



# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

December 2018 - Issue No. 577

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin Ponzio, MWF President

Hello, everyone!

Brrrr, the cold air is moving in. Sometimes we get to field collect this late in the year. For some, the ground is frozen or even covered in snow. This can be a great time to start straightening up the lapidary bench. You know, the machine hidden under that pile of rock you've been planning to polish? Oh, good, your bench is perfectly clean. Now you can have fun polishing in the months to come.



In the months to come, bring some of the newly polished stones to a club meeting. You may have been too busy during the hectic summer, but now is a perfect time to share your love of the hobby. It is amazing to see the enjoyment at a club meeting when everyone is talking about rocks.

In case you haven't heard, the world's largest emerald (5,655 carats) was discovered in October this

*(Continued on page 3)*

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR A GOOD TIME

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The 2019 MWF and AFMS Conventions will be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 22-24, 2019. The Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society puts on a very nice show with large attendance numbers, so even if you don't plan to attend the MWF or AFMS meetings, you might want to visit the show.

The MWF Executive Committee and the Council of Delegates discussed the practice of printing and mailing convention information packets. The conclusion at both meetings was that we don't need to do that extra work and expense.

So, this year the information to register for the convention is on the MWF Website ([www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)) under Convention. You may also follow this link to the site of the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society, who are the hosts for 2019 ([www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org/AFMSForms.html](http://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org/AFMSForms.html)). Please make sure someone in your club can print this off and get it to the delegate from your club and

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**A GREAT JUNIORS PROGRAM RESTARTS**

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair

Before our Internet and Facebook era – way, way back when folks like me were mere youngsters – we had this thing called “mail” (minus the “e”). This thing involved pencils or pens and paper and stamps and envelopes that you licked. In that distant time, kids may have partnered with kids from schools in countries far and wide to become pen pals.

Such letter-exchange programs enabled you to reach beyond your day-to-day experience to distant and exotic lands, broadening your horizons as you waited for weeks on end for a response to a letter you mailed in an honest-to-goodness mailbox. The cool stamps on the envelopes were as fun to receive and collect as the message inside!

In 2011, Patricia Egolf of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, New York, suggested a new spin on this for junior rockhounds, namely, a “Rock Pals” program in conjunction with our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program.

Kids love the different rocks and fossils to be found across our great nation, but they and their parents can’t necessarily afford to buy them nor to travel widely to collect them. How wonderful it would be, Patricia thought, for juniors in a club to band together

to collect local samples to trade with juniors in other clubs across the country. With that goal in mind, Pat helped us establish Rock Pals.

A club gathers 20-25 or so local specimens in sizes small enough to fit in a medium-size flat-rate box available at the U.S. Post Office. After the club makes arrangements with another club, each mails a box to the other with samples and labels for what’s inside. This, amazingly enough, is simply not to be accomplished via emails or text messages!

Sadly, Pat passed away all too soon in 2012. To honor her memory and spirit, we re-named this effort the “Patricia Egolf Rock Pals Program.” Participating clubs and contact persons are listed on the Kids Corner section of the AFMS website, [amfed.org/fra/rock\\_pals](http://amfed.org/fra/rock_pals). To start a trade, email or call a local contact to make sure the club is still actively involved, to see how many kids are in that club, and to make suitable arrangements for a rock swap.



*Perhaps you might get some coquina from Florida? Photo by Wilson 44691, via Wikimedia Commons.*

In recent years this program has fallen into disuse. After receiving several queries about it, in the summer of 2018 I contacted all clubs affiliated with the AFMS/FRA Badge Program to see which might be interested in continuing our exchange program. I received 30 positive responses which I am using to update our listing on the AFMS website in hopes of refreshing, revitalizing, and renewing this program.

AFMS/FRA-affiliated clubs interested in being added to (or removed from) our list should contact the AFMS Juniors Program Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson, [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com), (805) 659-3577. The renewed list of participating clubs should appear any time now on the AFMS website. Meanwhile, here’s to honoring and maintaining Pat’s vision of kids all across America trading rocks while having fun!



**NEW MWF OFFICERS ANNOUNCED**

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The ballots have been counted and the following will be serving the MWF in the coming year. Our year runs from November 1 through October 31.

President – Kevin Ponzio from Wisconsin

First Vice President – John Donker from Michigan

Second Vice President – Susan Stanforth from Illinois

Secretary – Donna Moore from Illinois

Treasurer – Sandy Fuller from Minnesota

The two people elected to serve on the nominating committee were Steven Shimatzki of Ohio and Julie Whitlatch from Iowa. They will be joining those still on the nominating committee – Jim Marburger from Nebraska, J.C. Moore from Illinois, Deb Coursey from Illinois, and Dennis Westman from Minnesota. Chairman of the nominating committee is the immediate past president, so David Root will be serving in 2019.

Thank you to the clubs and Executive Committee Members who took the time to vote and return their ballots. And, thank you to all these people who are willing to donate their time to further the enjoyment of our hobby.

**HOW TO REGISTER, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 1)*

anyone else who plans to attend the convention. Or, if you need the information emailed to someone in your club, I can do that, if you will provide me with a valid email address.

If you have no one in your club who can print off the information, contact me so I can mail a copy to your club. My contact information is on the masthead on page 2 of this newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions about this or any other federation business, contact me or any of the other officers.

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 1)*

year. The emerald was found in the Kagem open pit mine located in Zambia. Pictures and more info are available online.

This reminds me about field collecting. On any day, someone could find the best rock ever! It still happens. All of you who are new to the hobby tend to be the luckiest. I smile when someone new holds up a rock they found and says, “Is this what we are looking for?” And of course, it usually is one of the best found. LOL. Good luck hunting, and I hope you make a seasoned collector smile!

Make sure to get the MWF Annual Dues, Insurance and Club Contact Information sheet and Calendar of Events Listing Information filled in and mailed as soon as possible.

Congratulations to all the Bulletin Editors Contest Winners! You have made it to an elite group of editors. Special thanks to all of you, and the past winners too. Your efforts have lifted the hobby to new levels.

But wait, it doesn’t have to end there! You have the skills needed to assist bulletin editors all over the country with your unique abilities. Sign up today to be the Chair of MWF’s Bulletin Editors’ Aids Committee. You can contact me at [earthprospect@frontier.com](mailto:earthprospect@frontier.com), Sharon Marburger at [mamamar7880@outlook.com](mailto:mamamar7880@outlook.com), or Donna Moore at [mwfsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mwfsecretary@gmail.com) for more information. The time to live your dreams is now!

See you all next month!

**DEADLINE CALENDAR**

MWF Dues & Insurance and Calendar of Events forms are both due **Jan. 15, 2019**. See pages 6-8, or contact Sandy Fuller at [mwftreas@rockbiz-biz](mailto:mwftreas@rockbiz-biz).

MWF All American Club yearbooks deadline: **Jan. 15, 2019**. See page 10, or contact Mary Ann Rich at email address [MAFR43@hotmail.com](mailto:MAFR43@hotmail.com).

**DUES AND EVENTS FORMS ARE HERE! (AND ARE DUE JANUARY 15TH)**

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

The 2019 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 is the total number of individual adult and youth members during the year completed in 2018. 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** 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 actually reach you and not some unattended phone or email. This year you may include a list of additional officers who would like to receive the MWF News and Mini Miners Monthly via email. You must provide the name, position and email address for these individuals.

Clubs who renew on time can receive email subscriptions to the juniors' publication Mini Miners Monthly. There will be a verification of the email addresses and the need to complete an online agreement form before the subscriptions can begin.

Use the 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 2019 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 2019. 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, 2019, may take a 25-cent-per-member discount. Include **all** members when computing your insurance premium.

**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 jointly sponsored events must include a list of all sponsoring clubs.

Questions about these forms or dues? Call Sandy or Martha at 651-459-0343, or email Sandy at [MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz](mailto:MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz). Direct insurance questions to Chris Ivancic at 260-433-2699 or [Ivancic.chris@gmail.com](mailto:Ivancic.chris@gmail.com).

*January Issue Submission Deadline Is Dec. 5th!*



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2019 Club Dues (Use membership figures from year completed in 2018)

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

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

Do you want MWF Membership Cards? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

### 2019 Club Insurance (Optional, but if chosen, must pay for all members)

Total number of club members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.50 (\$4.25 for qualifying clubs\*) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2019 receive a discounted insurance rate of \$4.25 per member)

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

(Make check payable to Midwest Federation)

**FORM, DUES, INSURANCE PAYMENT, & EVENTS LISTINGS are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2019**

Mail to: MWF, c/o Sandy Fuller, 8445 Grange Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN 55016

### Club Contact Information for Mailings, Directory & Website

Please provide mail and email addresses that are checked regularly. 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). 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 2020. \*\***  
Mail completed form with your dues. Questions? Call 651-459-0343

**DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2019**

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

**MFW SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS GIVE PRESENTATIONS AT WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Marge Collins, MFW Scholarship Committee Chair

As announced in the June issue of MFW News, Bernice McCloskey, a past MFW President (1979-80), was chosen as the 2018 MFW Scholarship Award Honoree. She is a Charter and Honorary Member of the Kettle Moraine Geological Society who is active in both that group and the Wisconsin Geological Society.

From a group of applicants, Bernice chose Libby R.W. Ives and David Cordie as Midwest Federation recipients of the 2018 AFMS Scholarships. Both are in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Geosciences, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Each received a one-time \$4,000 grant. As one expression of their appreciation, each gave a presentation at the May meeting of the Wisconsin Geological Society about their field of interest.



*Left to right: Libby R.W. Ives, Bernice McCloskey, and David Cordie. Photo by Pierre Couture.*

Libby Ives' primary interest is glacial sedimentology. For her dissertation, she is researching sites in Argentina, Australia, and Antarctica for Carboniferous and Permian-aged sedimentary rocks that influenced or were deposited by glaciers in former Gondwana. In addition, she is Research Assistant at UMW, and works part-time for the Wisconsin Geological Survey mapping more recent glacial

landscapes. After completing her Ph.D., she hopes to work as a university professor and to continue her research.

David R. Cordie's primary interest is invertebrate paleontology. He is working on his dissertation about the ecosystem of 500+-million-year-old reefs. Some of these first ocean reefs collapsed when the organisms that built and populated them went extinct. How extinction of framework-building organisms (archaeocyaths) affected the rest of the reef, and comparison to what is happening in reefs today, is the focus of his research.

After graduation, David plans to teach at a small liberal arts college, where he can share his interests in science with students and the wider community. He has applied for a teaching position at Albion, Michigan.

**SILENT AUCTION REPORT (AND THANKS)**

Susan Stanforth, Silent Auction Committee Chair

What an incredible experience having the MFW Silent Auction running concurrently with LOESS. They are so organized and so much fun to work with. Seriously, folks, the very best value in rocks and minerals and fossils is at the Silent Auction tables. And it is pretty darn exciting as well.

The MFW made \$834.50 for the Endowment Fund. This is so great, in my opinion. I have so many donors to thank. In particular, many, many items were donated from the John and Judy Washburn collection. Also, big thanks to B. Sky, D. Rice, B. and C. Green, S. and P. Hecht, T. and J. Whitlatch, D. and G. Coursey, K. Ponzio, and many more – sorry if I forgot you.

And the hero of the auction is Keith Peregrine, who spent countless hours preparing donations. And, of course, Jeri and Bob Hayden, who organized the entire event.

And now my pitch for more donations and helpers at the next convention in Cedar Rapids in March 2019. PLEASE!

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**Please notify the Secretary of any violations.**  
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**FOSSILIZED BUBBLES HINT AT EARLY LIFE**

Science Daily, March 2, 2018

Take a good look at this photo: It shows you 1.6-billion-year-old fossilized oxygen bubbles, created by tiny microbes in what was once a shallow sea somewhere on young Earth. The bubbles were photographed and analyzed by researchers from the University of Southern Denmark, the Swedish Museum of Natural History, and Stockholm University, who were studying early life on Earth.

*Fossilized oxygen bubbles in 1.6-billion-year-old cyanobacterial fabric. Photo by Swedish paleontologist Stefan Bengtson.*



Microbes are of special interest: They were not only the first life forms on Earth, but also turned our

planet into a tolerable environment for plants and animals. Some of these early microbes were cyanobacteria that thrived in early shallow waters. They produced oxygen by photosynthesis, and sometimes the oxygen got trapped as bubbles within sticky microbial mats.

Dr. Therese Sallstedt and colleagues studied fossilized sediments from India, and found spheres in the microbial mats. “We interpret them as oxygen bubbles created in cyanobacterial biomats in shallow waters 1.6 billion years ago,” she said. Cyanobacteria changed the face of the Earth irreversibly, since they were responsible for oxygenating the atmosphere. Simultaneously they constructed sedimentary structures called stromatolites, which still exist on Earth today.

The researchers – Dr. Sallstedt, S. Bengtson, C. Broman, P.M.Crill, and D.E. Canfield – now think that cyanobacteria played a larger role than previously believed in creating phosphorites in shallow waters. They published their findings in the journal *Geobiology*, under the title “Evidence of oxygenic phototrophy in ancient phosphatic stromatolites from the Paleoproterozoic Vindhyan and Aravalli Supergroups, India.”