

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

November 2020 - Issue No. 596

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

Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Stanforth, MWF President

Hello, hello, everyone. I'm thrilled, and also humbled beyond belief, to begin this new year of serving our Federation community. I am eager to receive YOUR suggestions on how to move this organization forward and make it more accessible for everyone. Don't be surprised when I reach out to individual clubs to encourage interaction with our cracker-jack team of committee members. They have an immense storehouse of information just waiting for YOU. They are ready and willing to help. If YOU have interests but no access to a directory, you give me a call (815-229-4009) and I'll certainly find the resource person for YOU. We have a wonderful website as well.



*(Continued on page 3)*

## THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE

Ellery Borow, First Vice President  
Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary  
Societies  
From the October, 2020 EFMLS News

A story, if I may. I have been collecting since I was this tall (I'm pointing to just above my knee - I was tall for my height). That was when I was 5 or 6 years in age. Around that time, I had started digging holes in our family driveway to excavate small bits of granite-looking material. The specimens found exhibited deep red garnet crystals of perhaps one, two or maybe three millimeters in diameter.

At a young age I was a rock and mineral collector – and not only a mineral collector, but a micro-mineral collector. The passion in my digging was evidenced in the large number of holes I dug on my quest. Digging much to the chagrin of my parents, I might add. I must say though, I had the presence of mind to fill in the holes I dug, even then.

It is the reference to passion I want to discuss here – the passions of discovery. In rock clubs there is a good measure of passion. One finds the passion for sharing what one collects, the passion for putting on the perfect program, the passion for making the best

*(Continued on page 7)*

## SPECIAL NOTICE!

MWF Dues (although, alas, not insurance) will be HALF their normal cost this year. For more information, see article on page 4.

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## MWF OFFICERS

President: Susan Stanforth  
850 Palau Parkway  
Rockford, IL 61108  
815-229-4009  
sstanforth123@yahoo.com

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Catherine Clevenz  
2544 Eastgate Road, #12  
Toledo, OH 43614  
419-340-5276  
clevenz@gmail.com

2nd VP: Debbie Hamilton  
1818 Adlai Stevenson  
Springfield, IL 62703  
217-685-6750  
crinoidqueen@gmail.com

Secretary: Donna Moore  
25235 N. State Route 97  
Cuba, IL 61427  
309-789-6501  
mwfsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sandy Fuller  
8845 Grange Boulevard  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016  
651-459-0343  
mwftreas@rock-biz.biz

## **KEEP KIDS ENGAGED WITH YOUR CLUB**

Jim Brace-Thompson  
Chair, AFMS Juniors Program  
From June, 2020 A.F.M.S. Newsletter

With social distancing and stay-at-home orders, school closures, and mandates barring group gatherings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we in my own Ventura Gem & Mineral Society have had to cancel membership and board meetings, workshop days, educational outreach efforts, and our monthly Pebble Pup activities.

If you are like us, you are searching for ways to keep your society relevant and meaningful to club members and your broader community.

To hold our group of Pebble Pups together, here are some things we in the Ventura society are trying. Lisa Batchelder Hetrick, our Pebble Pups Program Coordinator, is scouring the web and Facebook pages to seek activities kids can do at home. She's found one that incorporates food (as well as other fun things) at [www.teachjunkie.com/sciences/rocks-forkids-15-fun-activities](http://www.teachjunkie.com/sciences/rocks-forkids-15-fun-activities).

We're also encouraging families with Pebble Pups to try working through activities on their own that are part of the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program (see [www.amfed.org/fra/fra\\_badge.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm)).

For instance, one that is easily done at home is the "Rocking on the Computer" badge. This might also

be a good opportunity to help a child organize his or her collection toward earning the "Collecting" badge.

You don't need to have a full group meeting to earn badges in the AFMS/FRA Badge Program; in fact, we welcome home-schooling that brings together kids and their parents! The web address I've just provided takes you to a page with a link to the full Badge Manual. Share it with parents in your society!

Finally, just today I've kicked off a contest for our Pebble Pups that I hope to conduct weekly, a contest I've entitled "Name the Specimen – And It's Yours!" Once a week, we'll email a photo of a mineral, rock, or fossil to our Pebble Pups and Junior members and will give them one week to get back to me with a correct identification. The child who provides the most accurate and complete answer gets the specimen. If multiple kids send the same answer, their names will be put in a hat to select the winner.

The main goal is to keep our club kids engaged and excited so that they'll still be with us when once again we are all able to meet in person.

I hope these ideas spur further thinking within your club, and I welcome hearing about other creative ideas – and not just ideas geared toward kids. What ways are you exploring to stay meaningful and relevant to your adult members and within your broader community? I'd love to hear what's being tried.

Email your thoughts to me at [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com). Despite the pandemic and social distancing, there are ways of engaging our kids at a distance while still having fun!

## **DEADLINE CALENDAR**

**Membership dues and insurance payments** for the MWF are due **January 15, 2021**. **Calendar of Events forms** are due on the same date. Forms and an article with more information are on pages 4-6 of this newsletter; for more information, contact Treasurer Sandy Fuller at [MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz](mailto:MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz).

**Nominations for the 2021 MWF Scholarship Honoree** are due **November 15, 2020**. Information about what should be included in a nomination letter is at [amfed.org/mwf/Federation/forms.html](http://amfed.org/mwf/Federation/forms.html), or write Catherine Clevenz, [clevenz@gmail.com](mailto:clevenz@gmail.com).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 1)*

I want to thank John Donker for all the time and leadership he has provided this past year in his term as Federation President. I know his shoes will be hard to fill.

I've never found a more kind and caring community than our rockhounds. They are always excited and eager to help out. I truly miss all the meetings and shows this year – it's like missing family. I can hardly describe the thrill of going to a show and seeing so many friends and salivating over the amazing minerals and fossils. Even if YOU are like me, with a modest income, YOU will still find wonderful items to bring home.

I really enjoy stories “from the field.” So many adventures, so many happy encounters (unless it's ticks or fire ants), so many exciting finds. I would suggest sharing YOUR rockhound field trips or a collection surprise. Our newsletter editor, Valerie J. Meyers, is more than happy to print YOUR tales of the rockin' world. And your local newsletters are looking for interesting accounts. Share the fun.

Regarding our 112 clubs with 7,398 adults and 932 juniors, this hobby can be a family affair. Digging crystals in Arkansas is an activity that kids of all ages can enjoy. Hunting fossils at Penne Dixie is fun and safe for all ages and very productive. Patience is a virtue, but finding “treasure” is way more enjoyable. When YOU plan a family vacation (someday soon, I hope), always contact the nearest club member for useful and very helpful advice. YOU just might avoid a motel with a bed bug problem.

I hope YOU have all turned your COVID quarantining into working on collections and lapidary activities. Isn't it time to clean up your workspace? Mine is a total mess.

What's coming up? First Vice President Catherine Clevenz is working on the 2021 Scholarship Nominee program. Nominations are due November 15<sup>th</sup>, but I'm sure if YOU give her a quick email (clevenz@gmail.com), you will get your nomination in.

Debbie Hamilton, Second Vice President, will be motivating the State and Assistant Directors to hopefully encourage them to reach out to local clubs with any help they need. Her expertise is paleontology,

so ask the Crinoid Queen anything. She can give advice on fossil preparation.

Awards were presented at the AFMS Zoom meeting (in lieu of the Knoxville conference) on October 17<sup>th</sup>. It's always exciting to see club members garner recognition. Maybe it's time for YOU to step up and earn some yourself. How? We can help.

If YOU are noticing my emphasis of a certain word in my message, please know that the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies exists because of YOU. We want to help in any way we can. Please write or email with YOUR interests or plans or inquiries or concerns or suggestions. We stand ready to help. This group is about YOU. Contact us.

## STERNBERG FOSSILS CAN BE SEEN ONLINE

William Gilliland, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Topeka (Kansas) Gem & Mineral Society  
From the club's October, 2020 Glacial Drifter

Data, images, and information on the Sternberg Museum of Natural History collections is now available online as a result of a four-year project at Fort Hays State University. The museum, famed for its extensive fossil collection, is in Hays, Kansas. The information can be accessed at [Sternberg.fhsu.edu](http://Sternberg.fhsu.edu). Click on “Research & Collections” and choose “Paleontology” from the drop-down menu. Scroll down and click on the left-hand blue “Paleontology Collections” button. It was reported that more than 23,000 specimens are covered.



*Tylosaurus Proriger, from the Sternberg collection.  
Photo from [sternbergca.fhsu.edu](http://sternbergca.fhsu.edu).*



## EVENTS CALENDAR FORMS, INSURANCE FEES, AND (HALF-PRICE!) DUES ARE DUE JAN. 15TH

Sandy Fuller, MWF Treasurer

The 2021 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 MWF News. Look for them! Meanwhile, please alert club officers to collect information for the forms.

One important piece of information needed is the total number of individual adult and youth members during the year completed during 2020. 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** so our insurance can be activated on time.

There are several significant changes for this year:

Due to the pandemic and its impact on many club activities, the Federation will **reduce club dues by one half**, for this year only. Unfortunately, most of the Federation's expenses are constant, even when club programs are interrupted. The Federation will draw on our Endowment Fund to cover the other half of club dues this year.

In response to requests to restrict public release of personal contact information, the Federation will only publish each club's public contact information. Please make sure that the mailing address is checked at least weekly and the phone number connects to a real person who can answer questions about your club. We still need direct contact information that will be distributed on a need-to-know basis to MWF leaders.

Clubs are encouraged to provide name, position and email addresses for additional officers, board

members and members who would like to receive the MWF News. This information will only be distributed to our editor and secretary. This is a great way to make sure that all of your officers are "in the know."

Clubs who renew on time will receive an email subscription to the junior's publication Mini Miners Monthly, distributed only via email. If you wish to have the Mini Miners Monthly subscription sent to someone other than your editor (1<sup>st</sup> choice) or president (2<sup>nd</sup> choice), please provide a name, position and valid email address for that individual, and indicate that he or she is to receive the Mini Miners materials.

Insurance will stay the same for 2021. Our current rate is \$4.50 per club member and all members must be covered. Clubs that submit their dues on time (postmarked no later than January 15, 2020), may take a \$.25 per member discount.

**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 purchase Federation insurance. Requests for insurance for these jointly sponsored events must include a list of all sponsoring clubs.

Use the 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.

Questions about your MWF forms or dues? Call or email Sandy Fuller at 651-459-0343 or [MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz](mailto:MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz). Direct insurance questions to Sue Goedert at 616-337-1162 or [sonbeams2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sonbeams2000@yahoo.com).

*December Issue Submission Deadline  
Is November 4th!*



# Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies Annual Dues, Insurance and Club Contact Information

(Use black INK. Please print, type or complete form on-line. Submit original.)

CLUB NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**2021 Club Dues** (Use membership figures from year completed by December 31, 2020)

Number of Adult Club Members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$1.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Number of Youth Club Members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$0.25 = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

How many MWF Membership Cards do you want? (can't exceed number of paid members) \_\_\_\_\_

**2021 Club Insurance** (Optional, but if chosen, must pay for all members)

Total number of members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.50 (\$4.25 for qualifying clubs\*) = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

(\*Renewals postmarked by January 15, 2021 receive a discounted insurance rate of \$4.25 per member)

TOTAL DUES AND INSURANCE REMITTED (Make check payable to Midwest Federation): \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**FORM, DUES, INSURANCE & EVENTS are DUE by JANUARY 15, 2021**  
Mail to: MWF, c/o Sandy Fuller, 8445 Grange Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

**Club Public Information for Directory & Website**

Club mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook Name \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Direct Contact Information for Mailings (THIS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED)**

Person to receive Federation materials: \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Club Bulletin Name \_\_\_\_\_

Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please use separate sheet to list additional officers and members (name, position, email) who would like to receive Federation newsletter and/or juniors materials via email.



### Calendar of Events Listing Information

#### For Publication in MWF Directory, Website & Newsletter

(Use Black 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

#### EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Website: \_\_\_\_\_

*Optional:*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ADDITIONAL EVENT:

Event Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Show, \_\_\_\_\_ Rock Swap, \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Days/Times: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility/Location Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

#### EVENT CONTACT INFORMATION (This will be published!)

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Website: \_\_\_\_\_

*Optional:*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* \* Please include event listings for January, February, March and April 2022. \* \***

Mail completed form with your dues. Questions? Call 651-459-0343

**DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION IS JANUARY 15, 2021**

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



**THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE, CONTINUED**

possible club bulletin (no matter if it is postcard size or a 48-page work of profound proportions). One will find examples of the passion for putting on the best meeting, forming the best cabochon, the best jewelry. Passions in clubs are evidenced in all we do.

One does not need to look far in our clubs to find additional evidence of passion. No doubt one may see numerous examples of passions all around.

Take the lady who has just finished work on a cabochon having the most perfect pattern well aligned with the stone's axis and combined with a polish that is as good, or better, than that found on any mirror. One might well imagine the passion, pride, and pleasure radiating from her eyes, her smile, and the energetic glow radiating from her very being.

This hobby is full of passions. Please note that by admiring that lady's perfect handiwork, you made her day extra-special. Yes, you made more passion

happen. So how about going out and making another person's day special as they, in turn, share their own passions of collecting or lapidary or mineral identifying, or being the best editor ever, or whatever.

There is a lot to be passionate about – so how about sharing some of yours?

**CANCELLED EVENTS NOTICES**

**NOVEMBER EVENTS KNOWN TO BE CANCELLED:** Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History symposium; Michigan Mineralogical Society annual auction, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society auction, Dearborn Heights, Michigan; Gem City Rock Club show, Quincy, Illinois; Madison Gem & Mineral Club show, Madison, Wisconsin; Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club show, Crystal, Minnesota; St. Louis Gem & Mineral Society's show, St. Louis, Missouri.

**PAY TRIBUTE TO AN OUTSTANDING MEMBER WITH A SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION DONATION**

The good cause? Grants to college students in the earth sciences. The better cause? Memorializing the contributions of an invaluable member of your club. Donations and memorials, payable to AFMS Scholarship, should be mailed to the MWF Scholarship Committee c/o Marge Collins, 3017 Niles-Buchanan Road, Buchanan, Michigan 49107. For further information, contact her at [margekccollins@yahoo.com](mailto:margekccollins@yahoo.com).

**AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION DONATION**

Contributions to AFMS Scholarship are tax-exempt. You can use the form below or include a note with appropriate information. You receive acknowledgment and when applicable, and upon request, a note is sent to next of kin.

Donor(s) name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (apt. #) (city) (state) (ZIP code)

Memorial or Honoring (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_,  
(if applicable) (name) (relationship)

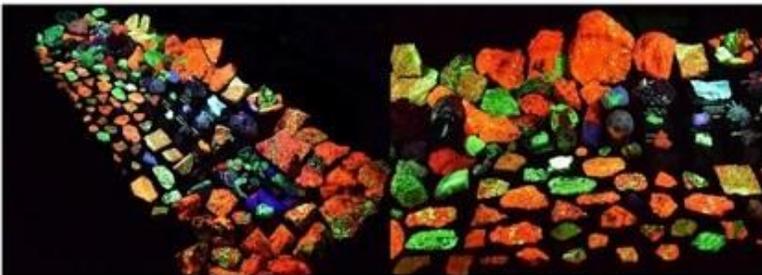
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (apt. #) (city) (state) (ZIP code)

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
vjmwriter@yahoo.com  
Post Office Box 13456  
Overland Park, KS 66282-3456

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

### FLUORESCENT MINERALS



**NOW THAT'S A SPECIAL PUBLICATION!**

To the left is "Fluorescent Minerals," a flyer with text and photos by Dan Snow of Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City (Missouri). The flyer won First Place in the Special Publications Category of the Midwest Federation's 2019 Bulletin Editors' Contest.

The flyer was distributed at the 2019 Gem and Mineral Show presented by the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City. Snow and his wife, Connie Snow, assembled a long display overhung with three UV lights in a side room of the show. The upper left photo of the flyer shows the complete display.

A spectacular array of colors are revealed when minerals are exposed to ultraviolet light. This is called fluorescence. This term was derived from the mineral fluorite that usually fluoresces blue-violet but can exhibit other colors. Over 500 different minerals are known to fluoresce. These minerals must contain activators such as, manganese, lead, europium, uranium, chromium and other impurities. For example, Calcite from Franklin, New Jersey, fluoresces red from specimens containing 31/2% manganese. If less than 1% or more than 5% manganese, calcite is not fluorescent. Only special UV lamps will work on minerals and not black lights for posters. Fluorescent minerals are found world-wide. The greatest location is from Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey, with least 56 fluorescent minerals identified. The bulk of fluorescent minerals in this display were collected prior to 1960 from the Franklin and Sterling Hill Mines in New Jersey and are in the collection of Dan and Connie Snow, members of the Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City. Other minerals are from the Mary Bergman Hamilton and Charley Maazouz's father Francis Rice collections.

