

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

November 2017 - Issue No. 566

Web Site - [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)

Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Root, President

I don't know if I'm ready for this. What I do know is that Tom Whitlatch will be one tough act to follow. So let's start by thanking Tom and the other Board and Committee members for their service. The MWF wouldn't exist without the people who step up and take on these positions, and I urge everyone out there in Rockhound Land to consider doing just that. Not only will you have the satisfaction of knowing you have done something good, but we actually have fun too.



Let me give you a brief history of my rockhounding. Like many of you, I had a rock collection as a kid. Other things got in the way for a number of years until we took a family vacation to Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the early '90s, which included the obligatory Lake Superior rock collecting. Shortly after our return a rock tumbler was purchased, and I started working my way through our supply of beach stones.

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## YEARBOOK COMPETITION IS COMING UP!

Regina Kapta, Chair,  
AFMS All American Club Awards Committee

Begin **RIGHT NOW** to plan out your entry for the All American Club (AAC) Yearbook Award. Entries will be due earlier this year than in previous years – February 15, 2018 is the deadline – so that the awards may be handed out at the AFMS Convention in April 2018. Club entries are to be sent to the MWF Regional Chair, J.C. Moore ([jcmoore3rd@gmail.com](mailto:jcmoore3rd@gmail.com)), before **January 15, 2018**. He will pass it on to the AFMS.

No other changes have been made to the contest for 2018. As last year, emphasis will be on junior activities and AFMS support, such as participating in AFMS contests, participation in competitive displays, utilization of the Future Rockhounds of America junior program, and volunteering as judges for any of the AFMS-sponsored contests.

The All American Club Award is given to the individual club yearbook that highlights a club's activities for the past year. Group activities, individual

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### MWF OFFICERS

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### **THE VOTES ARE IN!**

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The ballots have been counted, and the clubs and executive committee members have spoken. Seventy-one ballots were returned in the recent MWF election. Each club and each member of the executive committee should have received a ballot to vote.

If your mailing address has changed, and you have not notified me, you might not have received your ballot, which had to be postmarked by September 30.

One hundred sixty-six ballots were mailed, so the percentage returned was about 43%. That is probably a good return statistically, but we would like to see a higher participation. That is why the voting was changed to “by mail” rather than “in person” at the annual Council of Delegates Meeting.

The five unopposed officers were unanimously elected. They are President David Root from Michigan, First Vice President Kevin Ponzio from Wisconsin, Second Vice President John Donker from Michigan, Treasurer Sandy Fuller from Minnesota, and Secretary Donna Moore from Illinois.

Jim Marburger from Nebraska and J.C. Moore from Illinois were elected to the nominating committee for a three-year term. They will join Marge Collins

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### **YEARBOOK COMPETITION, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 1)*

member participation, workshops and shows are all part of a great club. Credit is given for member attendance at regional and national shows, holding officer positions on committees, writing to state representatives, involvement in the American Lands Access Association, and junior programs and workshops. The AAC awards are recognition of these activities, with bronze, silver and gold levels and an overall first-place gold award. First-place and gold award winners will be posted to the AFMS website.

A note on .pdf entries: If you submit a .pdf of the yearbook, it should have bookmarks for each section. Most .pdf software includes tools to generate bookmarks, so you can go to each section and designate a bookmark for that section. The .pdf may have internal links – for example, you can link Section 2 of the entry form to the first page of Section 2. Even individual items listed in the criteria for Section 2 may link to that specific page of supporting documentation. However, no external links to websites should be in the .pdf. For instance, don’t link to the photo album on your website as documentation for a show. The .pdf should generate a complete physical book if printed out, and external links will not create a complete book.

You can include a DVD or video as part of your yearbook. HOWEVER, no points will be awarded for that, and do not use it as your main method of providing documentation. The judges may NOT be able to open or access that piece, so do not build your documentation around it. Include all your documentation in the main yearbook .pdf. You can refer to John Washburn’s article in the AAC section of the AFMS website (amfed.org) that explains what the judges are looking for in your yearbook entry.

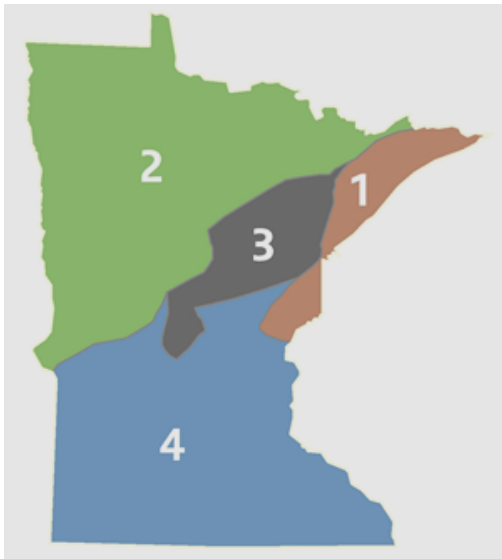
REMEMBER that the deadline for entry in the AFMS contest is February 15th, and the MWF deadline is January 15th. Please make sure you have downloaded the new entry form for contest year 2017 from the link on the homepage of the AFMS website. It’s available in both .pdf and Word. If you have any questions about the contest, please contact me at [rmkapta@comcast.net](mailto:rmkapta@comcast.net). I’m happy to clarify anything and always welcome suggestions!

## GEOLOGY: A REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017 (PART 1)

Bill Cordua, MWF Geology Committee Chair

Here are some geology news items from October 2016 to October 2017 that might interest MWF readers. Geology is a vibrant field with news coming almost every day.

Gold exploration in Minnesota? In 2016 the Minnesota Geological Survey released data on their prospecting program in an area southeast of Soudan in St. Louis County. Analysis of many carefully sieved and sized samples of glacial till was aimed at recognizing float gold and gold-bearing rock that may point toward a bedrock source. In the meantime, Anglo-Gold Ashanti, a huge gold mining company based in Johannesburg, South Africa, has asked for permission to drill some exploration holes on state-owned land northwest of Cook, in Koochiching County. Another company, this time locally owned Vermillion Gold, is drilling to find deposits near Virginia, Minnesota. All this activity is focused on the Archean Vermillion Greenstone belt. Similar belts have yielded economic gold deposits in adjacent Ontario.



*Minnesota geologic bedrock map by the Minnesota Minerals Coordinating Committee (mccmn.gov). Area 1 represents the Duluth Complex and associated rocks. The eastern point of Area 2 (the Superior Province) includes the areas of the Vermilion greenstone belt discussed above.*

There's also titanium in them there hills! A number of rich concentrations of the iron titanium oxide mineral ilmenite have been found in an ultramafic intrusive at the base of the 1.1-billion-year-old Duluth Gabbro complex. A pilot project done by the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Minnesota-Duluth has successfully developed techniques to economically process the ore into valuable titanium dioxide. The deposits are relatively shallow and could be mined by open pits with minor overburden removal.

Global carbon dioxide levels have risen above 400 ppm. The consequent lessening of Arctic sea ice allowed the first cruise ship to sail the Northwest Passage from Alaska to New York. In other atmospheric news, continued adherence to the Montreal Protocol on fluorocarbons has lessened degradation of the ozone layer, which is well on the way to recovering.

How deep does life go? Analysis of hydraulic fracking fluids returned from over 1.5 miles deep contains bacteria living at that depth in complex subsurface ecosystems. The hunt for these "frackibacter" microbes goes on in other locations, including rock cores. It is possible that a huge portion of the earth's biomass is subsurface, living in tiny rock pores.

And how far back does life go on earth? An article in the August, 2017 issue of *Nature* describes stromatolites found in 3.7-billion-year-old rocks in Greenland. Previously the oldest verified fossils were stromatolites from Australia that were about 3.5 billion years old. The amazing fossils were exposed after a covering blanket of ice melted. Who says global warming isn't useful?

On the topic of stuff covered by ice, recent studies by University of Edinburgh geologists revealed what may be no less than 91 volcanoes under Antarctic ice. These volcanoes don't seem to be active now.

And speaking of old life, some of the oldest traces of life in the 3.5-billion-year-old

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## DUES AND EVENTS FORMS ARE HERE! (AND ARE DUE JAN. 15TH)

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

The 2018 Midwest Federation forms for renewing club memberships are now available on our website ([www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)) and in this issue of the Midwest Federation News. Look for them! Meanwhile, please alert club officers to collect information for the forms.

One important piece of information needed for the DUES AND INSURANCE form is the total number of individual adult and youth members during the year completed in 2017. These figures are used for dues and insurance calculations. The rationale is that your total membership, by the end of the year, is usually about the same, so you always pay the current year dues based on your past experience. The treasurer needs this information before **January 15, 2018**, so our insurance can be activated on time.

Please provide a roster of current officers, including preferred mailing addresses, phone numbers and email address. If handwritten, please ensure that letters and numbers are legible. If an individual does not want this information published on the website, follow the directions on the form to indicate this. However, please provide all contact information so we can reach you.

Use the CALENDAR OF EVENTS form to submit details of upcoming shows and events during the coming year. You may include a flyer, printed on white paper, as additional information. If this information is submitted with the dues, we will make sure it gets to the website, newsletter, and directory coordinators. If it is submitted later, or separately, it is more likely to get overlooked.

Finally, and probably most important to many, the 2018 membership rates are the same as before. Our MWF Endowment Fund supports our special projects, helping to keep dues consistent from one year to the next. Dues are \$2.00 per adult and \$.50 per youth.

Insurance will stay the same for 2018. Our current rate is \$4.50 per individual to be covered by the policy. Clubs that submit their dues on time

(postmarked no later than January 15, 2018) may take a \$.25 per member discount. Please include **all** members when computing your insurance premium. (This was the decision made by the delegates at our most recent convention.)

**Remember:** the Federation insurance policy will cover groups of clubs jointly sponsoring shows or events **only if** all of the sponsoring clubs are current federation members and all of the sponsoring clubs purchased Federation insurance. Requests for insurance for these jointly sponsored events must include a list of all sponsoring clubs.

Questions about these forms or dues? Call Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer, or Martha Miss, Chair of the MWF Calendar of Events Committee, at 651-459-0343, or email Sandy at [MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz](mailto:MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz). Direct insurance questions to Marge Jensen at 218-546-8288 or [marjen@crosbyironton.net](mailto:marjen@crosbyironton.net).

## THE VOTES ARE IN!, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 2)*

from Michigan and Kathy Miller from Indiana, whose terms end October 31, 2018, and Deb Coursey from Illinois and Dennis Westman from Minnesota, whose terms end October 31, 2019. The immediate past president is chairman of the nominating committee; Tom Whitlatch will be stepping into the immediate past president's position.

Our officers in the MWF start their new terms on November 1 each year. These officers, as well as the executive committee chairmen and past presidents, are more than willing to help your club if there is something they can do for you.

The MWF is an advisory board. We don't exist to tell your club what to do and how to run your business. However, we are always willing to lend a hand or find someone who can help you when needed. Please don't hesitate to contact one of the officers or committee chairmen.



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2018 Club Dues (Use membership figures from year completed in 2017)

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

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

Do you want MWF Membership Cards?  Yes  No

### 2018 Club Insurance

Total Adults and Youth to be insured \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.50 (\$4.25 for qualifying clubs\*) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2018 receive a discounted insurance rate of \$4.25 per member)

Total Dues and Insurance Remitted: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

(Make check payable to Midwest Federation)

FORM, DUES, INSURANCE PAYMENTS & EVENTS LISTINGS are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2018

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 - Liaison** \_\_\_\_\_ 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/Facebook \_\_\_\_\_ Club Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the MWF Directory and Official Federation Mail to:

Choose 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Club

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADDITIONAL EVENT:

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Club

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Please include event listings for January, February, March and April 2019. \*\***  
Mail completed form with your dues. Questions? Call 651-459-0343

**DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2018**  
REMEMBER, this information, including contact information, will be published in the MWF Directory, posted on the MWF website, and listed in the MWF News.

**BULLETIN EDITORS' AIDS**

Sharon Marburger, Chair  
MWF Bulletin Editors' Aids Committee

**DEADLINE: JANUARY 5, 2018**

Hello, Editors!

After another year of editing your club's bulletin, keeping your members informed about activities, and providing educational tidbits, it is time to gather your bulletin items to send for competition in the MWF Bulletin Editors' Contest, sponsored by the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies ("MWF").

Your task has been challenging. Wise members appreciate what you do, and it is nice to receive local praise, but it is also good to get recognition from the outside world. Club members who contribute articles, poems, features, or special publications also deserve recognition and encouragement. This contest is one way to earn that recognition. After being judged at a regional level, the submissions are forwarded to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies ("AFMS") for competition nationwide. How rewarding for you and your authors to walk away with a first, second, or third place trophy from the MWF or AFMS. Even receiving a certificate for a lesser place is still something wonderful!

The 2018 Bulletin Contest packet contains the forms and instructions needed to enter your club's bulletin and the work of your authors. The contents of the packet will be posted on the MWF website, <http://www.amfed.org/mwf>. Contact me should you prefer that a packet be mailed to you; contact information is at the end of this article.

**Summary of General Rules**

1. The author and editor of the item must be a member of the club whose editor is submitting the item to the contest.

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**ILLINOIS TEENS ARE ROCK STARS**

Jeanine N. Mielecki, Vice President  
Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society

Twenty badges and several years after Brandon and Douglas Poy of Arlington Heights, Illinois, junior members of the Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (CRMS), began participating in the Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) badge program, the boys have completed their quest. The Poy brothers are not only the first in the State of Illinois, they are 28th and 29th in the nation, to finish the 20-badge program sponsored by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

The FRA program consists of a membership patch, 20 badges, and a "Rockhound Badge" for juniors who earn six of the 20 badges. Juniors earning all 20 badges are awarded an AFMS cloisonné pin and join the ranks of Rock Stars.



*Brandon and Douglas Poy with Alice Kozanecki. Photo courtesy of the Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society.*

"The AFMS Future Rockhounds of America badge program gives youngsters a chance to sample the many different aspects of the hobby by using older members of the club as 'reference materials' to help them acquire their badges," according to Alice Kozanecki, the CRMS Coordinator of the club's Geo Juniors group. "Brandon and Douglas were among the

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## BULLETIN EDITORS' AIDS: HOW TO ENTER THE ANNUAL CONTEST, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 7)*

2. All entries must have been originally published during 2017 (January through November only). They should not be revised in any way.

3. All entries (except Special Publications) must have been published in the club bulletin.

4. The subject matter must be related to some phase of the earth science hobby.

5. There should be no copyright violations.

6. Only one entry is allowed per author, per class, per club, except that any number of special publications may be entered. (See below for specific information for contest submissions.)

7. Bulletins:

- Mini Bulletins (6 pages or less)
- Small Bulletins (7 to 11 pages)
- Large Bulletins (12 pages or more)
- New Editors (any number of pages)

8. Articles/Features/Poetry/Drawings:

- Original Articles, Adult
- Original Articles, Adult Advanced
- Original Articles, Junior (ages 12-17)
- Original Articles, Junior (under age 12)
- Original Adult Poetry
- Original Junior Poetry
- Written Features
- Drawn Features
- Special Publications

9. Entries of bulletins and special publications must be "original printings" exactly as distributed to the club members. (Exception: If the item was distributed only by electronic mail or on CD/DVD, then a "hard copy" must be submitted on one-sided paper.)

10. Entries of articles, poems, and features should be sent as actual pages from the bulletin. Photocopies of an entire page are acceptable if the page includes the bulletin title, date, and page number. Be sure to include any continuation pages.

11. If a club belongs to more than one regional federation, the editor must pick only one federation contest to enter. If a club has more than one bulletin, only one may be entered in competition.

12. The act of entering the contest constitutes the granting of permission to the MWF, the AFMS, and their member clubs to reprint any materials entered, provided the author and the name and date of the original publication are properly credited.

### How to Enter the Contest

The MWF contest uses basic AFMS contest rules with some modifications, as shown below. The complete AFMS rules and some interesting essays by expert judges are posted on the AFMS website at <http://amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm>.

1. Read all the General Rules, Additional Rules, and Score Sheets that pertain to the item(s) to be entered.

2. Select the proper score sheet for each item. Make as many copies as needed for all intended entries.

3. Fill out the information at the top of each score sheet, down through the CLUB CITY/STATE/ZIP line. Do not mark anything below that line – the BEAC or the judges select which criteria to use. Use the fillable forms on the website. If you cannot use the online forms, please print clearly and include the 5-digit or 9-digit zip code in the editor's address, since contest results may be mailed there. The club's address is optional except for city and state.

4. To enter your bulletin:

- Submit two copies of the May 2017 bulletin.
- Attach the proper score sheet with the required information to each of the copies.
- If your bulletin did not have a May issue, submit the nearest one before May.

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## BULLETIN EDITORS' AIDS: HOW TO ENTER THE ANNUAL CONTEST, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 8)*

5. To enter anything other than your bulletin:
  - Submit two copies of each selection.
  - Attach the proper score sheet with the required information to each of the copies.
  - **If the author is a junior member, be sure to include the age of the author at the time of the publication so that the entry may be judged appropriately.**
6. Mail all entries, postmarked no later than January 5, 2018, to the BEAC Chairman:
 

Sharon Marburger  
P.O. Box 64  
Hickman, NE 68372-0064

For confirmation of delivery, include your e-mail address or a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

### Eligibility of Previous Winners

1. If a bulletin won a first-place MWF trophy in 2017, it is not eligible for MWF competition in any bulletin class in 2018, unless it has a new editor. The new editor may enter in the New Editors competition.
2. If a bulletin won first place in the MWF in 2017 but did not win first place in the AFMS, it is eligible to compete in the AFMS this year. The editor should send two copies of any one issue to the BEAC, with the label "FOR AFMS" on the score sheets.
3. Authors and editors who won a first-place MWF trophy in any class other than bulletins in 2017 are not eligible for MWF competition in that same class in 2018, but they may compete in another class. (For example, the author of the first-place adult advanced article could compete in special publications, features, or poetry.)
4. Articles, features, and poems are eligible from any bulletin regardless of the bulletin's prior award status.
5. The first, second, and third place MWF winners in each class will be submitted, by the MWF BEAC Chairman, to the AFMS Bulletin Editors'

Contest, unless they are ineligible due to being a first-place winner in the previous two years of the AFMS contest. Do not send your entries directly to the AFMS.

6. If unsure whether a bulletin or author is eligible to compete in the MWF, check the listing on the MWF website or contact the BEAC.

Please check the MWF website for further information. If you still have questions, please contact Sharon Marburger, mamamar7880@outlook.com, 402-429-3323. I look forward to reading your submissions! Good luck!

## ILLINOIS TEENS ARE ROCK STARS, CONT.

*(Continued from page 7)*

first Geo Juniors in 2012 when CRMS was the first rock club in the State of Illinois to establish the FRA badge program. The club has given out 78 badges since beginning the program. [Brandon and Douglas] are the first designated Rock Stars in the State of Illinois."

The 20 badges include Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Leadership, Rocking on the Computer, Reaching Across Generations, and more. Badge requirements can be adjusted to match the age range of the children.

Founded in 1946, CRMS is dedicated to increasing knowledge of the various aspects of the earth sciences and lapidary arts, including geology, paleontology, paleobotany, mineralogy, and jewelry making.

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., with activities for the Geo Juniors group beforehand, on the second Saturday of most months. The meetings are held at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Avenue in Skokie. Visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Alice Kozanecki at info@chicagorocks.org or Jeanine N. Mielecki at (312) 623-1554, jaynine9@aol.com.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 1)*

Unfortunately, life intruded in that annoying way that it has, and my rock tumbling career was rather short-lived.

About ten years later we had taken up camping and were making yearly trips to the Keweenaw Peninsula, a place I had become obsessed with. I started collecting rocks again, going to rock shops, etc. I think maybe the visit to the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Tech in Houghton may have been what really ignited the passion. Assorted rock and mineral books, lapidary books, and such followed. I joined the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and became the vice president.

After a couple years of doing cabochons I became interested in faceting and became a member of the Midwest Faceters Guild. Over several years I became President, webmaster and newsletter editor.

My wife Cindy and I have also been members of Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club of Holland, Michigan for several years. Unfortunately I find myself still mired in the workaday world, so my hobbies do not receive the attention they deserve. I also suffer from the "Too Many Hobbies" disorder.

I believe that there are two basic types of rockhounds, Collectors and Lapidarists. Now I'm not saying that Collectors don't do any lapidary work, or that Lapidary people don't collect anything. I just think that with most of us the emphasis is with one or the other. After a year or so in the rockhound world it became clear that I was much more interested in the lapidary aspect of the hobby than the collecting. Please accept my apologies, but I am not the man for your mineral identification needs. However, I do know people who are experts at that sort of thing, and I will do my best to help you get your answer, because that's what rockhounds do.

To conclude, I have a couple of requests. I would appreciate those clubs who email their newsletters to add me to their list. I want to get an idea of what is happening in the clubs of our Federation. I want to get an idea of we are doing right and what we

might be doing wrong. Let me know what we can do to improve and what you need. Please contact me at [d-root@comcast.net](mailto:d-root@comcast.net).

Looking forward to a rockin' 2018.

## EXPLORING PBS FOR EARTH SCIENCE

Marge Collins, Scholarship Committee Chair

The title "Paleo Sleuth" showed up in our local PBS TV schedule – without any description. Thanks to Google, I found it is a one-hour program about hunting for fossils in the Ashfall area in Nebraska.

Another title, "Born to Explore," caught my eye also, but it is a more general program about locations that are off the beaten path. Each segment "celebrates the wildlife, diverse culture and natural wonders" of a specific area. Some could be very interesting.

An episode of "Nova" entitled "Life's Rocky Start" is a fascinating look at the connection between Earth's minerals and the genesis of life here. It's available on DVD through the PBS website.



*"Mineral Explorers" at the Oceanview Mine in California. Photo from the show's Facebook page.*

Too late, we found that "Mineral Explorers" was shown during the weekday mid-afternoon schedule, when we never have the television on. I'll be sending the station a note to ask if they will show this series again.

If we let our public television stations know that we are interested in earth science programs, there's a good chance they will broadcast them – hopefully at a time we can watch them!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

| <b>Date and Time</b>                             | <b>Organization</b>                              | <b>Place</b>  | <b>Contact</b>                               |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Oct. 20-22</b><br>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,<br>l.r.laylin@gmail.com        |
| <b>Oct. 20-22</b><br>Fri & Sat, 10-6, Sun 11-5   | Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society               | County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Road, <b>Fort Wayne, IN</b>                  | Russell Greim,<br>3riversshow@gmail.com      |
| <b>Oct. 21-22</b><br>Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4           | Des Moines Lapidary Society                      | State Fairgrounds, Knapp Center, 3000 E. Grand Avenue, <b>Des Moines, IA</b>  | Karen Leibold,<br>kcleibold@aol.com          |
| <b>Oct. 21-22</b><br>Sat & Sun, 10-5             | Flint Rock and Gem Club                          | Carter Middle School, 300 Rogers Lodge, <b>Clio, MI</b>                       | Bill Wendling,<br>bwrockbarn@centurytel.net  |
| <b>Oct. 21-22</b><br>Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4          | Minnesota Mineral Club                           | Armory, 8180 Belden Boulevard, <b>Cottage Grove, MN</b>                       | Maureen Scaglia,<br>mascaglia@comcast.net    |
| <b>Oct. 21-22</b><br>Sat & Sun, 10-5             | South Suburban Earth Science Club                | Prairie State College, 202 Halsted, <b>Chicago Heights, IL</b>                | Jan Podbielski,<br>Jan@Janskidesigns.com     |
| <b>Oct. 28-29</b><br>Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5          | Akron Mineral Society                            | Emidio Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Road, <b>Cuyahoga Falls, OH</b>                | Sandy Sharter,<br>gemboree@outlook.com       |
| <b>Oct. 28-29</b><br>Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3:30       | Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club                  | Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 Locust Street, <b>Davenport, IA</b>      | Craig & Kellie Moore,<br>kalsinean@gmail.com |
| <b>Nov. 4</b><br>Sat, doors open at 7            | Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society auction | Democratic Club, 23400 Wick Road, <b>Taylor, MI</b>                           | Dan Gumina, Rtbrains@aol.com                 |
| <b>Nov. 4-5</b><br>Sat & Sun, 10-5               | Mid-Michigan Rock Club                           | Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour, <b>Midland, MI</b>                     | Debra Young,<br>debiyoung50@yahoo.com        |
| <b>Nov. 4-5</b><br>Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4            | Racine Geological Society                        | Fountain Hall, 8505 Durand (Hwy. 11), <b>Sturtevant, WI</b>                   | John Lowman,<br>Lowman.John@sbcglobal.net    |
| <b>Nov. 11</b><br>Sat 10-5                       | Gem City Rock Club                               | Community Room, Quincy Mall, 32 <sup>nd</sup> and Broadway, <b>Quincy, IL</b> | Jane Huelsmeyer,<br>jhuelsm@gmail.com        |
| <b>Nov. 11-12</b><br>Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4          | Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club                  | Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive, <b>Crystal, MN</b>                      | Martha Miss,<br>info@rock-biz.biz            |
| <b>Nov. 11-12</b><br>Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4           | Northwest Illinois Rock Club                     | Highland Community College, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, <b>Freeport, IL</b>      | Brian Green,<br>bgreen57@hotmail.com         |
| <b>Nov. 13</b><br>Monday, 7 p.m.                 | Michigan Mineralogical Society auction           | Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward, <b>Bloomfield Hills, MI</b>   | Brad Zylman,<br>bzylman@twmi.rr.com          |
| <b>Nov. 17-19</b><br>Fri 3-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5 | St. Louis Mineral and Gem Society                | White-Rodgers Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, <b>St. Louis, MO</b>     | Melissa Perucca,<br>show@StLRockClub.com     |
| <b>Nov. 18-19</b><br>Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-5        | Madison Gem & Mineral Club                       | Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, <b>Madison, WI</b>     | Nevin Franke,<br>burniesrockshop.com         |

**December Issue Submissions Deadline: November 8th!**

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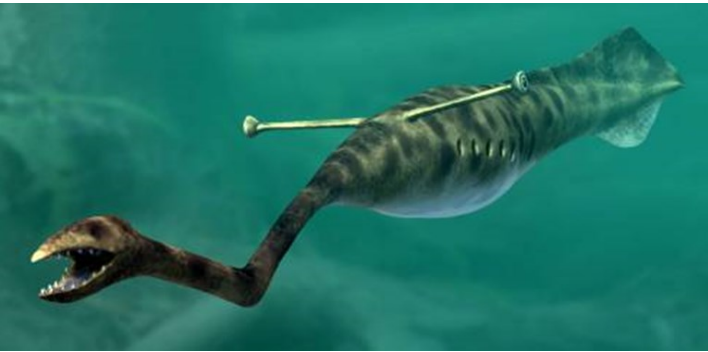
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## GEOLOGY: A REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017 (PART 1), CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 3)*

Australian rocks suggest they were deposited on land in a hot spring-geyser environment similar to what we now see at Yellowstone. This has raised questions as to whether life first appeared in such places, rather than around submarine hot springs, as many of the leading models suggest.



*Tullimonstrum gregarium*, by Nobu Tamura  
([nobu.tamura@yahoo.com](mailto:nobu.tamura@yahoo.com); [spinops.blogspot.com](http://spinops.blogspot.com)), via  
Wikimedia Commons.

Collectors hunting at the old coal mine spoils heaps in Illinois (such as Mazon Creek), prize an enigmatic fossil called the “Tully Monster”. New work by paleontologists at Yale have determined this to be a primitive vertebrate, somewhat akin to the lamprey eel.

More weird fossils. Many of us delight in seeing pyritized fossils, but looking more closely can reveal surprises. In May, 2017, researchers at Western Illinois University announced the finding of a cluster of spheres 200 micrometers across inside a pyritized trilobite fossil from Ordovician strata exposed near Utica, New York. These are interpreted to be pyritized trilobite eggs! If this is the case, it sheds light on the means of reproduction of trilobites 450 or so million years ago.

*Editor’s Note: Dr. Cordua’s 2017 geology review will be concluded in the upcoming issue of MWF News. Be sure to check it out for information about a 122-foot-long dinosaur, earthquakes (there’s an app for those), and hot springs in space.*