherokee, Oklahoma to collect selenite. There were also field trips Lake Kanopolis in Kansas to collect cone-in-cone, marcasite, barite roses and fossil gastropods, and to Marquette, Kansas to collect selenite crystals.

The club acquired a fifty-year collection that belonged to brothers and rock collectors Lou and Rick Harms, which prompted the need for two storage units. They have been selling from the units to club

members, other clubs, and out-of-state collectors. Overall, the club is doing great.

Tri-State Gem and Mineral Society – This club is closely associated with the Joplin History and Mineral Museum located in Schifferdecker Park in Joplin, Missouri. They hold two shows a year at the museum. The first show was held in May, and was fairly successful. The next show will be September 27th -29th. The club members are also helping the museum with cataloging its collection. They also put together mineral kits and hardness test kits for schoolteachers and for use with presentations that are done at the museum.

NEBRASKA STATE DIRECTOR JAMES MARBURGER

The Nebraska Mineral and Gem Club in Omaha is hosting cabochon and faceting classes in our new workshop. Other classes are planned, including gem tree classes. In February the club held its annual rock swap, which was very successful. Attendance was even better this year, both for the number of sellers and the number of the general public who attended.

In June we held our annual consignment auction, which did even better this year than last year. Our annual show will be at the Liberty First Credit Union Banquet hall this year. We were forced to downsize the show a little bit due to the size of the venue. We will be seeking a better size space for the 2025 show.

The Loup Valley Gem and Mineral Society in Columbus meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., March to November, at the First United Methodist Outreach Center in Columbus. We do meet at personal residences at times. At November meetings we have a potluck or group outing to eat. A gift exchange is one of the activities we do.

This year we went to a club member's home with a large collection of petrified wood in showcases. Absolutely beautiful. We also enjoyed a cabin on the Platte River this year! We do this every year with a club member.

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club – The third Sunday in January was the winter rock swap. Great

(Continued on page 11)



STATE DIRECTOR REPORTS, NEBRASKA-OHIO

(Continued from page 10)

attendance with limited space has forced us to move to larger space and have plans of continuing the winter swap.

The April Gem Show was a very successful show, with attendance very strong; the dealers were pleased. The summer Gem Fest was held at the Beer family's farm in June. Many dealers set up in the barn and outside around the farm. Food truck was a great hit during the day. The club provided the Saturday evening meal for the vendors and members. In summer the club does not have meetings, but we have field trips and food-related events.

Plans have been started for the 2025 Gem Show, at which we'll be hosting the MWF Convention. More to come. Oh, yeah, this summer we had tornadoes in and around Lincoln. Missed the fairgrounds where our show is held by a quarter-mile. There were YouTube videos of it passing, and then a direct hit on a BNSF TRAIN CREW. We have ordered nice weather for the 2025 MWF Convention. See you then!

OHIO

ASSISTANT STATE DIRECTOR JOYCE KISH

Summit Lapidary Club Report – The club is scheduled to do a flint dig at the Nethers farm. One of our members is heading a Children's Hospital Christmas tree festival, which raises funds for the hospital in the name of our club. Members donate items to decorate the tree. Classes continue at our club house. We are holding a joint summer picnic and a holiday dinner with the Akron Mineral Society. We continue to hold meetings and have guest speakers.

*December Issue
Submission
Deadline Is
November 6th!*

WEBSITE CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Brad Zylman,
MWF Website Contest Chair

I would like to thank the Ozarks Gem and Mineral Society of Missouri and the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club of Michigan for entering the annual website contest this year.

We plan to work closely with both webmasters once the judging is complete on improvement and ideas for their website, to make their club shine and be a beacon of enthusiasm for the areas that they serve.

As the Website Contest Chair, my goal is to help all our clubs strive to focus on a strong internet presence to generate interest in the earth sciences and lapidary arts.

Please go and visit their websites at <https://ogms.rocks> and <https://www.tulipcity.org/> to check out what they have done. Both entries will move forward to the American Federation website contest.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

Entries for the **Bulletin Editors Contest** and for the **All American Club Awards Contest** must be sent to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich by **January 10, 2025**. Her email address is mafr43@hotmail.com. See the article on page 3, or go to amfed.org/contests, for more information.

Deadline is **January 15, 2025** for submission of club **membership renewal forms** and **Calendar of Events** forms to MWF. Clubs who renew on time can get a discount on insurance. More information is in the article on page 4 of this issue; the forms are on pages 5 and 6.

The next **MWF convention** will be held **April 5, 2025**, at the Sandhills Global Event Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. Deadline for registration is **Feb. 28, 2025**. More information is available on the MWF website, mwfed.org, and will be in the next issue of MWF News. Save the date!

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.

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Please notify the Secretary of any violations.

LAPIDARY WORK SAFETY INVOLVES EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING, AND ORGANIZATION

David Rich, MWF 2nd Vice President and
Chair, MWF Safety & Field Trips Committee

Lapidary work, involving the cutting, grinding, and polishing of stones, requires meticulous attention to safety to prevent accidents and health hazards. Whether you are a hobbyist or a professional, adhering to safety protocols is crucial.

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

N-95 Masks: Always wear an N-95 mask when working with lapidary machines to protect yourself from inhaling fine stone dust and oil mists. These particles can be harmful to your respiratory health over time.

Safety Glasses: Protect your eyes from flying debris and fragments by wearing safety glasses at all times. This is especially important when using grinders, saws, and polishers.

2. Appropriate Clothing

Avoid wearing loose clothing, jewelry, or accessories that could get caught in machinery. Opt for fitted clothing and secure long hair to prevent entanglement in moving parts.

3. Equipment Handling

Lapidary Grinders and Polishers: Ensure that all machines are properly maintained and in good working order. Check that guards are in place and functioning correctly. Always use the appropriate wheel or disc for the material you are working on, to avoid accidents.

Trim Saws: Before using a saw, inspect the blade for any damage or wear and replace it if necessary. Use a steady, controlled motion when feeding the stone into the blade, and never force the material through.

4. Workspace Environment

Keep your work area clean and organized to reduce the risk of accidents. Ensure that all tools and materials are stored properly when not in use.

Maintain proper ventilation to minimize the buildup of dust, fumes, and oil mists. Consider using an exhaust system or working near a window to improve air circulation.

By following these safety guidelines, you can minimize risks and ensure a more enjoyable lapidary work environment.