

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

February 2019 - Issue No. 579

Web Site - www.amfed.org/mwf

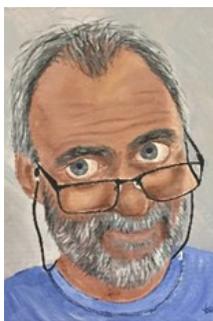


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin Ponzio, MWF President

Hello everyone!

Are you going in March? Are you going to the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society's Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show in March? They are featuring geodes, Iowa's mysterious state Rock! Yes, and much more. Gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, dealers, exhibits, speakers (gasp, deep breath), demonstrations, raffle, silent auction, field trip, kids' activities, and more. (Whew!)



Wait, what? Yes, it's the MWF Convention too! I know, I've been looking forward to this all year! All you delegates have signed up already. Rrrright? The awards banquet is always fun. Be the first to buy some great MWF buttons and swag.

Wait wait! What? Yes, it's the AFMS Convention too! Wow! All this in one place! What a great opportunity to meet with other rockhounds from

(Continued on page 3)

CONVENTION: COME FOR A GREAT SHOW!

Jay Vavra,
Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society

On March 23-24, 2019, the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society will host our annual rock show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This show is always spectacular itself, but in addition to being the club show, 2019 will also be the Midwest Federation convention and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies convention.

Why should you plan to attend? There are more reasons than I can go into here, but at the top of the list are: attendees, dealers, and speakers.

In the past few years, attendance at the club's annual show has been over 4,500 people, and trending upwards. This year we expect nearly 5,000 people to attend the show. That is 5,000 people interested in rocks, minerals, and geology. There will be attendees who are experts in aspects of geology that most people barely give a passing thought to. That will be 5,000 people who present the opportunity to converse with, learn from, and pass on some of your knowledge.

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COME FOR A GREAT SHOW!, CONTINUED

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Our show typically has about 25 dealers, and this year will be no exception. We take a great deal of pride in putting on a show that is great for attendees as well as dealers. We strive to line up a variety of dealers from across the Midwestern United States who bring a wide variety of material for sale and trade. You will find books, fossils, minerals, jewelry, agates, petrified



Display from the 2018 show. Photo by Kim Kleckner, from the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society Facebook page.

wood, crystals, lapidary equipment, and Iowa's State Rock, geodes.

You'll also find carvings, slabs, spheres, meteorites, and much more. You'll find museum quality specimens as well as pieces aimed at the beginning collector. Grab bags for kids will be available, as well as a pebble pit with specimens starting at 1-cent. It's not unusual for dealers to tell us we put on the best show they attend each year.

You'll have the opportunity to watch demonstrations and listen to engaging speakers. Demonstrations will include flint knapping,

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silversmithing, cabbing, beading, glass bead making, and more. Programs and speakers are arranged by Dr. Ray Anderson, Ph.D., and are always a hit. Dr. Anderson usually presents a program or two himself (which itself is worth the trip).

The theme of our 2019 Show is Geodes. As mentioned above, the geode is the State Rock of Iowa, and with good reason. Some of the finest geodes in the world are found in Iowa. The show will feature displays of world class geode specimens. Geodes will be available from our dealers and in the silent auction. There will be demonstrations of geode cracking and you'll have the opportunity to crack your own geode.

Our club uses the profits from our annual show to fund scholarships for students at nearby colleges who are majoring in geology. We've donated tens of thousands of dollars towards these scholarships, which is possible because of the attendees at the annual show.

If you have any questions about the 2019 Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society show, please feel free to contact any of the members listed on our web page. We look forward to seeing you in March in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

March Issue Submission Deadline Is Feb. 6th!

CONVENTION: SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

Susan Stanforth, Silent Auction

WANTED! NEEDED!

We need mineral and fossil donations for the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society Silent Auction. It's coming up more quickly than you think: Saturday and Sunday, March 23 and 24. We are joining forces with the CVRMS club, and their auction goes every 15 minutes! What a whirlwind!!

Please use the bid sheets which you can find on the CVRMS website (click on 2019 MWF-AFMS Show, then on Auction Bid Sheets). One swipe with a marker will provide the color that will separate MWF items from CVRMS items. Then drop them off at the auction site. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

around the country. Swap collecting stories, or even contact information so you can visit them when you travel. Are we even allowed to have this much fun? I think you know the answer!

You know how I have been saying that any given day you may be able to find one of the best specimens while collecting? Someone has done it again! A 552-carat yellow diamond was recently unearthed in Canada. Reported as the largest in North America ever! Dominion Diamond Mines discovered the gem in October at the Diavik diamond mine in Canada's Northwest Territories.

Have you sent a re-gifted fruitcake to a MWF chairperson lately? There are many to choose from. If not a fruitcake, at least contact them by email or some other medium. Why? Because they have so much to offer and would love to hear from you. Remember, you can see them in person at the MWF/AFMS convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 23rd and 24th. Please check your fruitcakes at the door!

See you all next month!

CONVENTION: ENDOWMENT FUND DRAWING

AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing
Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

J.C. and Donna Moore are again the MWF representatives for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing. If you have not seen them and been asked to purchase tickets, you can still do so by mail or you can plan to see them early at the MWF/AFMS Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 22-23. They will be selling tickets there until midday on Saturday.

The tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. You can order them by mail by sending a check to J.C. Moore, 25235 N. IL Hwy. 97, Cuba, IL 61427. The check should be made out to AFMS Endowment Fund.

The funds raised by this drawing go toward special projects of the AFMS, especially the Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program. Possible prizes are shown on the AFMS website at www.amfed.org.



And they include this beautiful Mexican geode, donated by Long Island Mineral & Geology Society.

CONVENTION: BULLETIN CONTEST WINNERS

Sharon Marburger, BEAC Chair

The results are in for the MWF BEAC competition. Editors, if you submitted any entries, please plan to attend the convention March 23-24 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa to collect your awards. This is also the American Federation Convention, so those awards will also be handed out. Cedar Rapids is fairly centrally located, so I expect to see you all there.

The list of winners will be published in the April 2019 issue of the MWF News.

**MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
COUNCIL MEETING
DELEGATE REGISTRATION**

Saturday March 23, 2019

The Midwest Federation's 79th annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual 2019 show of the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, March 23-24, 2019. The show will be held at the Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Council of Delegates Meeting will be held at the Ramada Cedar Rapids, 525 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids. Each member club/society is entitled to one (1) Delegate and one *(1) Alternate to represent them.

The MWF Council of Delegates Meeting will convene Saturday, March 23rd at 1:00pm, with the delegate registration beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Ramada Cedar Rapids. The Delegate appointed by your club or society will represent your interests, and may bring up pertinent discussions and proposals. However, in order to expedite matters, if your society intends to have its Delegate present any special motion at the meeting, please notify MWF President Kevin Ponzio and MWF Secretary Donna Moore as to the nature of the subject, so that it may be placed on the agenda. This needs to be presented in written form. This should be done at least one month prior to the meeting.

*Each club is entitled to one vote. An alternate may vote only in the absence of a Delegate. Guests are invited to attend the meeting, but are ineligible to vote.

Please fill out this form and return it to the Credentials Chairman:

Tony Kapta
1483 E Wood Street, Decatur, IL 62521
217-233-1164, email cigmc@comcast.net
Before March 4th, 2019

(DO NOT send this form to the show registration committee)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPTNESS

MIDWEST FEDERATION DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE TO AVOID ERRORS

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT (name of club) _____

OF (city and state) _____

HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING DELEGATE TO THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MWF:

DELEGATE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

ALTERNATE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

DATED _____ SIGNED _____, Club President

MINERALS MORE DANGEROUS THAN THEY SEEM

Brandon Poy, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society
From the Nov. 2019 Pick and Dop Stick

Every rockhound loves collecting a variety of rocks and minerals, leading to endless piles of boxes full of specimens. It can become very difficult to organize and take good care of everything. Luckily, rocks are tough and hard to break, so they can handle unstable storage. However, certain minerals can be dangerous, requiring special care and caution while handling them, and some of these dangerous minerals are also some of the most common.

Minerals that need to be handled with care are used in many industries and household products, in addition to being some of the first specimens collected by new rockhounds. Several of them can cause diseases or other harmful effects to humans. Quartz, one of the most abundant minerals on Earth, can cause lung cancer, kidney disease, and problems with the immune system if breathed in as fine particles. Silicosis is a disease that can result from breathing in fine particles, restricting the lungs from expanding and leading to disabilities or death. These fine particles can form from grinding down quartz for any use, including sculptures, construction, or appliances. To stay safe while working with quartz, make sure to wear a mask and have sufficient ventilation.

Fluorite is also another common mineral that can be very harmful. It is highly soluble, meaning it breaks down in water, and can lead to a bone disease called skeletal fluorosis. Skeletal fluorosis can cause bones to become less elastic, resulting in a higher risk of fractures and less joint mobility. Fluorite can get into your body via two routes: ingestion and respiration. If you work with or are cleaning fluorite, make sure to wear a mask and clean up your workspace afterward to prevent contaminating anything with fluorite particles.

Pyrite, like fluorite, can also be dangerous when exposed to water. Exposure triggers oxidation in the pyrite, creating several toxic molecules. These toxins include iron, sulfur, and, in specimens bearing this element, arsenic. Pyrite is a potential hazard for water contamination, so it should be kept inside and away from water sources on your property.



Fluorite octahedrons and cubic pyrite. Photo by Amy M. Lavine, via Wikimedia Commons.

Galena is the primary ore for lead. Because it contains large amounts of lead, galena has the potential to cause lead poisoning. Although galena is insoluble, weathering can create a fine dust that can be inhaled or ingested. Lead poisoning can cause developmental delays and abdominal pain at low levels, and be fatal at higher levels.

These minerals are staples in rock and mineral collections. However, many people are not aware of the danger these minerals can present. Although they can cause several diseases and lead to death, they should not be avoided altogether. These and many other minerals only become dangerous when handled improperly. For these minerals, grinding or exposure to water must occur before they pose a threat to humans. In other words, while it's good to have an extensive collection, you should know which rocks or minerals are potentially dangerous and how you can avoid those dangers.

Sources:

Duddu, Praveen. Stone Cold — The 11 Most Dangerous Minerals, *Mining Technology*, May 1, 2014. www.mining-technology.com. Accessed 2018.

Nace, Trevor. Nine Deadliest Rocks and Minerals on Earth, *Forbes*, February 14, 2016. Accessed 2018.

Quartz Powder (Fused and Synthetic) (SiO₂), *Reade International Corp.*, 2018. www.reamde.com. Accessed 2018.

CABRESPINE AND LIMOUSIS ARE FRENCH CAVES FULL OF WONDERS

Paul Schmidt, Editor
Wisconsin Geological Society
From the January 2019 Trilobite

Last summer I was watching the Tour de France bike race as its route went through the Languedoc area around the famous walled city of Carcassonne. As they do, TV showed some of the area's famous sites along the route and gave a brief description of them.

One of the sites was the Abyss of Cabrespine, one of two spectacular caves in the area located in the massif of the "Montagne Noire" or Black Mountain. The cave in Cabrespine has unique huge dimensions; the TV announcers said it could easily hold the cathedral of Notre Dame.

It is open to tourists who can admire it from a viewing platform, or in a more sportive way by taking a half-day trek down to the bottom of the cave.



The Abyss of Cabrespine.
Photo by Caitriana Nicholson, via Wikimedia Commons.

Not far away is the cave of Limousis. It is said to be very beautiful and is mainly known by the specialists for its aragonite concretions. Their characteristic is to form an infinite number of little needles in all directions. In the cave of Limousis an aragonite ceiling mass reaches gigantic dimensions: 13 feet high and 33 feet wide.

According to Wikipedia, aragonite is a carbonate mineral, one of the three most common naturally occurring crystal forms of calcium carbonate, CaCO₃ (the other forms being the minerals calcite and vaterite). It is formed by biological and physical processes, including precipitation from marine and freshwater environments.



Aragonite in the Cave of Limousis. Photo by CCI Carcassonne, via Wikimedia Commons.

Both caves are part of a large-scale subterranean system carved by an underground river system. The caves have been known to man since Neolithic times, but only recently have they been electrified and turned into tourist destinations.

Sources:

www.france-voyage.com;
www.gouffre-de-cabrespine.com;
www.audetourisme.com;
www.netmeFrance.com;
www.languedoc-france.info;
www.domaineleshirondelles.com;
www.chateauhaute-fontaine.com.

NON-PROFITS: BE SURE TO FILE 990-NS!

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

For clubs that are non-profit organizations, here is a reminder to file your 990-N notice with the IRS. Most small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less can satisfy their annual reporting requirement by electronically submitting Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of their tax year. There is no paper form.

There is no penalty for filing late, but, according to the IRS website, "organizations that fail to file required Forms 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for three consecutive years will automatically lose their tax-exempt status." For more information, go to www.irs.gov and type 990-N into the search field.

STATE PARK OFFERS GEOLOGY PROGRAMS

Alan Goldstein, Interpretive Naturalist
From the January, 2019 Strata Data of the
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (Indiana)

The Falls of the Ohio State Park in Indiana was created in 1990 to preserve and interpret the 390-million-year-old Devonian fossil beds on the floor and banks of the Ohio River. They are one of the first-known North American fossil localities.

In 2016, the park's Interpretive Center underwent a six-million-dollar renovation. Geology exhibits include a video wall showing a living Devonian sea, interactive components and new fossils on display. Our six-foot mammoth tusk has a new case. A half-million dollar UHD orientation movie was unveiled in September 2018.

We are offering more geology programs to visitors, such as the "Marine Life of Today and Yesterday" series, with programs by marine biologist Dr. Dominique Hansen on the links of today's global climate change to issues like mass extinction, ocean geology, and coral reef significance.

For geology clubs with a group reservation, we will offer a special behind-the-scenes tour and fossil lab at no extra cost. The Falls of the Ohio State Park is one of the few Indiana state parks with a collections storeroom. If scheduled when the staff is available, a group may tour the space and get a sneak peek at our fossils and other collections.

To schedule a club field trip or request more details, contact Alan Goldstein, Interpretive Naturalist / Park Paleontologist, at agoldstein@dnr.in.gov. Program details are available through Falls of the Ohio Foundation website, www.fallsoftheohio.org.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

Delegate registration for the MWF Annual Meeting is due **March 4, 2019**. The meeting will be held March 23-24 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information see the form on page 4, or contact Tony Kapta, cigmc@comcast.net.

LIVING MEMORIALS HONOR ILLINOISANS

Marge Collins, MWF Scholarship Committee Chair

TREASURED MEMBERS of Southern Illinois Earth Science Club (Benton, Illinois) were honored with Living Memorials in May 2016. Diane Dare (MWF President 1982-83), a longtime former SIES member, chose to honor Mike Chontofalsky and Nellie and Joe Claxton with a Living Memorial donation to the AFMS Scholarship fund to celebrate their selfless service to the club. Their names were added to the List of Memorials in the MWF Directory at that time but there was no formal publicity. We hereby celebrate their generosity.

Mike Chontofalsky, now a retired science teacher, is a 30-plus-year member and has been Show Chairman for many years. He also served as Board President. No surprise, he has often provided an educational presentation at meetings over the years – sometimes on short notice.

Nellie and Joe Claxton, always a team, gave their time and talents generously over the past 30-plus years. Nellie was the club's longtime newsletter editor, started the club's library, planned annual club parties, and co-authored the club's 25th anniversary booklet, among other "assignments." Joe has taken his turn at various Board positions and served as Liaison Chairman for uncounted years. In addition, they quite often attended Federation meetings. Unfortunately, Nellie was called to Rockhound Heaven in October 2017, but Joe continues his club membership.

Anyone can honor living or deceased members with a memorial, or simply make an outright donation to the Scholarship Fund. Checks payable to *AFMS Scholarship* should be sent to:

AFMS Scholarship
c/o Marge Collins, MWF Scholarship Chair
3017 Niles-Buchanan Road
Buchanan, MI 49107

For *any* memorial donation, please include name(s), reason or occasion for the honor, etc. A congratulatory note can be sent to honoree's address. For deceased members, if appropriate, include next of kin. If we have any questions, we will contact you.

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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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
March 1-3 Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society	Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Road, Richmond, IN	Judy Burton, JLeeBurton@woh.rr.com
March 8-10 Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City	KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador, Kansas City, MO	Bruce Stinemetz, brucestinemetz@att.net
March 9 Sat 6-9	Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society silent auction	Gymnasium, St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie, Skokie, IL	Jeanine Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com
March 9-10 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Geodeland Earth Science Clubs	Student Union Ballroom, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL	Deb Coursey, courseyfarm@gmail.com
March 9-10 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Kettle Moraine Geological Society	County Fair Park and Convention Center, 3000 Highway PV, West Bend, WI	John Rettler, johnrettler@gmail.com
March 9-10 Sat 11-6, Sun noon-6	Roamin Club	Vista Tech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia MI	Todd Gall, roaminrockhound@gmail.com
March 22-24 Fri 4-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Rock Hobby Club	Machinist Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburt@juno.com
March 23 Sat, 10-5	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society rock swap	St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI	Lou Talley, ltalley1970@gmail.com
March 23-24 Sat 8:30-6, Sun 9:30-5	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society	Hawkeye Downs, 4400 6 th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA	Marv Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com

The MWF and AFMS conventions are being held in conjunction with this show. For more information, see pages 1-4.