



**Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society  
(LOESS)**

**P.O. Box 2272  
Springfield, IL 62705**

Greetings fellow Rockhounds,

On behalf of LOESS, we want to welcome you to the Land of Lincoln! We are very honored to host the 78<sup>th</sup> MWF Convention here in Springfield, Illinois. The LOESS show has been a local annual highlight for 25 years. My involvement started with our last MWF Convention: "Sue and You in 2002" which featured the Chicago Field Museum's T-Rex "Jane". This year will be an impressive display of Prehistoric Predators and minerals from Elmwood, TN. If anyone wants to display, please contact us!

Entirely indoors, our facility is handicap-accessible, well-lit, spacious, and at ground-level. Twenty dealers offer everything under the sun. This is complimented by live demonstrations (lapidary, jewelry, fossil prepping, pen making, silver smithing, geode cracking); live topical presentations; a silent auction; and a simple concessions stand. Our large Kid's Activity Center has egg-carton mineral collections, a fossil dig, Maker's Space, spin and win and a Touch-and-Feel collection. We heavily advertise both locally and regionally to raise an awareness of the show as an educational experience. Attendance recently set a record high just shy of 3,000!

We are looking forward to welcoming all Federation members, from MWF or beyond, and hope that you enjoy the show and the convention. If you are so inclined, we would also welcome a little of your time or resources. Volunteering for a few hours at any of our stations would help our enthusiastic volunteers to get to know you, and you would be a part of the experience. Donations of materials are also welcomed. Please see the included "How You Can Participate" page.

Join us on our field trips - the Funk Mineral Museum is set for Friday, October 5. Plans are in the works for more trips. Information will be in the MWF News.

We look forward to meeting you in the fall. Inside this packet you should find all the information and forms you need, but if myself or any of our team members can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We wish to be able to assist in your show experience!

Sincerely,

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