



# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

January 2018 - Issue No. 568

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

Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Root, President

As I write this it is early December in Michigan and it is 60 degrees outside. I'm hoping that everyone is having a good holiday season. I'm also hoping that all the good little MWF clubs have all their dues paid and paperwork done. If not, get crackin'.

We hear a lot these days about how all the traditional hobbies are suffering due to the internet. The MWF is fortunate in that we have many clubs that are doing very well. Unfortunately, we also have some clubs that are struggling with declining membership and, sadly, some of them end up disbanding. One of the purposes of the MWF is to be a source of assistance to our member clubs. We have committees that offer services to clubs and individuals, and also committees that exist to advance the hobby.

But we have a bit of a problem; several of our committees need chairpersons. They include the Insurance, Endowment Fund, and Environment and

*(Continued on page 2)*



## ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Steve Shimatzki, Chair  
Club Rockhound of the Year Committee

I'm starting to get MWF Rockhound of the Year nominations sent in because it is near the end of the year. The clubs themselves have written these commendations.

In the spirit of rockhounding, Rock On!



The **Dayton Gem and Mineral Society** (Ohio) would like to take this opportunity to nominate **Sylvia Sicree** for the Midwest Federation 2017 Rockhound of the Year award.

A native of Wampum, Pennsylvania and a graduate of Duquesne University, Sylvia moved to Dayton, Ohio in 1960 with her husband, Al Sicree. Sylvia joined the Dayton Gem and Mineral Society (DGMS) in 1983 and has been a continuously active member ever since (34 years), serving as

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

*(Continued from page 1)*

Legislation committees. I would like all of you to consider stepping up and filling one of these vacancies. These positions do not take that much time and there are written instructions detailing what's involved. Piece of cake, think about it.

In last month's message I mentioned how impressed I was with the Youth Program at the Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Club in Springfield, Missouri. Well, I am very pleased to announce that Linda Plowman of Ozark Mountain has volunteered to take over as the Junior Activities chair. Thank you, Linda, I'm sure you will do well in that position.

Cindy and I have been attending MWF meetings for several years now. You're probably impressed by our dedication. Sadly, it's not true. We do it because it's fun. We have made friends that live three states away and MWF meetings give us a chance to see them. We have travelled to parts of the country that we would more than likely have never seen otherwise. We go online and look for interesting or unique places along the way. Over the years we have found some cool places. So when you think about attending a MWF meeting, don't get all "But it's so far..." Look at it as an opportunity for a bit of adventure. And, there will be rocks.

### **IN MEMORIAM: JAMES F. HURLBUT**

Carolyn Weinberger, Editor, A.F.M.S. Newsletter  
From the November, 2017 Issue

James F. Hurlbut, former president of both the Rocky Mountain Federation and the AFMS, died September 19<sup>th</sup> at the age of 95.

Following his military service in WWII, Jim Hurlbut graduated from the University of Wisconsin, then the University of Denver. After his move to Colorado in 1947, he joined the Colorado Mineral Society, and had been a force in the hobby ever since. He was president of the Rocky Mountain Federation in 1956 and AFMS president in 1993. He received the AFMS Recognition Award in 2004. He was also a member of Denver chapter of Friends of Mineralogy and the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club.



His primary interest was in microminerals, and in 2011 he was inducted into the Micromounters Hall of Fame. Long a friend of fellow micromounter Paul Seel, Jim volunteered to curate Seel's extensive micromount collection when it was donated to the Denver Museum of Science and Nature following Seel's death in 1982.

Jim lectured to both amateur and professional mineral societies, published articles in domestic and international mineralogical journals, and acted as a judge in numerous micromount competitions.

He is survived by two children and his wife Bette.

Contributions in Jim's memory may be sent to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation in care of your local federation representative. (In the case of the Midwest Federation, that is Marge Collins, [margekccollins@yahoo.com](mailto:margekccollins@yahoo.com).)

## ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR NOMINEES, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 1)*

treasurer for many years, also planning and organizing numerous events and parties.

In addition to her DGMS involvement, Sylvia has been a longtime member of the Cincinnati Gem and Mineral Society and the Midwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy. Together with Al, she worked many years at the annual Cincinnati Geofair, helping display participants find their display location and giving them any help they might need to get set up. An avid collector with Al, Sylvia has been on numerous field trips over the years, collecting in eighteen states coast to coast.

Al and Sylvia had eight children and were married for 59 years, a noteworthy accomplishment in and of itself. Al, a recipient of the 2015 Rockhound of the Year award, passed away in September 2017. Nevertheless, Sylvia continues to be a fully active participant in DGMS meetings and events. All of the members of the DGMS recognize her years of participation and devotion to the club. We believe that Sylvia Sicree is richly deserving of this prestigious MWF award and ask that you give this nomination your strongest consideration.



The nominee of the **Parma Lapidary Club** (Ohio) for Rockhound of the Year is **Amanda Balog**.

In the short time that she has been a member of the club, Amanda has done a fine job serving as our Vice President, and has just been elected President.

In addition, Amanda has stepped up above and beyond to improve the looks of our facilities by scrubbing floors and walls, and also painting rooms. While many complain that we should improve the Club's appearance to make a better first impression on guests and visitors, Amanda just goes ahead and does it! She has cleaned and painted and it looks great.

She is a warm and outgoing person who has enthusiasm and positive energy for our club. She looks for opportunities to promote what we do here and encourages others to join us. Amanda is an amazing lady who is very dedicated to the Parma Lapidary Club. We are fortunate to have her as our 2017 Rockhound of the Year.



The **Spring River Gem and Mineral Club** of Arkansas names **Bruce Langdon** our 2017 Rockhound of the Year, and hereby nominates him for the MWF 2017 Rockhound of the Year award.

Bruce is a longtime member who generously gives of his time to the club. Whether it's putting together a display or managing an activity for the club, he volunteers and is reliable in achievement. He has served on our Board and taken leadership positions on committees.

His interest in Rockhounding has taken him and his wife, in their camper, just down the road and as far as Alaska. He enjoys finding and cutting open rocks, and polishing them to see what design God hid in them.

Through experience, he has accumulated considerable knowledge of mineralogy. He has a friendly smile and always willing to share that knowledge.

We believe that Bruce Langdon is deserving of this prestigious MWF award.

*February Issue  
Submission Deadline:  
January 10th!*



## DUES AND EVENTS FORMS ARE HERE! (AND ARE DUE JAN. 15TH)

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

The 2018 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 for the DUES AND INSURANCE form is the total number of individual adult and youth members during the year completed in 2017. 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, 2018**, so our insurance can be activated on time.

Please provide a roster of current officers, including preferred mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. 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 reach you.

Use the CALENDAR OF 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 2018 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 2018. 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, 2018) may take a \$.25 per member discount. Please include **all** members when computing your insurance premium. (This was the decision made by the delegates at our most recent convention.)

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

Questions about these forms or dues? Call Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer, or Martha Miss, Chair of the MWF Calendar of Events Committee, at 651-459-0343, or email Sandy at [MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz](mailto:MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz). Direct insurance questions to Marge Jensen at 218-546-8288 or [marjen@crosbyironton.net](mailto:marjen@crosbyironton.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>Jan. 27</b> Sat 1-5	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club rock swap	Shelter House, Bethany Park, Cotner & Vine Streets, <b>Lincoln, NE</b>	Sharon Marburger, <a href="mailto:lgmc.editor@lookout.com">lgmc.editor@lookout.com</a>
<b>March 9-11</b> Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City	KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador, <b>Kansas City, MO</b>	Bruce Stinemetz, <a href="mailto:brucestinemetz@att.net">brucestinemetz@att.net</a>
<b>March 10</b> Sat 6-9	Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society silent auction	Gym, St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie, <b>Skokie, IL</b>	Jeanine N. Mielecki, <a href="mailto:jaynine9@aol.com">jaynine9@aol.com</a>
<b>March 10-11</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Geodeland Earth Science Clubs	Student Union ballroom, Western Illinois University, <b>Macomb, IL</b>	Ed Wagner, <a href="mailto:loesseditor@gmail.com">loesseditor@gmail.com</a>



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2018 Club Dues (Use membership figures from year completed in 2017)

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

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

Do you want MWF Membership Cards?  Yes  No

### 2018 Club Insurance

Total Adults and Youth to be insured \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.50 (\$4.25 for qualifying clubs\*) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2018 receive a discounted insurance rate of \$4.25 per member)

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

(Make check payable to Midwest Federation)

FORM, DUES, INSURANCE PAYMENTS & EVENTS LISTINGS are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2018

Mail to: MWF, %Sandy Fuller, 8445 Grange Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

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

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). You may 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 2019. \*\*  
Mail completed form with your dues. Questions? Call 651-459-0343

**DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2018**

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

## EXPLORING SOUTHERN KENTUCKY'S CAVE COUNTRY

Article and Photos by Sue Guirl  
From the September, 2017 Glacial Groove  
Columbus (Ohio) Rock and Mineral Society

A trip to Kentucky to see the recent solar eclipse offered an opportunity to spend a few days exploring Southern Kentucky's well-known cave country. About 300 miles southwest of Columbus, the small town of Cave City offers a convenient central location from which to explore the area's caves. You'll find adequate accommodations in Cave City (Bowling Green, 30 minutes farther south, offers a greater lodging selection). If you enjoy camping, reserve a campsite at Mammoth Cave National Park. Park campsites are shaded and spacious with flush-toilet restrooms and coin shower and laundry facilities available at the camp store.

My first stop was historic Mammoth Cave. A huge karst system, Kentucky is pockmarked with caves formed by underground rivers that have bored their way through limestone leaving huge caverns behind. Some caves still flood regularly, but Mammoth Cave has drilled down through five levels over the eons, leaving upper levels dry and a still flowing river at its deepest level.



*Mammoth Cave. Photo by Sue Guirl.*

Explorers have discovered more than 400 miles of interconnecting passageways that link Mammoth to many other local caves, making it the world's largest cave system. Mammoth is primarily a dry cave, meaning the sandstone cap above the limestone

remains intact, preventing water from percolating through the soil and dripping into the cave as it does in wet caves. Once mined for saltpeter used in making gunpowder, most of Mammoth Cave is devoid of the beautiful formations that grace wet caves. In the few areas where the sandstone cap has eroded away, fabulous formations like the two-story Frozen Niagara have developed.

Tours of nearby Diamond Cavern (most beautiful) and Onyx Cave delivered the gorgeous formations I had hoped to see. The boat ride into Lost River Cave was pretty cool, but my favorite stop was the American Cave Museum and its Hidden River Cave in Horse Cave, Kentucky. The museum's explanation of karst cave formation was excellent, but even more fascinating was the guide's narrative of the shenanigans that took place during the 1920s cave wars, the disastrous use of the cave as a town sewer system, and the herculean and successful volunteer effort to clean up and restore the cave. It's a cautionary tale and remarkable environmental success story.



*Entrance to Hidden River Cave. Photo by Sue Guirl.*

Travel Tip: Book Mammoth Cave tours (campsites too) online in advance, as they sell out quickly and some tours are only offered on weekends or certain parts of the year. A dozen or so tickets per tour are available first-come, first-served when the Visitors' Center opens 8 a.m., but the queue starts forming about 6:30 a.m. and those last-minute tickets go quickly. You shouldn't have any trouble getting same-day tickets for any of the other cave tours.

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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.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

## **ROCK & GEM MAGAZINE WANTS ARTICLES ABOUT YOUR LAPIDARY PROJECTS**

Jim Brace-Thompson  
From the October, 2017 A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Rock & Gem magazine is the officially endorsed hobby magazine of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. In other words, it's our magazine! Not only does it contain articles of immediate interest each and every month, it welcomes contributions by each and every one of us to better inform our fellow practitioners in our fun hobby.

R&G Managing Editor Lynn Varon notes that one especially popular feature is the "Lapidary of the Month" article submitted by people to highlight some new technique or novel lapidary art that they've mastered and would like to share with their fellow rockhounds.

However, the supply of entries for this monthly feature has been drying up in recent months, and Lynn welcomes new articles to keep this feature lively and relevant.

The guidelines are simple:

1. Write a 500-word step-by-step description of how you crafted a particular lapidary project and save it as a document file.
2. Take at least one sharp, close-up, color digital photo of the finished project. (Use high resolution: 300 dpi at 4 inches by 5 inches, minimum.)
3. Attach your document file and digital photo (.tif or .jpg) to an e-mail and send it to [editor@rockngem.com](mailto:editor@rockngem.com) with the subject line "Lapidary of the Month."
4. Email the editor or call 972-448-4626 with any questions. Lynn is happy to provide guidance!

For an example, see page 8 of the September issue of Rock & Gem, where the "Lapidary of the Month" article describes how to make drawer pulls and knobs for kitchen cabinets decorated with agate cabs. Let's all help keep our own hobby magazine lively and relevant with projects and techniques that should prove of interest to all of us!