



# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

June 2025 - Issue No. 643

Website – [www.mwfed.org](http://www.mwfed.org)

Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

We're off to see the ????

It's that time of the year when many start to think about future trips with family and/or friends. Many may just visit with family members and others may venture into the field.

No matter where your travels take you, remember to think **safety**! If driving, maintain speed limits, buckle up, and pay attention to the road. If you work with your lapidary materials, remember safety glasses and check the machinery being used. If collecting in the field, wear the proper gear, including safety glasses and shoes, and use the proper equipment for the task being performed.

You hear this all the time, but many people take shortcuts and then things happen!

I hope you do have the opportunity to visit one

*(Continued on page 5)*



## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FALL MEETING

Donna Moore

MWF Secretary

We will be going to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, for our fall Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 time.

FYI: The MWF Executive Committee consists of the MWF officers, state directors, committee chairpersons, and past presidents. 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.

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## CONVENTION: COMMITTEE REPORTS

*[Editor's Note: The Midwest Federation's annual convention was held in April. The convention minutes and officers' reports were printed in the May issue of MWF News, along with the reports of MWF Committees from Archaeology to Merit Awards. Following are the rest of the committee reports; the State Directors' reports from the convention begin on page 9.]*

### NEWSLETTER VALERIE J. MEYERS, CHAIR

I hope everyone read the excellent article by Jim Brace-Thompson on the front page of the March MWF News. Brace-Thompson writes for the wrong federation (the California one), but often his columns address universal topics in rockhounding. In "Hello? Is Anyone There?", he talked about the necessity of rock clubs keeping their websites and/or social media updated.

We've just finished processing the Events Calendars forms that MWF member clubs sent in with their annual Dues and Insurance forms. Usually clubs fill these out completely, but occasionally something gets left out – like, oh, the date of the event. When this happens, I try to get the missing information from the club's website or Facebook page, and you'd be stunned at how often clubs have no information about their upcoming show.

For some reason, this is particularly a problem with Facebook pages – I recently looked for information on a club's Facebook page whose last entry was in 2023 – but even websites can have this issue. That's why Brace-Thompson's column was featured on the front page!

Other than that, it's been a good year with lots of interesting articles from member clubs' newsletters. Keep 'em coming!

### ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR JEANINE N. MIELECKI, CHAIR

Since the MWF's convention this past August, three new Rockhounds of the Year for 2024 have been announced. These exemplary rockhounds who have been honored by their clubs and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Midwest Federation are:

### MWF OFFICERS

President: Cheryl Neary  
42 Jefferson Avenue  
Patchogue, NY 11772  
516-449-5341  
ciervo.neary@gmail.com

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Tom Barnhizer  
5060 Arbor Way  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
419-381-4418  
superscouts258@gmail.com

2nd VP: David Rich  
1166 Broadview  
Tallmadge, OH 44278  
330-630-9625  
birdman035@hotmail.com

Secretary: Donna Moore  
25235 N. Illinois Highway 97  
Cuba, IL 61427  
309-231-2116  
mwfsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Steve Shimatzki  
4295 County Road 16  
Woodville, OH 43469  
567-868-8794  
woodvillerocks@gmail.com



David Reese, Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Rockford, Illinois.

Thomas McGovern, Dayton Gem and Mineral Society of Ohio.

Sandy Kenney, Minnesota Mineral Club, Bloomington, Minnesota.

Doubling the recognition, Judi Allison, AFMS Rockhound of the Year Committee Chair, ensures that the announcement of each MWF Rockhound of the Year is published in the A.F.M.S. Newsletter. Judi sends a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the AFMS, too, which is forwarded to the respective clubs.

### PROGRAM REQUESTS BOB POWERS, CHAIR

Clubs continue to rent DVDs regularly. The DVDs are mailed out well in advance of the meeting when the rental request is submitted early. The cost is \$5. DVDs should be returned after they are shown, and mailed as "Media."

VCR tapes are available, but may not be reliable. The last one was rented five years ago. It broke while being played. VCR tapes have a limited life.

Please look through the wide selection of DVDs and send in a request!

(Continued on page 5)



## MWF T-SHIRTS AND HOODIES ARE BACK! ORDER FORMS ARE ON PAGE 4

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 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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!

## MWF/AFMS WEBSITE COMPETITION IS OPEN FOR ENTRIES

Brad Zylman, Chair  
MWF Website Competition Committee

As announced in the last MWF News, the MWF Website Competition is open and running over the summer, so please enter! The contest rules and entry forms are on the AFMS website under Contests & Awards, then Website Contest ([www.amfed.org/contests/website-contest](http://www.amfed.org/contests/website-contest)). Be sure to select the MWF button to get the correct form.

Website contest entry forms are **due August 31, 2025**.

Here's the way the contest works:

Club webmasters use the new online submission form to enter their websites. There are no longer paper or .pdf forms, simply the online form.

After August 31<sup>st</sup>, I, as the Midwest Federation's regional coordinator, will request judges from Lori Carter, the AFMS Website Contest Chair. The AFMS chair will assign judges to a region based on the number of websites to be judged. 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. The two highest-scoring websites may be submitted to the national AFMS competition, although websites that score below 80 points in the regional contests cannot be sent to the AFMS.

The regional coordinator may also want to prepare awards to be presented to regional winners in 2025, or they may wait until 2026, when the AFMS announces the national winners, to present the regional awards. I plan to offer web badges to the winning MWF websites to add to their home pages or club awards pages.

When the AFMS judge receives entries from the regional coordinators, he or she scores the entries and reports them to the AFMS contest chair. At the annual AFMS convention in 2026, the website with the highest score in the AFMS contest will receive a plaque. Second- and third-place websites will receive certificates. All other entries will receive honorable mention certificates.

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.

There is now a non-compete category, so webmasters can submit their sites for scoring, but they will not receive awards or certificates and cannot advance to the AFMS contest. This is to provide feedback to help their clubs' websites improve.

Please enter your club websites in the competition by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Let me know if you have any questions or encounter any problems. I can be reached at [brad.zylman@gmail.com](mailto:brad.zylman@gmail.com).



## Individual 2025 MWF 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 MWF 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: **MWF**

\*\*\* 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 MWF

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



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED***(Continued from page 1)*

site this summer. Perhaps you will share the adventure with your bulletin editor, and we all can share in your adventure!

To me, the summers always fly by. When I was a youngster (not too long ago – ha ha!), I thought the summers were always faster than the other three seasons. They say time flies when you're having fun, and they are correct!

Now, although I work through the summer, it still seems to go by so quickly. I always said that after the Fourth of July the summer was almost over, and my mom would yell at me and say "How can you say that?" But I still think that!

Enjoy your time with your family and friends. If you take a trip that involves the earth sciences, remember you can contact a club near where you will be – perhaps they can also inform you of little-known places in the area!

Share your information with your club members, and perhaps the MWF could have a field trip there.

**DEADLINE CALENDAR**

Clubs can enter the **MWF Website Competition** until **Aug. 31, 2025**. Top winners will be submitted to the AFMS Competition. See the article on page 3, or contact Website Competition Chair Brad Zylman, [brad.zylman@gmail.com](mailto:brad.zylman@gmail.com).

The **MWF Fall Executive Committee meeting** will be held **Oct. 25th** in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; details to be announced. See article on page 1.

The **MWF Bulletin Editors Contest** deadline is **Jan. 22, 2026**. Bulletin issues, articles, and other contents can be entered; top winners go to the AFMS contest. Contact Bulletin Editors Chair Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, [mafr43@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com).

**COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONTINUED***(Continued from page 2)***PUBLIC IMAGE AND COURTESY  
SANDY SHORTER, CHAIR**

Just a short note to thank everyone who supported our MWF T-shirt and hoodie fund-raising drive. Thanks to you, we have more than 100 new shirts and jackets with our MWF logo on them advertising our federation! Applause, applause!

I would like to ask what other way we can promote our federation. Would you like to see more giveaways? Auctions? Apparel sales? Banners and fliers? What are your suggestions to build our federation? Should we try to organize rock digs in each of our states, as the Southeast Federation has done? If so, what locations can handle 50+ people to dig?

Please send all ideas to [sandyshorter25@gmail.com](mailto:sandyshorter25@gmail.com). Meanwhile, our MWF hoodies and T-shirts on on sale again — see pages 3-4.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

For this Committee's report, see page 6.

**SILENT AUCTION  
SUSAN STANFORTH, CHAIR**

Since Susan is planning to move to Cincinnati, we are looking for a new Silent Auction Committee chair. This could be a single person or a team effort. Please contact President Cheryl Neary, [ciervo.neary@gmail.com](mailto:ciervo.neary@gmail.com), if you are interested.

**SUPPLIES AND INFORMATION  
SHARON MARBURGER, DIRECTOR**

I've had no requests for supplies since the last meeting. That's my report. [Smily-face emoticon.]

**WEBSITE  
CINDY ROOT, CHAIR**

I am currently working to update the website. I've encountered a glitch in that I have run out of ink and am waiting for a new shipment. Life would be easier if cartridges were clear, but it doesn't work that way. As soon as that package arrives in the mail (buying a cartridge at the store doesn't work, it's been tried), I will be back at it, and with luck everything will be complete by the time we meet in Lincoln.



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT MAKES NOTE OF SHARP DROP IN CONTRIBUTIONS

### SCHOLARSHIP MARGE COLLINS, CHAIR

The shorter than usual time between the 2024 and 2025 conventions (August to March) explains in part the small number of contributions. However, there has been a dramatic drop in activity since the COVID shutdown. There are about 2/3 fewer donations than pre-COVID.

Have clubs found other ways to honor / memorialize members? Is supporting scholarship no longer relevant? Or is it simply that a tradition of an occasional contribution was lost due to the months when clubs did not meet in person?

It is my understanding that a certain amount of income is essential to avoid fees that could diminish the Scholarship Fund's principal. And each participating regional federation must contribute to receive its Scholarship grants – currently two \$4,000.00 grants per region.

We look forward to recognizing your contribution in the year ahead. Each donation is appreciated.

### CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AUGUST 2, 2024 TO FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Club (in order received)	Donation	Participation*	Cumulative*
Tri-County Rocks & Minerals (MI) - <i>Memorial: Tom Simons</i>	\$50.00	3,000%	\$910.00
Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society (MI) (percentage of auction)	\$72.50	7,000%	\$7,776.00
Minnesota Mineral Club (annual donation)	\$1,000.00	4,900%	\$18,612.00**
Credit to Minnesota Mineral Club (annual contribution)	<u>\$500.00</u>	5,100%	\$19,112.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,622.50</b>		

\* *What is Participation %??* This represents a club's generosity, based on membership. A club with 100% Participation has contributed (as of this date) \$1.00 per current member. 500% indicates \$5.00 given (over time) – based on current membership. So, a small club that donates regularly can increase its percentage quickly.

\*Cumulative is the total contributed since the Club's first gift.

\*\* Each new \$1,000 Cumulative total earns a Certificate, presented at the MWF Convention Awards Banquet.

*September Issue Submission Deadline  
Is August 7th!  
Have a great summer, everyone!*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>May 30-June 1</b> Fri noon-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	State Line Gem & Mineral Society	Junior Fair Bldg., County Fairground, 8514 State Route 108, <b>Wauseon, OH</b>	Sherman Kardatzke, kardatzke@gmail.com
<b>June 6-7</b> Fri & Sat, 9-5	Ozark Gem & Mineral Society	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 815 E. Farm Road 182, <b>Springfield, MO</b>	Mark Northrup, omgms.57@gmail.com
<b>June 7-8</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 11-5	Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club	Fairview Hall, County Fairgrounds, 750 North Home Road, <b>Mansfield, OH</b>	Tom Kottyan, TheMineralHouse75@gmail.com
<b>June 9</b> Mon, starts 9 a.m.	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club rock auction	Lake Zorinsky East Shelter, 156 <sup>th</sup> and F Street, <b>Omaha, NE</b>	Tammy Jeanneret, tjeanneret@hughes.net
<b>June 14</b> Sat, 10-4	Gem City Rock Club	Boudreaux Visitor Center, Mark Twain Lake, <b>Monroe City, MO</b>	Brad Fanning, bfanning@yahoo.com
<b>June 14</b> Sat, 9-1	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club	Woodland Drive-In Church, 2600 Breton Road SE, <b>Grand Rapids, MI</b>	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
<b>June 14-15</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Coulee Rock Club	Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, <b>Onalaska, WI</b>	Allison Conrad, rockinbabe@acegroup.cc
<b>June 20-22</b> Fri 2-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-3	Osage Rock and Mineral Club	Eldon Community Center, 309 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, <b>Eldon, MO</b>	Steve Rudloff, srudloff@fastmail.com
<b>June 21-22</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club rock swap & gem fest	Beer Family Farm, 18701 Ashland Road, <b>Ashland, NE</b>	Jayne Beer, jbeer60070@aol.com
<b>June 27-29</b> Fri 10-6:30, Sat 9-6:30, Sun 10-4	Lawrence County Rock Club	County Fairgrounds, 11265 US Highway 50 W, <b>Bedford, IN</b>	Kathy Shaffer, 812-929-5367
<b>July 12-13</b> Sat & Sun, 9-4	Flint Rock and Gem Club rock swap	Mott Community College, 4082 W. Vienna Road, <b>Clio, MI</b>	Bill Wendline, 810-638-5796
<b>July 18-19</b> Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5	Lakeland Gem Club	Lakeland Union High School, 9573 Highway 70, <b>Minocqua, WI</b>	Dan Erickson, neatrocks@gmail.com
<b>July 19-20</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club	Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Ellens Drive, <b>Moose Lake, MN</b>	Lynn Svercl, danlynnsunrisefarms@yahoo.com
<b>July 26</b> Sat, 10-5	Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society	Bethany Reformed Church, 702 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, <b>Canton, SD</b>	Harlan Hoogeterp, segams.rockswap@gmail.com
<b>July 26-27</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Indianhead Rock, Gem and Mineral Society	Frederic High School, 1437 Clam Falls Drive, <b>Frederic, WI</b>	Roy Wickman, rktswick@chibardun.net



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>Aug. 8-10</b> Fri 1-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-3 The show is part of Keeweenaw Week, Aug. 3-8, a festival including digs, lectures, meetings, bulldozed field trips, and a live auction. For more information contact Steve Whelan, <a href="mailto:pres@ccrmc.info">pres@ccrmc.info</a> .	Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club	Houghton Elementary School, 203 W. Jacker Avenue, <b>Houghton, MI</b>	George Schriver, <a href="mailto:george.schriver@gmail.com">george.schriver@gmail.com</a>
<b>Aug. 12-17</b> Tues-Sun, 10-7	Steele County Gem & Mineral Club	Fine Arts Bldg., County Fairgrounds, 1525 S. Cedar, <b>Owatonna, MN</b>	Jim O'Neil, <a href="mailto:scgmcemail@gmail.com">scgmcemail@gmail.com</a>
<b>Aug. 15-17</b> Fri & Sat 10-7, Sun 10-4	Michiana Gem & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 5117 S. Ironwood Road, <b>South Bend, IN</b>	Stephanie Hughes, <a href="mailto:stephanie1695@gmail.com">stephanie1695@gmail.com</a>
<b>Aug. 16</b> Sat, 10-5	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Parking lot next to Dunham Sports, 5601 US-10 E, <b>Stevens Point, WI</b>	Sandy Brandl, <a href="mailto:stonez@tds.net">stonez@tds.net</a>
<b>Aug. 16-17</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Expo Building, County Fairgrounds, Highway 48 North, <b>Rice Lake, WI</b>	Roy Wickman, <a href="mailto:rktswick@chibardun.net">rktswick@chibardun.net</a>
<b>Aug. 23</b> Sat, 10-3	Racine Geological Society rock swap	Witts End Tavern Pavillion, 11601 County Road G, <b>Caledonia, WI</b>	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
<b>Aug. 23-24</b> Sat & Sun, 10-5	Peoria Academy of Science, Geology Section	Eastside Centre, 1 Eastside Drive, <b>East Peoria, IL</b>	Sandi Lawson, <a href="mailto:bixbite62@gmail.com">bixbite62@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sept. 5-7</b> Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	The 500 Earth Sciences Club	County 4-H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple, <b>Greenfield, IN</b>	Tom Odom, <a href="mailto:tomodom650@gmail.com">tomodom650@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sept. 5-7</b> Fri & Sat 10-6, Sunday 11-5	Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club	Pratt Pavilion, County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Road, <b>Bowling Green, OH</b>	Jerri Heer, <a href="mailto:jheerx6@aol.com">jheerx6@aol.com</a>
<b>Sept. 6</b> Sat, 9-3	Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society tailgate sale	Parking lot, St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7211 Oakland Drive, <b>Portage, MI</b>	Sheila Atherton, <a href="mailto:happywalker9662@charter.net">happywalker9662@charter.net</a>
<b>Sept. 13</b> Sat, 9-3	Coulee Rock Club rock swap	Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, <b>Onalaska, WI</b>	Apryl Bottner, <a href="mailto:aldenny@viterbo.edu">aldenny@viterbo.edu</a>
<b>Sept. 13</b> Sat, 9:30-3	Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society rock swap	A-American Machine and Assembly, 1665 Elmwood Road, <b>Rockford, IL</b>	Therese Cushing, <a href="mailto:rrvgms@gmail.com">rrvgms@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sept. 19-21</b> Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Mozarkite Society of Lincoln (MO)	Lincoln City Park, <b>Lincoln, MO</b> (across from Mike Hare Ball Field)	Pam Radu, <a href="mailto:mozarkiterocks@gmail.com">mozarkiterocks@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sept. 19-21</b> Fri 4-9, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Rock Hobby Club	Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, <b>Kirkwood, MO</b>	Roy Hurlburt, <a href="mailto:hurlburtr@juno.com">hurlburtr@juno.com</a>



**STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS SHOW THAT CLUBS ARE BUSY: ILLINOIS TO MINNESOTA****ILLINOIS****STATE DIRECTOR SUSAN STANFORTH**

My first call for reports was largely ignored, except for two very motivated folks I can always rely on – Connie Lavin of Des Plaines Valley Geological Society and Mike Chontofalsky at Southern Illinois Earth Science Club.

Mike wrote: “We had another successful 2024 show last April. We had member field trips to Haunted Ridge, Missouri and Mount Ida, Arkansas. The club awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a club member in geology grad school. We are also supporting a regional science fair. Occasionally club member Jerry Seidel volunteers at Clements Mineral Museum. No deceased members to report.”

Connie wrote: “Hello from Des Plaines Valley Geological Society. We had lost Bill Zima in the spring of 2024. Club members have been identifying everything he left to the club and we were able to sell quite a bit at our spring show in 2024. Other club members have taken his things to different rock shows and a garage sale was held over the summer to dispose of more of Bill’s massive collection.

“We had our annual holiday party in December with a very good turnout. Fun was had by all! This spring, we are concentrating on our 60<sup>th</sup> annual show the first weekend of April, so think of us while you are at the Convention! To those who will not be in Nebraska and want to see what we have on hand, please drop by at the Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center on Birch Street in Des Plaines. Several of our members are assisting the Chicagoland Gem and Mineral Association prepare for their annual show, which will be held Memorial Day weekend (Saturday and Sunday only) Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles, Illinois. After that, we will have our annual picnic and relax for the weekend!”

My second request as State Director was for a wish list – one improvement in the monthly meetings they would appreciate. This time I received TWO responses: Donna Moore of West Central Lapidary Club wished that she could find field trip opportunities within an hour driving distance without geode fee collecting, and she keeps hoping to find a couple of younger families who will get involved in the club. Helen from South Suburban Earth Science Club wished

for more members who would volunteer to be officers and also help with events and present programs.

So, I have 12 clubs that didn’t bother to report their activities. I know someone can do a better job. So at this time, I’m resigning my position as Illinois State Director. Besides, I’m moving to Ohio this summer.

**INDIANA****STATE DIRECTOR MICHELE YAMANAKA**

We had our Indiana clubs Zoom meeting on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. Three of our nine clubs joined in.

**SHOWS:** 500 Earth Sciences Club reported that they had over 5,500 attendees and 63 vendors, the best ever. They added one more building to the three already being used and it worked well. They plan to beef up marketing and get an ad in Rock & Mineral for July/August. The Indiana Society of Paleontology does not have its own show, but joins with several other earth sciences groups to present GEOfest in Indianapolis each year. Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society is beginning to replace all of its stolen show supplies so that they can have an October show.

**LEADERSHIP:** There is a need for ideas to stimulate involvement in local clubs. Members do not want to step up and take leadership – not only for president, but also for many other needed roles. So far, offering to mentor does not seem to help.

**CONVENTION DELEGATES:** Providing ZOOM for delegates is a great addition. They must still register as a delegate and provide an email address for the ZOOM. Also, non-delegates may Zoom to watch the delegate meeting and learn about how MWF operates. MWF just needs to know who and the email addresses in order to send the link.

**QUESTION:** 500 Earth Sciences does a lot of public programs and gives away material. But they are running out of material. Any suggestions about where and how to get more? They already ask members for items and for extra field trip finds.

**MINNESOTA****STATE DIRECTOR MARCIA OPATZ**

Anoka County Gem and Mineral Club: The club is preparing for its second annual spring rock and

*(Continued on page 10)*

## STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, CONTINUED: MINNESOTA TO MISSOURI/ARKANSAS

*(Continued from page 9)*

gem show on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The show has helped to promote the club and sign up new members. The club's second show is October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, just in time for a Halloween family outing.

Carlton County Gem and Mineral Club: The club has been enjoying programs about sedimentary agates, Minnesota mining, lapidary tools, and other topics. We are preparing for our 56<sup>th</sup> Agate Days gem and mineral show this July!

Cuyuna Rock, Gem, and Mineral Society: We had stable membership in the last year. Two large trips, one to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and one to eastern Missouri, were held in the fall. We also had several day trips to look for Lake Superior agates, and we visited Talon Metals, a mining exploration company in Tamarack, Minnesota. We are looking forward to our annual show in May. As of this writing, the show is nearly full, with 27 outdoor vendors and 40 inside vendors.



*Sadly, driving this car was probably not part of the Talon tour. Photo from talonmetals.com/corporate-presentations.*

Mankato Gem & Mineral Club: Our club dissolved.

Minnesota Mineral Club: We're deep into planning for the 2025 annual show on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. We've officially locked in show dates for 2026 and 2027.

For the first time in our 80-year history, the MMC is establishing a clubhouse! This dedicated space will be a hub for learning, lapidary arts, and hands-on workshops. Lease negotiations are under way, and soon members will have access to a fully equipped space. A big THANK YOU to all our amazing volunteers who are working hard to make this happen.

We're keeping members engaged through active social media updates on Facebook and Instagram, and since 2020, we've continued offering monthly Zoom meetings so members can join in from anywhere. Our 2025 program lineup will include hands-on lapidary demonstrations; tour directors sharing photos from the Midwest, East Coast, and Southwest; the Find of the Year contest; and our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration banquet.

With so much happening, 2025 is set to be an unforgettable year for the MMC.

New Ulm Gem and Mineral Club: The club has added a few new members. We have been busy with educational speakers, and planning for a field trip in central Minnesota to look for Lake Superior agates.

St. Croix Rockhounds: We are off to a good start for 2025. What we lack in size, we make up for in enthusiasm. In addition to our usual monthly meetings, we will be having both our semiannual public show and a silent auction in April. New events for us this year are public presentations about Minnesota rocks and mineral that we will give to grade-school age children in Hastings, Minnesota, and to a Cub Scout pack in Cottage Grove. Field trips are still in their planning stages.

Steele County Gem and Mineral Club: We are doing well, with 45 members and four junior members. We are in the process of planning our club display at the Steele County Free Fair, August 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. We have a few new members; some of our members have moved, and some graduated from high school. We are also planning a field trip to the Grotto. We are still looking for presenters, but our members are stepping up to present on different rocks and minerals. We have a club silent auction, potluck, swap meet and Christmas party each year.

## MISSOURI/ARKANSAS STATE DIRECTOR BRUCE STINEMETZ

### Arkansas Clubs

Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, and Geology Society: The club has been going through some turmoil and they are in the process of restructuring. I had the pleasure of speaking with their new president, Bethany Lawhon, and I referred her to some of the club resources on the federation web page. They are

*(Continued on page 11)*

## STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, CONTINUED: ARKANSAS AND MISSOURI ARE HOPPIN'!

(Continued from page 10)

currently working on getting a new field trip chair and a programs chair. They were able to have a successful gem and mineral show in October.

**Ozark Earth Science Gem, Mineral and Fossil Club:** This club is also having some issues. They didn't have any meetings for several months before Christmas. They have revived the club, and even though they are a small group, I'm happy to say that they are still in business.

### Missouri Clubs

**Independence Gem and Mineral Society:** They had a Christmas party with a gift exchange. They have had several interesting presentations at their monthly meetings. The most recent club activity was filling grab bags with donated specimens in preparation for the Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show in March. Many of the members are heavily involved with the show. By the time this report is given the show will have taken place, so hopefully it was successful.

**Mozarkite Society of Lincoln:** The club's primary activity is the Lincoln, Missouri club show, which was held in September. The number of dealers was down, but they felt the show was a success. They are currently researching area caves for a possible future visit. They are currently having problems because of an aging membership, though I understand that their current secretary is a high school student.

**Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society:** The society has experienced a productive and engaging six months of educational outreach, demonstrations, and organizational improvements. The club hosted a variety of presentations with subjects including karst geology, flintknapping, and navigating the club's website. Members gathered for a potluck and filled the kid's-corner rock bags for the fall show. The rock show featured a new fluorescent mineral display. Volunteer training resulted in a smooth and successful show.

The club is expanding its resources and opportunities for members. They are purchasing a shed to store club gear to accommodate growing needs. Plans are under way to move their annual show to a larger venue to support more vendors and attendees. Additionally, they have doubled the number of days that the training workshop is available to members.

This will provide more opportunities to learn lapidary skills and techniques. Planning is under way for spring and summer field trips to explore some of Missouri's geological sites.

Unfortunately, some club members passed away this year. Their names will be read during the memorials portion of the federation convention.

**Rock Hobby Club of Greater St. Louis:** Members of the club have been devoting themselves to making plans for upcoming shows. They currently have two shows scheduled, one March 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> in Bridgeton, Missouri, and one September 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> in Kirkwood, Missouri.

**St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society:** The club had a busy year in 2024, with numerous activities and field trips. The field trips included a trip to the Copper Valley Mine in June, an Arkansas quartz trip in October, Hawks Bluff Farm rocks and druzy quartz in November, and the West Druzy Farm in December. They had a rock slicing party in April. A sale of Dr. Bruce Stinchcomb's fossil and mineral collection was held in May. Dr. Stinchcomb was a well-known fossil expert and the author of numerous books on paleontology. The club's annual picnic was held in June, its show in November, and its holiday party in December. A service day at Hawks Bluff Farm was rescheduled to March 2025 due to bad weather.



*Telltale green streaks on the central rock show why Copper Valley Mine in Missouri gets its name; fluorescent calcite can be found there too. Photo from Copper Valley Mine's Facebook page.*

**Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City:** The club had a very good year. Their membership increased and their treasury is doing better than ever. They had two storage units full of rocks, minerals, fossils, and slabs of all kinds. After a series of sales, the units were closed.

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## STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS, CONTINUED: NORTH DAKOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA TO OHIO

*(Continued from page 11)*

On October 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> members of the club participated in the Ozark Mountain Gem and Mineral Society show held in Springfield, Missouri. They were invited to exhibit a fluorescent display, presented by Dan and Connie Snow. The club also had tables at the show where they sold rocks, minerals, fossils, and modern flint-knapped knives and projectile points. It was a very successful weekend.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> the club had tables at the Kansas City gem and mineral Show at the KCI Expo Center. Members sold items including some fine wire-wrapped stones, cabochons and faceted stones. They are looking forward to the future, and hope to add to the growing enthusiasm for rockhounding and all facets of the hobby. They will be sending a delegate to the convention.

Tri-State Gem and Mineral Society: The club held a show on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Joplin History and Mineral Museum in Joplin, Missouri.

### NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA STATE DIRECTORS HARLAN AND ALETHA HOOGETERP

The Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society in Sioux Falls, Sout Dakota, continues to do well. Our membership is remaining steady with a slight upward trend. We are currently planning our 8<sup>th</sup> annual show, which is continuing to grow. We have added some extra floor space to allow for more vendors this year. We are also planning several field trips for our members again this year.

If your club is ever in need of a new meeting location, I suggest that you look into some of the businesses in your area. They may have a community meeting room in which they will allow other organizations to hold meetings. We are greatly enjoying our new meeting location at Amy Stockberger Real Estate. The room comes with tables and chairs, access to a kitchen area for our Christmas party, and, most importantly, the use of their large-screen TV audio-video system.

We have had no contact with the Lake Agassiz Rock Club in Fargo, North Dakota; however, they do continue to exist. I follow them on Facebook.

## OHIO

### STATE DIRECTOR CATHERINE CLEVENZ

The Summit Lapidary Club of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, submitted the following report.

“It’s been a busy year for the club. Here are the activities that the club engaged in: Big Dig at Flint Ridge (done jointly with the Akron Mineral Society), Christmas tree donation, field trip to Fantashia (a rock shop), and our Christmas party and summer picnic, both done jointly with Akron Mineral. Both Summit Lapidary and Akron Mineral are busy preparing for our joint spring show. Summit Lapidary still sponsors Geo Juniors, and we have members involved in outreach to the public-school systems.”

### EASY TO RECOGNIZE, HARD TO ANALYZE

Dr. Bill Cordua, Chair  
MWF Geology Committee  
From the April, 2025 Rock Rustler’s News  
Of the Minnesota Mineral Club

Gneiss (yes, pronounced “nice”) is a familiar metamorphic rock but it is also one of the most enigmatic. I cut my geologic teeth mapping a gneiss-rich region in southwestern Montana, near the fishing mecca of Ennis and the Gold Rush town of Virginia City.

Gneiss is exposed more locally in the Minnesota River Valley, near Morton and at Alexander Ramsey State Park near Redwood Falls. My favorite local "gneiss spot" is at Big Falls County Park, near Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Here you can crawl around studying details of this complex rock at leisure, although no collecting is allowed. Beware that on warm summer days a lot of the outcrop is covered with sun bathers and their towels. People having a nice day on some gneiss rocks? Sorry.

Gneiss is easy to recognize, containing distinct bands of light and dark minerals. This metamorphic banding, or layering, is called foliation. Gneiss often breaks along these foliation planes. The light minerals are usually quartz and feldspars. The dark minerals are frequently an amphibole and/or biotite. Garnets and other metamorphic minerals may be present.

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## GNEISS IS EASY TO RECOGNIZE, HARD TO ANALYZE (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 12)

The word gneiss comes from the German, meaning "shiny," which refers to the glints from the micas on the foliation surfaces.

Gneisses form by high temperature and pressure, generally in environments where the rock is sheared and softened. The intense shearing can result in streaking and segregation of minerals to make a gneissic texture. The rocks may be close to, and locally over, their melting point, making them soft and pliable. Gneisses are often veined with granite and other igneous rocks, some formed by partial melting of the gneiss.



*Boulder of gneiss intruded by several generations of granite and granite pegmatite in Timm's Hill, Price County, Wisconsin. Photo by Dr. Bill Cordua.*

The most vexing problem is what the gneiss USED TO BE before it got metamorphosed, as these rocks are some of the earth's oldest. (The Morton Gneiss is over 3.7 billion years old.) This is important in reconstructing Earth's earliest history. Geologists call the parent of a metamorphic rock the protolith. The protolith for marble is, for example, a carbonate rock such as limestone. What was the protolith of gneiss?

There are lots of rocks that will produce a gneiss upon high-grade metamorphism. A clay-rich rock such as shale will form gneiss under high grade metamorphism. A metamorphosed granite will also form gneiss, as will a metamorphosed rhyolite lava flow or ash deposit. Even a feldspar-rich sandstone could be metamorphosed to make gneiss. To a geologist trying to work out a gneiss's history, determining the protolith is a tough problem.

Sometimes a clue to a metamorphic rock's origin is the presence of pre-metamorphic relicts. For example, quartzite may have ripple marks and cross-beds, revealing a sandstone protolith. In gneisses, however, the intensity of metamorphism – the temperature, pressure, shearing and recrystallization – obliterates relicts' features.

A few clues do exist. Analysis of trace elements in the gneiss – such as rare-earth elements, titanium, niobium and tantalum – can be very useful. The most useful are ones that are refractory (not moved out of the rock by partial melting or shearing). Igneous rock will make a gneiss with a different mix of trace elements than a sedimentary rock.

Zircon grains in the gneiss provide other clues. Zircons, found in trace amounts in many rocks, are resistant to chemical and physical changes during metamorphism. Igneous zircons would be unrounded and uniform in their trace element chemistry. Sedimentary zircons will have washed in from a variety of sources and have widely varying trace element composition and degrees of rounding.

Trace element work done on the gneisses at Big Falls show they were probably part of a large gabbro complex similar to, but much older than, Minnesota's Duluth Complex. Even so, there are cases where not enough evidence is found to determine a particular gneiss's protolith. These remain problems for future researchers.

## DINOSAUR "HIGHWAY" FOUND IN ENGLAND

Michele Yamanaka  
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society  
The Strata Data of April 2025

This story hit the news on January 2-3, 2025. It got the most notice in England, of course. For those wanting to read the whole thing, you can go to Brian Melley's January 2<sup>nd</sup> article, "'Dinosaur highway' tracks dating back 166 million years are discovered in England," at the Associated Press website ([apnews.com/article/uk-dinosaur-tracks-discovery](https://apnews.com/article/uk-dinosaur-tracks-discovery)).

It started in Oxfordshire, southern England, with a worker digging up clay in a limestone quarry.

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## “FOSSIL RECORD” IS A POEM AND GEOLOGY LESSON COMBINED

By Marilyn Russell  
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN)  
From the June, 2024 Strata Data

*[Editor's Note: This is the first-place winner in the Adult Poetry category of this year's AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest.]*

In the days of the Ordovician,  
There swam critters far and wide,  
Bivalves and corals and crinoids  
With sections like Cheerios inside.

In the days of the Silurian,  
Continued crinoids all around,  
But now something new, a plankton pal –  
Chitinozoans are suddenly found!

In the days of the Devonian,  
Brachiopods knew they were kings.  
They look like lamps from Roman times  
With symmetrical valves like wings.

In the days of the Carboniferous,  
A four-legged creature appeared.  
Acanthostega - that wonderful guy  
Led the way onto land! So weird!



*But he looks like a pretty cheerful fella! Pencil drawing of Acanthostega gunnari, with digital coloring, by Nobu Tamura, via Wikipedia Commons.*

In the days of the Permian period,  
Came the rise of the monstrous ferns  
Lush and green and verdant  
With insects and ammonoids and worms.

The Triassic was a transition time,  
When mammals gave way to lizards.  
In water the Tropites swam nimbly  
No Ice Age back then, so no blizzards!

In the days of the Jurassic period,  
Came the time of the dinosaur's stomp,  
Stegosaurus proud with its armored petals  
Munching foliage while out for a romp.

In the days of the Cretaceous,  
And despite the blockbuster's claim,  
This was the time for T-Rex's roaring  
And Triceratops' lumbering fame.

In the days of the Cenozoic,  
The mighty lizards had gone from the Earth.  
Woolly mammoths, giant sloths and others-  
La Brea Tar Pits sure got its worth.

And now, the days of the Holocene,  
There lie fossils of all, far and wide,  
Teaching about the planet's history  
Using remnants of all that have died.

So, a toast to all those before us,  
Whether animal, plant or one cell.  
They speak to us now through their fossils  
And such wonderful stories they tell!

## MIDWEST GEOLOGICAL WONDERS ABOUND

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

The Midwest has many geological wonders – national lakeshores, national forests, and state and national parks. Someday I would love to see them all! Our federation is home to diverse terrains and unique geological history, as well as rich in American history. So go out and explore this summer!

This article is based on lists by Lydia Schrandt of USA Today and Jennifer A. Singer of MSN.

### ILLINOIS

Pomona Natural Bridge, Shawnee National Forest: A sandstone bridge extending 90 feet.

Garden of the Gods, Shawnee National Forest: Towering sandstone formations shaped over millions of years.

### INDIANA

McCormick's Creek State Park: The creek flows through a limestone canyon.

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## MIDWESTERN GEOLOGICAL WONDERS ABOUND, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 14)

### IOWA

Loess Hills Scenic Byway: Dunes of soil along Missouri River floodplain.

### KANSAS

Monument Rocks: Cretaceous chalk formations soaring over the flat plain beneath. (Technically, Kansas isn't in the Midwest Federation, but it certainly is Midwestern, and this formation is breathtaking.)

### MICHIGAN

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore: Towering sandstone cliffs 50 to 200 feet tall and 15 miles long, along the shore of Lake Superior.



*One view of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Photo by R. Boed, via Wikimedia Commons.*

### MINNESOTA

Minnehaha Falls: Plummets 53 feet into a gorge in an urban park – Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. Great views of the Mississippi River.

Taylor Falls Glacial Potholes: Smooth, circular holes formed during the Ice Age as water swirled and rocks carved the basalt.

Pipestone National Monument: Site of red pipestone used by Native Americans in making ceremonial pipes.

Mississippi River Bluffs: Breathtaking view of the river valley near the city of Winona.

### MISSOURI

Elephant Rocks State Park: Massive granite boulders resembling a parade of elephants.

Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park: Pools formed over thousands of years as the Black River eroded volcanic stone.

### NEBRASKA

Scotts Bluff National Monument: Standing 800 feet above the plains, this was a landmark along the Oregon Trail.

Chimney Rock National Historic Site: This famous landform west of Lincoln, Nebraska, stands around 325 feet tall. It is a hoodoo – a tall, thin spire of rock that forms in arid regions through erosion and weathering. Typically, hoodoos consist of relatively soft rock topped by harder, less easily eroded stone that protects each column from the elements.

### NORTH DAKOTA

Cannonball Concretions in Theodore Roosevelt National Park: Concretions 10 feet in diameter created by centuries of river erosion.



*Concretions and slumped bentonite clay in the north unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Photo by Acroterion, via Wikimedia Commons.*

### OHIO

Rock House in Hocking Hills State Park: Cave.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Palisades State Park: Pink-hued quartzite rock formations.

The Needles in Custer State Park: Granite spires.

Badlands National Park: 244,000-acre national park with one of world's richest fossil beds. Only "reasonable quantities" of invertebrate collection is allowed, but taking photos of vertebrate fossil finds and reporting them to the park is encouraged.

### WISCONSIN

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore: Twenty-one islands and 12 miles of mainland on Lake Superior; stunning sandstone formations and sea caves.

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### **DINOSAUR HIGHWAY, CONT.: HERBIVORES AND CARNIVORES MAY HAVE INTERSECTED. OUCH.**

*(Continued from page 13)*

He kept finding bumps under the clay. After finding these bumps repeatedly, he noticed that the exposed bumps looked like giant tracks. He reported this, and soon a team of more than 100 researchers from Oxford and Birmingham Universities were excavating the quarry.

What they found was a dinosaur highway, with nearly 200 tracks dating back 166 million years. The tracks were made by several kinds of dinosaurs. Four sets of tracks were made by long-necked herbivores known as sauropods and were thought to be Cetiosaurus, which often was 60 feet in length. Another set indicated the Megalosaurus, a fierce 9-foot-long predator. This dinosaur left a distinctive triple-claw mark.

The sets of tracks cross in one area, leading to the possibility of interaction between meat-eaters and plant-eaters.

About 30 years ago, 40 sets of dinosaur tracks were located near this find, in a different limestone quarry. But that was before the time of digital cameras and drones, and limited evidence remains from that

place, which is mostly inaccessible now. This current find is amply documented with over 20,000 digital images, and drones were used to create 3D models.

Melley's article quotes Duncan Murdock, an earth scientist at the University of Oxford: "The preservation is so detailed that we can see how the mud was deformed as the dinosaur's feet squelched in and out."

In addition to the great many digital photos, at least five videos of the find are available. Three of them can be found by going to YouTube and searching for these titles:

From BBC News: Vast dinosaur footprints found in quarry

From Global News: Jurassic Highway: Hundreds of dinosaur footprints found

From France 24 English: France 24 English vast dinosaur tracks discovered

There will be an exhibit about the findings at the University of Oxford Natural History Museum, and an episode about the "highway" on BBC's series "Digging for Britain."