



MWF News

**Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

December 2024 - Issue No. 637

Website – www.mwfed.org

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

There is a phrase that I am sure you have either heard or used yourself. “Time flies when you are having fun!”

The idiom points out the fact that the best things go by quickly and are over before one knows it. However, we know that time passes at the same speed no matter what one is doing. As one gets older, doesn't it seem like time is flying by? It seems that I blinked, and it went from August to November! I ask myself all the time, where did the time go?

Some things that we know about time, from Thought Co. (thoughtco.com/what-is-time-416799):

- Time is the progression of events from the past into the future
- Time moves only in one direction. It's possible to

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CONVENTION TO OFFER SHOW, SOCIALIZING

Sharon Marburger, 2025 MWF Convention Event Planner

Brett Jurgens, President, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club

Charles “Wooly” Wooldridge, LGMC 2025 Show Chair

Welcome, friends! The Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club would like to thank the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies for allowing it to host the 2025 Annual Convention April 5th in Lincoln, Nebraska. Although this is the club's 65th show, it is the 70th anniversary of becoming a club!

Registration is due February 28th. The registration form, and forms for people who wish to enter a competitive or non-competitive exhibit, are on lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/2025-midwest-federation-convention. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Marburger, LGMC.Editor@outlook.com or 402-429-3323.

The venue is the Sandhills Global Event Center in northeast Lincoln. The show will be held in the Center's Ag Society Hall. All Federation meetings and

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CLUBS HONOR ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

The **Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society** of Rockford, Illinois proudly proclaims **David Reese** Rockhound of the Year for 2024.

A longstanding member of RRVGMS, Dave has served as president, director and coffee provider. His extensive knowledge of rocks combined with his lapidary skills and talent have earned Dave the respect and appreciation of his fellow club members. He has always been involved in promoting the success of the RRVGMS and helping its members further their appreciation of our hobby. Thank you for all you do, Dave!



Photo of David Reese courtesy of Mary Gahl.



The **Dayton Gem and Mineral Society of Ohio** takes great pleasure in naming **Thomas McGovern** Rockhound of the Year for 2024. Tom has made many outstanding contributions to the DGMS, the Midwest Federation, and the overall gem and mineral and fossil science community in the Dayton region, as well as in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan.

Prominent among his contributions are the leadership, development and continual improvement of the 50-plus member DGMS and its community impact. As the current president, and for more than 12 years, Tom has encouraged, promoted and led outreach.

In 2024, as in all of his years of service, Tom as provided numerous programs for elementary, high school and college levels, presenting "Dayton Area Fossils" and joining in numerous field trips and events. He is currently presenting a six-week course,

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"Exploring the Region's Ancient Seabeds," for the University of Dayton Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.



Photo of Thomas McGovern courtesy of Ronald S. Whitehead.

The DGMS participates in many local gem and mineral shows, having a table where members display items from their personal collections, offering free items to visitors and passing out literature to promote the club and attract new members. Tom's involvement in these events has been invaluable.

Tom, a retired educator and human resource manager, collects at more than 30 fossil sites in three states and spends three or more days each week prepping his extensive finds, many of which find their way to the club's show tables.

Congratulations, Tom. The DGMS is fortunate to have you!



CONVENTION IN APRIL WILL OFFER SHOW, SOCIALIZING, FIELD TRIP, AND BANQUET

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the awards banquet will be held in the Center's Lincoln Room.

The Gem and Mineral Show lasts two days, Saturday the 5th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday the 6th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme is "Petrified Woods of America." We hope you will have plenty of time to shop with our 14 dealers, become involved with the competitive displays, and enjoy the demonstrations, fluorescent booth, juniors booth, and – in honor of the 70th anniversary – the 70 exhibits. The club looks forward to seeing its many Federation friends and to making new friends during the show.

A field trip on Thursday will be led by Charles "Woody" Wooldridge, meeting at the Event Center to leave for the Fairbury, Nebraska area at noon. You will collect fishtail selenite and fossils.

Friday night's Meet and Greet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. will be held at the Hy-Vee Club Room in the Hy-Vee located at 84th and Holdrege. Complimentary snacks will be provided. The guest speaker will be mineral expert Eric Fritzsch. The subject of this program has not yet been determined. Eric has many interesting programs and we are sure his choice of subjects will be of interest to all.

On Friday, we will hold a parking lot "field trip" at the Event Center, at 2 p.m. Petrified wood, jasper, agate, artifacts, and other specimens found in local rivers will be available in the club's Outdoor Rock Pile. An area landscape company provides a dump-truck load of river gravel, which members "salt" by adding specimens collected during personal field trips. The Outdoor Rock Pile is a special treat to anyone and everyone who likes to hunt, and it is a favorite with our show attendees.

The MWF State Directors' meeting and Executives meeting will be on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. After a lunch break, the Council of Delegates meeting will be held at 1 p.m.

The Awards Banquet will start with a social hour at 6 p.m. Saturday, with the buffet meal starting at 7 p.m. The menu is listed on the registration form.

Don't forget the MWF silent auction, which will be held on Sunday during the show. Susan

Stanforth, Silent Auction Committee Chair, will appreciate any and all donations for this event.

The club has negotiated with Comfort Suites East Lincoln - Mall Area, for \$109 plus tax per night for queen rooms with two beds. Make sure to use the group name Midwest Federation and group number ZP55Z1 when making your reservations. The host hotel is approximately five miles from the show site.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

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. 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. Information and forms are on pages 4-6 of this issue.

Deadline for registration at the next MWF Convention is **Feb. 28, 2025**. The convention and show will be held April 5-6, 2025, at the Sandhills Global Event Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, hosted by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. More information can be found in this issue and on the club's website, lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/2025-midwest-federation-convention.

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.

*January Issue
Submission Deadline
Is December 11th!*

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.

MESSAGES IN STONE

By Steven Wade Veatch
Second Place, Adult Poetry, 2008
AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest

Those who are gone once came to this sacred place
of remote canyon walls now quiet with grace.
They made circles of stones to pray and to fast,
to seek a vision for guidance and unite with the past.

Here seekers waited for their spirit guide to appear
who came in many forms to give strength and end fear.
The seekers knew this place where others once prayed
and had visions of power as long as they stayed.

They left sacred images to last upon the cosmic rocks:
Dancers, flute players, lizards, and birds left as marks.
An eternal art on canyon walls of symbols, visions, and more
From those who have gone but came here before.

Now the clouds grow dark and are messengers of rain,
They bring a breeze scented with sage over the terrain.
An eagle soars as a guardian above the canyon below
Over messages in stone only the ancients truly know.



Petroglyphs near Moab, Utah. Photo by Jim Bouldin, via Wikimedia Commons.



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*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

move forward in time, but not backward

- Scientists believe memory formation is the basis for human perception of time

The phrase “Tempus fugit,” which possibly is the origin of the phrase “Time flies when you are having fun,” is from Virgil’s *Georgics*, a poem about agricultural and country life published in 29 BCE. In Latin, he wrote, “Fugit irreparable tempus,” meaning “It escapes, irretrievable time.”

What is the point of this article? There are two things I’d like to say about the passage of time.

- Volunteer your time to your club. You will be rewarded with memories and experiences.
- Consider traveling to the conventions to meet with other people that share your hobby. Again, another moment in time when you can reward yourself with memories and experiences.

Time will pass by quite rapidly when you are socializing and enjoying the company you are surrounded by and the activities performed.

Consider donating time at the silent auction held at the MWF convention. Consider attending the annual meeting. Consider what you can offer both the club and the federation with your time and talent.

Another instance: Is your club or the federation actively seeking personnel to be board members? Activity keeps both your mental and physical state in motion. While in motion, time seems to speed ahead – and sometimes too fast! Managing your time and understanding your time limitations is important in both your personal life and that of your hobby.

There are a variety of quotes that address time and time management. I would like to leave you with one of them, from Barbara Bush: “At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a friend, a child or a parent.” And to paraphrase – time not spent with other enthusiastic members of our hobby!

PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Michele Yamanaka, Editor

Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)

Sometime since our October show, our club storage trailer was stolen. Please be on the lookout for items from the trailer being offered for sale. Here are some of the items:

Trailer, VIN 56JTE1428JA161187
 5-foot 18" white folding tables
 Display cases-may be in blue or red cloth covers
 Fluorescent rocks
 Glass (Plexiglass?) display case (for fluorescent rocks)
 Black folding tent for fluorescent room
 Voice amplifier for fluorescent room
 Rock, mineral, fossil, and fluorescence posters
 Lighted three-shelf glass case (our memorial case)
 Polished amethyst crystals in matrix
 Lights to fit tables for the silent auction
 Dino wheel
 Plinko game
 Indoor and outdoor banners and signs
 Collapsible banner and sign stands
 Three Squares for accepting money
 Molds for fossil rubbings

I have taken several photos to show some of what was inside the trailer, what the display cases look like, what the tent looks like and some of the rocks at Touch and Feel. *[Editor’s Note: Due to space considerations, only one of the photos is included here.]*

If you see any of this being offered for sale, please get a screenshot right away with the name of the seller shown. Then call the Fort Wayne Police Department at 260-427-1340 with Control Number 24F135103. Please also let the club know via email, 3riversgms@gmail.com. Thank you.



*Black tent for fluorescent room.
 Photo by Michele Yamanaka.*

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor
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It is MWF policy that its name and logo may not be used for commercial purposes.
Please notify the Secretary of any violations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
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

Topography in Badlands National Park,
South Dakota. Photo taken by Steven
Craig Dumortier of Show-Me
Rockhounds of Kansas City, via the
club's Facebook page.

