



MWF News

**Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

February 2025 - Issue No. 639

Website – www.mwfed.org

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

Time to Mark your Calendar!

**The 2025 MWF Convention
& Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club's
65th Annual Show will be April 5 &
6 at Sandhills Global Event Center,
84th & Havelock, Lincoln,
Nebraska.**

Before we know it, it will be springtime and the 2025 convention. I hope to see many of you at the event. Lincoln is located in the eastern part of Nebraska.



My plan is to attend the AFMS Convention in Hickory, North Carolina the last weekend in March, then drive to Hot Springs to spend a relaxing day at one of the spas! I plan on traveling on I-40 westward to Hot Springs and from Hot Springs I plan on traveling north basically on I-40 to I-49. I believe I will be traveling through Ozark National Forest in Arkansas into Missouri and Kansas, then Nebraska!

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CONVENTION: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

Here's a quick roundup of information about the Midwest Federation's 2025 convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. Everything you need to know is here!

The convention is being sponsored by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. The club is also presenting its 65th annual rock show, whose theme is "Petrified Woods of America." The convention meetings and awards banquet, and the rock show, will be held in locations at the Sandhills Global Event Center, 84th and Havelock. The meetings and banquet will be held Saturday, April 5th; the rock show will be held that Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All members of MWF-affiliated clubs are invited to attend the convention meetings, although only one delegate per club is allowed to vote. The deadline for registering to attend is February 28th; this is also the deadline for those wishing to exhibit a display case, whether competitive or non-competitive and educational, to submit their applications. Members who will be representing clubs as voting attendees need

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MINN. CLUB NAMES ROCKHOUND OF YEAR

The **Minnesota Mineral Club** (MMC) of Bloomington, Minnesota has chosen **Sandy Kenney** as its 2024 Rockhound of the Year. Sandy shines as a wonderful volunteer and valuable member, one who is always quick to greet you with a smile, even if it is raining.



Sandy Kenney proudly displays her Rockhound of the Year 2024 certificate and award from the Minnesota Mineral Club. Photo courtesy of Mike Kenney.

From the day she joined the MMC in 2009 with her husband Mike and children Alex and Max, Sandy has volunteered in a lengthy list of roles, including Facebook, Instagram, Rock Rustler news photographer, coordinating volunteers for the annual show, managing the Sign-Up Genius software for volunteers, and helping promote the show.

As the co-tour director of field trips in 2024, Sandy helped plan all the field trips, plus many exploratory field trips, and attended 14 of the official field trips spanning over 10,000 miles.

As news photographer, she has regularly taken hundreds of pictures for each field trip and edited them until 3 or 4 a.m., never missing a beat at the 7 a.m. roll call!

Thank you, Sandy, for all that you continue to do to make the MMC and our hobby fun and amazing, and for the more than 15 years of service you have given.

MWF OFFICERS

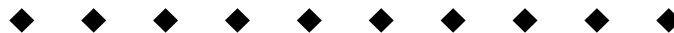
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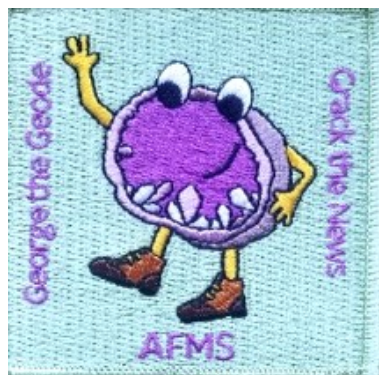
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woodvillerocks@gmail.com



BREAKING — ER — CRACKING NEWS!

Dennis Gertenbach, Crack the News Editor
From the Aug. 2024 Rocky Mountain Federation News

What are rock-loving kids interested in? The answer to this question can be found in the latest edition of Crack the News, the AFMS newsletter for kids and teens, written by kids and teens. Every junior who contributes to Crack the News receives a patch featuring George the Geode, the mascot of the newsletter. To access the latest edition (and previous editions), go to <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>.



Encourage the kids and teens in your club to send an article, poem, artwork, or photos for the next edition. Details about where to send your contribution are at the website address above; just scroll down to the section

that begins, "Calling all junior journalists, writers, poets, photographers, and artists..."

Not only will your juniors receive a George the Geode patch, but they can share their knowledge and excitement about rocks, minerals, and fossils with kids and teens across the country.

CONVENTION: ALL YOU NEED, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

to submit a separate form, signed by the club president, before March 21st.

Forms for general registration and delegate registration, and separate application forms for competitive and non-competitive exhibits, are all in this issue. All forms except the delegate registration form can be filled out online at lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/2025-midwest-federation-convention, but still need to be mailed in.

The Lincoln club is suggesting that people visit the University of Nebraska State Museum at Morrill Hall while in town. Its exhibits include skeletons of ancient rhinos, camels, and other ancient critters; “Bizarre Beasts” includes replicas (created by Kansas City-based paleoartist Gary Staab) of a helicoprion, a pterosaur, and other strange creatures of the past.



No, this little guy isn't bizarre. He's a dwarf mammoth from Sicily in the Pleistocene Epoch, now at the NU State Museum. Photo by James St. John, via Wikimedia Commons.

A visit to the museum would be on your own, but the club has a field trip for selenite and fossils planned on Thursday, April 3rd, as well as a parking lot “field trip” on Friday afternoon and a meet-and-greet on Friday night.

The host hotel for the convention is the Comfort Suites East Lincoln-Mall Area on North Cotner Boulevard. This hotel has set aside a block of rooms for the convention at a reduced price for those giving the group name (Midwest Federation) and group number (ZP55Z1). The phone number is 402-817-2456. There are several other hotels near by, as well as campgrounds and RV parks.

PREFORMING TIPS FOR LAPIDARISTS

Dr. Reg Williams, Midwest Faceters Guild
From the September, 2024 Midwest Faceter

Michelangelo was famously queried about his process for creating the David statue. He replied that he simply chipped away any part of the marble block that didn't resemble David. In this remark, he succinctly captured the essence of sculpting.

This principle is relevant when preforming a piece of gemstone rough. The goal is to remove the extraneous material to reveal a beautifully shaped round, oval, or other forms of a gemstone. To maximize yield, it's ideal to craft a close approximation of the desired dimensions and shape – a process known as preforming.

There's a spectrum of strategies to shed the unwanted rough: from grinding wheels to rock saws, employing mathematical computations, or even intuitively starting to cut in the hope that enough material remains to achieve the intended shape.

The selected method often correlates to the cost of the rough – you may readily waste excess when it costs only a few dollars for a piece of quartz, but you're likely to be more conservative with pricier rough.

Critical Preforming Steps

Preforming is distinct from the precision cutting on a faceting machine and is often done by hand. Artisans might hold the stone against a capping machine's grinding wheel or trim away excess material with a rock saw. Both of these techniques can rapidly remove significant portions of the rough, thereby conserving time on faceting and preserving costly laps.

However, one must proceed carefully, as these methods can inflict substantial subsurface damage to the crystal structure. Such damage may require additional material removal to eliminate scratches caused by aggressive grinding or sawing, often reducing the finished gemstone's size more than anticipated.

Sometimes the damage doesn't become apparent until the later stages of polishing. For best results, preforming should preferably be conducted

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PREFORMING TIPS FOR LAPIDARISTS, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

with the stone dopped, rather than by holding the gem material by hand.

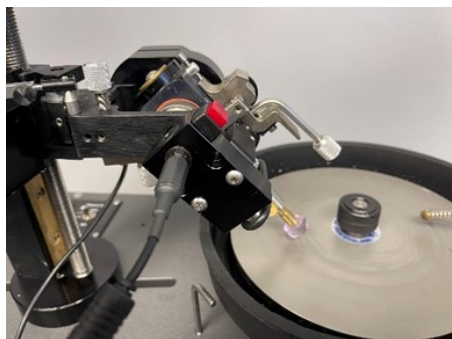
If you lack access to a cabbing machine or rock saw, consider joining a lapidary club where these machines are typically available, ultimately saving money and resources.

Preforming Made Easier: Tools and Devices

Some faceting machines come with accessories designed to aid in preforming. Options include an offset preformer, which facilitates the crafting of non-round gems like ovals or marquises by offsetting the center of the stone.

Another helpful tool is the motorized freewheeling preformer, which produces a perfectly round cylindrical form for the girdle by rotating the stone. Alternatively, one can manually create a cone shape for the pavilion or a cylinder for the girdle by disengaging the index wheel and rotating the stone against a coarse lap.

These methods yield an approximate stone shape, so one must be cautious not to remove too much material prematurely, ensuring the rough doesn't deviate from the intended design. It's advisable to halt preforming prior to reaching the final shape and size, providing a safety margin to mitigate any surface or subsurface damage during the final shaping on the faceting machine.



Ultra Tec Rotator Kit. Photo from ultratec-facet.com.

Correctly positioning oddly shaped gemstone rough can be a formidable task. Tools such as the target dop (R&D Consultants, HyperEdge: www.hyperedge.com) are invaluable. They allow for even

distribution and precise placement of the rough stone to secure the optimum center point for maximum yield. The colored concentric and diametric lines on this dop aids in strategically positioning the stone before the preforming process.



Target dop photograph by Dr. Reg Williams.

Sources: *Amateur Gemstone Faceting, Volume 1: The Essentials*, Tom Herbst, (2014).

SLEEP IS VITAL TO SAFETY

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair
From the May, 2024 A.F.M.S. Newsletter

There is a price to pay, as the years go by, for our increased wisdom. As time marches on, people often face some combination of decreasing bone density, macular degeneration, thinner skin, some hearing loss, stiffer joints, and concerns with cognitive capacity. It is a long list. While all this is not news, health issues tend to help keep us on our toes and, hopefully, help us remain aware of our increased wisdom.

There is an additional pressing matter that rock, gem and mineral collectors of advancing years also face. That is the need for sufficient sleep. In fact, the lack of sufficient sleep is a big issue just about everywhere in today's society.

By now, most people are aware that lack of enough sleep affects one's cognitive skills and one's ability to focus. Attitudes often shift, as might one's creativity. With lack of sleep there can be impairment of digestive processes and blood pressure. Lack of sleep affects one's judgement. It can make one feel drowsy, which is a huge concern when behind the

(Continued on page 5)

SLEEP IS VITAL TO SAFETY, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

steering wheel. Lack of sleep affects people in many ways that are not conducive to being and staying safe.

Lack of sleep interferes with one's enjoyment of cutting and polishing a stone. It interferes with judgement when trying to have a hammer connect with a chisel. Lack of sleep interferes with one's conversations with friends at a club meeting. It affects one's capacity to remember what is heard during a webinar. Visual acuity appears to decrease, and reaction time suffers, when one is tired. Judgement suffers when one is tired. Lack of sleep is not good for anyone participating in any mineral hobby activity.

So now, let us put the parts together. Advancing years often dictate accommodation to health issues, and advancing wisdom helps us keep on top of our changing limits with what we can and cannot do. Suffering from lack of sleep affects everything.

Passions run high in the hobby. About to open up a vug or pocket of crystals? Putting the polish on a grand faceted stone? Driving up to that mountaintop quarry you have long dreamed to dig? About to put on a program of your favorite stone carving technique? Passions run high and it is easy to push oneself hard. Sometimes you push so hard that getting enough sleep the night before can suffer.

The wise and safety-minded will try to get enough sleep. The wise and safety-minded will mind when they start feeling tired. The wise and safety-minded hobbyist will take breaks before becoming too tired. The wise and safety-minded hobbyist will mind how his or her body is responding to feeling tired.

Sometimes you just cannot get enough sleep before a big day. If that is the case, please consider taking advantage of a quick nap, or several short breaks as you can, or delegating to someone else the tasks requiring careful focus, or listening to the respectful comments of others who are suggesting that you might be too tired to go on without first taking a break.

Having sufficient sleep and rest makes a world of difference in enjoying and being safe in this grand hobby of ours. Actually, having sufficient sleep is great for everyone. So, please be safe, be good to yourself, and maybe go to bed a bit early. Your safety may depend on it. All in all, your safety matters.

THE MYSTERY OF THE ROCK FLAKE

Jim Kraai
Central Iowa Mineral Society and
Des Moines Lapidary Society

For most of the last 20 years, I have been an officer of the Central Iowa Mineral Society and of the Des Moines Lapidary Society. I am an amateur rockhound with no formal training. I've learned much from my fellow members, I read a lot and widely, and I range pretty widely rockhounding.

With that said, I have many gaping holes in my geological knowledge. I'm not afraid to tell anyone if I can't identify a rock. I'm just a very local expert. At our annual local fall show, I do most of the identifying of mystery rocks, and sometimes I get a good story to tell.

A man came by our booth and said we'd tried to identify a big rock in his yard from a picture the previous year, but we hadn't gotten anywhere on the question without a rock in hand for me to examine. Over winter, a piece had flaked off, and he brought it in for another try at identification.

Some people bring their multi-generational family rock with a legendary story, and everyone comes with the hope that their odd rock is valuable and important. Once in a great while they're even right, but I recognize my duty to say something nice about whatever people bring.

I was sure I'd disappoint this person again.

I didn't remember the failed attempt from the previous year, so he showed me the picture he'd taken last year while re-telling the story of finding an oddball boulder in his new home's yard. He assured me it was much too large to move. This man is clearly not a committed rockhound – yet.

He handed me the piece, telling me what he'd heard from his neighbors. All they knew was that the previous owners had spent way too much money having the rock shipped to the property, but no more than that.

The bigger and less worked or eroded a rock is, the easier it will probably be to identify. The piece he

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MWF CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s 65th Annual Show
"Petrified Woods of America"



Sandhills Global Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln, Nebraska
Meetings and banquet will be held in the Event Center's Lincoln Room;
show will be in the Event Center's Ag Society Hall

April 5 & 6, 2025

Registrant _____

Additional Registrant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Club & Region _____

AFMS Position(s) _____

MWF Position(s) _____

Thursday Field Trip to collect fossils & selenite (leaving Event Center **at noon**): _____ (number attending)

Friday: **5:30 p.m.** Complimentary evening snacks at a meet & greet _____ (number attending)
 Hy-Vee Club Room, 1601 N. 84th St. (84th & Holdrege)
 Guest speaker, mineral expert Eric Fritsch. The subject of this program has not yet been determined.

Saturday Lunch: On your own. Event Center Concessions or go out to one of many nearby fast food restaurants.

Saturday: **6:00 p.m.** Social Hour

7:00 p.m. Awards Banquet (buffet) \$32 per person x _____ (number attending) = \$ _____
 (Stuffed chicken breast, applewood pork loin, garden salad,
 California veggie blend, scalloped potatoes, dinner roll, beverage)

One Day Show Pass \$8 per person x _____ (number of people) = \$ _____

Two Day Show Pass \$15 per person x _____ (number of people) = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail completed registration form with payment in full (check made out to LGMC), no later than February 28, 2025, to:

Sharon Marburger
 Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
 P.O. Box 5342
 Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

Questions: Contact Sharon Marburger, lgmc.editor@outlook.com, 402.429.3323.



COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT APPLICATION
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s 65th Annual Show
Sandhills Global Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln, Nebraska
April 5 & 6, 2025



Please complete one application PER EXHIBIT CASE. Copy this form for additional cases.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Club Membership: _____

All exhibits must be hobby-related (agates, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archeology, or lapidary).

COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT CASE TITLE _____

Division: _____ Class: _____ If Junior, provide birth date: _____

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

(Exhibitor is responsible for choosing proper DIVISION, CLASS, and GROUP.)

Exhibit Case Size: Standard case is approximately 4' wide, 2' deep, 2' high.

☐ Bringing my own case: Wide: _____ Deep: _____ High: _____

☐ I need a case: approximately 4' x2' x2' (First-come basis, no guarantees)

Do you need electricity? _____ Yes _____ No (Please use CFL or LED lights.)

(Exhibitors must furnish risers, backdrop, and lock.)

Undersigned exhibitor agrees to abide by AFMS Uniform Rules, Current Edition and those rules set by the Show.

Exhibitor's Signature: _____ Exhibitor's Society: _____

I hereby certify, as an officer of the above named Society, that the exhibitor is a member in good standing of the Society and, to the best of my knowledge, is eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to the rules.

Signature Title Date

Certification for Society (group) and Junior Society (group)

I hereby certify, as an officer of the above named society, that the materials and/or workmanship exhibited are the property of this society or the personal property of at least five members of the Society; that no more than 20% of the material or workmanship exhibited is the property of any one member; and that the lapidary and jewelry exhibited are entirely (except for minor findings or where otherwise allowed by rules) the work of members of this Society. It is agreed that the exhibit will remain on display until the show closes on Sunday, April 7, 2025.

Signature Title Date

Please mail the completed form to:
Sharon Marburger - Competitive Exhibits
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 5342

Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 28, 2025.



EDUCATIONAL (NON-COMPETITIVE) EXHIBIT APPLICATION
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s 65th Annual Show
Sandhills Global Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln, Nebraska
April 5 & 6, 2025



Please complete one application PER TWO EXHIBIT CASES. Copy this form for additional cases.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Club Membership: _____

All exhibits must be hobby-related (agates, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archeology, or lapidary).

EXHIBIT CASE #1 TITLE _____

Please describe your exhibit or display: _____

Exhibit Case Size Bringing my own case: Wide: _____ Deep: _____ High: _____
 I need a case: _____ Approximately 4' x2' x2' (First-come basis, no guarantees)
 Do you need electricity? ____ Yes ____ No (Please use CFL or LED lights.)
(Exhibitors must furnish risers, backdrop, and lock.)

EXHIBIT CASE #2 TITLE _____

Please describe your exhibit or display: _____

Exhibit Case Size Bringing my own case: Wide: _____ Deep: _____ High: _____
 I need a case: _____ Approximately 4' x2' x2' (First-come basis, no guarantees)
 Do you need electricity? ____ Yes ____ No (Please use CFL or LED lights.)
(Exhibitors must furnish risers, backdrop, and lock.)

I agree to comply with the conditions set by the Show and will follow the Show Rules. I will remove any items deemed inappropriate, if so requested.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please mail the completed form to:
 Sharon Marburger
 Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
 P.O. Box 5342
 Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 28, 2025.



MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
Executive Meeting and Council of Delegates Meeting, April 5, 2025

DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

****Deadline March 21, 2025****

The Midwest Federation's annual Council of Delegates meeting will be held in conjunction with the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club's 65th Annual Show at the Sandhills Global Event Center Ag Society Hall, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln, Nebraska. Each member club/society is entitled to one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate to represent them. An Alternate may vote only in the absence of a Delegate. Guests are invited to attend the meeting, but are ineligible to vote.

The Council of Delegates Meeting will convene on Saturday, April 5th 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, Cheryl Neary (ciervo.neary@gmail.com), 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.

Please fill out this form and return it to the Credentials Chair, SIGNED BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT.

David Root
1051 Meadow Lane
Jenison, MI 49428
ravedoot@gmail.com
616-498-4699

DO NOT send this form to the show registration committee. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPTNESS.

MIDWEST FEDERATION DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE TO AVOID ERRORS

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT _____
Name of your club

OF _____
City and State

HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING DELEGATE TO THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MIDWEST FEDERATION:

Delegate: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Alternate Delegate: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Club President

Date signed

MYSTERY OF THE ROCK FLAKE, CONTINUED*(Continued from page 5)*

handed me was the size of my index fingernail, which was not quite the sample size I work best from.

The big rock in the picture was a very light, off-white color, almost completely round, about 18 inches in diameter, and had a few small, dark spots on it, each from 1-3 inches wide. After a year, it still didn't look any more scrutable. It was probably a conglomerate of some kind, but that's not a good enough answer for me or for the person across the table.

Under good light, the rock flake was nearly square, about 1/8" thick, and a very dark purple color with clean cleavage. It contained phenocrysts of lighter colored needles and rectangular, pink crystals. Ah! I had a flake of porphyry under the lamp. The story of the rock clicked into place.

I told him the darker rocks had been fragments of slow-cooled magma or lava that'd been tumbled and rounded in a river. There'd been a large volcanic eruption, generating a lot of light-colored ash, which had washed into the river, mixing with the dark rocks, finally settling and hardening into a new bed of rock.

The big rock was volcanic tuff, and I can confidently say I really know almost nothing about igneous rocks. I told him I recognized the rock type, but I had no idea where it could have come from. A good candidate is the Yellowstone caldera, but there were many places around North America, let alone around the world, it could have come from.

As if prompted, he then said the neighbors had mentioned that the previous owners had traveled a lot around the world. I mumbled that didn't help much, while thinking about touristy areas that might fit the bill, and mentioned Italy as the start of a speculative list of possible origins.

He interrupted me excitedly and blurted out that the neighbors told him the previous owners had bought

HEY MOM, CAN WE TAKE THESE HOME?

Kip Curnutt and Saba Ashfaq of the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (Michigan) took their children, Zayd and Sarah, to West Virginia over the holidays, and the kids especially enjoyed Coppers Rock. That's Kip in the background; Saba took the photo, which appeared in the January, 2025 issue of the club's Arrowhead News.



a house in Italy! We quickly decided that location made the most sense, given the back story.

I did point out that the rock probably wasn't worth anything, with all of the value having been sentimental and so now lost. He was a bit disappointed, but he was very happy to have a story to tell his family and neighbors about the oddball rock.

Of course, I don't know whether that rock came from Italy, but it's a good story, and I feel good about my guess from a picture, a meager story, and a fingernail-sized flake of rock.

March Issue Submission Deadline Is February 5th!

**GREAT IDEA FOR COLD-WEATHER MEETINGS**

Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society
From the February, 2024 Strata Data

Our club ordered a box of gravel from the Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine in Montana. Then we gave each member present at the next meeting a scoop and a dish with about two cups of gravel. The gravel is not salted, but straight out of the mine. After 30 to 45 minutes of work, many people were showing off their sapphires! Sapphire colors included white, blue, green, pink and yellow. YOU TOO can order this gravel and have fun hunting. This is the website: gemmountainmt.com/sapphire-gravel-mine.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

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.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONTRIBUTIONS HONOR MEMBERS NOW AND BENEFIT FUTURE GEOLOGISTS

The good cause? Grants to college students in the earth sciences. The better cause? Memorializing the contributions of an invaluable member of your club.

The MWF and other regional federations pool their donations in the AFMS Scholarship Foundation – a perpetual fund. Each participating federation gets to select a Scholarship Honoree, honored by that federation for his or her contributions to the field of earth sciences, and the Honoree then awards two one-time grants of \$4,000 to two students working on an advanced degree in earth science at a college or university in our region. More detailed information is published in the Green Pages of the MWF Directory.

You receive acknowledgment and next of kin are notified of donation, if address is provided.

Contributions to American Federation Scholarship Foundation are tax-exempt. Make checks payable to AFMS Scholarship.

Donor / Club name (please print) _____ Donation: \$ _____

Donor Address _____

Donation honoring: _____
Underline one: living deceased

Next of Kin, if honoree is deceased: _____
(name) (relationship)

Next of Kin Address _____

Send this form, with contribution, to: Marge Collins, MWF Scholarship Chair
126 Lexington Pointe Drive, Niles, MI 49120

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
vjmwriter@yahoo.com
Post Office Box 13456
Overland Park, KS 66282-3456

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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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

If anyone has any suggestions for places to visit, please let me know!

The oldest rocks of the late Paleozoic age are exposed in the southeastern corner of the state. They are overlain by rocks deposited during the Mesozoic Era. Most of the western two-thirds of the state is covered by Cenozoic strata.

Nebraska was once part of the Western Interior Seaway, which is also referred to as the Cretaceous Seaway, the Niobraran Sea, and the North American Inland Sea. The large inland sea split the continent of North America into two large land masses known as Laramidia to the west and Appalachia to the east.

This vast sea lasted for approximately 34 million years, from the Late Cretaceous to the earliest Paleocene. The sea connected what is today the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. The inland sea was at its largest point 600 miles wide and over 2,000 miles long, with the greatest depth of 2,500 feet.

Carbonate deposition suggests the seaway was warm, and tropical. Found in northwest Kansas is

Monument Rocks, an exposed chalk formation standing 70 feet above the surrounding range. Unfortunately, this trip I will not be stopping there! In Nebraska, geological remnants of the Western Interior Seaway include the Niobrara Formation, the Greenhorn Limestone, Graneros and Carlisle Shales. These formations include shells, fish bones and ancient marine plankton.

One can view an outcrop of the Niobrara Formation (Niobrara Chalk) at Niobrara State Park located in northern Nebraska along the border of South Dakota. Approximately an hour south of Lincoln, in Fairbury, one can view the Graneros Shales.

Other Nebraska geological sites of interest include the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument in Harrison; Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park, Royal; the Nebraska Sandhills in north-central Nebraska; and Scotts Bluff National Monument in Scotts Bluff County in the Nebraska panhandle.

So why not make your journey to the convention one filled with side trips to the varied geological wonders found along your route. Perhaps we can take some time to share our experiences?