



# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

June 2019 - Issue No. 583

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin Ponzio, President

Hello Everyone! Wow, June already. The year is almost half over. Field collecting may have just started for some of you but others may have had some memorable experiences already. It's all right to pick up debris at the collecting site even if it was from someone else. This is a good gesture that land owners appreciate and may help to keep collecting sites open. Remember to use caution and the proper safety equipment when you are out collecting. Stay hydrated and guard from the elements. There are many remarkable memories in this hobby but injuries shouldn't be one of them.



This is where I usually suggest that you chair an executive committee. You probably feel like, oh boy, here it comes. No! I am absolutely not going to do that. Have you considered being an assistant to the chair of

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## BARBARA SKY NAMED HONORARY MEMBER

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The recent 2019 Council of Delegates meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, voted to award Barbara Sky as an Honorary Member of the Midwest Federation. She is a member of Show Me Gems & Minerals Club of St. Peters, Missouri.

Barbara has been very active in the Uniform Rules and Competitive Exhibits areas of the Midwest Federation, Eastern Federation, and the American Federation. (The Uniform Rules are the AFMS standards by which competitive exhibits are judged.) She has exhibited at many shows, as well as serving as a judge of competitive exhibits at many federation shows.

When the MWF was dangerously low on trained judges, she arranged to have AFMS judges' training set up in conjunction with the Greater St. Louis Area Association of Earth Science Clubs show,

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

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the executive committee? Hopefully you are chuckling right now. But seriously, being an assistant is both rewarding and easy. You get to jump in when you are available and you don't have the responsibilities of the chair. Nice! Getting your cake and eating it too! What a great hobby! There is a permanent committee for every interest in our hobby and all of them can use assistants. You must be interested in some aspect of our hobby or you wouldn't be reading this. Sign up today.

Thumbnail and micro-mounting are subcommittees of Mineralogy. I am looking for some individuals to help preserve these activities. There are many people who aren't even aware that these are part of the collecting experience. Maybe they have heard about thumbnail mounting and micro-mounting but ask, how do I get started or how do I mount them?

It is important to pass on this art and knowledge to the new members. It is the most accessible size to all collectors. Even the rarest specimens can be affordable in these sizes. Please contact me so that we can preserve these phases of our hobby.

I realize that each of us can be passionate about our hobby and sometimes it doesn't match what others are doing. We are all essentially moving towards the same goal of enjoyment with rocks, minerals, fossils, etc. Each individual enjoys the hobby at his or her own pace. If you have an overwhelming zeal, run with it! However, be patient and understanding to all that are enjoying at their pleasure pace. It works out in the end and we can all enjoy it together.

We are all volunteers and willing participants of this amazing and dynamic experience known as rockhounding. Be kind to all who are making this hobby wonderful, no matter how small their contribution. I'm thankful for each of you for making this the best hobby in the world!

## MWF OFFICERS

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## SILENT AUCTION BRINGS IN A GRAND

Susan Stanforth, Silent Auction Committee Chair

What an absolutely wonderful auction at the Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral Society show in March!!! The Cedar Rapids folks helped run the MWF Silent Auction on Saturday when the MWF auction workers were in meetings. On Sunday, MWF people like JC and Donna Moore, Keith Peregrine, Sharon Marburger, and Barbara Sky stepped in and worked the tables to a wonderful result of \$1,014.

But this kind of success only happens due to the amazing donors that gave us wonderful specimens. I am in awe of the following, who really came through with high-priced items: Mary Gahl, David Reese, David Rice, and Susan Stanforth of Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society in Illinois. Kevin Ponzio made a huge donation of valuable specimens. Big thanks to George and Deb Coursey, Tom and Julie Whitlatch, and Harlan and Aletha Hoogeterp. We got wonderful flint from the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club, and specimens from the John and Judy Washburn collection. If I missed thanking you, please contact me at sstanforth123@yahoo.com.

*September Issue Submission Deadline Is August 7th!*

## GROWING CLUBS GET MICA

Susan Stanforth, MWF 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Member Increase Club Awards (MICA) were sent out in March. The award recognizes increase in club membership, compared to a three-year average, if the club re-enrolled by January 15<sup>th</sup>. The following clubs received awards.

### Adults – Class AAA Clubs

- 1<sup>st</sup> place** Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Columbus, NE
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place** New Ulm Gem & Mineral Club, Morgan, MN
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place** Gem City Rock Club, Quincy, IL

### Adults – Class AA Clubs

- 1<sup>st</sup> place** River Valley Rockhounds, Fort Dodge, IA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place** Lakeland Gem Club, Minocqua, WI
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place** Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Chippewa Falls, WI

### Adults – Class A Clubs

- 1<sup>st</sup> place** Columbus Rock & Mineral Society, Columbus, OH
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place** Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club, Grand Rapids, MI
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place** Minnesota Mineral Club, Falcon Heights, MN

### Juniors – Class AAA Clubs

- 1<sup>st</sup> place** Columbus Rock & Mineral Society, Columbus, OH
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place** Independence Gem & Mineral Society, Independence, MO
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place** Peoria Academy of Science Geology Section, Peoria, IL

### Juniors – Class AA Clubs

- 1<sup>st</sup> place** Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club, Grand Rapids, MI
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place** Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, Springfield, IL

### Juniors – Class A Clubs

- 1st place** Minnesota Mineral Club, Falcon Heights, MN

## BARBARA SKY, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 1)*

so that MWF and other federation members could be trained as judges.

Barbara has served as Uniform Rules Chair for the Midwest, Eastern, and American Federations, either as a permanent chair or a last-minute fill-in when chairs were unable to attend conventions. She is very knowledgeable about all aspects of the Uniform Rules and competitive exhibiting.



*Barbara Sky received her Honorary Member certificate from MWF President Kevin Ponzio at the MWF convention in March.*

Originally, when Barbara came to the Midwest from the Eastern Federation, she was the “unofficial” photographer at our conventions, taking photos of various award presentations, etc., and providing them for the MWF Newsletter. She also helps at the silent auction at the MWF convention show because she normally enters an exhibit and can’t remove her exhibit till the show is closed on Sunday evening, so she helps price and mark items for the auction or takes money or whatever needs to be done. She has been active in the St. Louis area and usually helps with the Park Hills Swap each summer.

According to the MWF By-Laws, “Honorary members may be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Council [of Delegates]. Honorary membership shall be limited to those active and prominent in the earth sciences, lapidary arts, or related subjects.” Barbara Sky more than meets that criterion, and we are pleased that she’s been so honored.

## THE MIDWEST FEDERATION REMEMBERS CAROLYN WEINBERGER

Donna Moore, AFMS and MWF Secretary

The day after the recent AFMS/MWF Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Carolyn Weinberger passed away. Anyone who has ever attended an AFMS annual meeting has seen Carolyn. She was always the one with the answers and the information everyone needed.

Carolyn and her husband Steve were well known to rockhounds throughout the country. She was the editor of the AFMS Newsletter, and had served in many positions in the Eastern Federation, as well as the AFMS. Steve headed up the AFMS Central Office, and Carolyn was very active in that also. She was often a tough taskmaster, but did her best to encourage and help those who were active in the hobby. Most recently, Carolyn teamed up with Shirley Leeson to update the history of the AFMS for the group's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Carolyn and Steve lived in Glyndon, Maryland. She was especially active in the area of newsletters, writing contests, honoring bulletin editors, etc. She edited her local club newsletter, the Eastern Federation newsletter, and the AFMS newsletter.

Some memories from MWF members:

“The AFMS contracted with Steve Weinberger to provide a Central Office and he quickly became the major voice for the organization, but we all know that the real work of keeping track of the details, taking care of the minutiae and keeping everyone on time was Carolyn's forte. In many ways Carolyn was a full partner in helping to keep the AFMS running smoothly.

“Although Carolyn and Steve lived in the Washington DC-Baltimore area and were active in local mineral and lapidary clubs, they were also members of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Club and regularly volunteered at the show.” – Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer and Past President of the AFMS.

“Carolyn Weinberger always had a smile on her face. She was always delighted to see you, and, until her doctors told her not to, welcomed you with a

hug. This was true whether she saw you at an AFMS annual meeting, or at the Tucson show, or the Rochester Symposium, or the Baltimore Micromineral Symposium. It came through in her jobs as editor of the AFMS newsletter or the Eastern Federation one, where she wrote an occasional column from the point of view of her dog. When I had to have open heart surgery seven years ago at the time of the AFMS meeting, she stepped up to do my AFMS secretary's job. She will be sorely missed.” – Anne Cook, MWF Past President and AFMS Past Secretary.



*Carolyn Weinberger, at a convention. Photo by John Martin.*

“I knew Carolyn from long before I moved into MWF territory! She was always on the ball in whatever she did. Her relationship with Steve was an inspiration. She could be an interested friend and very insistent if she thought one was neglecting oneself. (For three years, each time I would see her, she would ask if I'd had a particular medical procedure she thought I should have!) Then she took sick and had other things to think about!” – Barbara Sky, MWF Uniform Rules Committee Assistant Chair.

“I wasn't able to spend enough time close to Carolyn and Steve to have an accurate personal remembrance. But I admired her dedication and deep interest. And, I appreciated her sense of humor. ‘Big shoes’ to fill!” – Marge Collins, MWF Scholarship Committee Chair and former AFMS Program Chair.

“We have known her also for years. She was so involved and always there with answers, and never

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**CAROLYN WEINBERGER, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 4)*

failed to publish a newsletter, and also was an important part of organizing the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops (along with Steve). She will be sorely missed, especially by the AFMS and the Eastern Federation, and more than hard to replace for all of the news that she put out about our hobby.” – Bob Miller, AFMS Past President.

Carolyn touched many lives in and out of our hobby. I found her such a help when I took over the Endowment Fund raffle for the AFMS and then the secretary position for the AFMS. Carolyn always was so willing to lend an ear and a hand to assist or advise me when I wasn't familiar with the procedures, etc.

She expected a lot from people, but was more than willing to give much assistance if asked. I always appreciated her knowledge of the AFMS and how things needed to run to get the job done. She was very active in supporting the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing. We could always count on her to be our top ticket seller to raise funds for the drawing. She and Steve would also donate a nice mineral specimen as one of the prizes each year.

Carolyn will be missed, not only for what she did but for what she knew, as well as her friendship and support to us all.

**ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Steven “Skeeter” Kish, Chair of the MWF Archaeology Committee, turned in this report at the recent MWF Convention.*

The state of the archaeological community is stable. Although there are fewer and fewer lands that we can search and report on, the community is still vibrant and alive. The Clovis and Solutrean dates are still under controversy. The atlatl, a primitive weapon, is producing older dates as earlier sites are being found. The open market of artifacts is growing remarkably. Please be wary of all purchases. There are more and more reproductions being sold as authentic. Buyer beware.

**LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

Opportunities are available for people who'd like to help the Midwest Federation and devote themselves to their own interests at the same time! Whether you're interested in communication, funding special projects, honoring great club members, or mineralogy, there's an opening where you're needed.

**Bulletin Editors' Aids Committee Chair:** Your focus is the Bulletin Editors' Competition held every year. You write an article for the MWF News (much like the ones that current chair Sharon Marburger has done, but of course making whatever changes are relevant for that year) explaining the categories, submissions process, and deadline. Round up a few friends to act as judges, assemble the list of winners, then find a place that can create the first-place plaques and put together the certificates for the other award winners. Forward the winning entries to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies for their annual competition. Help to plan the annual Editors' Breakfast, and then announce and present the awards to the happy winners at the breakfast!

Through newsletter articles, you can also encourage bulletin editors in ways you think are important: helpful advice, suggesting regional bulletin editors' workshops, publicizing the accomplishments of our MWF editors and writers, or encouraging bulletin exchange among editors. This is a great opportunity for someone who values communication – whether that means educational articles, humor, or art.

**Club Rockhound of the Year Committee Chair:** Encourage and assist local clubs in honoring their best, most active members, and pass the good news along to the MWF News.

**Endowment Fund Committee** (Chair and Secretary both needed): Not the sexiest committee title, but probably the most important. The interest from the Endowment Fund pays for special projects approved by the MWF Board of Directors. In recent years, these have included printing and mailing of the publication “Award Winning Articles”; booklets of quizzes for

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## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, CONTINUED

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member clubs; printing and distribution of MWF Operating Procedures Manuals; a new sound system for meetings; state flags for convention displays; and subscriptions to "Mini Miners Monthly," an online publication about rocks and mineralogy for junior members, sent to clubs who pay their dues on time.

The Chair and Secretary, two of the seven-member committee, both serve a three-year term. The Chair encourages donations through the newsletter and in any way approved by the committee, encourages member clubs to hold fund raisers, and makes a written report to the MWF Executive Committee about the Endowment Fund Committee's activities. The Secretary keeps notes of the Endowment Fund Committee's meetings and sends acknowledgment of donations to the donors, as well as any other correspondence needed.

You don't need to be a financial genius to be on the Endowment Fund Committee: The heavy-duty stuff is handled by the Financial Adviser and Fund Treasurer, and those positions are ably filled at the moment by Dennis Starbuck and Alan Hukill respectively, although a committee vote is needed on any actions they may take. Bonus of being on the Endowment Fund Committee: As Chair of the Silent Auction, which benefits the Endowment Fund, the effervescent Susan Stanforth is a committee member. It would be a hoot to be on a committee with her.

**Mineralogy Committee:** Kevin Ponzio, chair of the Mineralogy Committee and current MWF President, is seeking someone to be in charge of the Thumbnail Mounting and Micro-Mounting subcommittees. You may have read his request in the President's Message of this issue. He wants someone to encourage and educate others in this fascinating aspect of rockhounding.

**Silent Auction Committee, Assistant Chair:** Another opportunity to work with Susan Stanforth! She's looking for someone to assist in soliciting donations, keeping a record of them, and putting together the Silent Auction at conventions. As stated before, the Silent Auction benefits the MWF

Endowment Fund, so you'd be doing the federation a favor, in addition to having fun.

If you'd like to test the waters before leaping into a committee chairmanship, take the suggestion of Donna Moore, MWF Secretary: "Many of the chairmen could use assistants, so if anyone is interested in being an assistant to any of the committees, that would be great." Or as President Ponzio puts it, again in this issue: "But seriously, being an assistant is both rewarding and easy. You get to jump in when you are available and you don't have the responsibilities of the chair. Nice! Getting your cake and eating it too!"

## NOMINATE A SCHOLARSHIP HONOREE

Susan Stanforth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

I'm hoping that your clubs are seriously considering a person to nominate for a prestigious award, the 2020 MWF Scholarship Honoree. This honoree will have the profound opportunity to hand out scholarship grants to two graduate students. In this day of exorbitant college costs, you will be a hero.

Please check out the green section of your directory (page G-2) for directions on how to nominate. Information for your nominating letter is suggested. When you've decided on a nominee and completed the nomination letter, send it to:

MWF Board of Selectors  
c/o Susan Stanforth  
850 Palau Parkway  
Rockford, IL 61108

Or email it to [sstanforth123@yahoo.com](mailto:sstanforth123@yahoo.com).

The green section of the directory also includes lists of past honorees, students who have received awards, and donors. There's no time like the present time to get this done. Thank you.

*(Editor's Note: See the article on page 7 about this year's Scholarship Honoree and the students chosen for MWF grants.)*

**ADRAIN IS 2019 SCHOLARSHIP HONOREE**

John Donker, MWF First Vice President

Professor Tiffany S. Adrain was named the 2019 MWF Scholarship Honoree at the federation's March convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is the Collections Manager of the Paleontology Repository in the Department of Geoscience at the University of Iowa, where she has also an Adjunct Instructor in the Museum Studies Department. She is a former curator at the Natural History Museum in London.



*Tiffany Adrain, the 2019 MWF Scholarship Honoree.  
Photo from ncse.com.*

Tiffany Adrain is a tireless supporter of paleontology, and strong contributions to the public and amateurs are also shown by her professional memberships, presentations, and publications. Among other work, she is the author of "Endangering Collections: Legal Obligations for Museums Holding Endangered Species," published in *Collections: A Journal for Museums and Archives Professionals* (December 2006). She is co-author of a chapter in the book "Evolutionary Stasis and Change in the Dominican Republic Neogene" (Springer, 2008). She received the Friend of Darwin Award from the National Center for Science Education in 2018.

The two students she chose to receive the 2019 MWF Scholarship Grants are Amanda Adams and Alexander Bradley. Both are students at the University of Iowa's Earth and Environmental Sciences Department, Adams as a Ph.D. candidate and Bradley as a Master's degree candidate. Both students are using the money for further education and research.

**HOW CAN I HELP PROTECT LAND ACCESS?**

Aletha Hoogeterp,  
Eastern South Dakota Representative  
American Lands Access Association

I have recently agreed to be the representative from Eastern South Dakota to the American Lands Access Association (ALAA). So now that I said yes, I am left with the question, how can I help?

I live on the eastern border of South Dakota, a seven-hour drive to Rapid City, where, if we are lucky, the closest land use meetings are held. My husband works full time, and I have a daily part time job. We can't afford to take three days off of work every time there is a meeting. That's assuming we even know about it! We usually find out about meetings the day of or after they take place. I think the government agencies are required to post notices in the local papers, but I'm not sure if the larger eastern South Dakota papers qualify as local. And even if they do, I don't have time to search through a newspaper every day looking for notices.

So, I turned to the internet. I found that the USDA Forest Service, the US Department of the Interior, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service all have email notification lists that you can sign up for. You can even select which region and topics you would like to receive notifications about. I would encourage everyone to sign up for notifications for your area and the other western areas that you like to visit on collecting trips. Now that I am signed up, I will at least know about the meetings, assuming I get around to checking my emails more frequently. I still won't be able to attend the meetings, but I might be able to send a comment letter if I have any knowledge of the area in question.

Which brings up another problem. How can those of us living in the central or eastern states help protect our access to western lands? I'm sure there are some who go out west regularly and are familiar with the areas and issues; however, most of us have only made a few trips out west, or none at all. We are not

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>May 25-26</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association	County Fairgrounds, 525 S. Randall, <b>St. Charles, IL</b>	Debby Ballot, demarrex1@att.net
<b>May 31, June 1-2</b> Fri noon-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	State Line Gem & Mineral Society	Junior Fair Bldg., County Fairgrounds, 1814 SR 108, <b>Wauseon, OH</b>	Sherman Kardatzke, sakardatzke@gmail.com
<b>June 1</b> Sat 10-4	Gem City Rock Club	Boudreaux Visitor Center, Mark Twain Lake, <b>Monroe City, MO</b>	Brad Fanning, bfanning58@yahoo.com
<b>June 1-2</b> Sat & Sun 10-5	Coulee Rock Club	Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, <b>Onalaska, WI</b>	Allison Conrad, rockinbabe@acegroup.cc
<b>June 1-2</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society	Institute of Natural Science, 2327 W. Farm Road 190, <b>Springfield, MO</b>	Larry Lillich, omgms.57@gmail.com
<b>June 8-9</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society	County Fairgrounds, Arts & Crafts Bldg., 750 N. Home Road, <b>Mansfield, OH</b>	Tom Kottyan, TheMineralHouse@netzero.net
<b>June 14-16</b> Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 9-4	Mineral Area Gem and Mineral Society	Missouri Mines State Historic Site, 4000 State Highway 32, <b>Park Hills, MO</b>	Boneta Hensley, mojellybean63@yahoo.com
<b>June 15</b> Sat, 10-2	Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club	Parking lot, United Methodist Church, 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, <b>Osseo, MN</b>	Martha Miss, info@rock-biz.biz
<b>June 21-23</b> Fri 10-6:30, Sat 9-6:30, Sun 10-4	Lawrence County Rock Club	County Fairgrounds, U.S. Highway 50, <b>Bedford, IN</b>	lawrencecountyrockclub.org
<b>June 28-30</b> Fri 2-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-3	Osage Rock & Mineral Club	Community Center, 309 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, <b>Eldon, MO</b>	Steve Rudloff, srudloff@fastmail.com
<b>July 9-14</b> Tues-Sun, 10-7:30	Lake Agassiz Rock Club	Red River Valley Fair, 1805 Main Avenue West, <b>West Fargo, ND</b>	Chris Patenaude, lakeagzrc70@yahoo.com
<b>July 13-14</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-3	Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club	Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Ellens Drive, <b>Moose Lake, MN</b>	Lynn Svercl, danlynnsunrisefarm@yahoo.com
<b>July 19-20</b> Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5	Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club	Lakeland Union High School, 9573 Highway 70, <b>Minocqua, WI</b>	Ron Zimmer, rzimmer@charter.net
<b>July 27</b> Sat, 9-2	Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society rock swap	Jack Fox Park, north of the county courthouse, <b>Canton, SD</b>	Harlan Hoogeterp, hhogeterp@iw.net
<b>July 27-28</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Indianhead Rock and Mineral Society	Frederic High School, 1437 Clam Falls, <b>Frederic, WI</b>	Roy Wickman, 715-357-3223
<b>August 5-9</b>	Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Keeweenaw Week	Various locations on the Keeweenaw Peninsula in Michigan	Norm Gruber, ngruber@charter.net

Keweenaw Week, sponsored by the Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club, includes a reception, four field trips, metal detector training, lecture, and banquet and live auction. It is immediately followed on August 9-11 by the club's annual show and silent auction, the location of which will be announced later.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>August 9-11</b> Reception Fri 4:30-8; Seminar Sat 8:30-5:30, Sun 8:30-5	Midwest Faceters Guild Faceting Seminar	Tallmadge Township Hall, O-1451 Leonard Street, <b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>	Barbara Yost, midwestfaceters@gmail.com
<b>August 10</b> Sat, 9-4	Flint Rock & Gem Club rock, rummage, and crafts sale	Flint Rock & Gem Club, 11350 N. Saginaw Road, <b>Clio, MI</b>	Bill Wendling, 810-638-5796
<b>August 10-11</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Expo Building, County Fairgrounds, Highway 48 North, <b>Rice Lake, WI</b>	Dave Skrupky, dskrupky@centurytel.net
<b>August 16-18</b> Fri 3-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs	Machinist Hall, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, <b>Bridgeton, MO</b>	Robert Morse, rmorse@centurytel.net
<b>August 16-18</b> Fri noon-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Michiana Gem & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 5112 S. Ironwood, <b>South Bend, IN</b>	Joshua Klosinski, jklos9@yahoo.com
<b>August 17</b> Sat 10-5	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Parking lot behind Applebee's, 5609 US Highway 10, <b>Stevens Point, WI</b>	Sandy Brandl, stonez@tds.com
<b>August 24</b> Sat 8-4	Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Eau Claire County Expo Center on Lorch Avenue, <b>Eau Claire, WI</b>	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
<b>August 24</b> Sat 10-5	Racine Geological Society	Bartlett Youth Foundation, 1120 N. Stuart Road, <b>Racine, WI</b>	John Lowman, Lowman.John@sbcglobal.com
<b>August 24-25</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Peoria Academy of Science, Geology Section	Eastside Center, 1 Eastside Drive, <b>East Peoria, IL</b>	Jim Travis, boatnick@aol.com
<b>September 6-8</b> Fri and Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis	4H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple Street, <b>Greenfield, IN</b>	Tom Odom, tomo1@hughes.net
<b>September 6-8</b> Fri 2-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club	Stranahan Theater Complex, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd., <b>Toledo, OH</b>	Stephen Shimatzki, sjs132@gmail.com
<b>September 13-15</b> Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club	The Soccer Stop, 5 River Hills Drive, <b>Holland, MI</b>	Sue Goedert, sonbeams2000@yahoo.com
<b>September 14</b> Sat 9:30-4	Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Odd Fellows Lodge, 6219 Forest Hills, <b>Rockford, IL</b>	Duane Cushing, tcdc78@comcast.net
<b>September 20-22</b> Fri and Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Mozarkite Society of Lincoln	Mike Hare Memorial Field, under the water tower, <b>Lincoln, MO</b>	Karl David Parsons, mozarkiterocks@gmail.com
<b>September 21-22</b> Sat 9-7, Sun 9-3	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society rock auction	Marten Building, Amana RV Park, 39 38 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, <b>Amana, IL</b>	Marv Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
<b>September 21-22</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Livingston Gem & Mineral Society	Hartland Schools Service Center, 9525 Highland Road, <b>Howell, MI</b>	Ed Oller, edleathercraft@gmail.com



## WINNERS OF ALL AMERICAN CLUB AWARDS ANNOUNCED

By Regina Kapta, AFMS Chair  
All American Club Awards Committee

Congratulations to the All American Club Award winners for their entries covering 2018. This program highlights club activities through the year in the community, and the active participation of individuals in the club.

Clubs are evaluated based on criteria that include member activities and community involvement, and are not in competition with each other. The club yearbook reflects an active club that has incorporated proven aspects that guarantee a club will be successful for many years to come.

The award year covering 2018 had three entries for the All American Club awards, and the winners are:

**GOLD Award for the McPherson (Kansas) Gem & Mineral Club (Rocky Mountain Federation), with an average of 97 points.**

For the second year in a row, this club has created a very informative entry that shows member activities in their community, with a focus on an active junior group. They have partnered with the statewide Kansas 4H leadership, and play a vital role in holding annual 4H field trips. They are active with the AFMS and the regional chairs and committees.

**GOLD Award for the Austin (Texas) Gem & Mineral Society (South Central Federation), with an average of 93 points.**

Also for the second year in a row, the Austin Gem & Mineral Society presented a great entry that reflected the activities of their members and contributions to the community. Several club members are very active with their Federation and in support of the AFMS chairs and committees. They use the FRA Badge program, and have partnered with two separate interest groups, the Austin Paleontology Society and Texas Faceters, to expand the offerings and interests of their members.



*A member of the Austin Gem & Mineral Society talks to high school students about gems and minerals. Photo from the amfed.org page showing the society's 2017 club yearbook, which won a Gold All American Club Award in 2018.*

**SILVER Award for the Grand Junction (Colorado) Gem & Mineral Club (Rocky Mountain Federation), with an average of 88 points.**

This club has a very active field trip schedule that makes other clubs jealous! They are also involved with the local 4H groups and support the local communities with talks and programs to local schools and events.

Sections of these award-winning books will be posted in the All-American Award portion of the AFMS website, as examples of what it takes to be a successful club, fostering valuable contributions to their members and their communities.

Next year's contest will cover January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. I will need entries by March 1st, 2020.



**GEMSTONES THE COLOR OF LIFE ARE FORMED BY “ROMEO AND JULIET OF ELEMENTS”**

Heath Shive  
From the May 2017 Strata Data of  
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)

Diamonds are forever? But historically speaking, emeralds have been the most prestigious of gems. In ancient history, Egypt was the only major source for emeralds. According to legend, Cleopatra once greeted Caesar from atop a pile of emeralds. Egyptian emeralds and gold funded Roman coffers. In the sixth century, Emperor Justinian decreed that only aristocracy could wear emeralds. Napoleon favored emeralds precisely because of their connection to ancient imperial power.

Why does history favor emeralds over diamonds? Diamonds require facets to shine, and faceting technology wasn't revolutionized until the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. Emeralds don't need complex faceting. Emeralds don't sparkle – they shine! They look wet. That's why emeralds are usually made with a “table cut” – a long flat surface – instead of with many facets.

The emerald's crystal structure creates the natural luster. Emeralds are beryls – beryllium aluminum cyclosilicates – and thus have a simple hexagonal crystal shape. Chromium contamination in beryl imparts the green color. Incidentally, the gemstone aquamarine is just a beryl with an iron contamination.

That chromium combines with beryllium at all is a freak occurrence in nature. Chromium occurs in minute traces in ultramafic ocean-floor rock. Beryls are formed in granitic pegmatites on land in mountain ranges. When two continents collide, the ocean floor is pushed under a continent (subduction). When the ocean rock melts, the chromium mixes into the rising fluid and finds its way into the growing beryl crystals.

Author and jeweler Aja Raden writes that beryllium and chromium are “the Romeo and Juliet of elements” because under “no normal circumstances should these rare substances ever find each other.”

*(Continued on page 12)*

**HOW CAN I HELP PROTECT LAND ACCESS?, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 7)*

familiar with the collecting areas or routes, and are not able to make substantive, detailed comments about land access issues in the West.

This is where the ALAA's two new field trip report forms can come in. These are forms that are available on ALAA's website.

ALAA's goal for their Government Collecting Sites form is to establish a database of information which contains usage numbers for collecting areas, routes used to access the areas, and economic impact on the local economy by tracking money spent at motels, gas stations, restaurants, etc. This form will not be used to let other people know where your secret or favorite collecting sites are. The data collected will only be used to prove that collecting areas and access roads are being used and should be kept open, and to provide proof of the economic impact to the local economy.

The Private Collecting Sites form will be used as a record of your club field trips to private collecting areas. If a conflict should arise between the landowners and your club, ALAA will, as a non-involved third party, have proof of your field trip date and the details you recorded.

Please fill out these forms, send them in, and make sure all of your recreational rockhound friends know about these forms and what ALAA is trying to do!

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## GEMSTONES THE COLOR OF LIFE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 11)

Raden's book *Stoned* is a must-read for gem enthusiasts, as she examines how jewelry (especially the emerald) has had a driving effect in history.

Today Colombia dominates emerald production. Scattered lesser sources for emeralds exist, even in the United States. In fact, North America's largest emerald was discovered in North Carolina in 2009. Starting at an impressive 310 carats, it was cut down to about 65 carats and named "the Carolina Emperor."

Cone cells in the human eye see red, blue, and green. But all cone cells are sensitive to light wavelengths of 510 nanometers, i.e., the eye is most receptive to green. It's the color of life, especially as life renews in spring. Appropriately, May's birthstone is the emerald. Emeralds are prestigious, but spring . . . that's priceless.

Sources:

Finlay, Victoria. *Jewels: A Secret History*. New York: Ballantine, 2006. Print.

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*The Carolina Emperor*. Photo by Ed Speer, via [northcarolinaemeralds.blogspot.com](http://northcarolinaemeralds.blogspot.com).