



# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Root, President

When I first got involved with rock clubs I found it very curious that they all had yearly shows for the purpose of raising money. What, I wondered, did these non-profit organizations need all this money for? In a surprisingly short span of time I had become an officer in that first club. I joined other clubs, became an officer in those, and ended up attending far more board meetings than I care to remember. When one of my clubs needed to change their show location I was the guy who arranged for the new venue and lined up all the dealers. I even audited the books for two of my clubs.



Where I'm going with all this is that I'm a little familiar with rock club finances, and the clubs I have been associated with all have healthy bank balances. Now I know there are operating expenses, facility costs, MWF insurance, AFMS scholarships, the Endowment Fund, and many clubs do their own scholarships for local students. And the clubs I have

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF YOUR HOSTS

Judy Washburn

Addendum by Carole Harp

Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (IL)

*[Editor's Note: The MWF annual convention will be held Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, Illinois, hosted by the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society. This article was mostly written by the late Judy Washburn, a longtime member of LOESS as well as a former president of the MWF. Carole Harp is the current secretary of LOESS.]*

In 1953 Dale Hayes, an ardent rockhound, held meetings in his home, the goal being to establish a rock club in Springfield. Current member Bill Zachary was one of those first organizers.

In February of 1954, the organization was formed, a constitution was drawn up with the help of the Midwest Federation, and officers were elected. Dr. Carlton Condit, then Curator of Geology at the Illinois State Museum, acted as chair of the first meeting. The dues were \$5.00 for adults and \$1.00 for juniors. This first meeting was held in the lobby of the second floor

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### MWF OFFICERS

President: David Root  
1051 Meadow Lane  
Jenison, MI 49428  
616-498-4699  
d-root@comcast.net

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Kevin Ponzio  
Post Office Box 44  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
920-980-6413  
earthprospect@frontier.com

2nd VP: John Donker  
7129 Edgewood Avenue  
Jenison, MI 49428  
616-457-0556  
jjredon65@comcast.net

Secretary: Donna Moore  
25235 N. State Route 97  
Cuba, IL 61427  
309-789-6501  
mwfsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sandy Fuller  
8445 Grange Boulevard  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016  
651-459-0343  
mwftras@rock-biz.biz

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED**

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been associated with manage all that and are still able to grow the bank balance every year. This is accomplished by successful shows made possible by the voluntary efforts of the club members, year after year.

I would like to propose that clubs with healthy bank accounts consider giving a little back to those volunteers who make it all possible. One idea, near and dear to my heart, is lapidary equipment, which is prohibitively expensive for a lot of people. The club can purchase equipment and establish a lending policy to give members a chance to try their hand at some lapidary work. Another idea is to partially subsidize field trips. The club could pay for a charter bus to the Field Museum in Chicago as an example or purchase nice materials to give out as door prizes. The specifics are not important as long as we do a little giving back instead of always just taking.

I am going to close by discussing an unfortunate situation that developed recently. Those of us who serve the MWF are volunteers and some of the jobs require a lot of work. One of the hardest jobs is that of the Insurance Chair, who works directly with the representative of the insurance company. The insurance company has the right to expect honesty from the MWF. The rule is very simple, you pay for

the number of members you have. There have been clubs trying to circumvent that simple rule to save money. Our Insurance Chair, being a person of integrity, chose to resign rather than be a party to this. She will not be easy to replace. Let us keep the standards of the MWF high and keep things in proper perspective.

### **WHO RECEIVES THE MWF NEWSLETTER?**

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

According to the policy of the MWF, the treasurer and the editor in each club should receive the newsletter, plus one other officer designated by the club. Of course, this was conceived before we started sending out the newsletter by email, so there was a concern about postage costs.

The club is entitled to three printed copies if there is a newsletter editor in your club, otherwise two copies may be sent. If your treasurer or editor is an MWF Executive Committee member, he or she receives the newsletter anyway, and his or her printed copy may be sent to another club member who would like to receive it.

The MWF Dues Form asks the person filling out the information to designate who is to receive the newsletter and whether they wish a printed copy or an e-mail copy. Since there is no additional cost for how many officers receive the email copy, the newsletter editor includes anyone with a valid email address. HOWEVER, many of the forms have no one designated to receive the newsletter in any form – printed or emailed. So, if the proper people in your club are not receiving the newsletter, please notify Secretary Donna Moore at [mwfsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mwfsecretary@gmail.com) of who is to receive it and in what form.

Originally the idea of the editor and treasurer receiving the newsletter was so that the editor would have any newsworthy information from the MWF for the club newsletter. And the treasurer was selected because MWF executives kept hearing that the treasurer did not receive the dues form so the club's

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## WHO RECEIVES THE NEWSLETTER?, CONT.

*(Continued from page 2)*

dues could be sent in before the deadline of January 15<sup>th</sup>.

When we started sending the newsletter by email, we asked the state directors to send the email copy to someone in each club who could forward it to anyone in their club who would like to read it. Now, anyone who wishes to receive an email copy can send an email to Valerie J. Meyers, MWF newsletter editor, and she will add you to the list. Her email address is [vjmwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:vjmwriter@yahoo.com).

If you think you should be receiving the newsletter by email and are not, send Valerie a message to make sure she has your email address correct. The dues forms are sometimes not legibly written, so we may not have your email right. Also, one designated person in a club who receives the newsletter by email can forward it to everyone in the club.

ALSO, if your email address changes, please let Valerie know. We have no way of sending the newsletter to you if we don't have your current address.

The MWF Newsletter is our first line of communication between the MWF Executive Committee and officers and the MWF clubs and members. Please take a moment at your next club meeting to check if this line is open.



*April Issue  
Submission Deadline  
Is March 7th!*

## TRY YOUR LUCK FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

There's still time to buy tickets for the drawing benefiting the AFMS Endowment Fund. Prizes are donated by members or clubs across the country; this year's include jewelry, bolo ties, a framed fossil fish, and wonderful mineral samples.

Tickets are \$5 apiece or \$20 for five. Make out a check to AFMS Endowment Fund, and send it to: J.C. and Donna Moore, 25235 N. Illinois Highway 97, Cuba, IL 61427. Be sure you get it to them before March 20th! Then just cross your fingers for the results of the drawing, which will be held at the AFMS Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina, on April 7th. Good luck!

## USING GIS OR MOBILE MAPPING APPS

Ruth Hidalgo

From the American Lands Access Association

Newsletter, October-December 2017

Via the Minnesota Mineral Club's Rock Rustler News

There are numerous apps for mobile phones that will allow you track your routes and favorite collecting spots. You need not have a separate GPS unit to create maps anymore. These apps work even when you do not have cell service.

My app of choice is Avenza. I started using an iPhone app called Terra Nova well over 15 years ago, and it has evolved into Avenza. I have used the data stored in that app to make several National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) comments. Basically, this is how it works.

You download the app.

You select the maps you want to download. Some are free, some you have to purchase. There are now thousands of maps to choose from. You can even download a geological map that will show you where you are and what the geology is around you. I prefer

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF LOESS, HOSTS OF THE 2018 MWF CONVENTION

*(Continued from page 1)*

of the Illinois State Museum, as were the next ten meetings.

The charter for the club was officially issued, and the club became affiliated with the Midwest Federation, in March of 1954. Field trips that first year included Dickson Mounds, quarries in Peal and Nebo, a trip to Hamilton for geodes and one to Nauvoo.

The first Rock Show was held in Edwards Place Art Gallery, where meetings were then held, on February 24-26, 1955. On May 14, 1955, Mrs. Frank Pauli submitted her drawing of our club emblem which was accepted, and is the one still in use today. The first LOESS Bulletin was published in February of 1956. Hazel Barnes, Secretary at the time, became the first editor.

There was no show held in 1959, but an exhibit was created for the Illinois State Museum. In 1960, LOESS joined with the Siloam Springs Earth Science Club to hold a joint show at the New Berlin fairgrounds. This was to start a tradition for several years. In 1964, the first really big show was held in the Illinois Building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

At this same time, the Board also decided to call the show a "Collectorama" as the suffix "rama" had become popular for many events, such as "Foodorama," around this time. Fliers were printed up with "Collectorama" printed in bold letters at the top. Shortly after the publicity was out, the club received a letter from an attorney that stated that the club was infringing on a copyrighted name. His client was suing the club and requesting that the name cease to be used. The antique collector suing the club used the name "Collectorama" in his show and sales.

The club leadership was devastated and not sure just what to do. They consulted an attorney. The club's attorney was able to settle the suit for about \$200 – all the money LOESS had in the bank at that time! That was a bitter lesson, but the club survived and stuck to a less trendy name – Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show.



*A more recent LOESS Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show.  
Photo from [www.LOESS.org](http://www.LOESS.org).*

By 1986, LOESS' membership was dwindling, and all-out efforts were made to turn things around. Meetings were moved to the Illinois State Museum. Efforts to emphasize programs at meetings and provide quality field trips paid off.

The monthly bulletin was re-established in 1987, and the club's 40th anniversary in 1994 laid the groundwork for re-establishing an annual show. The Illinois Building served as the site of the new generation of Gem, Mineral & Fossil Shows. LOESS developed a presence on the Internet.

In 2002, with membership well over the 200 mark, LOESS hosted the Midwest Federation Convention in conjunction with the annual show. It was a very successful show and raised the bar for LOESS.

2016 saw a major change for LOESS. Our membership had grown to about 350 people and the Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show had also seen steady growth. So the decision was made to move to a much larger and newer building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. This allowed us to tremendously expand the kids' activities and present a more extensive special exhibit and more member displays. Plus, there was plenty of room for attendees. That year's show had a record attendance of nearly 3,000 people. In 2018, we hope to top 2016 as we welcome the Midwest Federation to our show.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>March 9-11</b> Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City	KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador, <b>Kansas City, MO</b>	Bruce Stinemetz, brucestinemetz@att.net
<b>March 10</b> Sat 6-9	Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society silent auction	Gym, St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie, <b>Skokie, IL</b>	Jeanine N. Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com
<b>March 10-11</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Geodeland Earth Science Clubs	Student Union ballroom, Western Illinois University, <b>Macomb, IL</b>	Ed Wagner, loesseditor@gmail.com
<b>March 11</b> Sun 1-4	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Geology Day	Pioneer Park, Codington & West Van Dorn, <b>Lincoln, NE</b>	Sharon Marburger, lgmc.editor@outlook.com
<b>March 2-4</b> Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society	Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Road, <b>Richmond, IN</b>	Judy Burton, JLEEBurton@woh.rr.com
<b>March 10-11</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Kettle Moraine Geological Society	County Fair Park, 3000 Highway PV, <b>West Bend, WI</b>	John Rettler, johnrettler@gmail.com
<b>March 23-25</b> Fri 4-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Rock Hobby Club	Machinist Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, <b>Bridgeton, MO</b>	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburt@juno.com
<b>March 24-25</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Badger Lapidary and Geological Society	Craig Center Building, County Fair- grounds, 1301 Craig, <b>Janesville, WI</b>	Debbie Wehinger, jdrules3@gmail.com
<b>March 24-25</b> Sat 8:30-6, Sun 9:30-5	Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society	Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6 <sup>th</sup> Street NW, <b>Cedar Rapids, IA</b>	Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
<b>March 24-25</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois (ESCONI)	DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, <b>Wheaton, IL</b>	Dave Carlson, fossil54@att.net
<b>April 5-7</b> Thurs & Fri 9:30-9 Sat 9:30-7	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club	Rogers Plaza Town Center, 28 <sup>th</sup> Street at Clyde Park, <b>Wyoming, MI</b>	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
<b>April 7</b> Sat 10-3	Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society open house with displays and demonstrations	North Suburban Library, 6340 N. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St., <b>Loves Park, IL</b>	Duane Cushing, tcdc78@comcast.net
<b>April 7-8</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Columbus Rock & Mineral Society	Northland Performing Arts Center, 4411 Tamarack Blvd., <b>Columbus, OH</b>	Craig Kramer, 614-436-4511
<b>April 7-8</b> Sat 9:30-5, Sun 10-4	Des Plaines Valley Geological Society	Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch, <b>Des Plaines, IL</b>	Lois Zima, 847-298-4653
<b>April 7-8</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club	Lancaster Event Center, 84 <sup>th</sup> & Havelock, <b>Lincoln, NE</b>	Jayne Beer, jbeer60070@aol.com
<b>April 14-15</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Central Illinois Gem and Mineral Club	Lester Building, Progress City, 4140 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Progress Street, <b>Decatur, IL</b>	Tony Kapta, tkapta@comcast.net
<b>April 14-15</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Southern Illinois Earth Science Club	Marion City Pavilion, 1602 Sioux Drive, <b>Marion, IL</b>	Mike Chontofalsky, chontofalsky@att.net
<b>April 21-22</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society	Eau Claire Expo Center, 5530 Fairview, <b>Eau Claire, WI</b>	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
<b>April 21-22</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Fulton County Rockhounds	Donaldson Center, Wallace Park, 250 S. Avenue D, <b>Canton, IL</b>	George Coursey, 70georgecoursey@gmail.com



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>April 28-29</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Akron Mineral Society	Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath, <b>Cuyahoga Falls, OH</b>	Sandy Shorter, Gemboree@outlook.com
<b>April 28-29</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Miami County Gem and Mineral Club	Duke Lundgard Bldg., County Fairgrounds, 650 N. County Road 25-A, <b>Troy, OH</b>	Dewey Buck, Dewey.Buck@pcmg.com
<b>April 28-29</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4	River Valley Rockhounds	Webster County Fairgrounds, 22770 Old Highway 169, <b>Fort Dodge, IA</b>	Robert Wolf, midnightwriter@frontier.net
<b>April 28-29</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Summit Lapidary Club	Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Road, <b>Cuyahoga Falls, OH</b>	Gujo Kotch, gemboree@outlook.com
<b>May 5</b> Sat 9-4	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society	Elder Johnson Pavilion, Burns Park, <b>North Little Rock, AR</b>	Barbara Champagne, cagmagsprez@gmail.com
<b>May 5-6</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society	Crow Wing County Fairgrounds, 2000 SE 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, <b>Brainerd, MN</b>	Sharon Smith, Sharon@agatesrock.com
<b>May 5-6</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Fieldhouse, Marshfield High School, 1401 E. Becker Road, <b>Marshfield, WI</b>	Cynthia Kelman, kelman@tznet.com

## USING GIS OR MOBILE MAPPING APPS FOR ROCKHOONDING, CONT.

*(Continued from page 3)*

the BLM maps and USGS Topo maps for trail tracking. You have to have internet service to download a map, but not to use the app once the map is downloaded.

When in the field, you open the app and you will be able to see where you are on the map.

You can then choose to record your track or trail as you drive or hike. Save the trail and the next time you go out in the field, just follow the trail on your map and you will know how to get back to that collecting spot. Gone are the days of trying to remember what fork you took or wondering if you're on the right path. You can then export that information to Google Earth or other GIS programs. You can even email it to your friends.

You can also choose to place markers on the map showing collecting areas and use that data the same way.

You can insert a GPS coordinate a friend gave you and see where it is on the map relative to where you are.

You can use the data to easily create maps to attach to your formal NEPA comments. This gives the agency the exact trail you use and shows it to them on their own map. Alternatively, you can export the data to Google Earth or other GIS mapping programs and create maps to attach from there. I used a trail exported to Google Earth to create a map I attached to a formal comment on the West Mojave (WEMO) Travel Management Plan, where the Bureau of Land Management had not included a road that rockhounds use in their inventory. In this way they could see that the road clearly existed, as you could see it on the satellite image in the map I attached.

Nowadays, making formal comments is much easier, thanks to apps like Avenza. If you are not taking advantage of this technology to make your formal comments, give a try. If you are not speaking up because you think it is too complicated, try using this kind of technology. You may find it is easier and less time consuming than you think.

## MAMMOTH SITE IN SOUTH DAKOTA: A PLEISTOCENE JACKPOT

Steve Mulqueen, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
August 2016 Rockhound Ramblings  
Via the January 2018 T-Town Rockhound of the  
Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society

In June of 1974, grading operations began at a proposed housing development site within the community of Hot Springs in Fall River County, South Dakota. Heavy equipment immediately began uncovering large fossil mammal bones.

Grading operations ceased, allowing paleontologists to identify the content and extent of the fossil deposit. After its discovery, the excavation became an active paleontological dig site that has uncovered 61 complete fossil mammoth skeletons, including 58 Columbian Mammoths and three Woolly Mammoths. These fossil bones have been dated at approximately 26,000 years old.

These and other remains represent a period when mammoths and other mammals roamed the High Plains of North America. Other fossils found during excavations include extinct and ancient varieties of camel, llama, giant short-faced bear, wolf, coyote and white-tailed prairie dog. Bird feathers, fish skeletons and mollusk shells have also been found in this deposit, which has been identified as an ancient sinkhole. Bone, scat (fossil fecal material), plant and shell fossils that have been removed from the excavations have also been identified, cataloged and preserved.

Most of the mammoth remains have been kept in place, with minor alterations made for fossil preservation or for protection from damage during excavation. The fossil bones are very fragile, having the consistency of chalk. Preservatives are applied to the bones in order to harden the remains.

The site was a karst sinkhole and water source that was formed over 26,000 years ago when a limestone cavern collapsed. The limestone consists of the Minnelusa Formation with associated shale of the Spearfish Formation. This karst sink measured 65 feet deep and 120' X 150' in area and formed an opening for warm spring water to percolate upward to the bottom of the sink. Mammoths and other large animals

recognized the spring as a water and food source, and became trapped after entering the sinkhole.

Dr. Larry Agenbroad was the principal investigator at the site beginning in 1974 until his death in 2014 at age 81. Numerous volunteers work every day with the tedious job of excavating, preserving and identifying fossils. A few paid staff



*Photo by Jllm06, via Wikimedia Commons.*

members and scientists work to keep the museum building open and to continue with the research.

Today, the Mammoth Site is not only an active fossil dig site and museum but is recognized as a National Natural Landmark and research center for Pleistocene studies. Its mission statement: "Our mission is the preservation, research and interpretation of The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, South Dakota, and the development of a broad understanding of the Quaternary record across a global framework."

The museum is open every day. Visitors can take tours and watch active excavation operations for a nominal entrance fee. The entrance fee helps pay for the costs associated with the museums operations, excavations and staffing.

Source of Information: Refer to [www.mammothsite.org](http://www.mammothsite.org), the official web site for The Mammoth Site, operated by Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, South Dakota, Inc.

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
vjmwriter@yahoo.com  
Post Office Box 13456  
Overland Park, KS 66282-3456

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**It is MWF policy that its name and logo may not be used for commercial purposes.**  
**Please notify the Secretary of any violations.**  
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### STUDY GROUP TACKLES MINERALS WITH ALUMINUM (G, H, I)

Kreigh Tomaszewski, President  
Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club (Michigan)

No better time than the start of a new year to look at some new mineral specimens. Recently our MWF study group looked at aluminum containing minerals that start with the letters G, H, or I.

We started this month with Gahnite and Galaxite, Gedrite, Gehlenite, and Gibbsite, which is one of only three trihydroxides of Aluminum.

Then we looked at Grandviewite, a turquoise-colored mineral known only from the Grandview Mine that was not formally named and described until 2007. The Grandview Mine is on Horseshoe Mesa in the Grand Canyon. The specimen came from old survey samples collected before the National Park was formed.

We continued passing specimens with Grossular, Gyrolite, two ancient tectosilicates Harmotome and Hauyne (named before -ite was the accepted ending for minerals), Hendricksite, Hibanite, Holmquistite, Hornblende, and Howieite.



The bright blue-green needles are grandviewite. National Park Service photo by Michael Quinn.

We ended with the cyclosilicate Iolite. A theory exists that the sunstone had polarizing attributes and was used as a navigation instrument by seafarers in the Viking Age. An Iolite sunstone found in 2013 off Alderney, in the wreck of a 16th-century warship, may lend evidence of the existence of sunstones as navigational devices.

We will continue our aluminum mineral studies at Blandford Nature Center's Learning Lab in Grand Rapids, Michigan.. Send me a message at kreigh@gmail.com and I'll let you know about our next meeting.