



Happy New Year!

MWF News

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WEB SITE - www.amfed.org/mwf

Member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Tony Kapta

Hello Everyone,

I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy Holiday Season. Here we are at the beginning of a new year of rockhounding; how exciting. Most clubs are already deep into planning for this year's show as well as programs and field trips for the year.

It is also the best time to do some indoor rockhounding with the weather a bit too cold for a real field trip. We can go through all of the treasures that we collected over the years, cataloging the ones we want to preserve and getting the extras ready for donations to our clubs for silent auctions and our kids' corners. Sometimes this is almost as exciting as the field trips were to begin with.

Once again I have been asked the question, "Why should our club belong to the MWF?" I was telling my

wife, Regina, what I was planning on putting together to answer this question when she suggested making a list of "Star Points," like they do where she works, to highlight the reasons for choosing their company. So I sat down and started to put one together. As it took shape, even I was surprised at how many perks clubs get for their yearly dues.



Without digging into the history of the MWF and the AFMS, I am sure the reason for forming federations was so different clubs could get together and share information among clubs. After several regional federations had formed, the same thing proved true to those groups. They got together and formed the AFMS so the regional federations could get together and share information among their federations, as well as all of the member clubs in the United States. (For a brief history of the AFMS, *A Humble Beginning*, go to the website at <http://www.amfed.org/> and click on the AFMS button on the top, then on the history button on the side).

So, here are some of the benefits clubs can receive by belonging to the MWF:

MWF/AFMS Star Points

Insurance – You do not have to use the insurance option to be a member of the MWF but you have to be a member of the MWF to enroll for the insurance. In this day and age, all clubs require insurance and the MWF makes this affordable through a group policy. If you are lucky enough to be able to

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONT'D

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insure your club cheaper than MWF insurance costs, you are free to do that, but please do not go without insurance.

Programs – The MWF Directory, as well as the MWF Website, lists all the programs available for a nominal fee, to cover shipping, that can be used at your meetings, or any time you want to show a program. They are also available for individual MWF affiliated members to use.

Newsletter – As with our individual clubs, the MWF Newsletter is the heart of the organization, letting everyone know what is going on and other information that is of interest to our members. Any MWF affiliated member can now receive the Newsletter by e-mail. Simply e-mail the editor at mwf.editor@windstream.net.

Website and Facebook – We are in the information age! The MWF website is not only an information center for the MWF, it is also an advertisement for all the member clubs. People can find out about the different clubs in their area as well as when the annual shows are. One of the principle goals of the MWF, as well as all member clubs, is to educate young and old alike but, in particular, getting youth involved in our hobby to secure our future. This is why a Facebook presence is essential, as it is one of the primary ways that many people communicate these days.

Publications – The MWF uses the interest earned from the Endowment Fund to produce publications that can give clubs information about the different areas they deal with. The last two publications produced were the *Junior Activities Handbook* and the *Club Leadership Manual*. Both were updated and published, and one copy sent to each member club. There are many other publications available from the Director of Supplies.

Directory – The MWF Directory is printed so that all of the information about the MWF is readily available to the executive committee of the MWF and all the clubs. It is also for sale at a nominal cost, to pay for printing, to anyone who wishes to purchase one.

Awards – Part of the joy of our hobby is to show other people the treasures we have collected. By having contests, we get feedback to make anything we do better; this includes club newsletters, websites, the All American Awards for club yearbooks, and competitive displays.

Membership in AFMS

Scholarship – Each year the AFMS awards two, one-year scholarship grants of \$4,000 each, to six of the Regional Federations. These grants go to graduate students who are majoring in one of the earth sciences.

Future Rockhounds of America – This program is wonderful. If you do not know about it, find out now! The children are our future and the more we can do to interest them in our hobby the better we will all be. This program is free to all AFMS clubs, making the cost of your dues worth this program alone.

American Lands Access Association (ALAA) – Areas in which we go to collect rocks, minerals and fossils are closing at an alarming rate. The AFMS has setup ALAA as a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization that can be politically active, because a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization cannot lobby. Any club can belong to ALAA without jeopardizing their non-profit status. ALAA is striving to keep our collecting areas open to us. All clubs and club members should belong to ALAA, because the larger the number of members there are, the better the potential to be heard in Washington and elsewhere.

Newsletter – As with our individual clubs and the MWF newsletter, the AFMS newsletter is the heart of the organization, letting everyone know what is going on and other information that is of interest to our members.

Website – The AFMS website is another great place for information about the AFMS and all the Federations. Again, it is an advertisement for all of our clubs.

Uniform Rules and Awards – Not long ago, each Federation had their own set of rules for competitive exhibits, which made competition hard when moving from federation level to national. Now, all the federations and the AFMS have the exactly the same rules for competition. And again, competition is how we improve our displays and our other endeavors.

So, as you can see, clubs receive many benefits by belonging to the MWF. Does your club take advantage of all the things available from the MWF? Does your club send a delegate to the annual MWF Convention to help decide what the MWF should do, and to find out what we are doing? Does your club know who your MWF State Director or their assistants are, and do you send in reports of what is happening with your club, so that they can communicate this information to rest of the MWF? After all, the purpose of the MWF is: To promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and lapidary, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of groups interested in these fields. The best way to do this is with good communication.

It occurs to me that maybe the question should not be what can the MWF do for our club, but rather what can we do to help the MWF be the best that it can be, and, in turn, help all of the other clubs in our Region and nationally, be the best that they can be.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 18: BERKLEY, MI.** Michigan Mineralogical Society's Annual Banquet; Farina's Banquet Center, 2485 Coolidge Hwy.; Sat. 6 p.m.; Contact: Mildred Hurt, 248.398.6693, www.michmin.org.
- 25: LINCOLN, NE.** Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Annual Mid-Winter Swap; Bethany Park Shelter House, Cotner & Vine Streets; Sat. 1-5; Contact: Richard Peterson, 402.489.2996, padr20@yahoo.com, www.lincolngemmineralclub.org.

FEBRUARY

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

ANOTHER ADVERTISING TIP

by Marie Huizing, Editor-in-Chief, Rocks & Minerals

I read with interest the tips for advertising a club show in the latest (December 2013) MWF News.

In addition to the tips listed, clubs can get a free show listing in Rocks & Minerals magazine by sending the information to me at rocksandminerals@fuse.net. The published listing is also posted on the magazine's website (www.rocksandminerals.org).

MINERAL STUDY GROUP

by Kriegh Tomaszewski (submitted by Kevin Ponzio)

(Preface: Well informed rockhounds are better able to share their passion with the general public. Our MWF study group's goal is to produce more knowledgeable rockhounds. If I got any of our facts wrong, please teach me. We continue to try to learn from each other. Kreigh)

White Minerals

Color is not generally a reliable key for mineral identification, but it is useful enough that some field guides use it as their primary key. We decided to run with it this

MINERAL STUDY GROUP - CONT'D

year and go thru the colors of the rainbow. We are ending this sequence, and looked at white minerals this month. White tends to come from specular (but diffused) reflection where no colors are adsorbed by the mineral to color the reflected light.

Our Mineral Study Group likes to learn about the science and practical uses of the minerals we study, but we really want to learn to hand identify them. Hand identification is a skill you learn from holding and studying many different specimens of a given mineral (and doing some homework on its physical properties). We do our homework on the science and come prepared to discuss the mineral of the month, but we also dig through our collections and come with one or more specimens for everyone to handle. We really do learn from each other (and you have to share your specimens with others before they can be appreciated). Many of our specimens this month were provided by more than one person (we all tried to leave the snow by the door).

The concept behind our color study theme was to have as many different minerals of a given color, to examine together, so we can learn to distinguish between them. Our group came up with an unusual collection of mostly white (to off white) minerals. I know the names are not all going to be spelled correctly, and I know I missed writing down a few specimens, but we got to hand examine specimens of alabaster, tuff, okenite, mandenite, chalcedony, petrified wood, septaria calcite, opalized wood, datolite, talc, chalk, microcline, howelite, druzey quartz, chert, volcanic brecca, melanterite, geodes, quartzite, milky quartz, inderite, borax, inyoite, suanite, aragonite, kieserite, barite, pisanite, uracite, aschamelimitite, scarbroite, dolomite, bavenite, cristobalite, oyelite, fluorapylllophyllite, palygorskite, harmotite, rogggenite, goos creekite, opal, barrerite, and danburite.

It is one thing to look at the pictures in the field books, but you get a much deeper appreciation when you can hold a specimen and look at it thru a lens (feel the heft, shine a bright light on it, etc.). And then look at another specimen of the same mineral (and maybe another). And then look at something else that is close but different. Some homework was done, and we learned a bit about the specimens we studied, and some were self collected so there were stories to share.

The next meeting of the West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the home of Kreigh Tomaszewski, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. We are going to study minerals that have a cubic crystal form. Everyone should have a few cubic minerals in their collection (table salt counts for half credit) that they

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MINERAL STUDY GROUP - CONT'D

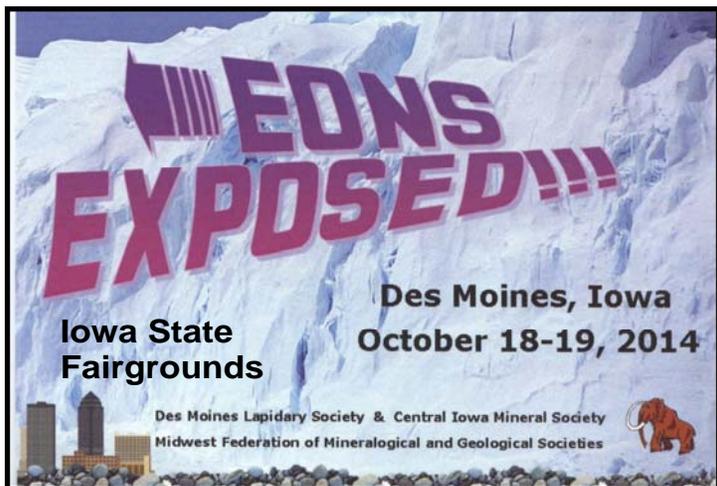
(Continued from page 3)

can bring to talk about and pass around, so there is no excuse for not participating. By the way, we will skip December as usual.

We try to start (and end) on time; please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early (and everyone gets thrown out at 9). All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about cubic minerals, and bring some of the specimens from your collection. I hope you can join us as we learn about minerals from each other (and you are welcome even if you can't bring any study specimens).

We usually have some time at the end to look at some unknown you might need help on (no promises of a positive ID, but we are getting better at identifying minerals). We actually had too much fun this month, finished late, and ran over by 10 minutes looking at unknowns. Hope you can join us for the next meeting (and let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds).

2014 CONVENTION UPDATE



by Karen Leibold

Field trip Friday, October 17, 2014

The Central Iowa Mineral Society is cogitating about the destination for the MWF Convention field trip – these folks know rocks and they want to take you to a location that will be fun and interesting! Also, because land and business owners seem to be more and more hesitant to allow youth on their property, child care/youth day camp options will be planned if there is enough interest. Convention materials will be available early February – be sure to indicate your field trip interest and needs!

Come to Iowa and explore – discover remnants of many eons..... exposed!!

MEET SANDY FULLER - TREASURER!

by Sandy Fuller, Treasurer

Sandy Fuller retired from the world of non-profit administration just in time to head up “A Celebration of Agates” international show in the Minneapolis area during the summer of 2012. Now she keeps busy as the co-proprietor of Rock Biz, specializing in fluorescent minerals, and volunteering with the National Park Service, when not traveling to far and near exciting places.

As a young backpacker, Sandy would “weigh in” after a multiple day journey with more pounds than she carried out. Must have been those rocks that found a way into her pack. As with most rockhounds, fascination with the natural world started early.

After joining the Minnesota Mineral Club in 1992, Sandy served the club as Treasurer, Vice President, President and Show Chair. As a member of the Anoka County Gem and Mineral Club, she served as Treasurer, Vice President, President and currently as Program Chair. This past spring, Minnesota Mineral Club honored her with recognition as an honorary life member.

Sandy represented the Minnesota Mineral Club at the AFMS/MWF Convention in Houghton, Michigan in 1998. Shortly thereafter, she was appointed State Director for Minnesota and later was elected to serve on the MWF Nominating Committee. She served as MWF President in 2006 and recently served as 5th, then 4th Vice President of AFMS. Sandy was appointed treasurer in 2009 to complete Norm Hanschu's term and has since been elected to continue in that role.

She is a Minnesota transplant from the East Coast (Maryland) and lives in a St. Paul suburb.

2013 AFMS BULLETIN EDITOR'S CONTEST WINNERS

Provided by Linda Jaeger

Due to limited space, only the winners from the MWF are shown here.

I. Original Adult Articles, Top 10

1. El Chiconal

by Richard Peterson, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (MWF)
From: Pick & Shovel, 10/12

6. What Now?

by Jackie Sullivan, West Central Illinois Rock & Mineral Club (MWF)
From: Rock Chatter, 10/12

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ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

by Susan Zaborowski (submitted by Lee Herrera, Chairman)

We would like to nominate Marty and Jim Lamparyk as our "Rock Hounds" of the year for 2013. Here at the Parma Lapidary Club, volunteerism is extremely important. Not only do we need people to volunteer as chairmen, but we are one of the few clubs that is open several days a week with workshops and classes available. Loads of people qualify as our "Rockhounds" but we could pick only the very best, so this year the votes were tallied and Marty and Jim won.

Jim serves as a Trustee and teaches wire wrapping. He also takes time out to slab rocks for our show.

Marty is our "Rock Box" editor, one of the four co-chairs for our "Rock-a-rama" Show, and she is the Chairman for the Kids Korner at that show. Marty is also the person who directs everyone in the right direction. Both are always available to help with our outreach program, talking to schools, libraries, boy scouts, girl scouts, boys clubs, girls clubs and any other means to educate the public in our Club and its mission.

S.C.R.I.B.E. ANNUAL MEETING

by Mark Nelson

Gene Stirm To Speak at 2014 SCRIBE Annual Meeting

Gene Stirm, the award-winning author, editor and publisher will present a series of tips he calls *Facelifts for Bulletins* to rock collecting club editors at this year's Annual Meeting of SCRIBE! In this age, clubs are striving to use a professional-looking bulletin to attract and retain members. Gene, a member of the Tehachapi, California club, will share his experience with editors for using simple techniques to effectively use typefaces and layout to jazz up and improve readability in bulletins and other printed material.

Gene Stirm, former art director and editor for Josten's American Yearbook Company, brings his experience in writing, illustrating, publishing and film making to lapidary and rockhound editors. Those editors and guests attending the meeting will leave with solid tools for making their yearbook more professional-looking and easier to read.

The meeting will be from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at the Senior Citizen Center on Moon Mountain Road in Quartzsite, Arizona. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. (MST) for registration and coffee.

For information contact Mark Nelson at mnelsonair@aol.com.

BULLETIN AWARDS - CONT'D

(Continued from page 4)

II. Original Adult Articles, Honorable Mention

I Need Help!

by Sue Hogge, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)
From: LOESS Bulletin, 12/12

III. Original Adult Articles Advanced, Top 10

1. Summer Days: The Geology of Lakefront Property

by Heath Shive, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (MWF)

From: The Strata Data, 4/12

8. Sand in Your Pockets?

by Carl Kamp, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)
From: LOESS Bulletin, 2/12

9. "It's Not My Job" . . . Or Is It?

by Ed Wagner, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)

From: LOESS Bulletin, 4/12

V. Junior Articles – Under 12, Top 10 (4 entries)

2. Pu'u Loa Petroglyph Field on the Island of Hawaii

by Brandon Poy (10), Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (MWF)

From: The Pick & Dop Stick, 12/12

VI. Junior Articles – 12 to 17, Top 10

4. Uses of Clay in Modern and Ancient Times

by Julia Kuhn (14), Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (MWF)

From: The Strata Data, 6/12

5. Malachite in the Bible Times

by Saufina Kemp (14), Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (MWF)

From: The Strata Data, 2/12

7. Sardonyx

by Asher Kemp (13), Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (MWF)

From: The Strata Data, 8/12

VII. Junior Articles – 12 to 17, Honorable Mention

David's Multi-colored Agates

by David Kuhn (16), Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (MWF)

From: The Strata Data, 1/12

VIII. Written Features, Top 10

1. Crinoids Don't Sting!

by Rosie Miller, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (MWF)

From: The Strata Data, 11/12

(Continued on page 8)

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

Annual Dues, Insurance and Club Contact Information

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

CLUB NAME _____ STATE _____

2014 Club Dues

(Use membership figures from most recently completed year)

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

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

Do you want MWF Membership Cards? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you qualify and want electronic Diamond Dan's *Mini Miners Monthly*? ___ Yes ___ No

2014 Club Insurance

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

Total Dues and Insurance Remitted: \$ _____.

(Make check payable to Midwest Federation)

FORM, DUES, INSURANCE & EVENTS are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2014
Mail to: MWF, %Sandy Fuller, 8445 Grange Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Club Contact Information for Mailings, Directory & Website

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

E P - President _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E P - Secretary _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E P - Treasurer _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E P - Youth Director _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CLUB BULLETIN NAME _____

E P - Editor _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CLUB MEETING PLACE _____

DAY & TIME _____

Club Website _____ **Club Email** _____

Please send the MWF Directory and Official Federation Mail to:

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

Calendar Of Events Listing Information

For Publication In MWF Directory, Website & Newsletter

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

CLUB NAME _____ **STATE** _____

Show Chair _____ **Email** _____

Event Type: Annual Show, Rock Swap, Other _____

Dates: _____ **Days/Times:** _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Street: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

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

Email: _____ **Club** _____
Website: _____

Event Type: Annual Show, Rock Swap, Other _____

Dates: _____ **Days/Times:** _____

Facility/Location Name: _____

Street: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____

EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

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

Email: _____ **Club** _____
Website: _____

* * Please include event listings for January, February and March 2015. * *

Mail completed form with your dues. Questions? Call 651-459-0343

DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2014

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

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BULLETIN AWARDS - CONT'D

(Continued from page 5)

IX. Written Features, Honorable Mention

Medora Geode Trip

by Karen Hoffman, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (MWF)

From: The Strata Data, 11/12

Geode Collecting and Mazon Creek Field Trip Report

by Kathy Kovacs-Bailey, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (MWF)

From: The Strata Data, 8/12

X. Drawn Features (5 entries)

4. Crystals & Agates

by Andrew Tiedje, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (MWF)

From: Pick & Shovel, 6/12

XI. Adult Poetry, Top 10

4. Ruby the Bright Red Mineral

by Carole Harp & Mary Boesdorfer, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)

From: LOESS Bulletin, 1/12

XIV. Mini Bulletins, Top 10 (4 entries)

1. Lowcountry Diggings, 3/12, Mark Easterbrook, Editor
Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society, Charleston, SC (SFMS)

XV. Small Bulletins, Top 10

5. The Rockfinder, 10/12, Jason Hefner, Editor
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, Elkhart, IN (MWF)

XVII. Large Bulletins, Top 10

1. Pick & Shovel, 8/12, Sharon Marburger, Editor
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Lincoln, NE (MWF)

XVIII. Large Bulletins, Honorable Mention

LOESS Bulletin, 5/12, Ed Wagner, Editor
Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, Springfield, IL (MWF)

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

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!

**Remember to get
your contest entries
submitted on time!
Check website for
various contest deadlines!
www.amfed.org/mwf**