

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Whitlatch, President

By the time you read this, school will have started for most and fall colors will be starting to show for some in the north.

This has been a busy and fast summer for me, with the highlight being the American Federation meeting in Ventura, California, in June. I just wish I could have had time to do some collecting while there. I did get to enjoy a great show and meet several Facebook friends. There were many superb displays, both competitive and non-competitive, as well as many dealers who don't make it to the Midwest, with their unique wares and materials.



I attended meetings for the scholarship fund and the American Lands Access Association, as well as the American Federation business and directors' meetings. There were discussions about many things that plague all organizations like ours, such as

*(Continued on page 3)*

## BULLETIN EDITORS' AIDS

Sharon Marburger, Bulletin Editors' Aids Committee  
Chair

Hello Editors! It is time to really dig in and start selecting those articles, written features, drawn features, poetry, and any of your clubs' special publications, to be entered into the 2018 Bulletin Editors' Competition. The 2018 American Federation Convention is set for April 6-8, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Although the convention is a little earlier in the year than normal, we can still meet the deadlines.

There has been much discussion among the regional BEAC chairmen and the AFMS officers and committee chairmen, trying to set deadlines that will provide the most time for your submissions to be judged fairly and accurately. It has been determined that your bulletins and other competition entries are to be submitted, by me, to AFMS judges no later than February 1, 2018. This necessarily means that I will require your entries for MWF judging no later than **January 5, 2018.**

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### **ELECTION BALLOTS HAVE BEEN MAILED**

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

Ballots for the MWF Officers election have been mailed to Executive Committee members and to the person in each club designated to receive MWF mailings. If you qualify to receive a ballot and you have not, please contact MWF Secretary Donna Moore, [mwfsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mwfsecretary@gmail.com).

Ballots should be returned to Credentials Chairman Tony Kapta postmarked by Sept. 30th. People selected in the election will take office Nov. 1st.

The slate of officers includes: David Root of Michigan for President, Kevin Ponzio of Wisconsin for First Vice President, John Donker of Michigan for Second Vice President, Donna Moore of Illinois for Secretary, and Sandy Fuller of Minnesota for Treasurer.

The only contested race is for two openings on the Nominating Committee. The four candidates are Allison Conrad, the State Director of Wisconsin, and three past presidents: James Marburger of Nebraska, J.C. Moore of Illinois, and David Rich of Ohio.

The election has been held by mail since 2000, when the MWF Council of Delegates decided that balloting by mail allowed more clubs to participate than elections held in person at conventions.

### **BULLETIN EDITORS' AIDS, CONTINUED**

(Continued from page 1)

I will provide the complete MWF competition procedures for publication in the October *MWF News*. There will be a few changes in my procedure; however, ALWAYS be sure your submissions follow the AFMS rules. Those rules can be found at <<http://www.amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm>>.

To help with your planning, here are a few tidbits:

Only one newsletter will be required for judging. I will announce the issue to be judged in the October *MWF News*. In the past, the specified month and another issue of your choosing were required. I believe that every issue of your newsletter should be capable of winning, and therefore no extra issue is needed.

You may submit your entries via mail or e-mail.

- I have decided to try receiving your entries electronically. For those entered electronically, I will print and submit to the AFMS the top 3 winners from each category, as printed copies are still required at the AFMS level.
- Send electronic submissions to: [mamamar7880@outlook.com](mailto:mamamar7880@outlook.com).
- I am hoping that by utilizing electronic submissions, I will encourage more editors to compete.

Due to the early deadline in 2018, items published in the December 2017 issue of your newsletter will be qualified to enter the 2019 competition. No December 2017 submissions will be accepted in the 2018 competition.

I look forward to receiving your entries. As noted above, the MWF deadline is **January 5, 2018**. However, since the December 2017 newsletter is not included in this year's competition, I will accept your entries as early as December 1, 2017.



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NEARS**

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The fall meeting of the MWF Executive Committee will be hosted by the Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society in Springfield, Missouri. This will be their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show. Our meeting will be held on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:30 a.m. All members of the MWF Executive Committee, including permanent committee chairmen, state directors, and past presidents, should attend. Assistants are also urged to attend, especially if the chairman or director is unable to attend.

Reports from the committees and the states are due to Secretary Donna Moore by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Any committee member who does not send a report can bring 25 copies of his or her report to the meeting.

The meeting will take place at the site of the show, Springfield Expo Center, 635 E. St. Louis Street in Springfield. Anyone is welcome to join us for the meeting, and everyone is invited to the show, which is open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The MWF Officers will host a meet and greet on Friday evening to visit. Time and place have not been set. We are working to see if we can get a block of rooms at a host hotel.

Anyone with concerns or business items to be brought up at the meeting on Saturday should notify President Tom Whitlatch (whitlatcht@gmail.com) and Secretary Donna Moore (mwfsecretary@gmail.com).

**QUICK QUESTION**

Jill Koski, Bulletin Editor  
Carlton County (MN) Gem & Mineral Club

I have been blessed with a son who has an eye for finding agates. At fourteen, he is rarely not seated on a four-wheeler or dirt bike. Last week he went for a "rip" around the neighborhood. He had a minor wipeout, and while he was down, found an agate for me! Do I encourage this technique?

**A PLEA FOR SAFETY**

Sue Guirl, Editor, Glacial Groove  
Columbus (OH) Rock and Mineral Society

We were saddened to receive the following note from Jeff Moore who wrote to explain why he would not be renewing his membership: "I had tests at OSU yesterday for a lung condition and was informed I have idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis with 3 months of life left. Some or most of the problem came from my grinding and polishing rocks and minerals all these years without using a mask." Jeff has generously offered to donate his collection to the club, and we will keep Jeff and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

It can be easy to make light of the potential dangers inherent in enjoying a hobby like ours. Donning a mask and goggles, wearing appropriate attire, properly maintaining your equipment, and adhering to other safety measures represent only small inconveniences and expenses when balanced against your life.

If you enjoy field collecting, lapidary work, and/or specimen preparation, please follow recommended safety practices and protect yourself. Your family and friends will thank you.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 1)*  
reduced membership and participation in the day-to-day operations. Not to forget accessibility to collecting sites for one reason or another, mostly government intervention by regulations or laws that prohibits rock and fossil collecting by anyone not associated with an accredited research group.

We all need to take some time to look at our lawmakers and how they stand on subjects that affect our hobby. Then follow up by letting them know how it affects you, and what you think could be an alternative to the restrictions they may be supporting or why you think the changes would not be needed. This is not a political organization but we do need to keep an eye and ear to politics to preserve our rights and privileges to keep this great hobby going for those who come after us.



## HOW DOES THE AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION DO ITS WORK?

Lauren Williams, President  
AFMS Scholarship Foundation  
From the AFMS Newsletter, Sept. 2017 issue

*[MWF Editor's Note: Mr. Williams suggests several contacts in the article below, and these are their email addresses. The Midwest Federation's scholarship coordinator is Marge Collins, margekccollins@yahoo.com. Lauren Williams' email address is slhariur@msm.com. Gene Maggard's email address is gandpmaggard@gmail.com.]*

Over the past few months I've received several inquiries asking for information about how the AFMS Scholarship Foundation works. Briefly, here's the process.

Currently, six of our seven regional federations participate in the Scholarship Foundation program. Southeast has its own scholarship program and therefore does not participate in ours.

Shortly after the first of November, I send emails to each of the participating regional federation presidents outlining the criteria for selecting their honoree and asking that they notify me who that individual is by a certain date. The honoree from each federation is the person who selects the two students to receive grants.

Once I have the information, I send a letter of congratulations to the honorees and then outline the procedure for each to select his or her two scholarship recipients. The students selected must be U.S. citizens and must be working toward either a master's or doctorate degree in the earth sciences. Checks are then sent to someone at the university the students attend, so that we can be certain the students are enrolled for the fall semester. A congratulatory letter is sent to each recipient, indicating that he or she will receive the \$4,000 grant in August.

Scholarship Foundation Treasurer Gene Maggard sends out checks the first part of August. I check with the Registered Agent in Minnesota to be sure that she has filed the necessary information with

the State of Minnesota so that the AFMS Scholarship Foundation will stay a viable registered organization. That's it, that is how the visible world of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation operates. I then wait until the first of November and then start all over again.

Treasurer Gene Maggard, on the other hand, is not so lucky. All year he receives your donations, gives credit to you or your club as appropriate, and mails the checks to Charles Schwab in Phoenix. If we have a problem or a concern with the account, then we talk with the Charles Schwab office in El Paso. Badgley + Phelps Wealth Managers was recommended by the Charles Schwab office in Boise to manage our account; they do the buying and selling of our stocks and bonds. For any questions about your donation, ask Gene or me and, if needed, we will contact either Charles Schwab or Badgley + Phelps.

Gene also pays premiums on the two insurance policies we must have. He keeps and maintains the books in an acceptable IRS form. He prepares and sends the necessary information to Rudd and Company in Idaho Falls to prepare and send in our taxes and do a review of our books.

During the recent convention in Ventura, California, an internal audit was performed and summed up by Wayne Cox (Rocky Mountain Federation), David Korzendorfer (Eastern Federation) and Jennifer Haley (California Federation). An explanation of the new audit and review procedures was given by Steve Weinberger of the Eastern Federation and AFMS Central Office. A recommendation was made to ensure that we keep both the internal and external audits for safety.

An ad hoc committee was formed to work on a revision of the Foundation's bylaws and operating procedures. Most of them were written before email and e-transfers, or for that matter before computers became the norm. The committee consists of Steve Weinberger, chairman (Eastern Federation), Roger Burford (South Central Federation), Thomas Whitlatch (Midwest Federation), and Dr. Robert Carlson (Rocky Mountain Federation).

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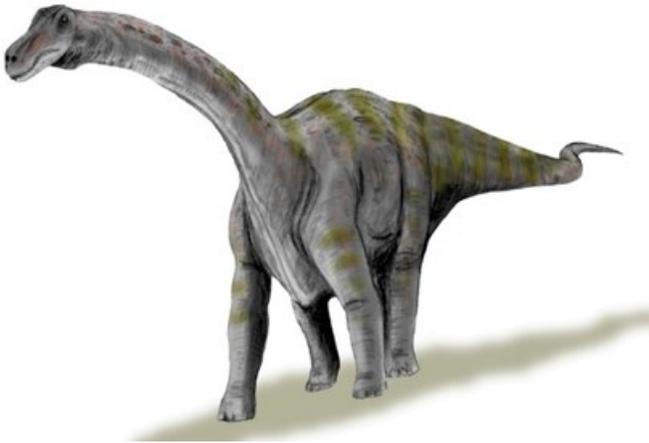
## RARE BABY DINOSAUR FOSSIL GIVES NEW INSIGHT INTO SAUROPODS

National Science Foundation

Long-necked sauropod dinosaurs include the largest animals ever to walk on land, but they hatched from eggs no bigger than a soccer ball. A lack of young sauropod fossils, however, has left the earliest lives of these giants shrouded in mystery. Did they require parental care after hatching like some other dinosaurs, or were they self-reliant?

Research funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and led by Kristi Curry Rogers of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, sheds the first light on the life of a young *Rapetosaurus*, a titanosaurian sauropod buried in the Upper Cretaceous Maevarano Formation of Madagascar.

The findings were published April 21, 2016 in the journal *Science*.



*Drawing of an adult Rapetosaurus krausei by Nobu Tamura (<http://spinops.blogspot.com>), via Wikimedia Commons.*

The baby behemoths were active, capable of a wider array of maneuvers than adult members of their species, and didn't need parental care after hatching.

"These scientists employed several lines of evidence to investigate growth strategies in the smallest known post-hatching sauropod dinosaur," said

Judy Skog, a program director in NSF's Division of Earth Sciences, which funded the research along with NSF's Division of Environmental Biology.

Skog said the researchers developed tests that could be applied to other perinatal dinosaurs. "It's intriguing that these animals developed quickly to function on their own, much like some birds and herding mammals of today," she said.

The preserved partial skeleton was so small that its bones were originally mistaken for those of a fossil crocodile, said Curry Rogers. "This baby's limbs at birth were built for its later adult mass; as an infant, however, it weighed just a fraction of its future size," she added. "This is our first opportunity to explore the life of a sauropod just after hatching, at the earliest stage of its life."

Along with researchers Megan Whitney of the University of Washington, Mike D'Emic of Adelphi University, and Brian Bagley of the University of Minnesota, the team studied thin sections of the tibia and used a high-powered CT scanner to get a closer look at the microstructures preserved inside the limb bones. The detailed microscopic features of the *Rapetosaurus* bones revealed patterns similar to those of living animals and made it possible for the scientists to reconstruct the beginning of the dinosaur's post-hatching life.

"We looked at the preserved patterns of blood supply, growth cartilages at the ends of limb bones, and at bone remodeling," Curry Rogers said. "These features indicate that *Rapetosaurus* grew as rapidly as a newborn mammal and was only a few weeks old when it died."

The tiny titanosaur was mobile at hatching and less reliant on parental care than other animals. Baby sauropods like *Rapetosaurus* were somewhat like miniature adults, Curry Rogers said.

The team also observed microscopic zones deep within the bones. They proved similar to the

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## UNUSUAL NITROGENOUS MINERALS

By Kreigh Tomaszewski,  
Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (Michigan)

The West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group is working through the periodic table of elements in our current study sequence. The featured element at a recent meeting was nitrogen. It comprises just over three quarters of the air we breathe, but is an unusual component in minerals, usually in the form of ammonium.

There is one nitrogen mineral that has been known since antiquity, sal ammoniac, and it is probably the only member of this group of minerals most rockhounds would recognize. Its common use is for cleaning soldering irons when making stained glass, electronics, or jewelry. It was also used as the electrolyte in carbon-zinc batteries. We had a nice specimen to look at. This is one of the minerals from antiquity that does not have the -ite ending.



*Sal ammoniac. Photo by Rob Lavinsky/irocks.com, via Wikimedia Commons.*

Each month the members of the mineral study group go through their collections to find representative specimens to share with the group. This month we had a specimen of ambrinoite, the only known sulfide containing significant ammonium. We had a Type Locality specimen of the halide barberiite.

When a new mineral is found, the discovery specimen that is studied becomes the Type Specimen, and the place where it was discovered becomes the Type Locality. Additional specimens collected at the

*(Continued on page 8)*

## AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, CONT.

*(Continued from page 4)*

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation does not have bake sales, car washes, etc. We do not have any individual memberships, dues or newsletter. We have no membership renewal notices to send out. Our only income is from donations from you and your club. If we do not receive any donations we have no income.

We can only accept checks. If you want to donate your car, boat, airplane, or estate, then you have to sell it and send us the check for the cash value. I have heard that it is extremely hard to send cars, boats, or airplanes by email. Anytime is time to consider your tax status for charitable donations.

Send your donation checks to your regional federation scholarship coordinator, who will forward them directly to Gene Maggard.

## BABY DINOSAUR FOSSIL, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 5)*

hatching lines in today's reptiles, and to neonatal growth lines in extant mammals. The zones indicate the time of hatching in *Rapetosaurus*, and allowed the scientists to estimate the weight of the newly hatched *Rapetosaurus* – around 7.7 pounds.

What caused the demise of this baby *Rapetosaurus*?

Clues came from its cartilage growth plates, which bear a striking resemblance to the modified growth cartilages that occur during starvation among living vertebrates. When taken in the context of the intensely drought-stressed ecosystem represented in the Maevarano Formation, it's clear that this *Rapetosaurus* had it rough, Curry Rogers said.

"Between its hatching and death just a few weeks later," she said, "this baby *Rapetosaurus* fended for itself in a harsh and unforgiving environment."

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Sept. 8-10</b> Fri & Sat 10-7; Sun 10-4	The 500 Earth Sciences Club	4-H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple Street <b>Greenfield, IN</b>	Cheryl Hamilton, clhamilton1951@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 8-10</b> Fri 2-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 11-5	Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club	Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns, <b>Toledo, OH</b>	Steve Shimatzki, sjs132@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 15-17</b> Fri-Sun, 9-5	Mozarkite Society of Lincoln	Lincoln City Park, <b>Lincoln, MO</b>	Pat Monahan, junkmail_817@yahoo.com
<b>Sept. 15-17</b>	Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club	The Soccer Stop, 5 River Hills Drive, <b>Holland, MI</b>	Sue Goedert, sonbeams2000@yahoo.com
<b>Sept. 16</b> Sat 10-4	Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society rock swap	Odd Fellows Hall, 6219 Forest Hills Road, <b>Loves Park, IL</b>	John Wood, gotwood63@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 16-17</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Livingston Gem & Mineral Society	Hartland Community Education, 9525 E. Highland Road, <b>Howell, MI</b>	Ed Oller, edleatherandcraft@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 22-24</b> Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-3	Tri-State Gem and Mineral Society	Joplin Historical and Mineral Museum, 504 Schifferdecker Ave., <b>Joplin, MO</b>	Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net
<b>Sept. 23-24</b> Sat 8:30-6, Sun 8:30-5	Cedar Valley Rock and Minerals Society rock auction	Amana RV Park & Event Center, 39 38 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, <b>Amana, IA</b>	Marvin Houg, m-houg@yahoo.com
<b>Sept. 23-24</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Oshkosh Earth Science Club	Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Road Y (Sunnyview Road), <b>Oshkosh, WI</b>	Ann Voges, hankemps@milwpc.com
<b>Sept. 30-Oct. 1</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club	Heritage Center, 322 Sixth Street, <b>Traverse City, MI</b>	Pierre LaFoille, PALS0210@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 30-Oct. 1</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society rock swap	County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, <b>Belleville, MI</b>	Bill Barr, wbarr@umich.edu
<b>Oct. 7-8</b> Sat & Sun, 9-5	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society	Community Center, 5 Municipal Drive <b>Jacksonville, AR</b>	John Schoeneman, schoeneman@hughes.net
<b>Oct. 7-8</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society	Orr Building, State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Avenue, <b>Springfield, IL</b>	Ed Wagner, loesseditor@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 13-15</b> Fri 9-6, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Michigan Mineralogical Society	Macomb Expo Center, Building P, 14500 E. 12 Mile Road, <b>Warren, MI</b>	John Peters, joopett13@hotmail.com
<b>Oct. 14-15</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society	Knights of Columbus Hall, 3115 6 <sup>th</sup> St., <b>Columbus, NE</b>	Deb Gonsior, loupvalleynews@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 14-15</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30	Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society	Expo Center, 635 St. Louis Street, <b>Springfield, MO</b>	Larry Lillich, larrylillich@outlook.com
<b>Oct. 20-22</b> Fri 6-9, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, Main Arena, 700 E. Ash Street, <b>Mason, MI</b>	Roger Laylin, l.r.laylin@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 20-22</b> Fri & Sat, 10-6, Sun 11-5	Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Road, <b>Fort Wayne, IN</b>	Russell Greim, 3riversshow@gmail.com

**October Issue Submissions Deadline: September 13th!**

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**Please notify the Secretary of any violations.**  
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**NITROGENOUS MINERALS, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 6)*

Type Locality and studied as part of naming the mineral are known as Meta-Type Specimens. We had part of the Type Specimen of the sulfate darapskite that includes nitrogen as the nitrate cation.

We also had a specimen of struvite, a phosphate commonly found as a mineral formed by bacterial decay. We ended with the phosphate taranakite that forms from a leachate of bird and bat droppings in damp caves and seashore environments.

Our group is small, but we have been meeting since 2009 and are the longest running affiliated study group in the country, according to the AFMS. This month we will start our ninth year of mineral studies in our new home at Blandford Nature Center's Learning Lab in Grand Rapids. The meeting, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on September 12<sup>th</sup>, will feature minerals that contain aluminum, but only those that begin with the letter A. Let part of your collection get to meet some other rockhounds and be appreciated by members of the Blandford community, who will hopefully be joining us.

**HAPPY WISCONSIN GEOLOGY DAY!**

*[Editor's Note: The following sounds like a great idea for fans of earth sciences in all states.]*

Joanne Kluessendorf, Director of the Weis Earth Science Museum  
Beth Johnson, Geology Professor, UW-Fox Valley

As educators and outreach specialists, we are planning to request that the state legislature designate the third Saturday in October annually as "Wisconsin Geology Day." Having a special day will provide a focus to promote Wisconsin geology and encourage people's interest in the hobby of geology as well.

In order to gather support, we have established a petition online at [https://www.petitions24.com/wisconsin\\_geology\\_day\\_designation](https://www.petitions24.com/wisconsin_geology_day_designation). Please go to that website and follow the instructions to sign our petition. Every signature will help to convince the legislators that people are interested in establishing a "Wisconsin Geology Day."

Thanks for your help.