



MWF News

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Member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - THANK YOU, LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

by Dennis Westman

You missed a special experience if you did not attend the Lincoln, Nebraska, Gem & Mineral Club's show and MWF convention. I'd like to thank Jim Marburger, President; Charles Wooldridge, show chairman; and the show committee for a top shelf show. Our MWF activities went flawlessly because of the hard work of the Lincoln club. The whole Lincoln club outdid themselves to make us, and all their guests, feel right at home. Thank you so much.



Thursday and Friday were field trips. Bags were filled with plates of huge clam shells, selenite, marcasite, agates, petrified wood and more. Meadowlarks were singing in fields of green winter wheat growing on a roller coaster of hills or on gravel bars by the river. How about this: 71 degrees! I forgot about the snow in my yard.

Saturday started the show at the Lancaster Event Center. In another part of the building was *The Mother of All Garage Sales*. A couple women garage-salers asked about the rock show. Noticing a hand full of rings, I aimed them toward the door. They were in for a pleasant surprise. Kid's activities, rows of display cases, the busiest silent auction I have ever seen, and dealers with every treasure the rock hobby can produce. One of the most unique displays was a travel trailer inside the event center with fluorescent minerals. People would go inside and come out with the "wow" expression. This was a big and excellent show.

AFMS President-elect, Richard Jaeger, came up from Tulsa to visit the show. The AFMS show will be in Tulsa next year. We really enjoyed his visit and would like to thank him for attending. He enjoyed the show, the MWF meetings and Awards Banquet. I'd like to thank the MWF committee members for judging and awarding the winners. If you did not enter the Website, Competitive Display, Newsletter or other competitions, start thinking about next year in Des Moines, Iowa.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 4-5: MARSHFIELD, WI.** Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society's 40th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show; Marshfield High School Field House, 1401 E. Becker Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Cynthia Kelman, 715.387.8782, kelman@tznet.com, www.fromtherockroom.com.
- 4-5: CINCINNATI, OH.** Cincinnati GeoFair 2013, 48th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show of Greater Cincinnati; Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 E. Seymour Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Contact: www.geofair.com, www.drydredgers.org, www.mineralsociety.org.
- 10-12: COLUMBIA, MO.** Central Missouri Rock and Lapidary Club's Rock, Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show and Sale; Central Missouri Events Center (formerly know as Boone County Fairgrounds), 5212 North Oakland Gravel Road; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Bob McConnell, 573.445.5415, bobmc@socket.net, www.CMRLC.org.
- 17-19: JOPLIN, MO.** Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society's Spring Rock Swap; Schifferdecker Park, 7th & Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. & Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-3; Contact: Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net.
- 18-19: WAUWATOSA, WI.** Wisconsin Geological Society's 2013 Rock, Gem & Mineral Show; Sat. & Sun. 10-5; Hart Park, 72nd and State St.; Contact: Paul Schmidt, 414.771.8668, pvs@wi.rr.com.

JUNE

- 8: SKOKIE, IL.** Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society's 2nd Annual Rock Swap; St. Peter's United Church of Christ gymnasium (indoors), 8013 Laramie (across the street from the Public Library on Oakton). Sat. 1-5. Contact Jeanine N. Mielecki, 773.774.2054, jaynine9@aol.com, www.chicagorocks.org.

JUNE - cont'd

- 8-9: PLYMOUTH, WI.** Glacial Drifters Annual Show & Swap; Sheboygan County Fairgrounds, North End, 229 Fairview Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Kevin Ponzio, 920.980.6413, earthprospect@frontier.com.
- 8-9: KALAMAZOO, MI.** Michigan Geology & Gemcraft Society's Annual Seminar; Rood Hall, Western Michigan University, near W. Michigan and Ronkin Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Contact: Don Brown, 734.421.8159.
- 8-9: MANSFIELD, OH.** Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society's Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show; Arts & Crafts Building, Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 N. Home Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Contact: Tom Kottyan, 419.562.1152.
- 14-16: PARK HILLS, MO.** Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society's Missouri Mines Rock Swap; Missouri Mines State Historic Site, 50000 State Hwy. 32; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; Contact: Boneta Hensley, 573.760.0488, mojellybean63@yahoo.com.
- 15: MINNEAPOLIS, MN.** Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Rock Swap and Sale; Osseo United Methodist Church, 2nd Ave. SE and 2nd St. SE, Osseo, MN; Sat. 10-2; Contact: 763.421.8521.
- 21-22: BLOOMINGTON, IN.** Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc.'s 48th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show 2013; Monroe County Fairgrounds, Airport Road; Fri. 10-6:30, Sat. 9-6:30, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Dave Treffinger, 812.295.3463, lawrencecountyrockclub.org.
- 29-30: MINNEAPOLIS, MN.** Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Gem & Mineral Show; HarMar Mall, 2100 Snelling Ave. North, Roseville, Minnesota; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; Contact: 763.421.8521.

MWF COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING**Lancaster Event Center
Lincoln, Nebraska
April 6, 2013**

by Donna Moore, Secretary

MWF President Dennis Westman called the meeting to order. He welcomed the delegates. He said the Federation exists because of the clubs.

Past President J.C. Moore gave the invocation.

First Vice President Tony Kapta led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Jim Marburger, welcomed everyone to Lincoln and their show. He apologized for the congestion caused by the Mother of all Garage Sales and two horse shows in the same event center. He hoped everyone would enjoy their time in Lincoln.

Dennis thanked the club for putting on all the work for us (MWF).

Dennis introduced our special guests, including Richard Jaeger, AFMS President Elect; Past MWF Presidents J.C. Moore, Sandy Fuller and Cindy Root; Jim Marburger, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club President, and Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge, Show Chairman.

Dennis read the list of those rockhounds who have passed away since the last convention. He noted that with the passing of these older members, we have a loss of knowledge. Since our clubs are educational, this is a large loss. They included George Burton and Eldon Dilworth from West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club; Bill Sausaman, Howard Theilbar, Louise Reynolds, Annette Parks, Roberta Beall, Mary Boland, and Lydia Robertson from Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society; Gary Kumer from Osage Beach Rock and Mineral Club; Glen Vernon Carpenter from Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society; John Golston, Sac & Fox Lapidary; Cecilia Duluk, Michigan Mineralogical & Lapidary Society and former MWF Paleontology Chairman; Ken Harsh, Columbus Rock & Mineral Society; Ed McDonald, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society; Stan Caldwell from Show Me Gems and Minerals Club; Wanda Lee and Bernie Sodolsky from Southern Illinois Earth Science Society; Floyd Danielson from Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society; Tim Prys and Paul DeKok from Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club; Lester Netley from Cuyuna Rock Gem and Mineral Society.

Parliamentarian Cindy Root read the rules of the meeting, which were printed on the back of the agendas.

Secretary Donna Moore noted the minutes had been printed in the newsletter following the 2012 Convention and printed copies were available on the table with other reports. J.C. Moore moved to approve the minutes as printed. Deb Booker, Central Missouri Rock & Lapidary Club, seconded the motion, which passed.

Treasurer Sandy Fuller had printed copies of her treasurer's report. The first one was this year to date. The second was the end of the completed year as of October 31, 2012. She noted that she had transferred \$3,000 to the CD account. She congratulated the clubs that got their dues in on time. She said there were some clubs that still needed to send her an e-mail so they would receive the Mini Miners Monthly from Diamond Dan. She had contacted the clubs, but was having problems with e-mail addresses for a few of those who qualified to receive it.

Jim Marburger summarized the state director's meeting. Tom Whitlatch from Iowa had been in attendance and reported on the Iowa clubs. He has not heard from the Siouxland Gem & Mineral Society; the Black Hawk club in Waterloo was having field trips and other activities as well as getting ready for their show. The Fairfield club is doing good. They are putting together a junior group. The club in Cedar Rapids is doing well. They had an excellent auction in September and attendance at the show in March broke records. Des Moines is working on the 2014 Convention. John Washburn, Illinois, was not able to attend, but sent a report with Tony Kapta. He said hello to everyone. He had contacted the Illinois clubs to make sure dues were paid. He had helped with internal problems in a club. The Southern Illinois club had honored Nellie and Joe Claxton with their Sweetheart Award. John said he needed to be replaced as Illinois State Director, because it is hard for him to travel. Dennis Westman reported that, in Minnesota, a couple of clubs were doing very well. There is a large kids group in the Minnesota Mineral Club with field trips. The smaller clubs are struggling with youth. He said he and State Director Steve Olson will be visiting clubs. There was no report from Missouri, but Barbara Sky reported that the Greater St. Louis Association had just revised the criteria for applying for their fall scholarship, which was available to undergrads who had completed at least one semester. The Rock Hobby Club had low attendance at their recent show because 12" of snow arrived on Sunday. Aletha Hoogeterp reported from North and South Dakota that the Sioux Empire club was doing well. They have no annual show because venues are too expensive but are participating in fairs and expos by setting

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MWF COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING - CONT'D

(Continued from page 3)

up displays, which has helped gain new members. The Lewis and Clark club meets regularly in members' homes. Watertown club is active. North Dakota club's editor e-mails with the Hoogeterps. They had a booth at the Red River Valley Fair. She reported they have some contact with the South Dakota state director from the Rocky Mountain Federation.

Written reports were read from the following states: Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio assistants, and Wisconsin. John Donker reported activities and shows are starting up in Michigan, they have planned an April camping weekend that is getting nice response. Wooly Wooldridge reported that the clubs in Nebraska were all current in their dues, and the Lincoln club was hosting the MWF Convention. Assistant Tom Kottyan from Ohio reported he and others had displayed a case at the Tucson Show. Kayellen Sharp had reported the Mineralogical Society had increased membership by 25%, Parma Lapidary Club has moved their workshop, and the Cleveland Big 1 Show has moved location, Summit Lapidary is looking forward to their show April 27-28. Allison Conrad reported on each club in Wisconsin.

Dennis noted that he doesn't know people in other states, so the State Directors need to be instrumental in finding new chairmen for the permanent committees. Jim Marburger said he would be contacting state directors to help Sandy Fuller with e-mail addresses needed for Mini Miners Monthly subscriptions.

Tony Kapta called for the reports of the Permanent Committees.

- ◆ Archaeology – no report.
- ◆ Boundaries – Bob Miller had sent a report that there were no boundary issues at this time.
- ◆ Bulletin Editors Aids – Celia Tiffany had a written report and added that the bulletin contest awards would be given at the Editor's Seminar following the breakfast.
- ◆ Canceled Stamps – Lyle Kugler had just had surgery and had no report.
- ◆ Club Rockhound of the Year – Lee Herrera had a written report. He explained how Club Rockhound of the Year is selected. He had a list of what he would like to receive in the nominations, which will be included in the newsletter as well as posted on the website.

- ◆ Conventions and Show Advisory – J.C. Moore said things were going just wonderfully in Lincoln. For 2014, Karen Liebold will have a presentation on the 2014 convention in Des Moines, Iowa. For 2015, he had a bid to present from the Chicagoland group for Memorial Day Weekend. He encouraged other clubs to consider hosting the federation.
- ◆ Credentials – Tony Kapta reported there was a quorum for this meeting. He then moved to allow the ballots from 2011 and 2012 to be destroyed. J.C. Moore seconded the motion, which carried.
- ◆ Director of Supplies - Dennis reported that the new director of supplies is Zoma Olson from Minnesota. There was a written report showing how the supplies are listed on the MWF Website. The new directory had just been finished. He stressed how much valuable information is included. If you travel within our federation, there is information about clubs and shows in the areas where you are traveling.
- ◆ Directory – Martha Miss thanked everyone for getting information for the directory submitted in a timely manner this year.
- ◆ Education – No report.
- ◆ Endowment – Alan Hukill had submitted a treasurer's report. E. Bear was in attendance at the meeting after spending the winter in Lincoln with the Marburgers.
- ◆ Environment and Legislation – Dean Stone had sent copies of an article concerning coal mining.
- ◆ Geology – Judith Washburn had asked to be replaced because of health issues.
- ◆ Historian – No report.
- ◆ Insurance – Marge Jensen thanked everyone for their help. She asked that clubs be sure their re-enrollment forms are legible.
- ◆ Junior Activities – No report.
- ◆ Lapidary Arts – David Root had a written report that he has a data base of help for members in the lapidary area.
- ◆ Long Range Planning – Judith Washburn had no report.

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MWF COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING - CONT'D

(Continued from page 4)

- ◆ Membership - Jim Marburger noted we were down a bit in membership and needed to replace those we have lost. He noted there is a new club in Wisconsin.
- ◆ Merit Awards – Elizabeth Burton added to her written report that now is the time to be working on this year's history of the club. Sharon Marburger added that there were three of the Lincoln Club's scrapbooks on display at the show.
- ◆ Micromounts – The position is vacant.
- ◆ Mineralogy – Kevin Ponzio had sent a report that his wife was receiving chemotherapy. He noted he was getting people interested in thumbnails.
- ◆ Newsletter – Sharon Marburger reported she is accepting articles, suggestions, maybe on article to provide clarification. She would like to re-instate that chairmen provide articles or a series on their focus.
- ◆ Paleontology – This position is vacant.
- ◆ Program Competition - Cindy Root added to her written report that she wanted people to see about creating new programs. Everyone can do that.
- ◆ Program Request – Pat Powers had a written report asking members to allow a 10 day leeway when ordering programs and listing the date it is to be used. She asked for 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices in case the first choices are out. Your name, the name of the club, phone number, mailing address, and date of presentation should be included. The fee is \$5 along with insurance requirements when mailing back the media. She prefers that orders are sent by e-mail to slcnewsletter@aol.com.
- ◆ Program Review – Jim Travis sent a report including information about new programs in the library.
- ◆ Public Image – Regina Kapta reported she was targeting two areas. First online privacy, helping clubs with websites as far as limitations. Secondly she was concerned about Youth protection. She was proposing information using the Boy Scout information. She asked anyone who would like to help her, to contact her.
- ◆ Publications – Sandy Fuller reported they are working on a publication for show chairmen. The

last one the group had done was on junior activities.

- ◆ Safety and Field Trips – No Report.
- ◆ Scholarship – Marge Collins was ill. She sent the list of certificates for donors to be read at the bulletin. The certificates would be mailed.
- ◆ Silent Auction – Ed Dvorak, from Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, volunteered to be the new silent auction chairman. J.C. and Donna Moore were doing the MWF silent auction on Sunday at the show. Several donations had been brought to the show for the auction. The funds will be put in the MWF Endowment Fund. Chet King remarked this was a good show for the auction.
- ◆ Uniform Rules – Barbara Sky had a written report that there had been little activity since the 2012 Convention. There were two entries but only one was judged because there was no mineral judge present. She encouraged people to consider competition as well as recruiting judges. She hopes one of the AFMS training sessions can be held in the Midwest soon.
- ◆ Website – Cindy Root added to her written report thanking everyone for their clearly written forms this year so she could enter the information on the website in a timely manner. She announced there were no entries in the website contest this year. In the contest the top three are now entered into the AFMS Website Contest instead of just the top entry.

Dennis told how going to these MWF meetings is fun. We need input from the clubs.

Special Committees Reports

- * OP Revision – Sandy Fuller and Donna Moore have some of the revisions done, and are still working on the rest.
- * Logo – Dennis checked with Legal Zoom and found that the cost to register our logo would be about \$500 or more. He pointed to the disclaimer the AFMS has on their newsletter. The executive committee had decided to do something similar to what the AFMS had done. It was noted that the clubs could use the MWF logo. It was decided that if anyone saw an infringement of use of the MWF logo, they should report it to the MWF Secretary.

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MWF COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING - CONT'D

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- * Nominating Committee Report – Chairman Cindy Root reported she had four people to run for two places on the nominating committee – Sharon Marburger, Regina Kapta, Barbara Sky, and J.C. Moore. A full slate will be reported in the newsletter.

Convention Reports

2012 – Sandy Fuller reported that they appreciated all who attended the Agate Show. It was meant to be a special event and an international celebration of agates. One hundred one (101) club members and friends volunteered during the show. There is a DVD set available through the Gem Shop. There was a profit made because they had to budget everything on the high end, and not everything ended up costing the high end. Donations of \$1,000 each were made to the AFMS Endowment Fund, the MWF Endowment Fund and the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

2013 – Jim Marburger said their convention was still going on and they were gathering data. He encouraged everyone to go to the show. A report would be coming in the MWF Newsletter.

2014 – Karen Liebold, liaison from the Des Moines Lapidary Society, told about plans for the 2014 MWF Convention to be hosted by the Des Moines Lapidary Society and the Central Iowa Mineral Society in Des Moines, Iowa, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds October 18-19. She had cards and a banner advertising the show. They will be having a glacial theme, “Eons Exposed!”. The lapidary society is coordinating the show with the Central Iowa Mineral Society helping. Packets will be available at the fall meeting. Karen said “Please come, it will be fun.” Friday the 17th will be for MWF activities. The MWF meetings will all be on Saturday October 18.

Old Business

The 75th Anniversary of the MWF - J.C. Moore reported that our 75th Anniversary is in 2015. In 1990, our 50th anniversary was commemorated with a special booklet. He would like to continue this booklet, adding memories of the presidents during the last 25 years. If anyone has pictures from the conventions the last 25 years, we would like to borrow them. Digital pictures that can be e-mailed would be even better.

Youth Poster Contest – Dennis said the contest had good participation. Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior Activities Chairman, had spread the word of the contest. The Summit Lapidary Club put \$250 toward prizes. The next contest will have a different theme. David Root

moved to sponsor expenses for different poster contest with another club receiving and judging the entries. Jim Marburger seconded the motion, which carried.

MWF Slide Programs – Dennis shared that many of the slide programs are deteriorating and need to be converted to digital format. We are in the process of evaluating if the programs are worth converting.

Thumbnail Committee – At the meeting in 2012, it was proposed to have the Thumbnail Committee as a separate committee. Dennis said that thumbnails, micro-mounts, cabinet specimens, and all others are minerals, just different sizes. The Executive Committee recommended that Micromounts and Thumbnails be sub-committees of the Mineralogy Committee. This will require a by-laws change and will be voted upon by the Council of Delegates via U.S. mail.

It was moved by Martha Miss and seconded by Marge Jensen that all subsections of the Mineralogy Committee be considered as subcommittees of the Mineralogy Committee, including Micromounts, which would be removed as a permanent committee. The motion passed. It will be recommended to the members of the Council and the vote will be by U.S. mail.

J.C. Moore had received a bid from Chicagoland Gem & Minerals Association to host the MWF Convention in 2015. He read an e-mail from Rich Dillon on behalf of the group. It will be held Memorial Day Weekend 2015 at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Illinois. Everything will be at the show site. J.C. reported that the Executive Committee recommended the Council accept this bid. J.C. moved to accept the bid from Chicagoland. JoAnn Rice, Edwards River Earth Science Club, seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Dennis asked if anyone had any concerns or questions. Deb Booker, Central Missouri Rock & Lapidary thanked the MWF for going over the information for 501C3's at a past meeting. She said their club had decided to give the MWF any funds left if the club dissolved. Sandy Fuller said clubs might consider the MWF Endowment Fund for donations. She noted that the Endowment Fund interest paid for some of our newer publications, donations honoring MICA winners, legal bills when we were in a lawsuit, and the last AFMS dues increase. It is working for all of us. J.C. told the group the history of E. Bear. He will be auctioned off again at the banquet and go home with someone new.

J.C. moved to adjourn the meeting. Reinee Hildebrandt, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, seconded the motion. Dennis adjourned the meeting.

MWF POSTER CONTEST REPORT

by David Rich, Poster Contest Chairman

The committee is pleased with the participation and quality of entries in the first MWF Poster Contest. There were 26 entries from all over the country. Most of the entries came from the lower grades, the fewest came from grades 6, 7, 8. (This is typical for youth contests.)

The first through third place winners will receive Amazon gift cards. First through fourth will receive rosettes of the appropriate color.

Summit Lapidary Club of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio is providing \$250.00 for the ribbons and prizes. The MWF will provide postage for mailing the awards and returning the posters.

Photos of the winning entries have been submitted to the newsletter editor for possible publication. The winners are:

First Grade

- 1st place: Sayer of Oak Harbor, WA for *Megalodon*
- 2nd place: Julia of Oak Harbor, WA for *One of A Kind Fossils*
- 3rd place: Brady of Coupeville, WA for *The World of Fossils*
- 4th place: Nathon of Akron, Ohio for *I Like Worms*

Second Grade

- 1st Place: Kaela of Coupeville, WA for *Under The Sea Invertebrate Fossils*
- 2nd Place: Nicholas of Akron, Ohio for *Fossil Jaw of Paldeotherium*

Third Grade

- 1st place Liam of Oak Harbor, WA for *Mongolia*
- 2nd place Thomas of Couperville, WA for *Fossils of the United States*
- 3rd place Charlotte of Ann Arbor, MI for *My Fossils*

Fourth Grade

- 1st place Grace of Wadsworth, OH for *Fossils Under the Sea*
- 2nd place Damia of Wooster, OH for *Teeth from the Deep*
- 3rd place Andrew of Couperville, WA for *Fossils of the World*
- 4th place Logan of Couperville, WA for *Digging for Dinosaurs*

Fifth Grade

- 1st place Brandon of Arlington Heights, IL for *Meteorite Massacre*
- 2nd place Lizzy for *Fossil Ammonite*

- 3rd place Taylor of Norton, OH for *Fossils From The Dinosaur Age*
- 4th place Daniel of Las Vegas, NV for *Tyrannosauridae*

Sixth Grade

- 1st place Barbara of Akron, OH for *Stingray*

7th Grade

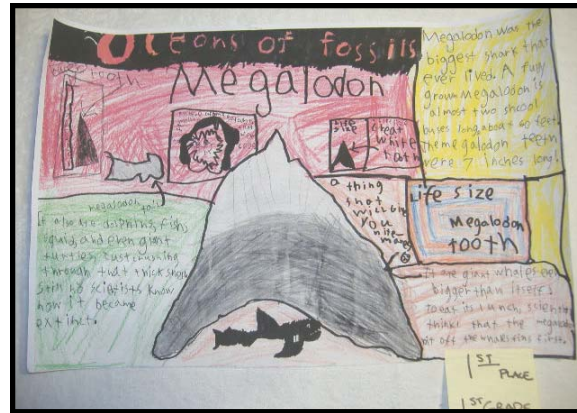
- 1st place Elizabeth of Las Vegas, NV for *Echioclems*

8th Grade

- 1st place Gorgo Savrus of Lewiston, ID for *Skeleton*

Thanks to all who entered, thanks to all who judged or assisted on the committee, and thanks to MWF for publicizing the contest.

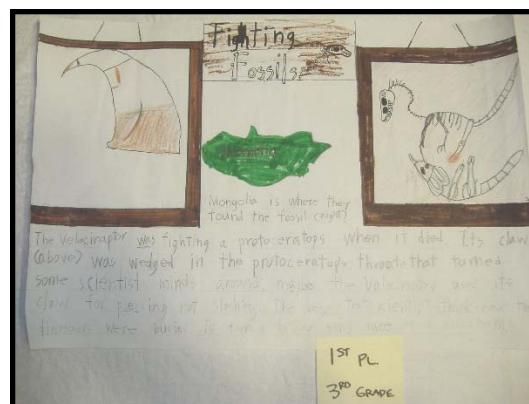
If we spark an interest in even one child, we have succeeded. Let's do it again next year.



First Place
First Grade



First Place
Second Grade

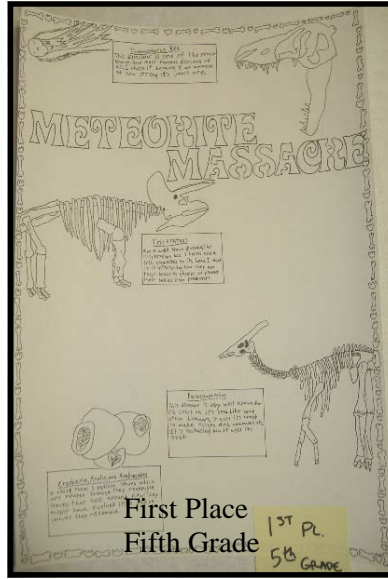


First Place
Third Grade

MWF POSTER CONTEST REPORT - CONT'D



First Place, Fourth Grade



First Place Fifth Grade



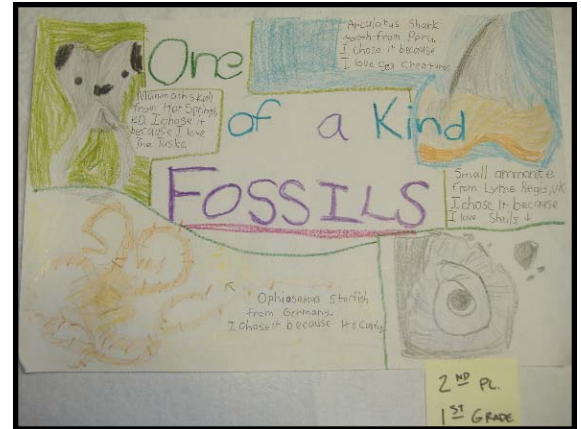
First Place, Sixth Grade



First Place, Seventh Grade



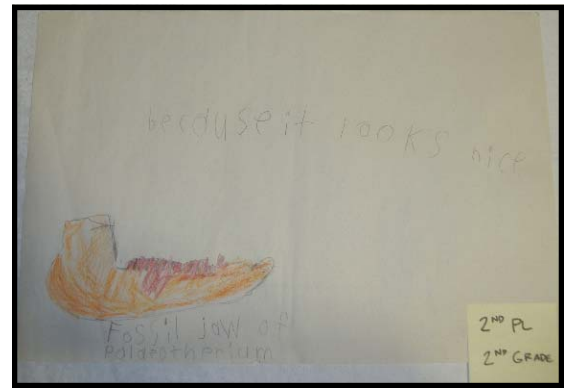
Second Place, Fourth Grade



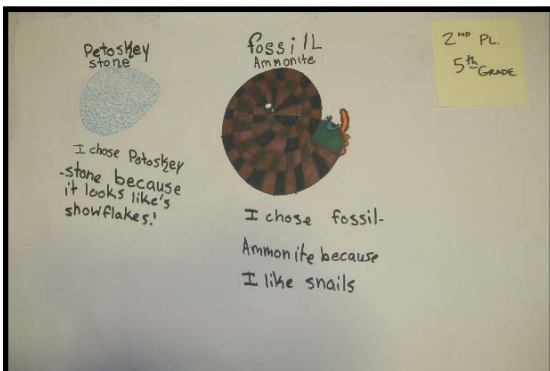
Second Place, First Grade



First Place, Eighth Grade



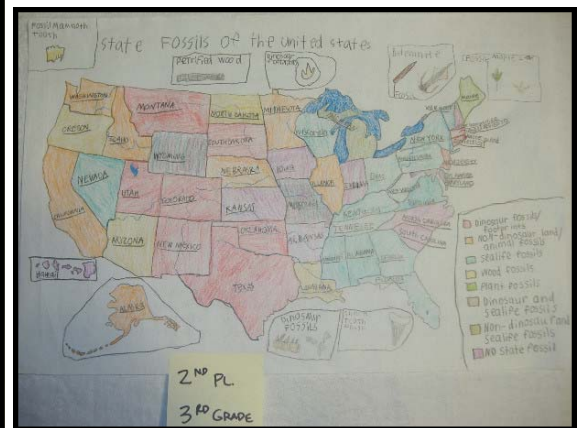
Second Place, Second Grade



Second Place, Fifth Grade



Third Place, First Grade



Second Place, Third Grade

NEWSLETTER IDEAS

by Sharon Marburger, Editor

Donna Moore and I were chatting about how to make the *MWF News* better. It has been quite difficult, lately, for me to put out a product I consider to be worthy of our Federation. The reason? Very few people send publishable items to me.

One of Donna's ideas during our brainstorming session was to ask each club to write an article about what it did to make itself successful - be it overall membership growth, youth growth or activities, improved show, or anything else that might have been an improvement to the organization.

Another thought is for each club to submit a short article describing its activities, and what makes the club different from other clubs.

Yet another suggestion is to have the MWF officers and committee chairmen write an introduction of themselves, thus making each person "familiar." Great idea, Donna! I shall take this opportunity to start the ball rolling.

As you know, my name is Sharon Marburger and I am the editor of the *MWF News*. What you may not know is that I am also editor of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s (Nebraska) newsletter, the *Pick & Shovel*. I am also the historian and past-secretary of my club. I am married to James, who many of you know through JJ&L Rocks & Minerals. I have two children and eight grandchildren. There is also a multitude of step-grandchildren, and even step-great-grandchildren, although I am far too young for them. My scholastic interests are Music, English, Journalism, and Photography. My favorite part of the hobby is rocks, although I tried wire-wrapping until arthritis put an end to it. I grew up in a rockhound family, which took up the hobby when I was 4 years old.

I know that some members think this newsletter should be a scientific journal, while others believe it should be an enjoyable, feature-filled publication. My goal is, and has always been, to meet both expectations.

Sadly, I am not a scientist, and science is not a favorite subject for me. However, I am intrigued by scientific "stuff." I would love to receive scientific articles from those of you who revere science. Informational articles on various hobby aspects are welcome, too.

I am open to suggestions and appreciate all submissions to the newsletter. Please consider some of the ideas presented in this column and help out your editor by submitting items of interest to others. I thank you, in advance, for your consideration and offerings.

THE CONVENTION IN PICTURES

By Sharon Marburger (all photos in this section are courtesy of Jim & Sharon Marburger, unless otherwise credited)

Thursday, April 4 was a beautiful day for a field trip. The group met at the Event Center to caravan to Fairbury, Nebraska for a roadside, roaming collecting experience. After a couple of minor setbacks, we all managed to meet up with Donovan Harris, our gracious trip leader, at the first collecting area. There we found fossil shells, casts, and one fantastic specimen of petrified wood in limestone. I found an ammonite cast, which I thought was pretty cool.



David Picard was one happy hunter



Petrified wood in limestone (above)
Ammonite in limestone (below)



We traveled the back roads, stopping at several different locations. We collected aragonite, fossil worms, selenite, and botryoidal gymnosperm shoot specimens from the Rose Creek area.



Here, the group is walking into the Rose Creek Clay Pit to collect fossils and selenite. Everyone seemed to be happy with

their finds of the day.

Friday, April 5 was another lovely day, albeit windy. I did not go to the Nemaha River with the others; someone had to stay behind and help set up the show. I understand that approximately 30 people collected on the river. Specimens found were petrified wood, agate, jasper, and some small fossils (crinoids, clams). Nebraska is in a drought; the Nemaha River has not had a flood event for quite awhile, so pickings were slim. Even so, there were reports of having a good time. (A bumper sticker on a car in the parking lot read, "A bad day rock collecting is better than a good day at work." Need I say more?)

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While we are on the subject of field trips, the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. (LGMC) thought to provide a field trip opportunity to those who could not attend the



distant trips. General Excavating of Lincoln donated nine yards of river rock for the event, and even delivered it to the Event Center door. The club members collected Nebraska material throughout the past year, to donate to the rock pile. As the rock was being dumped, several members "salted" the pile, achieving a nice mixture of materials for the visiting guests. The rock pile "field trip" was a hit!



Kids of all ages were found crawling around and in the gravel.

This picture was taken after the show closed. As you can see, the rock pile was still a big hit, even after the show. And yes, specimens were still being found. At least two Lakers were picked up as I stood there snapping photographs. You may wonder what happened to the rock pile when all was said and done; the Event Center staff moved the rock to various landscaping spots.

The Friday night cracker barrel / meet-and-greet was very well-attended. Robert Swanson, Director of the USGS Nebraska Water Science Center, gave an informational talk on *A Geotourist Guide to Nebraska*.



Robert Swanson



AFMS President-Elect, Richard Jaeger, MWF Secretary, Donna Moore, and MWF Past-President, JC Moore pose for a picture



In addition to being the guest speaker at the cracker barrel, Robert Swanson was selected as the MWF Scholarship Honoree. He named Rebecca Puta (shown here) and Jason Alexander (unable to attend due to family emergency) as the 2013 Scholarship Recipients.

The Sunday morning Dealer, Club Member, and Editors' Breakfast was not to be missed. The food was delicious, and those attending left very little behind.

The Bulletin Editors' Awards were distributed following breakfast. Only three winning editors were in attendance.



Celia Tiffany and Donna Moore



Celia Tiffany and Sharon Marburger

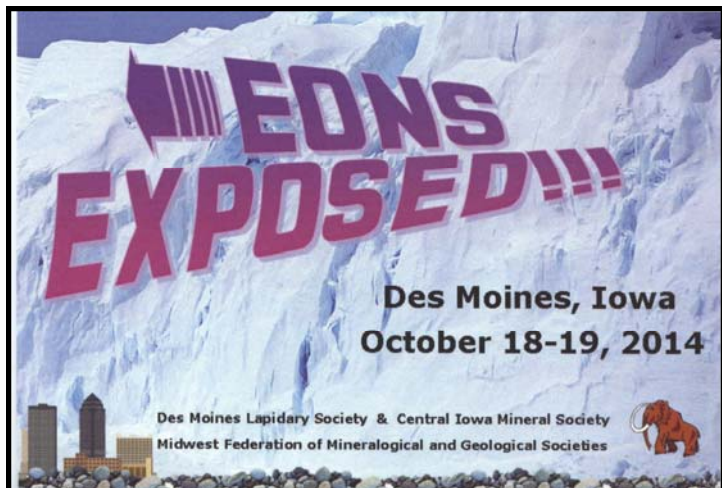


Celia Tiffany and Reinee Hildebrandt
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Karen Leibold, from the Des Moines, Iowa club presented the initial promotional information for the 2014 Convention, which will be held in Des Moines on October 18-19, 2014.



Coincidentally, or maybe not, my little buddy, E-Bear, got to go home with Karen, as she won the bid for him. We will see E-Bear in Des Moines next year.

On Sunday, JC and Donna Moore ran the MWF Silent Auction. Bidders were spending wildly on all sorts of specimens.

One comment overheard was that sulphur specimens the donor



CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

Mary Prosek, Lyle and Lucy Backus, and Pat Koko contributed the content of this nomination statement. Submitted by Lee J. Herrera on behalf of the West Suburban Lapidary Club

KAREN DAVÉ WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB, ELMHURST, ILLINOIS

Karen has been a member the WSLC for over 30 years. Her love of jewelry led her to attend one of the first International Gem and Jewelry Shows that was held in Chicago. It was there that she encountered the folks from the WSLC. The rest is history!

Karen has held virtually every position on the club's executive board and has spent countless hours organizing Silent Auctions, Gems on Parade, field trips, demonstrations at various events, volunteering for educational activities, and basically being the backbone and fiber of the club. Her common sense and knowledge have served the club well.

One of Karen's biggest accomplishments has been to maintain and successfully run a Lapidary Arts School through the local Park District. In addition to running the school, Karen teaches silversmithing and wire wrap. She also helps out the others instructors when needed. Although the school has encountered problems over the years, she has always managed to come up with a solution that benefited the school, the Park District, and the Club.

She finds the time to coach and mentor beginners, from helping them to get reasonably priced equipment to coaching them on how to buy rough and materials. Karen is renowned for her knowledge of rocks and her ability to I.D. them. Her thirst for knowledge in the Lapidary Arts field is insatiable and her enthusiasm is quite contagious. You can't help but look at the rocks on the ground a little differently after spending some time with her.

But not only the West Suburban Lapidary Club and the Lapidary School receive her attention; she has extended her talent to other organizations. She helped the Senior Citizens' Center Lifelong Learning Center in Oak Park, Illinois to reestablish their Lapidary classes, and she still volunteers weekly to help seniors learn, or return to a love, of cutting and polishing rocks and then discovering wire wrap as a way to set their works of art.

The Board of Directors of the West Suburban Lapidary Club unanimously voted to nominate Karen as our Rockhound of the Year because of her dedication, accomplishments, and leadership, and the membership heartily endorsed the decision.

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could not get 50 cents for, were selling for \$8.50!! Who could have guessed?

E-Bear, looking cool in his shades, sat on the MWF table and viewed all the activity and hubbub at the show.



For those who could not tell from last month's black & white picture, the "What is it?" rock is a half-pound Lake Superior Agate. It was collected by Jim Marburger while on a Nebraska road field trip. He found it in the middle of the road!

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

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.

Thank you for your submissions!