



# MWF News

FEBRUARY 2013 - ISSUE NO. 519

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

Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## **President**

Dennis Westman  
15547 Bluebird St. NW  
Andover, MN 55304  
763.413.8767  
[scuffy123@comcast.net](mailto:scuffy123@comcast.net)

## **1st Vice President**

Tony Kapta  
1483 E. Wood St.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217.233.1164  
[tkapta@comcast.net](mailto:tkapta@comcast.net)

## **2nd Vice President**

James Marburger  
P.O. Box 64  
Hickman, NE 68372  
402.792.2348  
[jm24122@windstream.net](mailto:jm24122@windstream.net)

## **Secretary**

Donna Moore  
25235 North State Route 97  
Cuba, IL 61427  
309.789.6501  
[MWFSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:MWFSecretary@gmail.com)

## **Treasurer**

Sandy Fuller  
8445 Grange Blvd.  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016  
651.459.0343  
[MWFtreas@Rock-Biz.biz](mailto:MWFtreas@Rock-Biz.biz)

## **Editor**

Sharon Marburger  
P.O. Box 64  
Hickman, NE 68372  
402.792.2348  
[mwf.editor@windstream.net](mailto:mwf.editor@windstream.net)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: ROCKHOUND MENTORING

by Dennis Westman

Do you remember when you first discovered that rocks were fascinating? Growing up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin, I was always scouring our rock piles looking for interesting rocks. One day I was driving my first car, a 1950 Nash, in the county park. A huge banner was in front of the 4H building. Free Rock Show; Rib Mt. Gem & Mineral Society! I had no idea there were other people who were interested in rocks. A whole club! These people knew everything about rocks. They knew the names of the fossils. They knew that to polish a rock; its hardness needs to be high on the Mohs scale. The Smokey Quartz crystals behind the Rib Mt. are formed naturally with six sides, not cut that way. I was impressed! These are my type of people! I wandered around checking out the displays, talking to the dealers and hoping someone would invite me to a meeting. I'd like to mention, this was not a young club. There were no kids and most of the members were retired. Finally, someone who knew my dad invited me to a club meeting. I was in heaven. All the members weren't. The club did not need a kid with an Elvis Presley haircut, playing rock and roll music on his transistor radio. But, none of their fears came true. No transistor radio and 51 years later, I still am fascinated by rocks.

We used to have two clubs in my area. They felt kids were a disruption. The clubs folded. Each one of us rockhounds have all this knowledge we learned over the years. We need to pass along that knowledge. We need to encourage young people to join. What will happen to our collections if we are sick for an extended time and, at the end, there is no one to care. Garage sale or landfill! Who will tell the stories of our adventures? Invite kids to your clubs. Kids who are interested in things like rocks are good kids. We need them.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

- 1-3: RICHMOND, IN. Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society's 40th Annual Show; Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd.; Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; Contact: John LaMont, 765.647.4894, [midwestchar@peoplepc.com](mailto:midwestchar@peoplepc.com).
- 2-3: LIVONIA, MI. Roamin Club's 41st Annual Special Auction; Vistatech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Rd; Sat. 11-6, Sun. 12-6; Contact: Todd Gall, 248.348.5093, [cuhed@mac.com](mailto:cuhed@mac.com).
- 9-10: MACOMB, IL: Geodeland Earth Science Clubs' 33rd Annual Show; Student Union Ballroom, Western Illinois University, Murray St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5; Contact: George Coursey, 309.368.2947, [courseyfarms@gmail.com](mailto:courseyfarms@gmail.com).
- 9-10: WAUKESHA, WI. Kettle Moraine Geological Society's 51st Annual Show; Waukesha County Expo Center, South & North Halls, 1000 Northview Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Richard Rosenberger, [rosenber.w@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosenber.w@sbcglobal.net), <http://www.fromtherockroom.com/KettleMoraineGeologicalSociety.html>.
- 9-10: MONROE, WI. Badger Lapidary & Geological Society's 43rd Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show; Monroe Senior High School, 1600 26th St., Monroe, WI; Sat. & Sun. 9-5; Contact: Terri Marche, 5415 Lost Woods Ct., Oregon, WI 53575; [tmarche@usnetizen.com](mailto:tmarche@usnetizen.com).
- 15-17: KANSAS CITY, MO: Greater Kansas City Association of Earth Science Clubs' Annual Show; KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador Dr; Fri. 9-8, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Mark Sherwood, 816.690.8226; [kcginfo@yahoo.com](mailto:kcginfo@yahoo.com); [www.kcgemshow.org](http://www.kcgemshow.org) or [www.gemshowkc.org](http://www.gemshowkc.org).
- 16-17: CEDAR RAPIDS, IA: Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society's 49th Annual Show; Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6th St. SW; Sat. 8:30-6, Sun. 9:30-5, Contact: Marvin Houg, 319.364.2868, [m\\_houg@yahoo.com](mailto:m_houg@yahoo.com), Sharon Sonnleitner, 319.396.4016, [sonnb@aol.com](mailto:sonnb@aol.com), Tom Whitlatch, 319.362.0684, [whitlatcht@gmail.com](mailto:whitlatcht@gmail.com), [www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org](http://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org).

### MARCH - continued

- 22-24: St. Louis County, MO. Rock Hobby Club of Greater St. Louis' Annual Show; Machinist Hall Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road (Bridgeton), Fri. 4-9 p.m., Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; Contact: Willis Smith, Publicity, 314.521.8896 or Roy Hurlburt, President 314.846.0711.
- 23-24: DES PLAINES, IL: Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's 48th Annual Show; Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St.; Sat. 9:30-5:00, Sun. 10-4; Contact: Lois Zima, 847.298.4653, [nival42@hotmail.com](mailto:nival42@hotmail.com).

## CANCELLED STAMPS



Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want a thank you letter sent? (circle one)

Yes          No

Send **cancelled postage stamps** for the Endowment Fund, along with the form above, to:

Lyle Kugler  
 612 S.E. 3rd St.  
 Aledo, IL 61231.



## SO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE MWF DOES FOR YOUR CLUB

By Tony Kapta, Credentials Chair, 1st Vice President

The MWF Annual Meeting is early this year. The MWF 73rd Convention is being held in conjunction with the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.'s (LGMC) 55th Annual Gem and Mineral Show on April 6 and 7 at the Lancaster Event Center on 84th and Havelock in Lincoln, Nebraska. If you are not sure what the MWF does, please send a delegate to the convention so they can report back to your club and explain what goes on at a MWF Convention. As an added bonus, you will be able to attend a wonderful show, as well as some field trips before the show.

To start off the festivities at LGMC's "Our Emerald Jubilee", there will be two field trips. The first field trip is Thursday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m. Attendees will meet at the Event Center parking lot to ride-share to Fairbury, Nebraska to collect fossils, selenite, agate, & petrified wood. The second one is Friday, April 5th at 9:00 a.m.. Attendees will meet at the Event Center to ride-share to the Nemaha River to collect fossils (mammals), agates, Lake Superior agates, petrified wood, coral, and just about anything!

After the field trip on Friday, there will be a Cracker Barrel at 6:00 p.m. Join us in an informal gathering at the Lancaster Event Center, Lancaster Room, to meet and chat with your MWF Executive Board and others. Everyone is invited. Robert Swanson, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center in Lincoln, will provide a talk on a geology-related subject. Complimentary snacks will be available.

The show will be open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A natural emerald will be given to each of the first 2,000 attendees. There will be dealers, demonstrators, educational programs, children's activities, fossils, gem & jewelry making equipment and supplies, agates, petrified wood, rough and uncut gems, gemstones, minerals and FUN!

The State Directors' Meeting will start the Convention events on Saturday, April 6. It is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. in the Lancaster Room at the Lancaster Event Center. The Executive meeting follows at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Delegates' Meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m., following the lunch break. Each member club/society is entitled to one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate to represent them, although each club is only entitled to one vote.

The Delegate Registration form is on page 7 of this newsletter. The form will also be mailed to each club and it

will be available on the MWF website. The form on the website is a fillable form that can be typed and printed. Whichever format you use, the form must be signed by the President of your club and mailed to me, Tony Kapta, 1483 E. Wood Street, Decatur, Illinois 62521 or scanned and e-mailed to me at [cigmc@comcast.net](mailto:cigmc@comcast.net).

The MWF Awards Banquet will be Saturday at 7:00 p.m. For more information on any of the above, check the "Convention" tab on the MWF website.

Finally, don't forget the Dealer, Club, and Editor's Breakfast on Sunday morning at 8:00. It is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Please indicate so on the Midwest Federation Registration Form, found on page 6 of this newsletter, if you plan to have breakfast with the group. The Editors' Meeting follows at 9:00 a.m.

Plan to have a great time while attending the MWF Convention and Show in Lincoln while learning more about the MWF at the same time.

Hope to see you there.

### CALL FOR REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

by Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

This is just a reminder to the executive committee members that the convention will be here before we know it.

I expect each committee to have a report to me (preferably by e-mail) no later than March 8. If you haven't had much activity since the convention last September in Minnesota, just send me a couple of paragraphs about what your committee does or how it can help clubs and members.

If you have any questions, please contact me. My contact information is on the front page of this, and every, newsletter.

Also, any club or member who might have questions or suggested business items for the convention meetings, please feel free to contact me.

I am looking forward to seeing many of our members at our MWF Convention in Nebraska April 6-7. And, if you have the time, be sure to come early for the field trips. The last time we went to Nebraska for our convention in 2008, the field trips were super.

## MIDWEST FEDERATION YOUTH POSTER CONTEST: FOSSILS OF THE WORLD

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair

For the past few years, the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio has been sponsoring a poster contest for kids in conjunction with their annual show and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies convention. The contest is open to any kids within an AFMS-affiliated club, especially those who already may be involved in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. David Rich has e-mailed to let me know the tradition continues, and this year, the contest is focused around a theme of “Fossils of the World.” Kids wishing to enter the contest should prepare a poster illustrating one or more fossils that interest them, from anywhere in the world.

The contest is open to kids in grades 1 through 8. Each grade level will have a winner. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place, and 1st place winners will also receive a prize. Rules are as follows:

- ◆ all entries must be presented on 12X18-inch paper;
- ◆ artwork can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint, or any other artist's medium, but no three-dimensional posters accepted;
- ◆ include name, address, age and school grade of participant on *back* of entry;
- ◆ the title maybe on front or back;
- ◆ list of names of the fossils and *why* you chose them; and
- ◆ all entries become the property of Summit Lapidary Club and the Midwest Federation.

Points will be awarded as follows: Originality & Art Work—30 points; Design—25 points; Title—25 points; Listing of Fossils *and* Reason You Chose Them—20 points. Entries must be postmarked by **March 2, 2013**, and should be mailed to: **Jennifer Fike, P.O. Box 26276, Akron, Ohio 44319**. Winners to be announced April 6, 2013, at the MWF convention. Further contest info may be found at <http://Lapidaryclubofohio.org>, and if you have questions, contact Poster Judge Jennifer Fike by email at: [SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com](mailto:SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com).

## TREASURER'S "REPORT"

by Sandy Fuller

Are your 2013 club dues paid? Are your 2013 events submitted for publication? If not, your club is in arrears. If you act quickly, we can still get your club and events in the directory, but you must act now. Check your December or January newsletters for the forms.

## JUNIORS ACTIVITIES: USING OUR FREE BADGE PROGRAM

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** While this article was written for the California Federation, it easily applies to the Midwest Federation.

At the beginning of the year, I added five new badges to our AFMS/FRA Badge Program, and one has proven instantly popular beyond what I'd imagined: Special Effects. It guides kids in exploring such interesting mineralogical phenomena as magnetism, double refraction, fluorescence, triboluminescence, and more. A suggested activity is having your juniors hold an “Amazing Mineral Magic Show” to demonstrate these phenomena. Several clubs have already done just this, and they report that the adults in the room were just as amazed as the kids.

But while activities such as this and the badge program as a whole are really taking off with clubs from Florida to Washington, Maryland to New Mexico, Illinois to Colorado, I've seen a noticeable down-tick in its use this past year by CFMS clubs, and I have to wonder why. After all, thanks to the generosity of the AFMS Endowment Fund, as I've said over-and-over, it's free! And as I've also constantly reminded, it's not hard to use. A cardinal principle of the program is that you don't need to do all the activities exactly as outlined. So long as you get a basic principle across (such as the rock cycle or the process of fossilization), you can modify activities from the manual or even use your own activities—and then give participating kids a tangible reward in the form of a colorful badge. For full details about the program, contact me ([jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com); 805-659-3577) or check out the Kids Corner section of the AFMS web site:

<http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm>.

I receive and read the electronic editions of many local club newsletters, and I see many clubs already engaging in exactly the sorts of kids activities that are covered by the Badge Program—for instance, the Roseville Rock Rollers, the Mother Lode society, and the San Diego society come quickly to mind—yet, I don't receive badge requests from them. Again they could be awarding these free badges to kids while doing exactly what they're already doing. And while these particular clubs came quickly to mind, I don't wish to single out them alone or to be seen as casting aspersions at these fine clubs that do so much with their juniors. Many other clubs could also easily be awarding badges. For instance, have any of the juniors in your club gone along on a club field trip? There's a Field Trips badge to award to them! Have any polished a stone in your club workshop, or strung a bead necklace? There's a Lapidary

(Continued on page 5)

## FINISH THE YEAR WITH A BANG - AND MAKE IT COUNT (ALL AMERICAN YEARBOOK ENTRY)

By Regina Kapta, AFMS All American Chair

Hello to everyone. I'm the new Chair for the All American Club Award program and, as a late-bloomer to the rockhounding hobby, I come from a background of graphic arts, marketing and photography. I'm currently the Secretary and Newsletter Editor for the Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club, and new Public Image Chair for the Midwest Federation.

As a judge for the AFMS All American Club contest for several years, I've had the opportunity to view Yearbook entries up close, and see the tremendous value a Yearbook can be as a club marketing tool – to promote the club, inform the general public, serve as a historical document, and provide an opportunity to engage members all year.

The All American Club Award is given to the club Yearbook that reflects a club's activities, not only within the local community, but shows the role of the club in the larger picture – credit is given for participation at the regional and national levels as well. Attendance at regional and national shows, participation at meetings, holding officer positions on various committees, writing to state representatives, involvement in ALAA; all the pieces create an active club that contributes to our hobby as a whole. The AACA award is recognition of that accomplishment, with bronze, silver and gold levels and an overall 1st place gold award.

As we move toward the final month of the 2012, make this an opportunity to review what your club has accomplished this past year, from a show or special event to workshops to field trips, all things that bring club members together and help foster interest in our rock hounding hobby. The winter meetings are a perfect time to informally interview members about their participation, to pull together all the pieces of information and documentation needed to create an outstanding All American Club entry for the year 2012, especially before everyone takes time off for the holidays. Use this time to jog memories about show activities, participation in community events and civic roles that might contribute to the club yearbook. Canvas members for any missing documentation, letters, flyers or other materials, that could fill in some gaps that just might make the difference between a good club and a great Cub Yearbook entry.

The annual Yearbook can help highlight and recognize members that have actively participated throughout the year and help give credit where credit is due. The more members contribute to it, the more completely it can serve as an historical document for the club as well as an excellent marketing tool to be shown to prospective members. Yes, the Yearbook does require some extra effort by club

members, but it can be a lot of fun for a team, especially if you borrow some shortcuts that have been developed by the scrapbooking hobbyists. Paper frames, backgrounds, and other premade items can make putting the book together fast and easy.

To help create your club's Yearbook entry, take advantage of the excellent guide that is on the AFMS web site written by John Washburn. "*An All American Club Yearbook: A Guide for Preparation.*" This gives a good explanation of each section, and what judges look for in rating the entries. It also highlights areas that are usually the weakest for many clubs and offers suggestions to improve those areas, as well as hints and tips for organizing the book. Using these tips can help create a Yearbook that will be an excellent marketing tool for your club, holding a special place at the membership table during your show.

The deadline for entry in the AFMS contest is April 15, 2013. Check with your regional chairs for their deadline. A copy of the Entry Form for year 2012 is on the AFMS web site and also in [the *A.F.M.S. Newsletter*].

*Article written for and published in the "A.F.M.S. Newsletter", Volume 66, Number 2 - December, 2012-January, 2013.*

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Your entry to the Midwest Federation must be submitted to Liz Burton no later than March 1, 2013.**

## JUNIORS ACTIVITIES - CONT'D

*(Continued from page 4)*

Arts badge waiting just for them! Have any entered a display case in your local club show or at the county fair? A Showmanship badge has their name written all over it! So while other regional Federations increase their use of the Badge Program, let's not let CFMS get left behind, especially since it's right here where the program originated as one more tool to help you motivate and encourage the next generation of rockhounds. Remember, we're flexible in how you use the program—and did I mention? It's free! Help us reward kids as they learn and—as always—have fun!

Published in the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies' newsletter: *C.F.M.S. Newsletter*, XLVIII #11, December 2012

## MWF Registration Form

## "2013 - Our Emerald Jubilee"

Sponsored by the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
 Lancaster Event Center, 84th and Havelock, Lincoln, Nebraska  
 (All meetings/meals to be held in the Lancaster Room of the Event Center)  
 (Show will be in the Lincoln Room of the Event Center)



April 6 & 7, 2013

Registrant \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Registrant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Club & Region \_\_\_\_\_

AFMS Position(s) \_\_\_\_\_

MWF Position(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Friday: Complimentary evening snacks at a "cracker barrel" meet & greet, local speaker \_\_\_\_\_ (number attending)

Saturday: Lunch – Ham & Turkey Sandwiches with chips, salad, and beverage (Available to anyone who wishes to pre-order)  
 \$10 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (number of people) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday: Awards Banquet (buffet) \$22 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (number of people) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Beef, Chicken, Potato, Two Vegetables, Salad, Roll & Butter, Beverage

Sunday: Dealer/Club/Editor's Breakfast \$10 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (number of people) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Buffet of Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, French Toast, Fruit, Coffee  
**Everyone is invited to participate in breakfast. Editors will hold their meeting at 9:00 a.m.**

One Day Show Pass \$5 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (number of people) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Two Day Show Pass \$9 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ (number of people) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Mail completed registration form with payment in full, no later than **February 24, 2013**, to:

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

Questions: E-mail [lgmc.editor@windstream.net](mailto:lgmc.editor@windstream.net) or call Show Chairman, Charles Wooldridge, at 402.416.3233.

**MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DELEGATE REGISTRATION  
Saturday, April 6, 2013**

The Midwest Federation's 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2013 "Our Emerald Jubilee" Show sponsored by the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. and the MWF Convention, April 6th through the 7th, at the Lancaster Event Center, 84<sup>th</sup> and Havelock, Lincoln, Nebraska 68507. The Delegates' Meeting will be held in the Lancaster Room of the Event Center. Each member club/society is entitled to one (1) Delegate and one \*(1) Alternate to represent them.

The MWF Council Meeting will convene on Saturday, April 6th at 10:00 a.m., with delegate registrations beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Lancaster Room of the Event Center. The delegate appointed by your club or society will represent your interests, and may bring up pertinent discussions and proposals. However, in order to expedite matters, if your society intends to have its delegate present any special motion at the meeting, please notify the MWF President, Dennis Westman, and the Secretary, Donna Moore, as to the nature of the subject so that it may be placed on the agenda. This needs to be presented in written form and should be done at least one month prior to the meeting.

\*Each club is entitled to one vote. An alternate may vote in the absence of the delegate. Guests are invited but will not be able to vote.

**Please fill out this form and return it to:  
CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN**

**Tony Kapta**

**1483 E Wood St, Decatur, IL 62521**

217-233-1164, e-mail: cigmc@comcast.net

**BEFORE March 21, 2013**

**(Do NOT return to the show registration committee)**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPTNESS**



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

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of your club on this line)

**OF** \_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State on this line)

**HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING DELEGATE TO THE 73rd ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE MIDWEST FEDERATION**

**DELEGATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTERNATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_, **CLUB PRESIDENT**

