

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

June 2020 - Issue No. 593

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

Hello! Hope everyone is safe and healthy. As some states are beginning to open up slowly, some are still on stay-at-home.

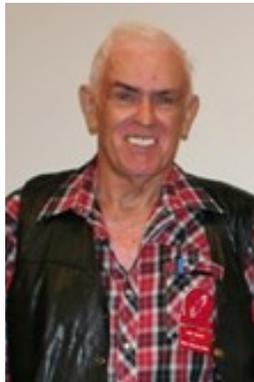
It would be nice to have this over and go back to our regular business, when we could meet again.

It would be great to have rock club meetings, field trips, and shows once again.

We look forward to the summer and fall when the country opens up. No more staying home – people going back to work, getting out of the house, going out to eat, seeing friends and family again. We hope we can have meetings, shows, and field trips again soon.

I hope everyone stays safe and healthy. I’m looking forward to when we can see our friends again.

God bless.



## MWF CONVENTION HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

Sadly, the annual Midwest Federation convention in Howell, Michigan, sponsored by the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society, has been cancelled because of the pandemic. We thank the club for the hard work that they put in to prepare, and appreciate their concern for public safety.

The MWF Scholarship Honoree plaque will be presented to George and Anna Pernicano, members of the Livingston club, in Michigan later this summer. The Executive Committee will decide later how to distribute any other awards that were to be handed out at the awards banquet this year.

There have been several inquiries as to whether the American Federation convention, hosted by the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society in Knoxville, Tennessee on October 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>, is still planned. As of this writing, that convention is still on.

Check the AFMS website for timely information. As soon as anything changes, the website will be updated. There are no scheduled newsletters for July and August, unless a special edition is required.

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### **HONOR SOMEONE WITH A NOMINATION**

Catherine Clevenz, 2nd Vice President

As the MWF is continuing to move forward during the current health crisis, I hope your clubs are seriously considering a person to nominate for a prestigious award, the 2021 MWF Scholarship Honoree.

This honoree will have the profound opportunity to hand out scholarship grants to two graduate students. As college costs continue to rise, you could be considered a real hero to a deserving individual.

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 Catherine Clevenz  
2544 Eastgate Road, #12  
Toledo, OH 43614

You may also send the nomination via email to: clevenz@gmail.com.

The green section of the MWF 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.

### **JARGON ALERT!**

Rick Kennedy,  
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Via the AFMS Newsletter, April 2020

Many of us have been involved in the hobby or members of a club long enough that we develop our own language, sets of terms that don't make a lot of sense to the outside world. It is a shared language, our own kind of "secret handshake." When we use this language among ourselves, it feeds and strengthens our community.

However, when a system is not in place for a neophyte (who might be shy, and a bit afraid to be the only person not in on a joke) to ask questions, that same shared language can have a very unwelcoming effect on new people.

There is an organization that I belong to that has come up with a great way of dealing with this issue. At the beginning of our meetings, the leader announces that if there is any word or term that does not make sense, shout out "Jargon Alert!" At which point, whoever is speaking must pause, and explain the unknown term. This leads to better understanding and fosters better community.

One last thing: Neophytes need help identifying rocks and minerals. It is one of the foremost reasons they initially come to club meetings. By definition, they are inexperienced and likely not discerning collectors yet. As a club, it is our job not just to help them identify things, but to do it in a kind, teaching manner.

New people will pick up anything that catches their eye or looks different, and there is nothing wrong with that. We have knowledge they don't, and if we want to be welcoming, we will use that knowledge gently and kindly. Calling our own collecting mistakes "Leaverite" leads to good-natured humor, but giving the same name to someone else's finds can easily come off as an insult, especially if they are new to the hobby and just don't know any better.

*Have a great  
summer, everyone!*

## A FRIEND FROM BACK HOME, AN AFGHANI ROCKHOUND — WHERE ELSE BUT QUARTZSITE?

By Antonio Peso  
Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society  
From the March, 2020 Pick & Dop Stick

On a pleasant Friday morning in Tucson, my wife Kathy and I began our journey full of excitement and anticipation toward Quartzsite, a small town in western Arizona famous as a place to trade, buy, or simply view rocks and minerals from all over the world. Located in La Paz County in the Sonoran Desert, Quartzsite is also a perfect winter destination, since it has year-round warm weather.

Early that January morning, we looked at the map and found the distance from Tucson to Quartzsite was 275 miles, or about four hours of driving. The rock and mineral shows there are a prelude to the big shows in Tucson, which begin at the end of January each year.

The history of Quartzsite began in 1856 when settler Charles Tyson built his privately-owned Fort Tyson to protect his water supply from Indian raids. The town soon became a stopover on the Ehrenburg-to-Prescott stagecoach route for several years, and was known as Tyson's Wells. After the stagecoach line ceased operation, Quartzsite became a ghost town.

A few years later, the finding of some minerals there revitalized the town, which became known as Quartzsite in 1897. It remained a mining town until 1965, when the Quartzsite Pow Wow, held in mid-January, began, and made Quartzsite a mecca for rock and mineral lovers during the months of January and February. Rockhounds come from near and far to camp and show off their collections and items for sale.

This year was a very interesting visit for us. At the Desert Gardens location, we met fellow CRMS club member Wayne Dawson at his stand with his many specimens for sale. We enjoyed discussions with him about rocks and minerals, and we exchanged ideas about our motivations for collecting them. It is very gratifying to hear the "why" of a collection and the positive ways that this hobby has enriched a person.

Later, we continued our discussion with Wayne over dinner at Sizzler in Blythe, California, 19 miles away and near the motel where we were staying.

It was Heaven and Earth in my hand! So much stimulation, temptation and, most of all, the joy of

being surrounded by so many people with similar goals! I thought to myself that night.



*Antonio and Kathy Peso with Wayne Dawson at Quartzsite in January 2020. Photo courtesy of the Pesos.*

At the Desert Gardens show I bought two beautiful tourmalines from Pakistan from Mirwisc Azam, a dealer from Afghanistan. With a gigantic smile, he talked to us and allowed us to take a picture with him and his treasures. It is amazing how easy it is to open a line of communication with unknown people when the hobby and passion are similar.



*Mirwisc Azam and Antonio Peso. Photo by Kathy Peso.*

The morning of the second day, we drove again to the Desert Gardens show where we revisited with Wayne for a few minutes. After that, my wife was attracted to a display of unusual formations from a dealer from Canada. They are called "fairy stones" by

*(Continued on page 4)*

## WHERE ELSE BUT QUARTZSITE? (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 3)*

the native people living in the far north of Quebec and considered to be lucky charms. These are natural formations of calcium carbonate found along the shoreline of the Harricana River. Forms of concentric circles become truly artistic creations.

After the purchase of one of these specimens, we spoke to Shawn, son-in-law of Donna and Vint Wade from Moab, Utah. The Wade family has been in business for over 30 years. When asked what they most like about their business, Shawn said it was “talking to fellow collectors and playing with rocks.” We then left Desert Gardens and drove to Tyson Wells, about a mile down the road.

There, on both sides of the road, takes place what is best described as a “soup” of activities. It is part mineral and gem sales from large companies as well as individual dealers, some of whom are the actual prospectors, and part RV show with all kinds of models, from the smallest compact trailer to giant homes on wheels.

Another part consists of arts and crafts, with people exhibiting their jewelry, carvings, weavings and handiwork for sale. Another part has vendors with homegrown vegetables, honey, marmalades, and similar food products. There are also huge tents with odds and ends ranging from screwdrivers, cables, and batteries to nail files, baseball caps, and stuffed animals.

At a small unassuming stand, we met Chris Vandergrif, a prospector from Westcliffe, Colorado. He had beautiful pieces of what he named “Red Hill” quartz from his mine in Colorado near the Dorris family’s claims. Vandergrif’s mine is a 3/8-mile-long by 4-foot-wide deposit of quartz with traces of thorium between two volcanoes.



*Miner Chris Vandergrif lifts the top layer off a piece of “Red Hill” quartz from the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Photo by Antonio Peso.*

He showed us a unique specimen of Red Hill quartz, the entire top of which could be lifted off without damaging the underlying layers. We spoke with him for a long while as he described what he likes most about prospecting as being “the first to see unique creations of nature as they lay in the Earth.”

In writing this article, I hope to have conveyed a little of the feeling of what it is like to visit Quartzsite, a quirky, one-of-a-kind site in the desert of Arizona.

Sources:

*Quartzsite E-Z Guide*, XPO Press, Inc., January/February 2020. <https://xpopress.com/guide/profile/4/quartzsite-ez-guide>. Accessed February 5, 2020.

*RV Voices, RV Destination Quartzsite*. <https://blog.rvillage.com/rvdestination-quartzsite-arizona>. Accessed February 24, 2020.

*September Issue Submission Deadline  
Is August 5th!*

**SAFETY MATTERS — NOW MORE THAN EVER**

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair  
From the May, 2020 A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Pulling together to accomplish club goals is what we do – shows, field trips, educational programs and all manner of activities require a good deal of preparatory effort. A new common activity now faces us and our fellow club members. With a twister, we head to the shelter before it's in our neighborhood. With a flood, we head to high ground before the roads are inundated. In this instance, there is a virus for which we need to prepare.

The problems associated with this virus, COVID-19, are nationwide and worldwide. As responsible rock people and club members we want to be part of the solution rather than the problem. We do, after all, think of ourselves as leaders. It's what we do.

Because the facts about COVID-19 are still being discovered, it is urged that you have the most accurate information to be safe and act safely. Reputable and trusted sources for Covid-19 information include **WHO** – the World Health Organization; **CDC** – the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; **NIH** – the National Institutes of Health; **NIAID** – The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Checking with these sources, as well as your own doctor and state and local sources, would be wise in order have the most current and accurate advice.

Here is the not-so-short list of activities and means to be safe, as of this writing:

- Watch for symptoms—dry cough, fever, chest pains (respiratory distress) and shortness of breath. Additional reported and beginning signs can include loss of sense of smell and gastrointestinal unease. Remember that people infected with COVID-19 may, in the early stages, not realize they have the virus till symptoms show up.

- If you experience the symptoms or suspect you may have been in contact with the virus, contact your health care provider, clinic, or hospital to let them know your concerns. They may suggest visiting the facility or some other course of action. Contacting the health care provider first gives them a heads-up of your situation, so they can make preparations if a visit is warranted. You would not want to spread the virus unintentionally,

especially in any doctor's office or health care facility where patients may already have compromised health.

- As COVID-19 transmission appears to be primarily via lung exhalation, it is wise to maintain a social and physical distance from others. Six feet is a recommended minimum, preferably 10 feet.

- In certain instances a suitable face mask is suggested. A well fitted N-95 mask appears to work well with restricting transmission. Note the words "well fitted." Beards impair a good fit. Surgical masks appear to be less effective. In certain instances, gloves are suggested.

- Though respiration is thought to be the primary means of transmission, it is wise to keep from using your hands to rub your face, especially eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Though it seems that older people suffer the worst effects of the virus, anyone – that's **anyone** – can suffer serious results. People with compromised immune and respiratory systems are particularly vulnerable, although apparently-healthy people may also suffer serious consequences. The latest mortality rate is between 5 times and 25 times the average flu.

- As of this writing there is no known anti-virus for COVID-19. Estimates run from late fall 2020 to summer of 2021 for a reliable, effective, and available anti-virus drug (the latter estimate is from the CDC).

- Frequently wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and flowing water. This helps keep the virus from eyes, nose and mouth by casual or intentional touch by hands. If hand washing for 20 seconds is not available, cleansing with a hand sanitizer having a high alcohol content is recommended.

Please remain vigilant and reasonable about being safe . . . because your safety matters. I am sure that, as a responsible rockhound, you would not want to bring a virus back to your home or family, or bring it from your family to another family. Please be safe.

The disclaimer: Understand that this article does not profess to offer medical advice, but merely compiles data from several sources about the COVID-19 virus. For current information, please check with trusted sources.

## 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>MAY EVENTS KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED:</b> Chicagoland Gems &amp; Minerals Association show in St. Charles, Illinois; State Line Gem &amp; Mineral Society show in Wauseon, Ohio.</p>			
<p><b>JUNE EVENTS KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED:</b> Coulee Rock Club show in Onalaska, Wisconsin; Gem City Rock Club show in Monroe City, Missouri; Lawrence County Rock Club show in Bedford, Indiana; Mineral Area Gem and Mineral Society show in Park Hills, Missouri; Osage Rock &amp; Mineral Club in Eldon, Missouri; Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society show in Mansfield, Ohio.</p>			
<p><b>JULY EVENTS KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED:</b> Carlton County Gem and Mineral Club show in Moose Lake, Minnesota; Indianhead Rock &amp; Mineral Society show in Frederic, Wisconsin; Lake Agassiz Rock Club show in West Fargo, North Dakota.</p>			
<p><b>AUGUST EVENTS KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED:</b> Flint Rock &amp; Gem Club rock swap in Clio, Michigan; Keeweenaw Week, several days of events in and around Calumet Township, Michigan, sponsored by the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club; and the Copper Country club's show in Houghton, Michigan, that was to have immediately followed Keeweenaw Week.</p>			
<p><b>SEPTEMBER EVENTS KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED:</b> The annual convention of the Midwest Federation, sponsored by the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society, and the Livingston club's accompanying annual show, both in Howell, Michigan.</p>			
<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 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>Aug. 15</b> Sat, 10-5	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Parking lot behind Applebee's, 5609 U.S. Highway 10, <b>Stevens Point, WI</b>	Sandy Brandl, stonez@tds.net
<b>Aug. 15-16</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, Expo Building, Highway 48 North, <b>Rice Lake, WI</b>	Dave Skrupky, dskrupky@centurytel.net
<b>Aug. 18-23</b> Daily, 10-10	Steele County Gem & Mineral Club, County Fair rock and mineral display	Curling Club Bldg., 1525 S. Cedar Ave., <b>Owatonna, MN</b>	Message via group's Facebook page
<b>Aug. 22-23</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Peoria Academy of Sciences, Geology Section	EastSide Centre, 1 East Side Drive, <b>East Peoria, IL</b>	Jim Travis, boatnick@aol.com
<b>Aug. 29</b> Sat 8-5	Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Eau Claire Expo Center near concessions, 5530 Fairview Drive, <b>Eau Claire, WI</b>	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
<b>Aug. 29</b> Sat, 10-5	Racine Geological Society rock swap	Bartlett Youth Foundation, 1120 N. Stuart Road, <b>Mt. Pleasant, WI</b>	John Lowman, Lowman.John@sbcglobal.net
<b>Sept. 11-13</b> Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis	County Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple St., <b>Greenfield, IN</b>	Tom Odum, tom01@hughes.net

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Sept. 11-13</b> Fri 2-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club	Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd., <b>Toledo, OH</b>	Joanna Toepfer, joanna@cgasolutions.co (NOT “.com”)
<b>Sept. 18-20</b> Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Mozarkite Society of Lincoln	Mike Hare Memorial Field, under the water tower, <b>Lincoln, MO</b>	John “Kelly” Blum, 816-835-2044
<b>Sept. 18-20</b> Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club	Soccer Stop Sportsplex, 5 River Hills, <b>Holland, MI</b>	Sue Goedert, sonbeams2000@yahoo.com
<b>Sept. 19-20</b> Sat 9-8, Sun 9-3	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society rock auction	Amana RV Park, 39 38 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, <b>Amana, IA</b>	Marvin Houg, mhoug@yahoo.com
<b>Sept. 19</b> Sat, 9:30-4	Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society rock swap	Odd Fellows Lodge, 6219 Forest Hills, <b>Rockford, IL</b>	Duane Cushing, tcdc78@comcast.net
<b>Sept. 25-27</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>Sept. 26-27</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Brown County Rock & Mineral Club	Brown County History Center, 90 E. Gould Street, <b>Nashville, IN</b>	Rhonda Dunn, BCRMC2010@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 26-27</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4	Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club	Cherryland VFW Hall, 3400 Veterans Drive, <b>Traverse City, MI</b>	Jared Bowen, JaredJBowen@gmail.com

**REMEMBER TO CALL BEFORE TRAVELING TO A SHOW! Some may not have notified us, or may be cancelled in the future.**

**LIVING MEMORIALS HONOR GREAT MEMBERS AND HELP STUDENTS**

Marge Collins, MWF Scholarship Committee Chair

Is your club lucky enough to have a member or a couple who over the years has always been there? Were they, or have they been, officers or committee chairs, or just all-around helpers? Is it past time to recognize their contributions?

One possibility to honor such invaluable people is a Living Memorial contribution to the American Federation Scholarship Fund. Send us a short narrative describing why this (these) member(s) are appreciated, with a donation to AFMS Scholarship, and brief article will be published in MWF Newsletter. In addition, the person or couple's name(s) will be added to the cumulative Memorial List in the green pages of the MWF annual directory, and the honoree(s) will receive a note from the AFMS Scholarship Treasurer. And of course, you'll have some sort of celebration at a club meeting!

We will need to know the name of the honoree(s), a paragraph or two describing why they are so valuable to the club, the club's name, and your name and address. Send this information, along with a check payable to AFMS Scholarship, to: AFMS Scholarship, c/o Marge Collins, MWF Chair, 3017 Niles-Buchanan Road, Buchanan, MI 49107.

There is no time limit on this – and you can recognize deceased members or make an outright donation at any time, as well.

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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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**VIRTUAL TOURS TAKE THE STING OUT OF STAYING HOME**

From the April, 2020 Strata Data  
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus, our collecting trips are pretty much at a standstill. But travel via the Internet is wide open. SO, for your at-home collecting pleasure, here are some virtual field trips you can take to visit some fabulous museums.



Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>. The photo, from [naturalhistory.si.edu](https://naturalhistory.si.edu), is a close-up of Smilodon californicus.



David Friend Hall, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History (peabody.yale.edu/exhibits/david-friend-hall). The photo, from that page, is aquamarine from Pakistan.

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, where you can take a virtual tour of the Museum of Geology and watch a cool video about putting together a Mososaur



skeleton. <https://sdsmt.edu/campus-life/The-Campus/Virtual-Tour/O'Harra>. [MWF Editor's Note: There are also great online exhibits about Cretaceous life, Black Hills geology, and other topics. <https://sdsmt.edu/Academics/Museum-of-Geology/Exhibits>.]