



# MWF News

OCTOBER 2013 - ISSUE No. 525

WEB SITE - [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)

Member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: THE EDUCATION OF AN OLD ROCKHOUND

by Dennis Westman

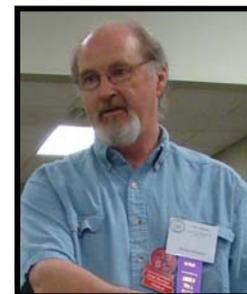
I am 69 years old and have been interested in rocks most of my life. Maybe it is time to get with my buddies and kick back. We can shoot the breeze about our experiences collecting rocks, cutting cabs, traveling, and meeting some of the most colorful people one can imagine. Then I thought to myself, "I don't think so."

Rockhounding is a way of life. The meaning of fun and education is the same thing. I love collecting and being out in nature with interesting people. There are no two places or people alike, so learning is an adventure.

Forget kicking back! The first field trip of 2013 was at the Lincoln, Nebraska Show/MWF Convention. Did you know Nebraska has rolling hills filled with huge clam fossils? One river we collected frequently has buffalo skulls eroding out of its banks. Education, Yes! Fun, yes!

Now I really need to forget about kicking back. Trip #2 was Morocco. ZRS Fossils of Minneapolis has been

organizing field trips to many of the collecting areas in Morocco. After debating for months on end, I decided to go for it. The geology of Morocco is amazing. This part of the world was under water, so most of the fossils are sea creatures like Mosasaur fossils 10 feet long, trilobites, fossil shark's teeth, and crinoid stems with heads. Minerals include barite, vanadinite, quartz, azurite, and many more. We also visited historical sites (14th century and older); petroglyphs, market places, and much more. The trip rates as one of my biggest adventures ever. I will tell you more later with an article about the trip.



Education, yes! Fun, yes! This is what rockhounding is about.



**Fabulous  
Trilobite**

Photo by Dennis Westman

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**Thanks to those who submitted items!!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 5-6: JACKSONVILLE, AR.** Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, & Geology Society's 41st Annual Gem & Mineral Show; Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Dr.; Sat. & Sun. 9-5; Contact: Tom Sharp, 501.379.8653, [thom61847@yahoo.com](mailto:thom61847@yahoo.com).
- 5-6: JEFFERSON, WI.** Rock River Valley Geological Society's Gem & Mineral Show; Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Steven Streich, 608.655.1011.
- 5-6: SPRINGFIELD, IL.** Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society's Annual Gem & Mineral Show; Illinois Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Contact: John Washburn, 217.498.7713, [jrwashburn3@att.net](mailto:jrwashburn3@att.net).
- 8: MOUNTAIN HOME, AR.** Ozark Earth Science Gem Mineral & Fossil Club's Annual Auction; Van Matre Senior Citizens Center, 1101 Spring Street; Tues. 7 p.m.; Contact: Sharon Waddell, 417.256.8948 (home), 417.274.8712 (cell), [www.ozarkearthscience.org](http://www.ozarkearthscience.org).
- 11-13: WARREN, MI.** Michigan Mineralogical Society's Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show; Macomb Sports & Expo Center, Building P, 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-7, Sun. 11-5; Contact: Stan Woollams, 734.994.3048, [wooll@comcast.net](mailto:wooll@comcast.net), [www.michmin.org](http://www.michmin.org).
- 12-13: 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.
- 18-20: FORT WAYNE, IN.** Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society's 52nd Annual Rock, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, and Lapidary Show and Sale and MWF Fall Meeting; Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Road, Fort Wayne; Fri. 10-7; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 11-5; Contact: Michele Yamanaka, 260.427.2196, [yamanakam@cs.com](mailto:yamanakam@cs.com), Website: [http://members.tripod.com/3riversgem\\_mineral/annualshow-sale/](http://members.tripod.com/3riversgem_mineral/annualshow-sale/).
- 19-20: CLIO, MI.** Flint Rock & Gem Club's Earth's Natural Wonders; Carter Middle School, Rogers Lane Dr.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Ed Hearn, 810.687.2339, [edleo324@att.net](mailto:edleo324@att.net).
- 19-20: DES MOINES, IA.** Des Moines Lapidary Society's & the Central Iowa Mineral Society's, Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center, Iowa State Fairgrounds, East University Ave. Gate; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Steve Cunningham, 515.262.4578, [steverv@mchsi.com](mailto:steverv@mchsi.com).

### OCTOBER - cont'd

- 25-27: MASON, MI.** Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society's 48th Annual Show; Ingham County Fairgrounds Main Arena; Fri. 6-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; Contact: Roger Laylin, 517.349.3249, [l.r.laylin@gmail.com](mailto:l.r.laylin@gmail.com), [michrocks.org](http://michrocks.org).
- 26-27: CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH.** Summit Lapidary Club's and Akron Mineral Society's Fall 2013 Rock, Mineral and Gemstone Show; Emidio's & Sons Expo, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Evelyn Tryon, 330.673.9664; [Gemboree\\_76@yahoo.com](mailto:Gemboree_76@yahoo.com), <http://www.lapidaryclubofohio.org>.
- 26-27: DAVENPORT, IA.** Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club's Fall Show; Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W. Locust St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-3:30; Contact: Kellie Moore, 563.445.3034, [kalsinean1@aol.com](mailto:kalsinean1@aol.com), [blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com](http://blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com).
- 26-27: EVANSVILLE, IN.** Evansville Lapidary Society's 47th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show; Washington Square Mall, Green River Road; Sat. 10-9, Sun. 12-5; Contact: Sara Rappee, 812.589.3079, [sararappee@yahoo.com](mailto:sararappee@yahoo.com).

### NOVEMBER

- 1-3: CLEVELAND, OH.** Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Micromineral Symposium; Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Dr.; Fri. 7:30-9:30, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3:30; Contact: Dick Green, 330.929.2395, [jgreen2@neo.rr.com](mailto:jgreen2@neo.rr.com).
- 2-3: MIDLAND, MI.** Mid-Michigan Rock Club's Annual Show; Midland Resort and Convention Center, 1500 W. Wackerly St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Deb Acord, 989.689.4840, [jackdanred1@aol.com](mailto:jackdanred1@aol.com).
- 2-3: STURTEVANT, WI.** Racine Geological Society's Gem & Mineral Show; Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: John Lowman, 262.554.5370.
- 23-24: MADISON, WI.** Madison Gem & Mineral Club's Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show; Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Nevin Frank, 608.251.2601, [burniesrockshop@gmail.com](mailto:burniesrockshop@gmail.com), [www.madisonrockclub.org](http://www.madisonrockclub.org).

## MEET TONY KAPTA - THE NEXT MWF PRESIDENT!

by Tony Kapta, MWF 1st Vice-President

Hello, my name is Tony Kapta, and I am currently the 1st Vice-President of the MWF as well as the President of the Central Illinois Gem and Mineral Club. I am originally from the Milwaukee area of Wisconsin. Our family purchased a house in Franklin, Wisconsin when I was about 5 years old. I lived there until I was about 20 years old and then lived around Milwaukee for many years.

Living in Wisconsin gave me access to a lot of places to hunt and fish, and I became avid in both. I also loved to go camping whenever it was possible. The Wisconsin forests, lakes, and rivers still haunt me, and I return whenever I can.

My wife, Regina (Gina), and I have both been interested in rocks forever, but never pursued the hobby, which I now regret. We first entered into our exploration of rocks, minerals, and fossils when we attended a rock show in Decatur, Illinois, where we live. There, we talked to members of the club, who were dealers at the show, about becoming dealers ourselves and found that they were interested in selling their business. At the time, we were not in any position to buy anything and it fell by the wayside for several years. As it turns out, we did buy their mineral stock many years later.

After the show, we still left things as they were, being busy with many other things. I ran across the application form for joining the Decatur rock club, so we filled it out and joined the Central Illinois Gem and Mineral Club in 2004, I believe. The club had fallen on hard times and we attended only one field trip. I was thinking of not rejoining when, at the December meeting, I was asked to be the Vice-President, and Gina was asked to become Secretary of the club, and Editor of the newsletter.

As usual in clubs, we were given very little help to get started. Gina designed a newsletter and we got a mailing list together and got that out. Then we started to learn much

more about the rock hounding hobby as we pursued information about anything that we were interested in, as well as for articles for the newsletter. We had several go-to people to find out about how the club operated and other organizations the club was involved with. Two in particular were Bob Heim and Mary Bertram.

We arranged to have our club rejoin the GESCI organization. GESCI is a group of seven Illinois rock clubs with the sole purpose of putting on an annual show in Macomb, Illinois. In doing that, we met many other people involved in Illinois clubs and the Midwest Federation. Two people with whom we became fast friends were John and Judith Washburn. They are treasures in the rock hounding hobby and can answer almost any question that you have about rocks, minerals, and fossils, as well as what has been happening in the hobby over the years.

Many years ago, I was asked to take over as the Credentials Chairman of the MWF, to which I agreed. I have done that job and attended all MWF conventions and meetings since then. I love being able to get together with all the people that I have met in this hobby as well as the new people I get to interact with at the various shows we attend as a result of these meetings.

I was asked to become 2nd Vice President of the MWF and agreed to accept the nomination for that position. While I thought I knew a lot about the MWF, I found that there are a lot of things I did not understand about the MWF, and the good job it does in helping the member clubs continue in our chosen hobby. I would recommend anyone who is remotely interested in helping our hobby continue into the future to volunteer to be nominated for the next 2nd Vice President. It is a commitment to attend as many conventions and meetings that you can (hopefully all) and take care of the different jobs you are assigned, as you move up to the President's position. It is fun and rewarding, as well as a great learning experience.

## SOME THOUGHTS ON FOSSIL COLLECTING

by Alan Russo

There are many "styles" of fossil collecting. Another way to put it is there are many ways and reasons that people collect Fossils. Some collect for the Science, the amateur paleontologist if you will. Some collect to decorate their living rooms. Some have never stepped one foot out in the field, but have incredible collections of bought fossils. Some do it as a business to make money, and some, just for the excitement of the "Hunt".

Personally I consider myself an experiential Fossil collector. What I mean is, I love the whole experience of the act of collecting.

For me, the experience is such an important part of collecting that I don't buy, trade, or acquire Fossils in any other way other than collecting them myself. I have a story and an experience that goes along with each fossil in my collection. Don't get me wrong, I love the science of it, there are many times I find myself interested in the name

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 2014 DUES AND EVENT FORMS COMING IN NOVEMBER

by Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

The 2014 Midwest Federation forms for renewing club memberships will be coming in the November *MWF News*. Watch for them! Meanwhile, please alert club officers to begin collecting information for the forms.

One important piece of information needed is the total number of individual adult and youth members during your most recently completed year. You will need these figures for dues and insurance calculations. The rationale is that your total membership is usually very similar from year to year, so you always pay the current year's dues based on your most recent experience. The treasurer needs this information before January 15 so dues can be submitted on time.

The secretary will provide a roster of current officers, including each preferred mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. If an individual does not want this information published, there will be a place to indicate it on the form. However, please provide us with contact information so we (MWF Officers) can reach you.

Show and event chairs will provide details on their upcoming activities. If this information is submitted with the dues, we will make sure it gets to our website, newsletter, and directory. If it is submitted later, or separately, it is more likely to get overlooked.

In recent years, we have offered an electronic subscription to Diamond Dan publications to clubs with youth members (you must pay dues for the youth) if your renewal is received on time. It is very important that we have a name, position, phone number and e-mail address for the person designated to receive this subscription on behalf of the club.

Finally, and probably most important to many, the rates for 2014 will be the same as the 2013 rates. Dues will be \$2.00 per adult and \$.50 per youth. Insurance will again be \$3.75 per individual to be covered by the policy. Please include all active members (attended or participated in an activity during the past year) when computing your insurance premium.

## MIDWEST FEDERATION 2014 CONVENTION IN DES MOINES, IOWA

by Karen Leibold, Des Moines Lapidary Society

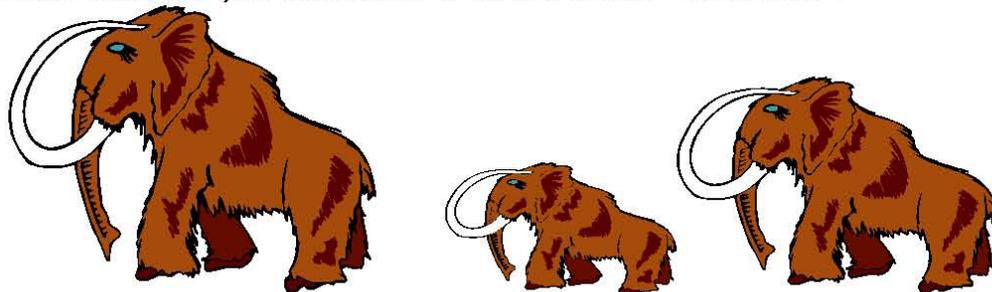
Join us in Des Moines... this year *and* next year!



The Des Moines Lapidary Society's Annual Gem, Fossil & Mineral Show is always in mid-October. The 2013 show dates are October 19 & 20. We are trying some new things this year, as we prepare to host the MWF 2014 Convention. Come check us out at the Iowa State Fairgrounds Animal Learning Center.

The 2014 MWF Convention dates are October 18 & 19, with a fieldtrip planned for Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Information about 2014 field trips, programs, exhibits, lodging, etc. will be provided next month. Speakers include University of Iowa professors and staff who have been involved in the excavation of the woolly mammoths in southeast Iowa. Did you notice the "s" at the end of "mammoth"?



## IN MEMORY OF GORDANA REZAB, MWF HISTORIAN

Edited and submitted by Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

Gordana Rezab, 79, of Macomb, Illinois passed away on Saturday, August 31, 2013 at her home. She was born in Belgrade, Serbia. She is survived by a sister, three children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Gordana graduated from the University of Belgrade with a degree in German language and Literature, but spent much of her time studying at the Free University in Berlin where she met, Don, her husband of 50 years. She also graduated from Indiana University with a Master's degree in Library Science, and from the University of Illinois with a Master's degree in Geography. Prior to moving to Macomb, Gordana taught English as a second language and German at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1970, she was hired at the library at WIU where she worked in the Cataloguing and Collections section before moving to the Archives and Special Collections section.

Gordana was an active member of West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club. She served thirty years as treasurer for Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc., and loved taking her grandchildren to the GESCI Show at Western Illinois University. She served as historian for the MWF, working to find a repository for the MWF records in Minnesota where the MWF was chartered, but was not successful.

Ely, Minnesota was Gordana's summer home. She was an active quilter, flower gardener, and donated many hours to community projects.

## FOSSILS - CONT'D

(Continued from page 3)

etc. of the Fossils I find, and I am certainly am not putting down others for the way they collect, but it is not a nearly as important to me as the experience of it all. For me the experience is a multi-leveled affair. First there is the collecting trip itself and all the levels of excitement and experience it brings. There is the anticipation of visiting a new part of the country, and visiting new ecosystems. Then there is the camaraderie of spending time with likeminded friends that perhaps you haven't seen since the last major expedition you had partaken. Then of course there is the anticipation of what new and incredible Fossils you might find. I sometimes feel like an explorer setting off for new lands and sometimes I feel like Indiana Jones on the adventure of a lifetime.

Next, there is the getting down and dirty part of it. It is just so cool, that after spending the whole rest of your life

## FOSSILS - CONT'D

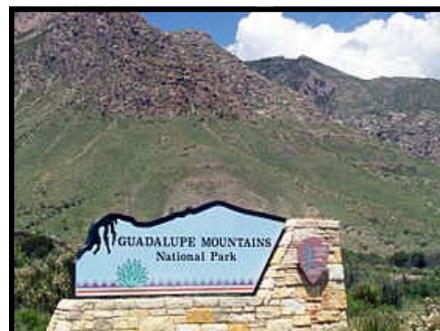
fitting into the norms of society, you don't have to worry about rolling around in the dirt as an adult and being ostracized for it. Dirty, muddy, wet, boots and pants full of dirt and rock dust, and loving it, now that's living!

My imagination and wonderment are also an important part of the experience. Almost every time I discover a new find, at some point in time while holding that Fossil, I wonder what the Earth was like at the time and the circumstances of the life and death of the animal or plant I have found. When I taught Earth Science programs I did a program on Plate Tectonics, and part of that program was showing the students maps of the Earth at different intervals of the geologic timeline. I try to envision what the earth looked like when that particular Animal or Plant (fossil) was alive and try to imagine what the place that I found the Fossil looked like at the time it was alive. This is all sheer speculation of course, but in my head, a fun thing to do nonetheless.

Let me give you an example if I may. On a trip to Texas, part of a long journey of discovery I was on at the time, I decided to go to Guadalupe Mountains National Park after seeing it on a map. Fossils were not really on my mind, though I am always on the lookout for fossil bearing rock, I just wanted to discover a new place I had never been before. It was early afternoon when I got to the park and decided to go for a hike after setting up camp. The route I had chosen was a hike to the top of Guadalupe Mountain. It was a beautiful but somewhat strenuous climb with an altitude gain of 3,000 feet. When I got to the top I came around a bend in the trail and to my surprise and utter amazement, standing in front of me was a fossilized Coral Reef! Needless to say I was blown away. Of course, I have since learned that those mountains are world famous for having the best preserved Fossil Coral Reefs in the world.

When you are hiking you have a lot of time to think and on my trip down from the mountain, the Coral Reef I had just "discovered" was in the forefront of my thoughts. I began to think about what I had just seen; A CORAL REEF, AT THE TOP OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN TEXAS, IN THE MIDDLE OF A DESERT!

This article was published in *The Paleontograph*, Volume 2, Issue 4, May, 2013.



## ISON: COMET OF THE CENTURY?

by Paige Elsea (submitted by Regina Kapta, MWF)  
Astronomy 105 - Professor Michael Bricker  
May 7, 2013

“Within days after a new comet is first discovered, astronomers can tell you exactly what its path through the solar system will look like. They can calculate when it will make its closest approach to the Sun, how near it will be to Earth at any given moment and even when — or whether — it’s likely to make a return visit.”

Many astronomers have made predictions about how the comet ISON could quite possibly be the comet of the century. But as history has shown, some comets cannot be accurately predicted. After all, some previous “great comets” like Kohoutek or Elenin ended up fizzling out. So how do you know whether a comet is going to turn out? Unfortunately, there are no guarantees as to whether it will put on a good show. But if you look at the comet’s history, the history of comets like it, and look towards every possibility for the comet, it is possible to glean enough information to decide if ISON will truly be worth seeing.

In order to have any idea of what ISON is going to be like, we need to know everything we can know about it. We should know where and when it was discovered, where it comes from, and what type of comet it is. The comet ISON was first discovered in September 2012 by Russian astronomers Vitali Nevski and Artyom Novichonok while they were using the International Scientific Optical Network located near Kislovodsk. It was first spotted when it was nearly 600 million miles from the Sun, well beyond the orbit of Jupiter.

After tracking its orbit, astronomers have deduced that ISON is making its first trip through the inner solar system. How they have deduced this is by tracing ISON’s parabolic orbit; a parabolic orbit is one where the overall shape is similar to a parabola. What they have noticed is that ISON’s orbit goes far out into space. Very likely to the Oort cloud; this is one of the two reservoirs from where comets come from. The outer reservoir is called the Oort cloud, which is an enormous round cloud of comets which is 50,000 times further from the sun than the Earth is. There’s also an inner region called the Kuiper Belt, from which comets can also come. Because of that, they think it’s either a first-time visitor, or that it’s been a long, long time since it’s been around.

While comets may look complicated, they are actually very easy to understand after some research. Comets are made of dust and frozen gases that mix together to form a sort of dirty snowball. As a comet approaches the inner Solar System, solar radiation causes the volatile materials within the comet to vaporize and stream out of the nucleus,

carrying dust away with them. The streams of dust and gas thus released form a huge, extremely tenuous atmosphere around the comet called the coma, and the force exerted on the coma by the Sun’s radiation pressure and solar wind cause an enormous tail to form, which points away from the Sun. Water ice in comets typically stays frozen until the comet approaches within three times the Earth’s distance to the sun, at which time the water ice heats up and changes directly into gas, creating jets of material that can brighten the comet. What makes ISON different from an average comet is that it is a sun grazer; a comet that passes extremely close to the Sun at perihelion, sometimes within a few thousand kilometers of the Sun’s surface.

We know that comets can be spectacular, average, or fizzle out depending on their circumstances. By looking at past comets, we may be able to get an idea of what a future comet is like. Since there are many comets that have shown a wide variety of results, I have chosen two extremes. First we’ll look at comet Hale-Bopp, and then at Kouhoutek to see what both sides look like. On July 23, 1995, an unusually bright comet outside of Jupiter’s orbit was discovered independently by Alan Hale, New Mexico and Thomas Bopp, Arizona. Both of the men trained their telescopes at nearby globular cluster M70 and saw what they believed to be a comet. They sent their observations to the International Astronomical Union’s Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams. Astronomers were astounded at how bright the comet appeared, even from its great distance away. The comet, Hale-Bopp, became one of the most viewed comets in history. It provided quite the show, being 1,000 times brighter than Halley’s Comet at the time of its discovery.

Comet Kouhoutek is a comet discovered in 1973 by astronomer Lubo Kouhoutek. The comet was first sighted on March 7. The Kouhoutek comet is a long period comet. This means it has a long period of orbit and its orbit is highly eccentric. The last estimated appearance of the comet before its sighting was 150,000 years ago. Comet Kouhoutek is considered to be part of the Kuiper belt variety of comets. These are comets made from frozen volatile gasses such as methane. The comet’s composition is largely ice and reflects the difference of the Kuiper belt compared to the Inner Solar system asteroid belt and its counterpart the Oort cloud. The comet was made much of in the media as it was predicted proximity to the Earth would provide one of the brightest views of a comet on record. However, the comet’s magnitude fell far below raised expectation. The public disappointment was so great that the comet’s name became a 1970s byword for a letdown.

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## ISON: COMET OF THE CENTURY? - CONT'D

*(Continued from page 6)*

Now we shall look to the future, towards the possibilities for ISON. One of three things will happen for the comet: 1) it will fizzle out and we'll have another comet to joke about; 2) it will be an average comet; or 3) it will be the comet everyone has predicted, and more. With the first option the biggest hazard that may cause its failure is the Sun. Tidal forces and solar radiation have been known to destroy comets. A recent example is Comet Elenin, which broke apart and dissipated in 2011 as it approached the Sun. For it to be an average comet, there will have to be a lot of damage done to it on its way here; easily caused by collisions on the way or by its close encounter with the Sun. If it does end up being this way, it still should be worth seeing around late November through the New Year.

But if ISON lives up to what the astronomers have predicted, then the comet should follow this viewing schedule. It will become visible in August and September 2013 to observers at dark locations using small telescopes or possibly even binoculars. By the time October comes around, Comet ISON should become visible to the unaided eye, but only barely, in the early part of the month. The comet will be sweeping in front of the constellation, Leo, then. It'll pass first near Leo's brightest star, Regulus, then near the planet Mars. Meanwhile, the comet itself will be getting brighter during October. In November, Comet ISON will continue to brighten throughout the month as it nears its late November perihelion. Plus, ISON will pass very close to the bright star, Spica, and the planet, Saturn, both in the constellation Virgo.

The comet will come within 800,000 miles of our Sun's surface. If all goes well, and the comet doesn't break up, the terrific heating Comet ISON will undergo when it's closest to our parent star might turn the comet into a brilliant object. Although the comet will be bright, you'll need to look carefully to see it in the Sun's glare. When you reach December, the comet will be visible both in the evening sky after sunset and in the morning sky before sunrise. As ISON's distance from the sun increases, it'll grow dimmer. But, for a time, it should be as bright as our sky's brightest planet, Venus, and it should have a long comet tail. People all over Earth will be able to see it, but it'll be best seen from the Northern Hemisphere as 2013 draws to a close.

Whatever way ISON turns out, it is coming, and very soon. Again, I cannot tell you if this comet will sizzle or fizzle, and I can't tell you to go looking for it when the time comes. But should you decide to take a chance and go searching for the comet of the century, I wish you happy hunting. I'll see you there.

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## THE WORLD OF ELECTRONICS

by Sharon Marburger

This is a wondrous age we live in. We can communicate with friends and family via cell phones, i-pads, notebooks, computers, etc., from anywhere in the world! We have e-mail, instant messaging, skype, facebook, twitter, and a bunch of other media this old fossil doesn't use. It is an instant society now. We have become dependent upon our electronic devices. However, all this great stuff comes with some frustrating obstacles.

For example, you send an e-mail to your favorite newsletter editor. You don't receive an acknowledgment that she received your message. Worse yet, your tidbit of news isn't published in the newsletter. \*!\*&\*!?!&!\*

I know how you feel! Here are a couple of tips to hopefully prevent this from happening.

1. When you type in the "TO" address on your e-mail, make sure it is the correct address. Watch out for Evil Autofill; it thinks it knows what you want, but many times it does not.
2. Watch for a response from your editor. If she doesn't send an acknowledgement within a week, send the message again, making sure the e-mail address is the current one. (HINT: this editor's e-mail address is shown in the return address area of the newsletter, and in the "Submission of Articles" area.) Also, some e-mail programs allow for delivery and read receipts.

Remember, your editor is human and will make mistakes. Be helpful, courteous, offer gentle criticism, and be forgiving. Most of all, send articles, news tidbits, and other offerings to make the newsletter interesting to everyone.

## SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

Material may be e-mailed to Sharon Marburger at [mwf.editor@windstream.net](mailto: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!

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