

# MWF NEWS

APRIL 2008 - ISSUE #471

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The Official Publication of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies  
Member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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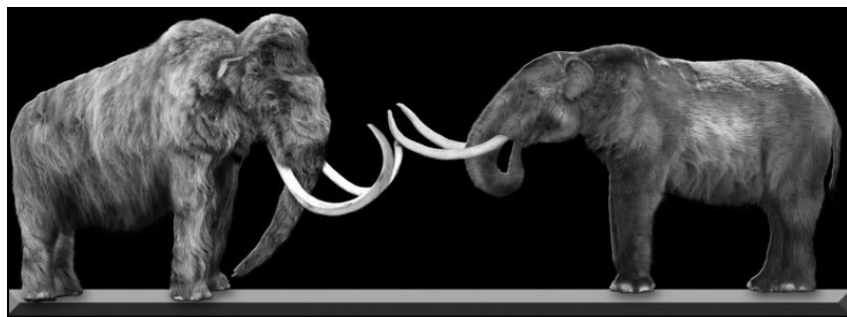
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## ⌘ Which Is Which? - The Answer! ⌘

by Homer Eshbaugh, Paleontological Dilettante



The MAMMOTH is on the LEFT. Only the northern-most species had hair. They were *grazers*. Their habitat was the vast Ice Age steppes. Consequently, they had flat, ridged molars for grinding grass. This anatomical feature makes them closely related to today's elephants.

The MASTODON is on the RIGHT. They were *browsers*, and their habitat was the Ice Age spruce forests. Their molars had blunt, conical, nipple-like projections to aid in chewing leaves. It is this anatomical feature that separates the Mastodon from today's elephants.



## ☞ The President's Message ☞

by Pamela Hecht, President, MWF

Where has the time gone?? It's April already.....**SPRING** is finally in the air for those of us in the UP of Michigan. Most of you in the southern MWF States have had a month of spring. I see that LOTS of you are planning your field trips already...I'm jealous! I wish I could say I have been hitting the rock piles....soon I hope!

We had a very productive Spring Executive Meeting in Appleton on March 15th. Donna should soon be getting out the information packets to the rest of the Committee via email or hard copy.

**NEWSLETTERS.....Thank you** to all the clubs that are sending me their organization's newsletter. I receive a lot each day around the first of the month, and I truly read them all. I have them all marked up with my pink or yellow highlighter marker. Here are some GREAT ideas that can help your organization RETAIN those guests or new members.

A new member, Dave Nienhuis of the Tulip City GMC, suggested having a table at the general meeting where folks can bring in *rock/fossil specimens to get help in identifying* them. Dave even made a form indicating who owns the specimen, where it was found, and the submitter's guess of what it is. There's even room for the "expert's" opinion. GREAT idea to get members involved with each other!!!!

The Osage Rock & Mineral Club has a *Mineral of the Month* program. Members bring in their specimens of that month's mineral, all varieties, large or small, good and not so good, to look at and talk about. The club also has a *Fundraiser Raffle*. Each month, one of their club members donates a specimen or a rock-related item. Tickets are sold for \$.25 each. The funds are being reserved for the future site of their own clubhouse. In January, an onyx bear lamp was the raffle item, donated by the Varvels, and it raised \$19.25!

### Speaking of newsletters.....

- \* Does the person who receives the MWF Newsletter take it to the meetings and make it available for club members to read???
- \* IDEA - sell advertising space to businesses that deal in our hobby to help with printing/postage costs.

- \* Does your club newsletter have the MWF website posted for members to link to?
- \* Does your club newsletter have the name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of our MWF Newsletter Editor, so that club members can submit articles to be published?
- \* State Directors are printing & sending out their own State MWF Newsletters, some each month and some quarterly (AWESOME!!!), with What's Happening with the MWF in their state. As one State Director (Alan Hukill) stated: "We're hoping to increase communication between you and us, and between you and the MWF."

The MWF newsletter is sent via e-mail to the Executive Committee, of which each State Director is a member. Some of the State Directors are then e-mailing this to their clubs as soon as they receive their email copy. That gets the newsletter to the clubs faster. Therefore, YOU have the information to share at your club meetings! You can also use any part of the MWF Newsletter in your club's newsletter, plus you are more than welcome to email the MWF Newsletter to your individual club members. Hard copies of the MWF Newsletter are sent out via bulk mail to each club as well.

I can't stress enough how much a **CLUB NEWSLETTER**, via hard copy or email, will help to **INFORM & RETAIN MEMBERS**. Sharing information or, as I call it, **COMMUNICATION**, is the **KEY TO SUCCESS** in any organization.

AND REMEMBER...you can access the earth science world online through our Midwest Federation website - **[www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)**.

Finally, I just have to share this with you all. I found my diamond for the year! No, not at the Crater of Diamonds when we were there in February, but while I was L@@King down, as I say at the end of my articles, while at work. The sun was coming in the window at just the right angle, and WOW, the light!! A diamond earring, in the mounting yet!! I found the other mounting woven in the carpet a few weeks later, but without its diamond.

See L@@King down works!!!! Pam

So keep looking down.....you'll find something!



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## Calendar of Events

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### MARCH:

**29-30: MONROE, WI. THE BADGER LAPIDARY & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 38TH ANNUAL JEWELRY, MINERAL, FOSSIL, & GEM SHOW**, Monroe High School, 1600 26th Street. Sat. & Sun., 9:00-5:00. A family oriented show offering 10 dealers, 5 quality speakers, lapidary and jewelry tools, educational exhibits, gold panning, a fluorescent mineral tent, demonstrations, hourly door prizes, videos, and a "Fish Pond" for the kids. The roaming "Rock Wizard" will be identifying any rocks brought in. Free-will donation. CONTACT: David Zimmerman, (608) 921-0206, david@showchair.com, or visit the society's website at [www.monroerockclub.org](http://www.monroerockclub.org).

### APRIL:

**5-6: GREEN BAY, WI. THE NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM GEOLOGY CLUB 22ND BIENNIAL ROCK, GEM, & MINERAL SHOW**, Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place. Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun. 10:00-4:00. 12 retail dealers with a world wide selection of jewelry, minerals, gems, fossils, and lapidary supplies. Free polished stones for the children. Many exhibits, including a black-light display. No museum admission charge for those attending the show. A \$2 donation to the club is suggested, which is used for a scholarship to a local college and monthly program sponsorship. CONTACT: Laura Sternitzkyvia, [wlstern@msn.com](mailto:wlstern@msn.com).

**5-6: MARION, IL. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS EARTH SCIENCE 46TH ANNUAL FREE GEM & MINERAL SHOW** at a NEW LOCATION - Williamson County Pavilion, 1602 Sioux Drive (behind Illinois Centre Mall). Sat. 10:00-6:00, Sun. 10:00-5:00. Displays, demonstrations, flint knapping, silent auctions, fluorescent shows, and food concession. FREE admission & parking. CONTACT: Mike Chontofalsky, 1019 E. Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801, (618) 532-0455, [mchontofalsky1019@charter.net](mailto:mchontofalsky1019@charter.net).

**12-13: DES PLAINES, IL. DES PLAINES VALLEY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 43RD ANNUAL SHOW**, Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch Street. Sat. 9:30-5:00, Sun. 10:00-4:00. Jewelry, gem, fossil, rock, and mineral dealers. Live lapidary arts demonstrations, silent auction, educational exhibits, kids' room, raffles, and door prizes. Admission: \$3 for Adults; \$2 for Seniors; \$1 for Students, ages 12-18 with school ID; and FREE for Children under age 12 accompanied by an adult. Plenty of free parking. CONTACTS: Lois Zima, (847) 298-4653, or Jeanine N. Mielecki, [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com).

**12-13: MARSHALL, MI. MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD 28TH ANNUAL GEM, JEWELRY, & MINERAL SHOW & SALE**, Marshall Activity Center, 15325 W. Michigan Avenue. Sat. 9:00-6:00, Sun. 11:00-4:00. Faceting rough, cabbing rough, loose gem stones, finished jewelry, wire wrapped jewelry, minerals, beads, lapidary and jewelry tools, and more. Learn to cut and polish a facet! CONTACT: Dave Root, (616) 457-8209, [d-root@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d-root@sbcglobal.net).

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## Calendar of Events

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### APRIL: (continued)

- 18-20: DECATUR, IL. CENTRAL ILLINOIS GEM AND MINERAL CLUB 56TH ANNUAL MINERAL, GEM, & JEWELRY SHOW**, Lutheran High School, 2001 E. Mound Road. Fri. 3:00-6:00, Sat. 9:00-6:00, Sun. 10:00-4:00. Kids Corner with the "Running Water Sluice." Dealers, demonstrators and displays, SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! Admission \$5.00, Seniors \$2.00, Kids under 15 FREE. Parking is FREE. CONTACT: Tony Kapta (217) 233-1164, arwilliams@insightbb.com.
- 18-20: ROSEVILLE, MI. MOUNT CLEMENS GEM AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY 31ST ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, & JEWELRY SHOW**, Roseville Recreation Department, 18185 Sycamore Street. Fri. 9:00-7:00, Sat. 10:00-7:00, Sun. 11:00-5:00. CONTACT: Jacquie Swain, (313) 729-5960, or Ron Rolfe, (586) 726-1578, ymrolfe@comcast.net.
- 19-20: EAU CLAIRE, WI. CHIPPEWA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW**, Eau Claire Expo Center, Lorch Avenue off Wisconsin Route 93. Sat. 10:00-6:00, Sun. 10:00-5:00. CONTACT: Roger Goss, 922 Dover Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729, (715) 723-0196, rgoss@cvol.net.
- 26: ST. JOSEPH, MI. BLOSSOMLAND GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY "SWAP 'N' SELL,"** St. Joseph/Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Ave. Sat. 10:00-4:00. This show features rocks, minerals, and fossils. There will be inexpensive mineral and fossil samples for classrooms and beginning collectors, in addition to more advanced specimens. After many years absence, the Blossomland show is *BACK - you'll want to make sure you go!* FREE admission. To reserve space and for more information, CONTACT: Nancy Wolff, (269) 983-4900, blossomlandgemandmineral@yahoo.com.
- 26-27: TROY, OH. BRUKNER GEM AND MINERAL CLUB 25TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL, & JEWELRY SHOW**, Miami County Fairgrounds, County Road 25-A. Theme: "Our Earth Offers Over 400 Minerals." Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Admission: Adults \$1, Children FREE. CONTACT: Tom Dilworth, (937) 323-6482, or Louise, dllouiseb@aol.com.

### MAY:

- 3-4: CINCINNATI, OH. CINCINNATI GEOFAIR 2008, THE 43RD ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL, & JEWELRY SHOW OF GREATER CINCINNATI**, Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 Seymour Avenue. Sat. 10:00-6:00, Sun. 11:00-5:00. This huge show is a combined effort of the **Cincinnati Mineral Society** and the **Dry Dredgers**. The 2008 theme is "American Fossil Treasures and American Mineral Treasures." 56 dealers (retail and wholesale), 4 educational earth science programs, 70 gem, mineral, fossil, and jewelry exhibits from museum, university, and private collections, family activities, swap area, *free* fossil or mineral collection for kids under 12. Admission: Adults \$7, 2-day pass \$10, Children \$2, Scouts in uniform FREE. For more information, visit the GeoFair web site at [www.geofair.com](http://www.geofair.com). CONTACT: Jim & Judy Budnik, (513) 575-1990, wisoh@msn.com.

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## Calendar of Events

(continued from page 4)

### MAY: (continued)

**17-18: BEREA (CLEVELAND), OH. PARMA LAPIDARY CLUB 40TH ANNUAL CLEVELAND AREA GEM & MINERAL SHOW**, Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Road (use Bagley Road entrance.) Sat. 10:00-7:00, Sun. 11:00-5:00. 26 dealers, demonstrations, kids corner and kid's treasure dig. Admission: \$5 for Adults, FREE to Kids 12 or under (with an adult) or Scouts in uniform. Find more information at the club web site: [www.parmalapidary.com](http://www.parmalapidary.com). CONTACT: John Zaborowski (440) 949-8242, [jjzabor@roadrunner.com](mailto:jjzabor@roadrunner.com).

**17-18: WAUWATOSA, WI. WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 51ST ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, & FOSSIL SHOW**, Muellner Building in Hart Park, 7300 W. Chestnut Street. (The Hart Park entrance is at 72nd & W. State Streets.) Sat. & Sun. 10:00-5:00. Theme: "Rocks at Work." 20 dealers from all over the Midwest selling lapidary supplies, tools, books, rough material, slabs, finished specimens, cabochons, jewelry, carvings, fossils, and more. Special exhibit on use of Wisconsin rocks in construction, industry, and our daily lives. Special guest Joseph J. "PaleoJoe" Kchodl, noted paleontologist, author, and lecturer, will be exhibiting, selling his books, and giving a free presentation each afternoon at 2:30 pm. Admission \$3.00, 2 for \$5.00, accompanied children under 16 FREE. CONTACT: Paul Schmidt, 8213 Red Arrow Court, Wauwatosa, WI 53213, (414) 771-8668, [pvs@wi.rr.com](mailto:pvs@wi.rr.com).

**31-6/1: COLUMBUS, OH. COLUMBUS ROCK AND MINERAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW**, Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad Street. **PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATES!!** Sat. 10:00-6:00, Sun. 11:00-5:00. Theme: "The Angry Earth: Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Crashing Continents." 27 quality dealers, ID booth, swap area, educational/children's area, silent auctions, exhibits, demonstrations, and displays. Talk by Dr. Mike Barton on the 1783 Laki (Iceland) Volcanic Eruption! Admission \$7 (2-day pass, \$12), Golden Buckeye (Senior) Discount, \$3 for Youth 6-16 (under 6 FREE), Scouts and 4-H Members in uniform FREE. CONTACT: Ken Harsh, (614) 433-9778, [karmakenha@aol.com](mailto:karmakenha@aol.com), or Sue Guri, (614) 262-1484, [isrguirl@yahoo.com](mailto:isrguirl@yahoo.com).

### JUNE:

**20-22: LINCOLN, NE. MIDWEST FEDERATION ANNUAL SUMMER CONVENTION.** Hosted by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, who will be simultaneously holding their 50th Annual Show. Reserve this date on your calendar NOW! More news to follow.

### \*\*\* AN OUTSTANDING RESOURCE - WIKIPEDIA \*\*\*

*Wikipedia* describes itself as a "multilingual, online, free-content encyclopedia." Available free to anyone using the internet, they have more than 2,267,000 articles (as of March 4, 2008.) Subject matter covers everything from science and nature to pop culture. Most articles have links to related topics, allowing you to quickly gather a broad range of information on a given subject.

All text and most pictures are covered by the GNU Free Documentation License. This means any Wikipedia material can be copied without permission, written or otherwise. If you are unfamiliar with this wonderful resource, you'll want check it out at [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org). **HINT:** Wikipedia requires correct spelling for it's searches; otherwise, the search fails.



## !!! Important Message from the AFMS !!!

by Bob and Kathy Miller, Survey Ad Hoc Committee

There is a growing lack of participation in competition for some of the categories of our hobby. With the costs of awards, etc., constantly increasing, the AFMS is considering the elimination of some areas of competition due to lack of interest. This would result in a reduction in costs to the annual AFMS budget. There is also the possibility of savings for our own federation.

Consequently, the AFMS has established an ad hoc committee to gather information about the member clubs' interest in various competitions. As members of this ad hoc committee, we have been asked to poll the clubs of the MWF, in an effort to determine their interest level. This is an important survey. *It may very well change the categories in which we can participate!*

**We truly need your input!**

To the person who receives the MWF Newsletter -

**Please take this article to your club meeting.** In order to determine whether to keep, revise, or eliminate a given category, we need the thoughts and comments of individual clubs and their members. Remember that clubs in other regional federations will be making their wants known. The MWF needs to make sure that the desires of our clubs are also heard.

Although other categories may be examined as well, the AFMS is looking specifically at the following areas of competition:

1. Club Publications
2. Programs Competition
3. Uniform Rules Competitive Exhibitions
4. AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
5. AFMS Education - All American Award

We're looking for such information as :

- ◆ Has your club (or any member) ever submitted an entry in any of these competitions?
- ◆ Does your club (or any member) plan to submit an entry in any of these competitions in the future?
- ◆ If your club or its members have no interest in these competitions, or if your club or its members have never participated in any of these competitions, please tell us why.
- ◆ Does your club feel that one or more of these competitions should be eliminated? If so, please tell us which one(s) and why.
- ◆ Are there any other thoughts you wish to share about these competitions?

These questions may look a bit daunting, but please understand that we are not looking for a major write-up here. A brief response will do nicely. Of course, if your club has lots of information you wish to share with the AFMS, please feel free to do so. **Any response will be greatly appreciated!**

Although you need not sign your name to the contents, please include your club's name. This will let us know how many MWF clubs have participated.

Please send your input to:

Bob and Kathy Miller, AFMS Survey  
1106 Clayton Drive  
South Bend, IN 46614

You may also e-mail us at [KanBrock@aol.com](mailto:KanBrock@aol.com). Be sure to type "**Rock Survey**" in the subject line. This keeps your message from being mistakenly rejected as spam.

### *SPEAKING OF SURVEYS...*

For those of you who have not yet responded to Michelle Yamanaka's survey of Junior Activity Programs, we've reprinted the questionnaire from last month's issue. If your club hasn't done so already, please take the time to complete it, and return it to **Michele Yamanaka, 4336 Charter Lane, Fort Wayne, IN 46815**.

*Thank you! Your input will help us all!*



**JUNIOR PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE**  
(page 1 of 2)

Name of club/society & contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # of contact: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 1:** Do you have juniors in your club?

NO, and it's OK.       NO, and we wish we had juniors.

YES; about \_\_\_\_\_ juniors attend regularly.

*[If you answered NO and it is OK, you are finished. Please mail the questionnaire to the address on the bottom of the form (page 12). All others please go to Section 2.]*

**Section 2:** What do you do with your juniors? (Please pick a, b, c, or d, AND mark the appropriate choice under your selection.)

a.  We have no special program, just part of the regular club  
 This is OK.      OR       We want to start a program.

b.  We usually have no special program, but sometimes have a "junior event", such as:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in).  
 This is OK.      OR       We want to start a regular program.

c.  We have a regular **informal** junior program.  
 This is OK.      OR       We're running out of ideas - Help!  
 We want a regular **formal** program.

d.  We have a regular **formal** junior program, with officers, by-laws, dues, etc.  
 This is OK.      OR       We're running out of ideas - Help!  
 We want to find another way to run a junior program.

**Section 3:** If you have a regular informal or formal junior program, when do you meet?

During the regular club meeting

Different time from club meeting. Please tell when: \_\_\_\_\_

(please see other side for remainder of Junior Program Questionnaire)



**JUNIOR PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE**  
(page 2 of 2)

**Section 4:** What is the name of your Junior club or program, if you have a separate name?

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**Section 5:** What does your junior program do especially well? Please mark any that apply:

- Retains junior members
- Involves juniors in junior club display competition
- Has programs so interesting that adults want to attend
- Involves adult members as lecturers or mentors
- Attracts adults and families to membership
- Other - Please explain:

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**Section 6:** If you have, or are considering, a Junior Program, please rank the following in terms of the needs of your club. 1= greatest need, 12= least need.

- Where to find juniors
- How to contact juniors after you know where they are to be found
- How to encourage juniors to participate
- How to organize a junior program
- How to get more adult members involved in a junior program
- Ideas for programs
- How to interest the club in starting a junior program (motivate)
- Where to take juniors on field trips
- How to make the club "kid-friendly"
- How to retain junior members
- How to get our juniors to interact with juniors of other clubs
- Other - Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send the completed questionnaire to:

**Michele Yamanaka, 4336 Charter Lane, Fort Wayne, IN 46815**



## >> ENTERING COMPETITION FOR THE FIRST TIME <<

By Dick Friesen, CFMS Rules Committee in the CFMS Newsletter, February 2008

Revised for the MWF audience by Joyce Hanschu, MWF Rules Chair

Entering an exhibit in competition for the first time can feel like a really difficult thing to do. How do I find all the information I need? Is my material good enough? How should I set up my display case? What are the judges looking for? These and other questions may seem so difficult that you can't even get started. Don't let these questions keep you from this fun side of our hobby.

The rules and necessary exhibiting information are readily available in the **AFMS Uniform Rules**, a document that can be downloaded by anyone for FREE from the AFMS web site ([www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)) or, for a small fee, from MWF Director of Supplies and Information Dennis Westman, 15547 Bluebird Street NW, Andover, MN 55304. If any of your club members have entered a competition or been a judge, they may have a copy they will lend you. They will also be happy to help you get any information you need.

Anticipate needing some help interpreting the rules; even experienced judges sometimes need assistance! That is where I come in. I will be happy to help in any way I can. You may contact me at (734) 455-8596 or via e-mail at [nwhanschu@prodigy.net](mailto:nwhanschu@prodigy.net).

I think one thing that keeps many people from competing is their belief that their material just isn't good enough. Well, maybe it is and maybe it isn't. Don't let that stop you. Ask those who have competed in the past, or wait for the judges to tell you. Think of competition as another chance to learn.

There are three levels of competition; **Novice, Advanced**, and **Master** (that's novice, advanced and mas-

ter in competing, not in workmanship or collecting!) Pick the level that you think best applies to you. Do your best workmanship and showmanship. Get the best advice you can from those around you and enter your work. Expect the judges will find some problems with your display, but also expect they will give you written information about your exhibit and how to improve it.

During regional federation shows, there is usually a judge-exhibitor meeting. At local club shows there is usually time to talk to the judges. Do talk to the judges about your case. Ask questions and listen to their comments about how to improve your exhibit. Use the information to improve your display, and bring it back next year!

Be careful selecting the proper class in which to enter your case. It can sometimes be hard to understand that, no matter how good your work is, it must conform to the rules in the class you have entered. Let's say you have a perfect "widget," but the rules say it is "out of class." Either don't put it in your case, or enter it in a class that allows the "widget."

Remember, a trophy may be your ultimate goal, but it should not be the only reason for you to enter a competition. Both the fun of sharing your collection or work with others, and the educational value you and others will receive from your exhibit will be enormous.

Please encourage your members to consider competitive exhibiting. There is still time to get an exhibit ready for MWF Annual Conference at Lincoln in June!

### What's in a Name?

"Spar" is a word (or word-root) that is seen in such common mineral names as Feldspar, Iceland Spar, etc. You can probably think of some others. But what, exactly, does "spar" mean?

Please feel free to e-mail the Newsletter at [MWFNewsletter@wi.rr.com](mailto:MWFNewsletter@wi.rr.com) with your answers/guesses. We'll give what we think is the right answer in the May issue - H&L



## JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Michele Yamanaka, Junior Activities Chair

*I am fortunate to receive copies of some club newsletters, and can read about what they are doing with their junior members. This month's article will be sharing what Cordelia Tomasino (tomasinos4@juno.com), Junior Activities Chair for the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society of South Bend, IN, is doing to keep junior members, and to develop help for the junior program. Because of a large junior attendance, there was need for additional club help. [Of course, additional club help is always a good thing, even if attendance is not so large!] She has some great and practical program ideas. Consider this a "Best Practices" report and see what you can use for your program. In the February, 2008 issue of Rockfinder, Cordelia writes:*

Wow! Sixteen eager juniors braved the winter weather to attend the January meeting. As I announced at that meeting, I could sure use your help, especially since rockhounding is not my specialty. So this month, could you please fill out a questionnaire to help me learn what resources we have right here in our club?

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (phone/email address) \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) could help in the following ways:

- Be 'extra hands' at the junior meeting.
- Be a rock or fossil identifier.
- Show children a specific collection. What is your collection? Are you able to bring the collection to a meeting or would you allow the children to visit your home/business?
- Demonstrate or teach a specific lapidary art. Please describe. Could it be done at a meeting or would we need to meet at another location?
- Share your knowledge. This is pretty open-ended. Can you share about your career, a special collecting trip, general information about rocks and minerals, field trip safety, gemstone lore and legend, etc. Please describe.
- Be a chaperone on a juniors' field trip.
- Other. Please describe.

*After this questionnaire, she gives information about the AFMS' Future Rockhound of America Merit Badge program and how it will be used in her club. Next, she describes the coming program:*

**Volcanoes.** What does a volcano have to do with rockhounding? Come to the February meeting to learn! We'll be making erupting volcanoes while learning a little about the igneous rocks that are formed from the lava that escapes from a real volcano. Our experiment may be a bit messy, so come in your old clothes and bring goggles, if you have them.

**Show & Tell Time.** Do you have any igneous rocks in your collection or a model volcano made for a school project? If you do, bring them to the meeting to show to other junior rockhounds.

**Like to draw or paint?** Do a bit of research and bring a picture of your favorite type of volcano.

**Like to read?** Bring in your favorite volcano-related books to recommend to others.

**Want to learn more about volcanoes and see videos of eruptions?** Visit the Volcano World web site at <http://volcano.und.edu/>.

**\*\*I don't know about you, but I would love to be a junior in their junior program!!!\*\***



## We Want Gemstones On Postage Stamps!

By Wendell Mohr,  
AFMS Commemorative Stamp Chair

We believe that it is very important to continue to endorse our request for birthstones on U. S. postage stamps. It is a first class idea, really an extension of our "Our Mineral Heritage" theme of the two prior mineral stamp sets issued in 1974 and 1992. We think the stamps would be beautiful and welcomed, not only by Gem and Mineral collectors, but by everyone who knows their birthstone!

If you agree, please send a personalized letter requesting this to :

**Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee**  
**Stamp Development**  
**US Postal Service**  
**1735 N. Lynn Street, Room 5013**  
**Arlington, VA 22209-6432**

→ **Late Breaking News!!** *The very latest status of this project has just been posted on the AFMS web site, along with flyers, teacher/student packages, etc. Go to [www.amfed.org/stamps](http://www.amfed.org/stamps).*

## <<< CLUB SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT >>>

by Homer and Linda Eshbaugh, co-editors, MWF Newsletter

To state the obvious: *The purpose of club show announcements is to entice people into attending your show.* Local advertisements, such as fliers and newspaper announcements, are quite effective in telling your town about your show, and are essential in attracting local interest, even new members. BUT...are you using ALL available resources?

### **MWF TO THE RESCUE!**

To help clubs "get the word out", the MWF provides TWO FREE SERVICES; (1) postings on the MWF web page, and (2) posting in the MWF Newsletter.

This gives your club *three real advantages*.

**First**, news about your show is disseminated across the entire MWF region, something that most clubs could not otherwise afford.

**Second**, it provides a single, easily accessible, central location, where those who are interested can discover and/or double-check the date, time, location, etc.

**Third**, your announcement is seen by people who are the most interested in shows like yours. That's truly target marketing!

### **THE BARE ESSENTIALS**

Now, we know you're asking "OK, so what are the things I absolutely must list?" Answer: Information the attendee needs in order to get to your show, of course. This information includes Month and Day(s), Show Name, Location, and Show Time(s) for each day. AND BY THE WAY - locations like "Barlow County Fairgrounds" or "Southland Mall" are of limited help to out-of-towners. Believe us, we know! Try to put in the exact street address, or at least an intersection

(Route 27 and Belcher Street.) With so many people using mapping software, this can be very helpful.

### **THE GOOD STUFF**

So now they know who/what/where/when. That's necessary, but does this make the show sound alluring? Does it make the potential attendee drool? Not really. What you also need is information that makes people say, "WOW! This sounds GREAT! Let's go!" Naturally, different things attract different people. List everything you can! Remember, it's FREE!

Include things like what number is the show (23rd annual, etc.), how many dealers will attend, what will be offered (minerals, fossils, cabochons, beads, jewelry, books, etc.), the show theme, speakers and their topic(s), special events for kids and/or grown-ups, demonstrations (of what?), admission fees, door prizes, auctions, whether food will be available, and (**VERY IMPORTANT**) a contact with phone number and e-mail address. The more detail you supply, the more people will find a reason to attend.

### **WHERE TO SEND IT**

"Well, gosh," you say, "where do I send all this good stuff?" Either of two places (or both.) Information sent to one will also be posted by the other:

MWF Web Site  
d-root@sbcglobal.net

MWF Newsletter  
MWFNewsletter@wi.rr.com

Just remember to get the information in as soon as possible. A one month lead time would be SUPER!



\*\*\* MWF Newsletter News \*\*\*

**Submission of News and Articles**

Please note that all input for a given issue of the Newsletter is due to the editors no later than the first day of the previous month. This means that the due date for the **May Issue** will be **April 1st**. Material submitted after April 1st may be delayed until the **June Issue**.

Material may be e-mailed to [MWFNewsletter@wi.rr.com](mailto:MWFNewsletter@wi.rr.com) (preferred) or submitted via the U. S. Mail. Acceptable e-mail formats include MS Word (.DOC or .DOCX), Word Perfect (.WPF), rich text format (.RTF), or plain text (.TXT).

If e-mailing an article, it may be included within the body of the e-mail message or sent as an attachment.

**Address Changes or Corrections**

Please submit any Directory changes or corrections to the MWF Secretary, Donna Moore. See page 1 for her contact information.

**Editors' Note**

This month, the number of member club's annual shows has greatly increased—it must be turning into Spring or something! PLEASE REMEMBER that the key to getting your show announcement published is to send in your information before the deadline (**APRIL 1** for the **May** issue.) Of course, we'll make *every effort* to include any information received after this date, but remember—we have deadlines, too. PLEASE help us to help you.

Many of you complemented us on the March Newsletter. Thank you so much. We have to admit, getting out our first issue was pretty hairy—lots to learn! We wish to thank everyone who helped and guided us, especially Donna Moore, and John and Judy Washburn. THANKS!

**Rock On!**

Homer and Linda Eshbaugh

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