



MWF News

JANUARY 2013 - ISSUE NO. 518

WEB SITE - www.amfed.org/mwf

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: PROTECTING OUR COLLECTING SITES

by Dennis Westman

Winter is here and for us in the ice bowl of northern states, collecting has been reduced to daydreams. This is tough because the biggest pleasure of our hobby is collecting. I guess daydreaming makes me reflect on how challenging it is to access collecting areas. There are obstacles way beyond our control, like liability, OSHA rules, and corporate policies. Fortunately there is an opposite side to obstacles.

A friend was agate collecting in Montana with a rockhound buddy. They started collecting agates on the newly graveled roads. A local rancher stopped his 4WD pickup and asked if they were having any luck. "Not much" was the answer! The rancher had a creek running through his property and he invited the rockhounds to try their luck. "Yes, Yes, Yes!" This untouched creek was filled with moss agates. After collecting all day, they drove up to the ranch house. They thanked the rancher and wanted him to know they were leaving his property. The rancher had not asked them to stop by when they were done collecting. Finally my friend dragged out one pail of nice agates to show the rancher what they found. They received an invitation to collect the ranch again. My friend got the rancher's phone number so he could call and make sure collecting was still okay. They would check in at the ranch house before entering the ranchers land.

My wife and I were going to collect geodes many years ago in Keokuk. After asking around, we located a landowner who had a creek. The owner told us to go ahead but don't dig up the bank. He was concerned with erosion. We didn't! At the next club

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONT'D*(Continued from page 1)*

meeting, we mentioned Keokuk and this creek and were warned by a club member that it was off limits to collecting. They were told to leave and threatened with trespass. They had not asked permission.

Here in Minnesota, our claim to fame is the Lake Superior Agate. The best collecting is not in gravel pits where liability is king. It is the farmer's field next to the gravel pit. Right after plowing! A good share of the farmers will let you walk on their land if you ask permission. "Collect rocks? Why not take them all" was one remark I heard.

The key to gaining access to collecting sites relies on the generosity of the landowner. I always liked the AFMS Code of Ethics. The Code's number one rule is to get permission. If I would have talked first to the club member, there would have been no geodes. Don't assume anything. Find out who owns the land and ask permission. Equally important, say thank you! Let the landowner know how much fun you had and how you appreciate his or her generosity of allowing you to collect. If you don't thank them in person, call or send a thank you card. How about a piece of jewelry you made.

It is very simple. If you want to collect, ask permission. If you want to collect again, say thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS**JANUARY 2013**

26: LINCOLN, NE. Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Annual Mid-winter Swap; Bethany Park Shelter House, Cotner Blvd. & Vine St.; Sat. 1-5; CONTACT: Richard Peterson, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, 402.489.2996, padr20@yahoo.com, www.lincolngemmineralclub.org.

FEBRUARY

10: LINCOLN, NE. Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Geology Day; Pioneer Park, Prairie Life Center, Coddington & West A; Sun. 1-4; CONTACT: Karen Messenger, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, 402.946.2281, kamessenger@hotmail.com, www.lincolngemmineralclub.org.

23-24: ROSEVILLE, MN. Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Winter Show; Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling; Sat. 10-6, Sun. Noon-5; CONTACT: Martha Miss, 651.459.0343, info@rock-biz.biz.

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

Respectfully Submitted, Frances Zebig, Former Secretary for the Spring River Gem and Mineral Club

I am submitting our Past-President, Paul Grindol, to the Federation for the Rockhound of the Year Award for the year of 2012, for the Spring River Gem and Mineral Club of Cherokee Village, Arkansas. Paul was a driving force during his tenure as President, facilitating our members' participation in field trips and club activities. Thereafter, he again took on the responsibilities of the office when the newly elected President failed to assume the role. Paul realizes that the Officers are the most important part of the club; without officers, there is no club. He accepted the Presidency because of this and, while president, has often times acted as his own vice-president and treasurer.

Paul has a quiet, unassuming manner that makes everyone comfortable. He willingly shares his experience, knowledge, time, and enthusiasm to broaden the members' interest in exploring. He often opens his home to the speakers, who travel a great distance, to present our club's monthly programs, entertaining them and making them feel welcome. Paul is always present at the needed and sometimes difficult jobs, like the audit and the inventory. He has fielded many phone inquiries about the club and, through his encouragement, new members have joined the club. When several people wanted to gift Paul with their rock collections, he immediately turned them over to the club for silent auctions. It is because of this that we feel we are now financially secure. It is because of Paul Grindol's efforts that our membership has doubled and, consequently, we continue to be an important asset to the community, making available relevant, professional, interesting programs that are well advertised and open to the public.

NEW DVDS FOR MWF PROGRAM LIBRARY

Submitted by Marge Collins

To request programs from MWF Program Library contact:

Pat Powers, Librarian
18270 Buccaneer
North Royalton, OH 44133
Phone: 440-237-6170
E-mail: SLCNewsletter@aol.com

Please include Club name with request.

The shipping and handling fee is only \$5.00 per program, payable in advance or upon return.

Please insure the returning packages as instructed.

(Continued on page 3)

NEW DVDS FOR MWF PROGRAM LIBRARY - CONT'D

(Continued from page 2)

Funded from 2012 AFMS Endowment Fund allotment

Mystery Of The Giant Crystals -- 50 minutes

Produced by Madrid Scientific Films

(DVD suitable only for laptop / PC use**)

Giant selenite crystals have been known since Roman times when they were used for windows. How and why large crystals develop in only a few locations has been a mystery until a team of scientists visited the Roman mines at Segobriga, Spain, Europe's largest geode at Almeria, Spain and the gypsum mines in northern Mexico. In 2000, the newest location was found 290 meters (950 ft.) below the surface at Naica. Crystals there are up to 11 meters (36 ft.) long crossing the chamber. It was a perfect laboratory to study giant crystals.

This presentation not only takes viewers to the locations but also shows how careful analysis finally answered the puzzle of why such large crystals develop in only a few locations.

**Produced in Spain, this DVD format is available to USA viewers only using a computer or laptop despite assurances to the contrary. We tested it in numerous DVD and Blu-ray players without success. This is an excellent presentation. Please be prepared to show / view it with a relatively new computer or laptop.

What's Beneath America - 45 minutes

Produced by Discovery Education – Curiosity Series

We take our natural surroundings for granted – until an event, such as “Super Storm Sandy” or Mt. St. Helens eruption, changes the landscape. Over the ages, it is not only catastrophic events such as floods, volcanic explosions, earthquakes and asteroid impacts – but also every day events and weather that have shaped the land we live on. Geologists – professional and amateur, read and sort out the puzzle of moving pieces that make up the North American continent.

Opal Fever - Four 27-minute segments

From an Australian TV series

Every aspect of life and mining at Coober Pedy is shown, from exploration, development, and actual mining. Ordinary and spectacular specimens are examined, prepared, evaluated, and marketed. In addition, various aspects of daily life for miners and their families, their underground homes, midnight golf and mining accidents are included.

Flintknapping - 45 minutes

(Same as VHS sent 1989)

A demonstration in real time by Bruce Bradley, noted archaeologist whose specialty is Stone Age Technology, shows how a prehistoric hunter could make a series of tools from a single piece of rock, such as obsidian, with an interesting, thought provoking narrative.

Rock Markings – Stories in Stone (petroglyphs) - 40 minutes

(“K’uu T’ahn”) produced by Urraca Filmworks

Are petroglyphs art or language? This is the question explored by six scholars. They were able to link the stories and traditions passed down through generations of the Pueblo people of Arizona to begin to understand the meaning of the rock markings in that area.

Arches National Park - up to 50 minutes

Finley-Holiday Production

Utah's “Red Rock Country” has been shaped by wind and water creating a variety of spectacular formations. The geology of the Windows Section and Fiery Furnace area is explored along with Canyonlands, Natural Bridges and Hovenweep as bonus material and included in the total running time. Originally produced in 35mm slides now in DVD format, computer animation is used to show how the formations formed over time.

Funded from 2013 AFMS Endowment Fund allotment

Rhodochrosite: Red Gem of the Rockies - 87 minutes

(can be divided into two segments*)

(Same as VHS sent 2005)

See how spectacular specimens were recovered, how locations for new finds were predicted, and the reconstruction of an actual pocket of classic red crystals from the Sweet Home Mine (Alma, CO), once a silver mine. There is actual mining footage, excellent graphics to explain the geology with narrative by both the investors and miners. *NOTE: the first 25 minutes – including the recovery of the “Alma King” is an excellent stand-alone presentation. The additional 20+ minutes documenting additional exploration, can be shown separately.

Cindy's Cuttlebone Casting - 30 minutes

Cindy Moore

Watch Cindy demonstrate how quick and easy this melt-and-pour process is and how it can be used to create a variety of unique jewelry and other items using scrap silver and a few easy-to-get supplies and tools. Cindy is a professional, so she uses an acetylene torch, but you can use an ordinary hardware store propane torch just as easily. (Acetylene is far hotter than is needed to melt silver.)

Happy New Year!

DUES & EVENT FORMS DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15, 2013!

by Sandy Fuller

It's time to renew your club's membership in the MidWest Federation. Use the forms, found herein on pages 6 and 7, to pay your dues, apply for club liability insurance, request membership cards, and list upcoming events in the federation directory. All can be mailed together in one envelope with one check (you can use multiple checks, if you prefer). The mailing address is on the dues page of the forms.

The forms are also available online at the MWF website (click on "Forms" under the "About Us" heading). Save the form on your desktop, then type in your responses. You can then print the completed form and mail the original with your check. If you choose to complete the forms by hand, please **use ink, write or print legibly, and submit the original copy.**

Once you submit your club information, it is scanned with copies forwarded to our secretary, web master, newsletter editor and insurance chair. Our secretary then forwards the appropriate information to the AFMS on your behalf. This saves you time and helps contain the cost of our dues.

In computing your dues, please use the total number of members in your club during your "most recently completed year" (2013 dues are based upon 2012 membership numbers). Please remember to indicate whether or not you want/use MWF Membership Cards. They are distributed without charge to clubs who want them.

If you pay dues for junior members and submit your dues/insurance payment by the January 15 deadline, your club may request a free subscription to the e-mail version of Diamond Dan's *Mini Miners' Monthly*. The MWF Endowment Fund is covering this cost for eligible clubs who want the subscription.

Our liability insurance premium increased to \$3.75 per member. Your insurance coverage is calculated based on your number of active members (those who attend meetings, shows, field trips and other events at least once during the year).

All of your officers can receive the MWF News electronically. Just circle the E in front of each name to receive the electronic copies. One person, in addition to the Treasurer and Bulletin Editor, is eligible to receive a paper copy of the newsletter. Sorry, you can't get the publication both ways, so choose the one you prefer.

This year clubs have the option to have certain contact information excluded from publication on the federation website by using an asterisk on the dues form to indicate non-public data. However, we will print your information in the MWF Directory so our federation leadership can

reach appropriate club officers. Please use actual home addresses for officers to facilitate these contacts. Be sure to indicate a club address and phone number so prospective members can reach you promptly.

WE HAVE LOST A FRIEND

by Donna Moore

George Burton, 78, of Good Hope, Illinois, passed away Saturday, October 20. He was born August 7, 1934 in St. David, Illinois. He is survived by his wife, Liz, and their two children, Leatha Lynch of Calhoun, Georgia and Bruce Burton of Good Hope. He is also survived by a grandson, four step-grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and two brothers.



George served in the U.S. Army from 1956-1958. He worked for Bader & Co., Fayhee Implement, and McDonough F.S. He enjoyed attending auctions, researching genealogy, and was an avid rock collector. He was a member of the West Central Illinois Rock & Mineral Club.

Although George was very quiet, he was right there when something needed to be done. He always showed up to help set up for our show, and he and Liz would be there to help tear down. When we needed someone to be an assistant for the Credentials Committee when Tony Kapta was on the ballot, George offered to receive and count the ballots for the MWF Election. This year, shortly after the convention in Minnesota, George's lung cancer was confirmed. His wife, Liz, our Merit Awards Chairman, said she would help with the ballots so we would not have to change the address and interrupt the election process.

At club meetings, George almost always had something on the Show and Tell Table. He loved to wander in the fields and creeks near his home and would pick up interesting specimens that would sometimes test our knowledge or make us ponder why the specimen he found was where he found it. George would also buy boxes of rocks at auctions and bring them in for show and tell.

Some other club members shared the following memories of George: "George was a silent giant with a great sense of humor and always a smile. By silent giant, he was quiet but you always felt his presence in the room." "He was welcoming and kind to new members and especially to the young people." He will be missed.

Feather River

Lapidary & Mineral Society

Fourth Annual World Rock Tumbling Contest (2013)

The Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society invites you to join us for our fourth annual World Rock Tumbling Contest. This year we will be using Tuledad Canyon Agate. Tuledad Canyon is located on the California Nevada border near Susanville, CA. Pictures of the polished rock will be on our web site after the 1st of January.

<http://www.FeatherRiverRocks.org>

This flyer is your invitation and your application. Please fill out the information below, make the check payable to FRLMS and mail to:

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society or FRLMS
P.O. Box 2645
Oroville, CA. 95965

- * First place \$250.00
- * Second Place \$100.00
- * Third Place \$50.00

Entry fee this year will be \$40.00 for continental U.S. residents. This will include shipping the material to you. All others' fees will be \$40.00 plus shipping. Please send correct fees and how to ship.

- * (3 lbs.) of rough will be shipped to you when the application & check are approved.
- * We will stop accepting applications June 1, 2013.
- * (1/2 lb.) finished rock must be returned with a copy of the entry form, and must be postmarked no later than August 15, 2013.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

For more information:
www.FeatherRiverRocks.org
 Telephone: (530) 877-7324
 E-mail: tumbling@FeatherRiverRocks.org

Join MWF Past-President Cindy Root in this competition.
 As Cindy would say, "You know you want to!"

Let's have another year of Midwest winners!

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

(Use INK! Please print, type or complete form on-line. Submit original.)

CLUB NAME _____ STATE _____

2013 Club Dues

(Use membership figures from most recently **completed** year)

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

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

Do you want MWF Membership Cards? ___ Yes ___ No

Does your youth group want Diamond Dan's *Mini Miners' Monthly*? ___ Yes ___ No

2013 Club Insurance

Total Adults and Youth to be insured _____ X \$3.75 = \$ _____.

Total Dues and Insurance Remitted: \$ _____.

(Make check payable to Midwest Federation)

FORM, DUES & INSURANCE are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2013
Mail to: MWF, %Sandy Fuller, 8445 Grange Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Club Contact Information for Mailings, Directory & Website

Circle the **E** in front of each position to receive the MWF News electronically. Circle the **P** for print copy (limit one, in addition to pre-designated copies for the Treasurer and Bulletin Editor). You may place an asterisk (*) in front of each email, phone and address that should not be listed on the MWF website.

E P - President _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E P - Secretary _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E P - Treasurer _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E P - Liaison _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CLUB BULLETIN NAME _____

E P - Editor _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CLUB MEETING PLACE _____

DAY & TIME _____

Club Website _____ **Club Email** _____

Please send the MWF Directory and Official Federation Mail to:

Chose one only > ___ President ___ Secretary ___ Treasurer ___ Liaison

Calendar of Events Listing Information
For Publication In MWF Directory, Website & Newsletter
 (Use INK! Please print, type or complete form on-line. Submit original.)

CLUB NAME _____ STATE _____

Event Name: _____

Dates: _____ Days/Times: _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Club Website: _____

Email: _____

Event Name: _____

Dates: _____ Days/Times: _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Club Website: _____

Email: _____

* * Please include event listings for January, February and March 2014. * *

E-mail completed form to Martha@rock-biz.biz OR mail it with your dues.

DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2013.

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

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
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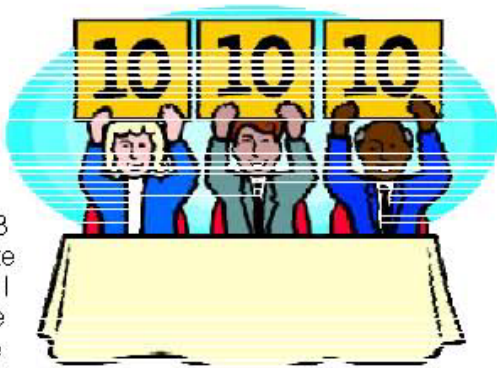
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Permit No. 1

Don't forget to pay your dues and insurance!

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

Wanted: Web Site Judges!!!

All: I have a new responsibility. As of the 2013 AFMS Web Site Competition, I am now the AFMS Web Site Competition Chairperson.



Now, here comes the begging part. I really need judges to help spread the workload of judging 7 federations. My goal is to have two judges per federation and to try and not have to ask judges to do more than one federation. Expertise with web design and maintenance is a major plus. Beyond that, it's really just following the score sheet. If you are willing to judge, please contact me at lapidry@aol.com.

Thanks!!!
Dan Imel

lapidry@aol.com

DUE DATE

FOR

December 1	January Issue
January 1	February Issue
February 1	March Issue
March 1	April Issue
April 1	May Issue
May 1	June Issue
August 1	September Issue
September 1	October Issue
October 1	November Issue
November 1	December Issue

Material may be e-mailed to Sharon Marburger at mwf.editor@windstream.net, or submitted via the U.S. Mail (see address on page 1). Acceptable e-mail formats include MS Word (.DOC & DOCX), Adobe (.PDF), rich text format (.RTF), or plain text (.TXT). Pictures must be in png, jpg, tiff, or gif format. If e-mailing an article, it may be included within the body of the e-mail message or sent as an attachment.