



# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

May 2020 - Issue No. 592

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

Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Donker, MWF President

Wow. It's hard to believe that just a couple of weeks ago our clubs were having meetings and planning for spring and summer shows and field trips. Who would think that our country would come to a standstill?

People are out of work, businesses are closed. Gas is cheap, but you can't go anywhere. Most states have a stay-at-home and be-safe order.

This is a good time to clean and work on your rocks at home.

We look forward to when this coronavirus is over. Hopefully we will be going back to a regular way of life sometime soon.

Hope everyone is well and stays safe. Look out for each other, and help those in need.

God bless.



## YES — WE'VE MADE THE PLANS!

Sherlynn Everly, Convention Coordinator  
Livingston Gem & Mineral Society (MI)

Yes – Due to COVID-19, we have been locked out of our precious workshop since March 14<sup>th</sup>. Yes – We are under a Stay-at-Home Order in Michigan through April 30<sup>th</sup>. But Yes – We still plan to hold our Show and host the 2020 Midwest Federation Convention in September!

We at the Livingston Gem & Mineral Society in Howell, Michigan remain optimistic that we will get through this difficult situation before the end of summer. In that spirit, we have signed all the contracts, made all the commitments and now – prepared all the paperwork! That's right, the registration form, hotel information and schedule are now available at the Midwest Federation's website, [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf). (Also see page 3 for further information.)

Our club members are keeping in touch through our Facebook page (Livingston Gem and Mineral

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**YES — WE'VE MADE THE PLANS!, CONTINUED**

(Continued from page 1)

Society) and website, [www.livingstongems.com](http://www.livingstongems.com), and we invite you to join us online. In the meantime. . .

Yes – Keep social distancing and washing your hands.

Yes – Keep that promise to clean your workshop or organize your creative space.

Yes – Keep looking forward to being together again in the world of mineralogy, geology and gemology!

**WEBSITE ADMINS, YOU ARE INVITED**

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

Attention Facebook Administrators! Are you a member of the MWF Facebook page? More than thirty administrators responded to Lisa Morris' invitation to start a chat group for administrators of Federation clubs. Potential topics include grassroots marketing, Facebook advertising, polls, videos, online “get-togethers,” watch parties, and more.

Contact Lisa Morris, or look for her March 10<sup>th</sup> post on the MWF Facebook page.

**BEWARE OF SCAM EMAILS**

Allison Conrad, Wisconsin State Director

**Notice: The email below is a scam.**

*From: [NAME OF A REAL PERSON]  
<presidency@raorcars.com> [NOT THE REAL  
EMAIL ADDRESS]*

*To: Minnesota Mineral Club show chair  
Date: March 29, 2020 at 5:31 PM  
Subject: Madison Gem and Mineral Club*

*Hello Maureen*

*Are you available to assist? I am out of the State now and I've got credence in you to take care of this. I would have called your phone but I presently do not have access to my mobile phone. Madison Gem and Mineral Club needs some gift cards for donation to Veterans at Hospice and Palliative care units for preventive items from Corona Disease (COVID 19). I am liable for reimbursement. Need more info?*

Sandy Fuller, the MWF Treasurer, passed along this email, which had been received by the Minnesota Mineral Club. It is very similar to scam emails that use the name of someone in the club, but have suspicious return addresses.

If you receive such an email, **do not reply or click on the links**. Blacklist or junk it, to purge from emails ASAP. Also keep a sharp eye out for any other types of emails, phone calls, or text messages you may receive.

Such emails sometimes claim to be from the IRS, although the IRS will not use any of those options to contact you. Scammers are attempting to get your personal information in order to access your tax returns, stimulus checks, and bank and retirement accounts.

They are counting on you to be frightened and anxious during this stressful time of COVID-19 lockdowns, while families and individuals are being challenged with many things.

We will all get through this trying time! In the meantime: Stay vigilant and stay safe!

## CONVENTION SCHEDULE IS SET

Silversmithing demonstrations, a tour of a club's lapidary shop, decision-making meetings, and awards – these will all be part of the 2020 Midwest Federation Convention and its associated rock show, to be held September 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> in Howell, Michigan.

On Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, attendees are invited to tour the lapidary shop and headquarters of the Livingston Gem & Mineral Society, hosts of the convention and sponsors of the Rockhound's Dream Show. Members of the club will be on hand at this meet & greet to discuss the club's activities and give a behind-the-scenes look at the show.

The show itself will be held Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Besides dealers in gems and minerals, the show will feature fossils, lapidary exhibits, free flint-knapping lessons, a children's table, a silent auction, and demonstrations in bead-making, silversmithing, and wire-wrapping.

The Midwest Federation's meetings will be held on Saturday: State Directors will meet at 8:30 a.m., the MFW Executive Committee will meet at 9 a.m., and there will be a lunch for Executive Committee members and State Delegates at noon. The delegates will hold their meeting at 1 p.m., with a half-hour registration session beforehand.

MFW Awards will be presented at a banquet Saturday night, with a cash-bar happy hour at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

The show and meetings will be at the Show Hall and the Senior Center of the Hartland Education Support Services Center, 9525 E. Highland Road, in Howell. The awards banquet will be held at Block Brewery, 1140 S. Michigan Avenue, in Howell. Pre-registration is required for the lunch and the awards banquet, and is a good idea for the meetings. You can find the registration form at [www.amfed.org/mwf/convention/2020RegistrationForm](http://www.amfed.org/mwf/convention/2020RegistrationForm).

Special guest rates will be available at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites and the Baymont Inn & Suites in Howell for the event. The Holiday Inn Express contact information is [www.hiehowell.com](http://www.hiehowell.com), 517-548-0100; the Baymont Inn contact information is [www.baymontinns.com](http://www.baymontinns.com), 517-546-0712.

## CONVENTION AUCTION NEEDS DONATIONS

Susan Stanforth, Chair  
MFW Silent Auction Committee

Time to dream big about our release from quarantine. For me, that means requesting donations for the MFW Silent Auction on September 20<sup>th</sup> during the Livingston Gem & Mineral Society's show. Like me, I bet you have flats of rock items that you would like to re-home. Please consider donating them for our auction. The money we raise goes to Endowment for MFW activities that come back to you and your clubs.

Dawn Cramar, the Indiana State Chair, has joined up with me as Auction Assistant, along with the usual suspects who have volunteered their time to help. So please contact me at 815-229-4009, email me at [sstanforth123@yahoo.com](mailto:sstanforth123@yahoo.com), or text me at 815-980-7498 so that we can collect your donations. Thank you!



*The Livingston Gem & Mineral Society's workshop will be the site of a meet & greet September 18<sup>th</sup>. Photo from the group's Facebook page.*

## CONVENTION AWARDS TO INCLUDE EDITORS

Sharon Marburger, Chair  
MFW Bulletin Editors Committee

Thanks to the contributing editors to the 2020 Bulletin Editors Contest. The entries have been judged at the MFW level, and the top three entries in each category have been forwarded to the AFMS for judging. This year, there were 17 entries from 7 clubs. The awards will be distributed at the MFW Convention in September, provided that it is not cancelled due to the COVID-19 epidemic. Should the Convention be cancelled, awards will be mailed to each submitting editor. A list of winners will be published in the October *MFW News*.

## REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO CONVICTION OF ARTIFACT THIEVES

Mark Nelson  
From the April, 2002 AFMS Newsletter

An historic petroglyph was stolen from the El Paso Mountains in June, 2019. Please be on the lookout for any signs of this historic artifact and HELP to return it to its home!

The Sunburst Petroglyph is covered with designs etched by ancient peoples. It was stolen from the El Paso Mountains near Ridgecrest, California. The Bureau of Land Management's Ridgecrest Field Office is offering up to \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for stealing the petroglyph.

If you have any information regarding this crime, you are encouraged to call WeTip immediately at 1-800-782-7463. For more information, contact the Ridgecrest BLM Field Office at (760) 384-5400.



*The Sunburst Petroglyph. Photo by the Bureau of Land Management.*

## WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO ROCK, THANK YOU!

Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian  
From the AFMS Newsletter, April 2020

Woo-hoo! Did anyone else see it? I was sitting on the couch half watching the Oscars on TV, more interested in my bowl of pistachio ice cream, when a clever Facebook commercial came on the screen catching my attention. The theme of the ad was "Ready to Rock." The creative commercial showcased twelve popular groups who have the word *rock* in their titles or have something to do with rocks (or rocking, or Rocky), and who use Facebook. It was a high-energy advertisement using quick video clips for each group. Examples of the variety of group users were Moab Rock Climbers, Table Rock Lake, Rock Buggies Off Roading, and Experimental Rocketry to name a few.

I just about fell off the couch when I saw one of the twelve groups was "Rockhounds," showing a photo of the famous selenite cave in Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico, with people exploring the cave.

I had to look up the cost for these ads because not only was the commercial shown during the Oscars, it was shown during the Super Bowl this year. The cost of a commercial during the 2020 Super Bowl was \$5.6 million for 30 seconds. The cost of an ad during the

2020 Oscars was from \$2.6 million and higher for 30 seconds. Do the math folks, we were just gifted with some amazing free advertising. How many people watched the Oscars this year? 23.6 million. How many people watched the Super Bowl this year? 101 million.

In case you missed seeing the commercial, you can watch it in full on YouTube. The title is "Facebook Groups: Ready to Rock?" The message in big letters at the end of the commercial is, "Whatever you rock, there's a Facebook Group for you." I am still on cloud nine that this happened for recreational rockhounding and that Facebook thought enough to include us in their advertising.

I hope societies mention this exciting news at your next general meeting and include the information in your bulletins to inspire members. At a time when we sometimes worry about changing times and their impact on our recreational activity, this experience of receiving free national advertising is truly amazing and something to celebrate.

Any time your society editor would like to include an AFMS Historian article in your bulletin, I am more than happy to forward you a digital copy to use. Ready to Rock Rockhounds, that's us!

## SPRING RIVER GEM & MINERAL CLUB MEMBER HAS HER OWN MUSEUM

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

Tear this page out and keep it. You may not be able to get in during the pandemic (although it might be worth giving the owner a call to find out), but you'll want to remember the Museum of Imagination in Brockwell, Arkansas when you're taking trips to museums again.

"I don't know of any club in Arkansas, or anywhere, that boasts a member who has a privately owned natural science museum. . ." wrote Mary Kocz of the Spring River Gem and Mineral Club in Arkansas. The member she's referring to is Barbara Knight, who, with her late husband Albert Lorenzi, opened the Museum of Imagination in 2001.

Knight and Lorenzi were residents of Chicago when they traveled the country, collecting rocks, fossils, skulls, shells, manures, snake skins, seed pods, and other items from nature. When they moved to Salem, Arkansas in 1995, they decided to share their

death in 2014, Barbara Knight has remained active in the club as its silent auction chair, Christmas party chair, and June Picnic chair. She won the club's 2019 Rockhound of the Year award.

The Museum of Imagination is at 25 Chapel Hill Road in Brockwell. It is normally open Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and by appointment; call 870-895-2087 for information when things open back up again!



Photo from [exploreizard.blogspot.com](http://exploreizard.blogspot.com).



Exhibit at the Museum of Imagination. Photo from [exploreizard.blogspot.com](http://exploreizard.blogspot.com).

collection with the public and bought a building in Brockwell. Lorenzi hand-made all of the cases in the museum.

The mineral collection includes large geodes, septarian nodules, fluorescent minerals, and fossils. And you read right above: the collection includes different kinds of manure. They are shown in a case where visitors are challenged to match the animal with its poop.

Knight and Lorenzi were both members of the Spring River Gem and Mineral Club. Since Lorenzi's

## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM ALAA

Shirley Leeson, President  
American Lands Access Association

We at ALAA want to extend our sincere concern for all of you. It's been troubling times for all of us. This global coronavirus pandemic is affecting all of our families, our businesses, our communities, even our way of life. We urge you all to take precautions for the safety and health of you and your families. We are strong, we are Americans, and we have been through trying times in the past. Nothing will keep us down.

Let's all hope and pray that this curse will come to an end soon and we can get back to what recreational rockhounds do best . . . collecting rocks. So, Rock On!



## DIAMOND DAN OFFERS FREE MINERAL-THEMED GAMES FOR SOCIAL-DISTANCING CHILDREN

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

Diamond Dan Publications has published children's magazines and books about rocks and minerals for years. As you can see in Sandy Fuller's article on this page, the Midwest Federation sends Diamond Dan's online "Mini Miners Monthly" to clubs who pay their MWF dues before January 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

Recently, as a favor to children (and their parents) who are stuck at home due to the coronavirus pandemic, the company has published two free children's games – Mineral Bingo and Mineral Go-Fish.



*Image from diamonddanpublications.net. This is the Emerald Go-Fish card.*

The card deck and the bingo sheets feature brightly colored drawings of various minerals; they suggest printing the cards on heavy paper or card stock. Rules sheets accompany the game pieces.

In addition, Diamond Dan is offering "Minerals of the Bible," a book about minerals mentioned in

### DEADLINE CALENDAR

**Rockhound of the Year Awards** may be submitted at any time to Steve Shimatzki, sjs132@gmail.com.

**MWF Annual Convention**, sponsored, with the club's annual show, by Livingston Gem & Mineral Club, will be held **Sept. 18-20** in Howell, Michigan. See the article on page 3, or contact Sherlynn Everly, everly55@gmail.com.

Scripture, including drawings of minerals that children can color.

*And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of IRON; and the sound of their wings [was] as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. (Revelation 9:9)*

The first mention of iron is in Genesis 4:22 where Tubal-cain is introduced as one who made items out of brass (most likely, copper) and iron. Archaeologists have discovered that this early in human history, people had not yet learned to remove iron from iron ore. Therefore, the iron that the most ancient people used had to be iron from nickel-iron meteorites that they collected, melted and forged into new objects.

*The first paragraphs of the "Iron" entry in "Minerals of the Bible."*

The games can be found on the company's home page ([www.diamonddanpublications.net](http://www.diamonddanpublications.net)). If you are interested in "Minerals of the Bible," let me know and I'll forward the email containing the book to you. My email address is [vjmwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:vjmwriter@yahoo.com).

### ARE YOU GETTING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

Is your club receiving and sharing Diamond Dan's "Mini Miners Monthly" with your "kids" of all ages? The MWF is providing free subscriptions to clubs that renewed their MWF membership by the January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. If your club did not designate a juniors program leader to receive the newsletter, the subscription is sent to the newsletter editor or the person designated to receive Federation mail.

If your club is eligible and not receiving your Mini Miners materials, please check your spam mail file. If you still don't have it, contact Sandy Fuller, [mwftreas@rock-biz.biz](mailto:mwftreas@rock-biz.biz). Be sure to include the name of your club.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<p><b>NOTICE!</b> The shows in this calendar are still being held, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. Some shows may have cancelled without giving notice to the MWF News. Before going to any rock show that requires you to travel, please call ahead to be sure that the show is still being held. If you find a show that's still being held, have a good time, but take care of yourself too!</p>			
<p><b>APRIL SHOWS KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED:</b> Miami County Gem &amp; Mineral Club show in Troy, Ohio. <b>MAY SHOWS KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED:</b> Cincinnati Mineral Society show in Cincinnati, Ohio; Heart of Wisconsin Gem &amp; Mineral Society show in Marshfield, Wisconsin; Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society show in St. Joseph, Michigan; Wisconsin Geological Society show in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin; Central Missouri Rock &amp; Lapidary Club show in Columbia, Missouri; Cuyuna Rock Gem &amp; Mineral Society show in Brainerd, Minnesota; Parma Lapidary Club show in North Olmsted, Ohio.; Chicagoland Gems &amp; Minerals Association show in St. Charles, Illinois. <b>JUNE SHOWS KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED:</b> Coulee Rock Club show in Onalaska, Wisconsin.</p>			
<b>April 25-26</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society	Bldg. E, Eau Claire Expo Center, Lorch Avenue entrance, <b>Eau Claire, WI</b>	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
<b>April 25-26</b> Sat 10-9, Sun noon-6	Tri-County Rocks and Minerals Society	Town Center, 4101 E. Wilder Road, <b>Bay City, MI</b>	Renee Simmons, simmonsironman@yahoo.com
<b>April 26</b> Sun, 11-5	Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society	Waterloo Center for the Arts, 225 Commercial Street, <b>Waterloo, IA</b>	David Malm, davidmalm@cfu.net
<b>May 15-17</b> Fri & Sat, 9-5; Sun 9-3	Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker, <b>Joplin, MO</b>	Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net
<b>May 29-31</b> Fri noon-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	State Line Gem & Mineral Society	Junior Fair Bldg., County Fairgrounds, 1814 State Road 108, <b>Wauseon, OH</b>	Sherman Kardatzke, sakardatzke@gmail.com
<b>June 12-14</b> Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 9-4	Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society	Missouri Mines State Historic Site, 4000 W. Highway 32, <b>Park Hills, MO</b>	Connie Saylor, conrocks123@yahoo.com
<b>June 13, 2020</b> Sat, 10-5	Gem City Rock Club	Boudreaux Visitor Center, Mark Twain Lake, <b>Monroe City, MO</b>	Brad Fanning, bfanning@yahoo.com
<b>June 13-14</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society	County Fairgrounds, Fairhaven Hall, 750 N. Home Road, <b>Mansfield, OH</b>	Tom Kottyan, TheMineralHouse@netzero.net
<b>June 26-28</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>	Dave Treffinger, lawrencecountyrockclub.org

*June Issue Submission Deadline  
Is May 6th!*

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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.**  
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>June 26-28</b> Fri 2-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-3	Osage Rock and Mineral Club	Eldon Community Center, 309 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , <b>Eldon, MO</b>	Steve Rudlaff, 573-690-7348
<b>July 7-12</b> Tues-Sun, 10-7:30	Lake Agassiz Rock Club	Red River Valley Fairgrounds, 1805 Main Avenue West, <b>West Fargo, ND</b>	Chris Patenaude, Lakeagzrc@yahoo.com
<b>July 17-18</b> Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5	Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club	Lakeland Union High School, 9573 Highway 70 West, <b>Minocqua, WI</b>	Ron Zimmer, rzimmer@charter.net
<b>July 18-19</b> Sat & Sun	Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club	Moose Lake Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Ellens Drive, Moose Lake, MN	Lynn Svercl, danlynnsunrisefarm@yahoo.com
<b>July 25</b> Sat, 9-2	Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society rock swap	Jack Fox Park, 104 N. Main, <b>Canton, SD</b>	Harlan Hoogeterp, rockswap@segams.org
<b>July 25-26</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Indianhead Rock & Mineral Society	Frederic High School, 1437 Clam Falls Drive, <b>Frederic, WI</b>	Roy Wickman, rktswick@chibardun.net
<b>Aug. 3-7</b>	Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Keeweenaw Week	The festival in Michigan's copper country includes field trips to freshly bulldozed rock piles, a lecture on Sweden's copper country, workshops about metal detectors and mineral identification, evening social events, and a live auction. Locations in and around <b>Calumet Township, Michigan.</b> Rob Grabarczyk, grabarcz@UP.net.	
<b>Aug. 7-9</b> Fri 1-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-3	Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club show following Keeweenaw Week	Houghton Elementary School, 203 W. Jacker, <b>Houghton, MI</b>	Rob Grabarczyk, grabarcz@UP.net