



MWF News

**Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

September 2025 - Issue No. 644

Website – www.mwfed.org

**Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies**



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

The summer months have flown by. Again I ask, where did the time go? Well, now it’s time to settle in and, for many, the beginning of their rock club meetings after the summer hiatus.

I hope you all had a pleasant rock experience summer. If you did – that’s great! If you didn’t – well, maybe this fall will bring rock experience opportunities to you!



By the way, don’t forget about the MWF Executive Meeting, to which all are invited, being held October 25th and hosted by the Summit Lapidary Club. The meeting will be held at the Akron Mineral Society clubhouse, located at 244 Chestnut Boulevard in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with your federation, there is no time like the Executive Meeting to meet your officers, state directors,

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WEBSITE CONTEST DEADLINE EXTENDED

Brad Zylman, Chair
MWF Website Contest

The deadline for entries to the 2025 AFMS Website Competition has been extended to **September 15th**. So please enter!

There are contest rules and online entry forms on the AFMS website at www.amfed.org/contests/website-contest. Updated rules and all relevant forms can be found on this page. Please select the MWF button to go to the correct online form.

Here is a list of how the contest works this year:

- Each AFMS regional coordinator sets the deadline for that region’s entries. This year’s Midwest Federation deadline, as said above, has been extended to September 15th.
- Webmasters in each region submit their websites via the online submission form on the AFMS

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committee chairs and past presidents, and to volunteer! There are a few committee chairs open, and it is always encouraging to have new blood!

Cuyahoga Falls is the second largest city in Summit County, located directly north of Akron in northern Ohio. The city was founded in 1812 by William Wetmore, who was born in Middletown, Connecticut. William was hired by Joshua Stow as a land agent of property in the Western Reserve, which was purchased by the Connecticut Land Company.

Today, Cuyahoga Falls is bordered by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park to the northwest.

There are several things you can do in the area that are related to geology and the earth sciences. Experience Cuyahoga Valley. Venture to Indiana Dunes National Park along Lake Michigan. Head to Kelleys Island – located in the western basin of Lake Erie, approximately four miles north of Marblehead.

Kelleys Island is accessible via a 20-minute ferry service from Marblehead. The island is the largest of Ohio's Lake Erie Islands, offering spectacular adventures for nature and bird lovers, as well as remarkable glacial grooves for the geology lover in us all! The grooves, at 400 feet long, 35 feet wide and up to 15 feet deep, are the largest and best accessible example in the world of the slow movement of the massive glacier that created the Great Lakes and the Lake Erie Islands.

Kelleys Island, with a total of almost five square miles, was formed by glacial action on the Middle Devonian limestone and dolomite.

The Crystal Cave is on Put-in-Bay Island at the Heineman's Winery, at a depth of 40 feet below ground surface. In 1897, while the winery owners were digging a water well, they broke through the top of the cave lined with whitish-blue crystals of celestite.

So, plan on heading to the fall meeting to meet and greet! Plan on spending time in Crystal Cave, finding fossils and enjoying wines. Yes – there are several wineries around Cuyahoga Falls, Kelleys Island, and Put-in-Bay Island!

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING UPCOMING**

Donna Moore
MWF Secretary

We will be going to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, for our fall Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, October 25th. Our meeting will probably start at 9 a.m. It will be held at the Summit Lapidary Club/Akron Mineral Society Clubhouse, 244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Watch the newsletter and check the website for more details closer to the date.

FYI: The MWF Executive Committee consists of the MWF officers, state directors, committee chairpersons, and past presidents. Although only Executive Committee members can vote on motions, anyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

Executive Committee members will be asked for reports ahead of the meeting.

We will only have the one meeting in Cuyahoga Falls, since there isn't a meeting of delegates from the clubs. This will leave time to attend the show, which is a really good one.

In addition, read President Cheryl Neary's message beginning on page 1 of this issue. She has some great tips about things to do in the Cuyahoga Falls area.

WEBSITE CONTEST, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

website. There are no longer paper or .pdf forms, simply the online form.

- When the regional deadline has passed, the regional coordinator requests judges from the AFMS Website Contest chair, Lori Carter. She will assign judges to a regional contest based on the number of its entries. Judges are not members of any clubs in the regions they judge.
- After scoring is complete, judges report the final scores to the regional coordinator. When I receive the final MWF scores, I'll submit the two highest-scoring entries to the national AFMS website contest. Coordinators may also prepare plaques, certificates, or other awards. I plan to offer web badges to the winning MWF websites to add to their homepages or club awards pages.
- The AFMS judge scores the AFMS entries and reports the scores to the AFMS contest chair.
- At the annual AFMS meeting in 2026, the website with the highest score in the AFMS contest will receive a plaque. Second and third place websites will receive commensurate certificates. All other entries will receive honorable mention certificates.

Please note three major changes in the rules:

- The first-place website in the AFMS contest is not eligible to be submitted for another year, and the webmaster will be asked to be a judge for the following year.
- Only websites that score 80 points and higher in the regional contests can be submitted to the AFMS contest.
- There is now a non-compete category – webmasters can submit their sites for scoring, but will not receive awards or certificates and cannot advance to the AFMS contest. This is to provide feedback to help the club's website improve.

I am excited to work with all our webmasters this year! Please let me know if you have any questions or encounter any problems. I can be reached at brad.zylman@gmail.com.

OHIO CLUB NAMES ROCKHOUND OF YEAR

The **Miami County Gem and Mineral Club** of Troy, Ohio enthusiastically announces that **Dewey Buck** is its 2025 Rockhound of the Year.

Dewey's interest in rocks began as a kid, when he would collect rocks from the neighborhood creek. His mother realized that she would have to check his pants pockets before putting them in the washer.

An active member of the club for 20 years, Dewey has served as club president for three years and the annual show chairman for the last six years. Under his leadership, the show has grown. Dewey's thought is, "If our visitors leave happier than when they came in, the show was a success!"

This April, the club celebrated the 40th anniversary of the rock and gem show with many happy visitors. Dewey does an excellent job of encouraging club members to volunteer to help. If our members aren't participating as vendors, they are helping any way they can at the two-day show.



Dewey Buck of the Miami County Gem and Mineral Club shows off the stellar cabochons he has created as the down-to-earth instructor for the club's lapidary workshop. Photo courtesy of Marki Geib.

Dewey has managed the club lapidary lab for the past four years. There he instructs members on creating cabochons and the use of other lapidary equipment. He also maintains the equipment and material levels. Dewey finds it gratifying when

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ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

students gain and improve their lapidary skills. Dewey's outgoing and friendly personality makes people feel good about their projects.

He is always learning new skills. He is currently taking silversmithing and jewelry making classes from one of our club members. He is always excited to share his latest project during our monthly meetings' bring-and-brag sessions.

When possible, Dewey likes to attend the big Tucson show and bring back interesting information about rocks to share with the club, and he always has a wild story to tell!

Dewey is a kind-hearted soul and makes an effort to keep in touch with club members who are going through health problems. He is a really good guy! Thank you Dewey, our hobby needs more really good guys like you.

DONATION CHALLENGE BRINGS IN FUNDS

Marge Collins, Chair
MWF Scholarship Committee

Those who read the 2025 convention minutes in the MWF News may have noticed that our Treasurer, Steve Shimatzki, issued a challenge – making an on-the-spot cash donation to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. Nine others in attendance accepted that challenge, raising a total of \$400.00!

Three of those on-the-spot contributions were given as memorials: two in memory of Sue Hogge (Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society of Illinois), and one honoring W.C. McDaniel (Southern Rocks & Fossils, a business located in the area of the Southeast Federation). Both names will be added to our Memorial List in the MWF Directory.

Thank you Steve! These donations will be included in the Spring Executive Meeting report.

NOTE: The MWF Treasurer has been directed to investigate the possibilities of accepting digital payments – for dues and other payments, as well as donations to the Scholarship Foundation. “Stay tuned” for Steve’s report!

MWF T-SHIRTS AND HOODIES ARE BACK!

Sandy Shorter, Chair
MWF Public Image & Courtesy Committee

On the next page, you’ll find order forms for this year’s MWF T-shirt and hoodie. We decided to order neutral gray zip hoodies with black printing, and red heather T-shirts with turquoise printing. Per several requests, we are using the same artwork as the black tee shirts offered last year.

Individuals: To place an order, fill out the “Individual T-Shirt and Zip Hoodie Form” on the next page and give it, along with your payment, to the person at your club who is coordinating the club’s T-shirt orders.

Club coordinators: In mid- to late September, fill out the “Club Order Form” on the next page and send it, along with one check to cover payment for all orders, to me. My address is on the form. The Club Order Forms **must be received by October 1st**.

Our hope is to make people more aware of MWF and what we do. The apparel is being offered to clubs at a break-even price to help promote the federation. So everyone, get yourselves a good-looking quality garment and spread our MWF pride!

DEADLINE CALENDAR

Clubs can enter the **MWF Website Competition** until **Sept. 15, 2025**. Top winners will be submitted to the AFMS Competition. See the article on page 1, or contact Website Competition Chair Brad Zylman, brad.zylman@gmail.com.

The **MWF Fall Executive Committee meeting** will be held **Oct. 25th** in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; details to be announced.

The **MWF Bulletin Editors Contest** deadline is **Jan. 22, 2026**. Bulletin issues, articles, and other categories can be entered; top winners go to the AFMS contest. Contact Bulletin Editors Chair Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, mafr43@hotmail.com.

Rockhound of the Year Awards may be submitted at any time for certificates and a mention in the MWF News. Contact ROTY Chair Jeanine Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com.



Individual 2025 MFW Tee Shirt and Zip Hoodie form

	Small	Med	Large	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	6XL
Gildan super soft Heather Red Tee shirt Back and Left chest	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$17.00	\$18.00	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$21.00
Jerzees Nu blend Full-zip Hoodie Ash Gray Back and Left chest	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$37.00	\$38.00	\$39.00	\$40.00	\$41.00

Name _____

Grand Total

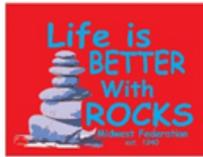
Phone _____

*Club's Master Orders must be received by
Oct 1, 2025 ~ November delivery*

All tee shirts are heather red with turquoise imprint
65/35 gildan super soft tee

Jerzee 50/50 full zip ash grey with black imprint
hooded 8 oz sweatshirt

Please make checks payable to your club.



*Club's Master Orders
MUST be received by
Oct 1, 2025 ~
November delivery*

Club Order Form

2025 MFW Tee Shirt and Zip Hoodie form

	Small	Med	Large	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	6XL
Tee shirt heather red Quantity	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$17.00	\$18.00	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$21.00
Dollar total									
Full-zip Hoodie Ash gray Quantity	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$37.00	\$38.00	\$39.00	\$40.00	\$41.00
Dollar Total									

Club Name _____ State _____

Contact Person's Name _____

Contact Person's Email _____

Contact Person's Phone _____

SHIP TO: Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Grand Total
Make checks Payable
to: MFW

*** Please be certain the shipping address is checked on a daily basis to avoid theft

All tee shirts are heather red with turquoise imprint
65/35 gildan super soft tee

Jerzee 50/50 full zip ash grey with black imprint
hooded 8 oz sweatshirt

*Club's Master Orders must be received by
Oct 1, 2025
Make checks Payable to MFW*



Mail to: Sandy Shorter/MFW Public Image
8510 Grouse Ridge Dr
Chardon OH 44024.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
Aug. 12-17 Tues-Sun, 10-7	Steele County Gem & Mineral Club	Fine Arts Bldg., County Fairgrounds, 1525 S. Cedar, Owatonna, MN	Jim O'Neil, scgmcemail@gmail.com
Aug. 15-17 Fri & Sat 10-7, Sun 10-4	Michiana Gem & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 5117 S. Ironwood Road, South Bend, IN	Stephanie Hughes, stephanie1695@gmail.com
Aug. 16 Sat, 10-5	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Parking lot next to Dunham Sports, 5601 US-10 E, Stevens Point, WI	Sandy Brandl, stonez@tds.net
Aug. 16-17 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Expo Building, County Fairgrounds, Highway 48 North, Rice Lake, WI	Roy Wickman, rktswick@chibardun.net
Aug. 23 8-2	Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois swap & sale	North parking area, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL	Dave Carlson, fossil54@att.net
Aug. 23 Sat, 10-3	Racine Geological Society rock swap	Witts End Tavern Pavillion, 11601 County Road G, Caledonia, WI	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
Aug. 23-24 Sat & Sun, 10-5	Peoria Academy of Science, Geology Section	Eastside Centre, 1 Eastside Drive, East Peoria, IL	Sandi Lawson, bixbite62@gmail.com
Sept. 5-7 Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	The 500 Earth Sciences Club	County 4-H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple, Greenfield, IN	Tom Odom, tomodom650@gmail.com
Sept. 5-7 Fri & Sat 10-6, Sunday 11-5	Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club	Pratt Pavilion, County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Road, Bowling Green, OH	Jerri Heer, jheerx6@aol.com
Sept. 6 Sat, 9-3	Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society tailgate sale	Parking lot, St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7211 Oakland Drive, Portage, MI	Sheila Atherton, happywalker9662@charter.net
Sept. 12-14 Fri & Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club	Holland Township Community Center, 12343 James Street, Holland, MI	Steve Miller, sjmillerman@gmail.com
Sept. 13 Sat, 9-3	Coulee Rock Club rock swap	Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI	Apryl Bottner, aldenny@viterbo.edu
Sept. 13 Sat, 9:30-3	Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society rock swap	A-American Machine and Assembly, 1665 Elmwood Road, Rockford, IL	Therese Cushing, rrvgms@gmail.com
Sept. 19-21 Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Mozarkite Society of Lincoln (MO)	Lincoln City Park, Lincoln, MO (across from Mike Hare Ball Field)	Pam Radu, mozarkiterocks@gmail.com
Sept. 19-21 Fri 4-9, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Rock Hobby Club	Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, Kirkwood, MO	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburtr@juno.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
Sept. 20-21 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Brown County Rock & Mineral Club	County 4-H Fairgrounds, 802 Memorial Drive, Nashville, IN	Jerry Goodwin, jfgood@hsonline.net
Sept. 20-21 Sat 9-8, Sun 9-5:30	Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral Society rock auction	Amana RV Park, 39 38 th Avenue, Amana, IA	Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
Sept. 20-21 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Livingston Gem & Mineral Society	Hartland Education Support, 9525 E. Highland Road, Howell, MI	Ed Oller, 810-241-8801
Sept. 26-28 Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin History & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker Ave., Joplin, MO	Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 27-28 Sat & Sun, 10-5	Flint Rock & Gem Club	Crossroads Village, 6140 Bray Road, Flint, MI	Bill Wendline, 810-638-5796
Sept. 27-28 Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4	Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club	VFW Post, 3400 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI	Lauren Vaughn, maple_2b@aol.com
Sept. 27-28 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Minnesota Mineral Club	Dairy Building, State Fairgrounds, 1694 Judson Ave., St. Paul, MN	Karen Frater, showchair@minnesotamineralclub.org
Sept. 27-28 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Oshkosh Earth Science Club annual show and rock swap	Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI	Bob Fox, foxbooks@att.net
Oct. 4-5 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society	Event Center, Veterans Park, 508 N. Lincoln Street, Cabot, AR	Joseph Johnson, cagmags@gmail.com
Oct. 4-5 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (LOESS)	Orr Bldg., State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL	Ed Wagner, loesseditor@gmail.com
Oct. 4-5 Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society	Methodist Outreach Center, 3602 16 th Street, Columbus, NE	Deb Gonsior, loupvalleynews@gmail.com
Oct. 4-5 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society	County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Belleville, MI	Bill Barr, wbarr@umich.edu
Oct. 4-5 Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Worthen Earth Searchers	County Fairgrounds, 4200 Archer Drive, East Moline, IL	Cindy Cottrell, cc31068@yahoo.com
Oct. 11-12 Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club	County Fairgrounds, 2606 W. Burlington Street, Fairfield, IA	Ron Brown, ron1947@ronbrownfamily.net

*October Issue Submission Deadline Is
September 4th!*

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MOTIVATED MICHIGAN JUNIORS WORK, STUDY, WIN AWARDS

Three junior members of the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (Michigan) just won awards from the AFMS' Future Rockhounds of America program.

Lukas Shields and Lunnella Duffy both won the Junior Volunteer Award. The award "is offered by the FRA to encourage juniors age 10 and up to assist with club events," Arrowhead News stated. "It requires 20 hours of real work, and is meant to inspire teens as they support their main club as volunteers."

Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) provides plans about 21 different earth-science topics for juniors' programs, and juniors can earn a badge for completing work in a specific topic. When an FRA

junior has earned 20 different badges, he or she is awarded a cloisonne "Rock Star" pin.

The club's May, 2025 Arrowhead News reported: "Both Lukas Shields and Garet VandenBos will tell you . . . It's not about the badges. It's about the milestones the badges represent. That's what's really behind the Rock Star Award.

"These two young men, age 17 and 13, passed all twenty badges over the past 5 years, many of them twice. And in doing so, they have gone Beyond the Badge in so many ways."



Left: Lukas Shields and Lunnella Duffy with club President Kreigh Tomaszewski and Juniors Coordinator Joan Stoker.



Right: Rock Stars Shields and Garet VandenBos.