



MWF News

FEBRUARY 2010 - ISSUE NO. 489

WEB SITE - www.amfed.org/mwf

Member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Judith Washburn

It is the season to be thinking about gifts of hearts and flowers, although flowers won't be blooming in the Midwest any time soon. This would be a good time to give your club a gift from the heart — a Valentine of sorts. You can't go out collecting yet, and it's too nasty outside to consider cleaning and sorting out last year's finds. So, why don't you gather together some rocky friends from your club and organize a club yearbook party? Give your club a Valentine—a yearbook of the club's activities in 2009, the product of which you can enter into the MWF Merit Awards Competition.

Contact J. C. Moore, your MWF 1st Vice President and Chair of the Merit Awards Committee, for an application form. Check past AFMS newsletters or contact John Washburn, AFMS Education - All American Awards Chair, for helpful guidelines about how to go about putting together a yearbook. With the application, the guidelines, and an enthusiastic group of co-conspirators, you're on your way to producing a Valentine gift that will preserve the year's history of your club, as well as provide your club with a wonderful tool for recruiting new members, either at your annual show or your club meetings.

It is not a difficult job, just a little time consuming. But with a group working together, a stack of last year's club bulletins at hand, and a collegial sharing of ideas, it will get finished before you know it. Coffee and cookies can help break the work time up!

Have fun putting together this Valentine, and when you're finished, wrap it in red, put a big bow on it, and present it to your club! It will be a wonderful gift!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FEBRUARY

Feb: Roseville, MI. Mt. Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society's Annual Rock & Mineral Workshop; Classes to assist students grades 3-6 in Science Olympiad Competition; **CONTACT CORRECTION:** Richard Brzozowski, 44314 Macomb Industrial Dr., Clinton Twp., MI 48038, (586) 264-5576 , mrbrocks@att.net.

14: Lincoln, NE. Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Geology Day; Pioneer Park Prairie Bldg., W. Van Dorn & Coddington; Sun. 1-4; CONTACT: Aulden Stewart, 3028 Cable Ave., Lincoln, 68502, mmstewart@inebraska.com.

14: Park Forest, IL. South Suburban Earth Science Club's Silent Auction; Freedom Hall, 410 Lakewood Blvd; Sun. 1-4; CONTACT: Helen Funk, P.O. Box 235, Park Forest, IL 60466, ssescus@yahoo.com.

27-28: Roseville, MN. Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Pre-Spring Show; Har Mar Mall, Snelling at Co. Rd. B; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; CONTACT: Martha Miss, 8445 Grange Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN, 55016, (651) 459-0343, rockbiz8@cs.com.

MARCH

5-7: Richmond, IN. Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society's Annual Show; Wayne Co. Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; CONTACT: John LaMont, 14158 State Rte. 1, Brookville, IN 47012 (765) 647-4894, midwestchar@peoplepc.com.

13: Skokie, IL. ***NEW LOCATION*** Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society's 61st annual silent auction; St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave.; Sat. 5:30 p.m. -10:00 p.m.; CONTACT: Jeanine N. Mielecki; (773) 774-2054; jaynine9@aol.com; www.chicagorocks.org.

13-14: Macomb, IL. Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc.'s 30th Annual Show; Western Illinois Univ. Student Union, Murray St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Dennis Bomke, 6240 Whimsy Hill Ln., Springfield, IL 62707, (217) 546-4096, dbomke@comcast.net.

20-21: Cedar Rapids, IA. Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society's Annual Show; Teamsters Union Hall, 500 J St. SW; Sat. 8:30-6, Sun. 9:30-5; CONTACT: Marv Houg, 1820 30th St. Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403, (319) 364-2868, m_houg@yahoo.com.

APRIL

3-4: Lincoln, NE. ***CHANGE OF DATE AND LOCATION*** Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s 52nd Annual Show; Lancaster Event Center, 4100 N. 84th St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; CONTACT: Club e-mail jna@inetnebr.com.

10-11: Marion, IL. Southern Illinois Earth Science Club's Annual Show; Williamson County Pavilion, 1602 Sioux Drive; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Mike Chontofalsky, 1019 E. Broadway, Centralia, IL 62864, chontofalsky@att.net; or Cindy Matthews, (618) 942-2387, cjm800@hotmail.com.

10-11: Des Plaines, IL. Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's 45th annual show; Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Lois Zima or Jeanine Mielecki; (847) 298-4653; jaynine9@aol.com; www.desplainesgeologyclub.org.

16-18: Roseville, MI. Mt. Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society's Annual Show; Roseville Recreation Ctr., 18185 Sycamore; Fri. 9-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; CONTACT: Jackie Swain, 44314 Macomb Industrial Dr., Clinton Twp., MI 48038, (313) 729-5960, jacswain018@aol.com.

17: North Little Rock, AR. Central Arkansas Rock, Gem and Mineral Swap; Burns Park, Elder Johnson Pavillion (next to the visitor center), I-40, Exit 150, Military Dr.; Sat. 8-5; CONTACT: Mike, (501) 868-4553, steelpony@aol.com, www.centralarrockhound.org.

17-18: Columbus, OH. Columbus Rock & Mineral Society; 36th Annual Central Ohio Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show; Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad St.; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 11-5; CONTACT: Ken Harsh, (614) 433-9778, karmakenha@aol.com.

24-25: St. Joseph, MI. Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society "Swap 'N' Sell"; St. Joseph/Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Ave.; Sat. and Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Nancy Wolff, (269) 983-4900, blossomlandgemandmineral@yahoo.com.

24-25: Fort Dodge, IA. River Valley Rockhounds, Inc.'s Annual Gem Mineral, and Fossil Show; Webster County Fairgrounds, Old Highway 169; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-4; CONTACT: Robert Wolf, 3521 10th Avenue North, (515) 955-2818, midnightwriter@frontiernet.net.

MWF APPAREL

COMPILING AN ORDER & CLOSE-OUT SALE

by John Washburn, Apparel Committee Chair



Our supplier has just informed me that we now need an order of 24 T-Shirts to have more made up! I currently have an order for 6 shirts, so if you'd like to add some to help fill up an order, please let me know. Send your order, with a check (including \$5.00 for postage), to the address below. [I have 1-M, 7-XL, and 1-2X in stock that don't need to be ordered]

T-Shirts - (90/10) Athletic Heather Gray with a 3-color screened MWF logo on the front and a plain back printed with "Rock On" in red. **\$15.00** each for adult sizes (S. M. L. XL. 2XL. 3XL. 4XL) and **\$12.00** for youth sizes Small (6-8), Medium (10-12), and Large (14-16).

Close-Out Sale on Ladies' Polo Shirts!!

Polo Shirts - (65/30) Athletic Heather Gray with a 3-color embroidered MWF logo over the left pocket area. Sizes available include 5 -XL and 1 2XL. Sizes run small, so you will need a size larger than you normally wear. **Close-out price** is **\$25.00** per shirt (plus \$5.00 for postage). No additional orders will be placed.

All profits made on these items will be given to the **MWF Endowment Fund**. We want to be more visible and also help the Endowment Fund.

You can e-mail with your orders (jrwashburn2@msn.com), but nothing will be printed, until payment is received. Or send your order and payment to John R. Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Road, Rochester, Illinois 62563. **Make checks payable to the John R. Washburn.** No cash please! Be sure to specify the type, the number, and the sizes for all orders.

WILL WE PLAY IN PEORIA? MWF CONVENTION 2010

By Donna Moore

There used to be a saying, "Will it play in Peoria?" Peoria, Illinois, was a large survey site for the Midwest. People were always being stopped in the mall to take a short survey or sample a new product. If it would sell or be accepted in Peoria, chances were it would "play" in other parts of the country. The Midwest Federation is going to see if it can play in Peoria in August, 2010.

The Peoria Academy of Sciences, Geology Division, is hosting their annual show in Peoria on August 28 and 29, 2010. This club is part of the Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc., whose show is held in Macomb, Illinois each year in March. Since no club had requested to host the Midwest Federation Convention for 2010, the Geodeland Clubs decided to offer to host the convention in conjunction with the Peoria show, rather than expect everyone to attend the Macomb show in March.

Continued on page 4

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE

By Donna Moore

At the fall meeting of the MWF Executive Committee, the recommendation to propose a by-laws change was approved by the group.

Presently ARTICLE VI, Section 7b. CONVENTION reads:

The Board of Directors may authorize a loan, if requested, of up to seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) without interest, to any member Society for its use in producing an authorized convention. The Federation shall be responsible for fifty percent (50%) or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) of any loss, whichever is the smaller amount. The host Society shall receive seventy-five percent (75%) of any net profit and the Federation shall receive twenty-five percent (25%) of any net profit."

The recommended proposal is to strike the last sentence in the section: "The host Society shall receive seventy-five percent (75%) of any net profit and the Federation shall receive twenty-five percent (25%) of any net profit."

The Executive Committee believes the required 25% profit sharing is the reason some clubs hesitate to offer hosting the convention. Since the Federation is having more and more difficulty getting clubs to host the convention, the Executive Committee felt this was one way to remove at least one perceived roadblock to hosting.

Each member of the Executive Committee and each club will soon be receiving ballots to vote on this proposed change to the by-laws. The ballots must be returned to the Credentials Chairman, Tony Kapta, by the end of February. The procedure will be clearly explained in the envelope with the ballot.

If you have any questions about this or any other aspect of the business of the MWF Federation, please contact any of the officers listed on the front page of this, and every, MWF Newsletter.

PEORIA—CONTINUED

The Midwest Federation Convention will be held August 27-29 in Peoria, IL. The State Directors' meeting and the MWF Executive Committee meeting will take place on Friday afternoon, August 27. The MWF Delegates Meeting will be held Saturday morning, August 28. We hope to have a cracker barrel, or informal social time, on Friday evening so convention goers can visit and get better acquainted.

We are also planning a delegates' luncheon on Saturday. We will have tables of competitive exhibits as well as the MWF Silent Auction, which will run in conjunction with the club's silent auction.

The awards banquet will be Saturday evening, August 28. Sunday morning, August 29, there will be an editor's seminar.

We are hoping to offer a few days of field trips following the convention. John Washburn is working on some possible activities including a coal mine tour, geode hunting, two excellent museums, and maybe more.

The Peoria Club show is held at the Grand Hotel on Brandywine Drive in Peoria. We are presently planning to hold all the activities in this host hotel. There is a meeting room for all our meetings, a lovely atrium for the banquet, as well as the rooms where the actual show is held.

We invite everyone to join us in Peoria in August. More details, along with a time schedule, sign up packets, and information about the Peoria area, will be handed out at the MWF Spring Meeting. Club forms will be mailed following the meeting.

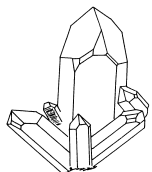
If you have questions, you can contact President Judith Washburn, 1st Vice President J.C. Moore, or Secretary Donna Moore. We hope every club will send a delegate to the convention. After all, if you don't participate, you lose out on having any input in your Federation business.

FOCUS ON JUNIORS

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Michele Yamanaka, MWF Junior Activities Chairman

This is the first of 2 parts to teach about the quartz family and encourage some creativity at the same time.



By Darryl Powell

THE QUARTZ FAMILY- Part 1

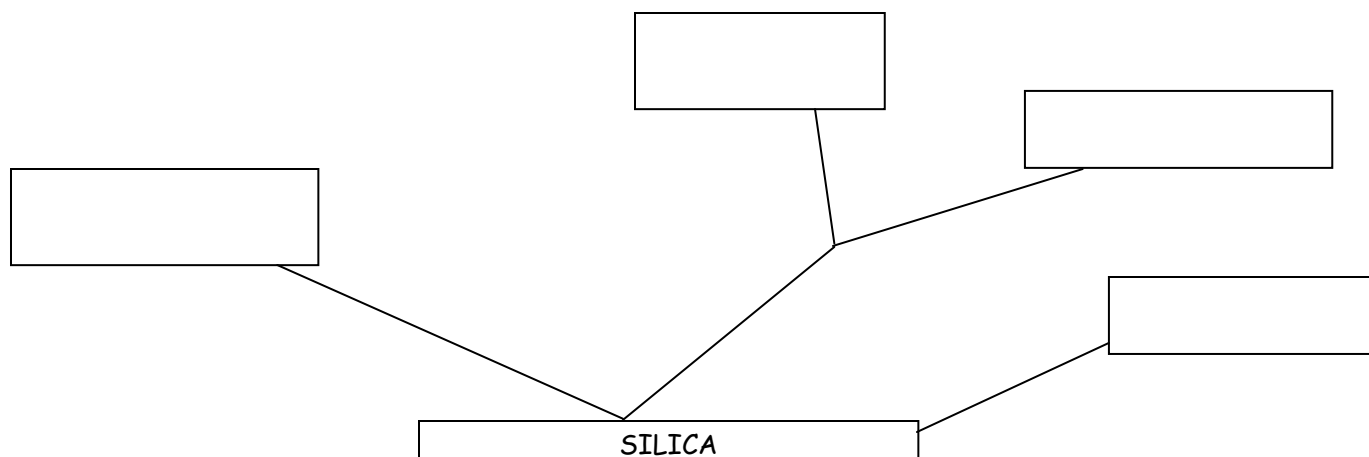
Quartz is made of silica and oxygen - SiO₂. Quartz is one of the most common minerals in the earth's crust. Quartz shows up in all 3 kinds of rocks: Igneous (granite), metamorphic (quartzite) and sedimentary (sandstone).

At different temperatures, quartz crystallizes in different ways. Scientists can learn how hot it was when quartz formed by the structure of the crystals.

There are 2 branches in the QUARTZ family tree and one "cousin".

1. Crystalline - crystals may be large enough to see. Common semi-precious gems of this kind include amethyst, citrine, rose quartz, smoky quartz, rock crystal, and tiger eye.
2. Cryptocrystalline - crystals are too small to be seen without a microscope. This group is divided into 2: the chalcedony group and the flint, chert, and jasper group. Agate is a sub group of Chalcedony, in which layers of different colors of chalcedony form distinct patterns. Chalcedony can be translucent to clear and looks waxy. Names of agates refer to their colors, location found or the specific pattern. Chert and flint are usually opaque. Some varieties of this group which are considered semi-precious are agate, chrysoprase, jasper, bloodstone and carnelian (sard).
3. [The "cousin"] Non-crystalline silica combined with water. The most famous example is opal. Others include hyalite, geyersite and tripolite.

FINISH DRAWING THE QUARTZ FAMILY TREE



ASSIGNMENT: Read about the uses of quartz in an encyclopedia or rock book. Pick a use or product made from quartz which you think is interesting. Pretend it is a new invention and write one page about it to make someone else want to buy or use it. Include the facts and try to advertise it. You will be a salesman for the product. Next meeting you will read your paper and try to sell the quartz product to us as a new discovery or invention. Give your paper a title and include your name.

Written by Michele Yamanaka

QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

By Linda Jaeger, AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: LjgrAlg@aol.com or at home address: 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we'll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.

Contest time – here we go again! Regional Federation contests are in the making. And the next AFMS contest is even earlier than last year, since the CFMS/AFMS show is June 18-20, 2010. Have you submitted your entries to your regional federation contest?

Important dates for the 2010 contest:

February 28 – AFMS Judges List to BEACs

March 20 – Regional entries due to AFMS judges

May 1 – Judged AFMS entries due to me

June 18-20 – CFMS/AFMS show in La Habra, CA

June 20 – Breakfast with the Editors & Web Masters

The AFMS web site has been updated with 2010 contest information available. New this year – For Regional BEACs and AFMS Judges, there are fillable control sheets online for you to download and use. Remember that you can also find sample score sheets online at the AFMS website, www.amfed.org, as well as good information on editing a newsletter. FYI: Some minor changes have been made to the General Guidelines and to the score sheet for bulletins.

Write Some Sparkle!

There is really no formula for writing great articles, but when we let our personalities shine through our writing, we get readable articles that will sparkle. Here are some suggestions for adding pizzazz.

1. Remember your audience. Are you writing for kids? For all club members? For a specialized group? Adjust sentence length and vocabulary just for them.
2. Vary the length of your sentences, making some short and some compound. Ask a question to introduce a topic.
3. Keep paragraphs fairly short. Reading is easier on the eyes if there is a nice amount of “white space” within and around an article.

4. Make your reader laugh by using humor or irony. It's okay to poke some fun at yourself!

5. Use the “active voice” by turning “being verbs” into “doing verbs.” Instead of writing Metamorphic rocks were formed from the pressure of our hands on colored pieces of playdough, write: We “made” metamorphic rocks by pressing colored pieces of playdough into a “rock” with our hands.

6. Write as if you were talking to a friend about the subject. This makes your article “friendly” and easier to read.

7. Use positives instead of negatives. Instead of saying I did not remember, say I forgot. Many times the positive is shorter and easier to understand than the negative.

8. Be specific. This gives your reader a “mind” picture of what you said.

9. Leave out repetitions of the same idea and unnecessary words (i.e.: in fact, in other words). A good sentence will get your idea across to the reader in one try. Leaving out unnecessary words keeps the reader from having to hunt for the idea.

10. Use a short, attention-getting title. This grabs the reader's attention by making him curious about your subject. You can start with the title or come up with it after you have written your article.

References:

Strunk, William Jr. and White, E.B. *The Elements of Style* (illustrated), New York. Penguin Books. 147 p. “Passive Voice.” *The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*. 25 Nov.2009. <<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/passivevoice.html>> .

Wagner, Dr. MaryJo. “Write with Pizzazz or How to Keep Your Readers Reading.” 2009. 1 Jan. 2010. <<http://www.articlemarketingwithpizzazz.com>>.

Culbertson, Howard. “Writing with pizzazz – How you can communicate clearly and persuasively.” 20 Nov. 2007. 1 Jan. 2010. <<http://home.snu.edu/~HCULBERT/pizzazz.htm>>.

AFMS/CFMS SHOW AND CONVENTION

HIDDEN TREASURES

June 18-20, 2010

Whittier, CA

AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention
Hosted by North Orange County Gem
and Mineral Society

So. CA University of Health Sciences Campus
16200 E. Amber Valley Rd., Whittier CA
Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily

MEMORIALS

If your club wishes to honor a member for outstanding service or wishes to send a memorial in honor of a member who has passed, consider the following options of gifts that will keep on giving:

- Donations to the Endowment Fund can be sent to:

Alan Hukill, Treasurer
15785 Park Lake Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

- Donations to the Scholarship Fund can be sent to:

Marge Collins, Chair
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.
Buchanan, MI 49107

CANCELLED STAMPS

Send **cancelled postage stamps** for the Endowment Fund to:

Lyle Kugler
612 S.E. 3rd St.
Aledo, IL 61231
309-582-7364
ckugler@frontiernet.net

ANNUAL ELECTRONIC FILING REQUIREMENT FOR SMALL EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

By Sandy Fuller

A reminder for all clubs that are registered with the federal government as a nonprofit organization. Here is a quote from the IRS website:

Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations - Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less may be required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, unless they choose to file a complete Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 added this filing requirement to ensure that the IRS and potential donors have current information about your organization.

Due Date of the e-Postcard

The first e-Postcards are due in 2008 for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2007. The e-Postcard is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. For example, if your tax year ended on December 31, 2007, the e-Postcard is due May 15, 2008. You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends.

For more details, visit www.irs.gov and click on charities & nonprofits at the top of the page.

ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

MWF NEWS

Please submit any address changes or corrections to **Donna Moore, MWF Secretary**, 25235 North Illinois 97, Cuba, IL 61427, (309) 789-6501, MWFSecretary@gmail.com.

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SUBMISSION OF NEWS & ARTICLES

Please note that all input for a given issue of the *MWF Newsletter* is due to the **Editor** no later than the first day of the previous month. This means that the due date for the **March Issue** will be February 1. Advance items are appreciated.

Material may be e-mailed to **Sharon Marburger** at mwf.editor@yahoo.com, or submitted via the U.S. Mail. Acceptable e-mail formats include MS Word (.DOC), Adobe (.PDF), rich text format (.RTF), or plain text (.TXT). If e-mailing an article, it may be included within the body of the e-mail message or sent as an attachment.

SILENT AUCTION REPORT

By Bob Powers

We are preparing for the upcoming 2010 MWF Convention and Show, hosted by the Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc. While August is a long way off, it helps to begin getting organized early.

The Silent Auction is always in need of donations. Only a few donations were received since the 2009 Berea Show, and we have nothing in the way of more valuable items such as were auctioned off last year. I am still hopeful that many clubs and individuals will contribute something for the Silent Auction later this year. A donation to your MWF representative prior to the upcoming Spring meeting would be appreciated. If each club could donate just one item, we would have a very successful Silent Auction.

It would be great if we could receive donations like those recently reported to have been made to the AFMS Raffle, such as: "a two inch sphere of Eudialyte"; "a sterling silver and amethyst pendent and earring set, with chain"; "a pear cut amethyst ring set in sterling silver and palladium"; "a wonderful Chrysoprase pendant wrapped in 14k gold filled wire" and "a lovely amethyst cathedral measuring 13.5" H x 6.5" W x 2.5" D."

The Silent Auction gives all its receipts to the Endowment Fund. Please keep in mind that you and your club can also donate directly to the MWF Endowment Fund.