



# MWF News

**Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

May 2025 - Issue No. 642

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

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

The MWF had a successful convention! I know many clubs were not in attendance, and I am sorry to say you missed a great networking opportunity to discuss ideas and suggestions about club meetings, membership and field trips.

Thanks to the host club, the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club in Nebraska. They provided our federation with a nice meet- and-greet on Friday night, outstanding accommodations for the annual meeting and banquet, and a great show!

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, the MWF Executive Committee will be meeting in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, hosted by the Summit Lapidary Club and Akron Mineral Society. This is the weekend of their joint show. This will be another opportunity for your club to network with others within the federation. I cannot



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## CONVENTION: DELEGATES' COUNCIL MINUTES

The Midwest Federation Council of Delegates met April 5, 2025, in Lincoln, Nebraska. President Cheryl Neary called the meeting to order.

Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge, Lincoln show co-chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He apologized for some scheduling problems. He noted there were 30 out-of-state people on the field trip. Some came through horrible weather. The club was glad everyone was there.

J.C. Moore, past president, gave the invocation. Tom Barnhizer, first vice president, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cheryl recognized J.C. Moore as President of the American Federation. She then recognized the MWF Past Presidents in attendance, including Sandy Fuller, J.C. Moore, Cindy Root, Jim Marburger, David Root, and Catherine Clevenz. Also in attendance were Honorary Member Marge Collins and past AFMS presidents Sandy Fuller and Cheryl Neary.

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**CONVENTION: DELEGATES MINUTES, CONT.***(Continued from page 1)*

Parliamentarian Cindy Root reviewed the rules of order for the meeting.

Marge Collins reminded people that this meeting is not an “invitation only” group. We need to twist arms to get new bodies to participate. She urged people to invite others to come and meet like-minded people at these meetings. Joe Johnson from the Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society added that clubs need to get people to conventions. It is a chance to learn.

Cheryl read the memorial names of the members who had passed away since the last meeting. The following names were announced:

Ron Erickson, Chippewa Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Gene Risdon, Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club

R. Sue Roberts, Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society

Tom Simons, Tri-County Rock and Mineral Society

Carol and Mel Claymiller, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society

Janis Dietrick, Larry Lillich, and LeRoy Rodgers, Ozark Gem and Mineral Society

Sue Hogge, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society

Cathy Price, Lawrence County Rock Club

Bill Zima, Des Plaines Valley Geological Society

Ryan Coleman, Northwest Wisconsin Gem and Mineral Society

LaDonna Marie Austof, Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club

Ken Hoekstra and Julia Sherwood, Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club

Art Dumkee, Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club

Dean Schwartz, Cincinnati Mineral Society

Jim Budnick, Greater Cincinnati Lapidary Society

A moment of silence was held in memory of these fellow rockhounds.

The minutes of the Council of Delegates Meeting held in East Peoria, Illinois, on August 24, 2024 had been published in the MWF Newsletter and e-

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mailed to Executive Committee members, and printed copies were available at this meeting. J.C. Moore moved to approve the minutes and Sandy Fuller seconded the motion, which passed.

Treasurer Stephen Shimatzki had printed copies of the Treasurer's report. He mentioned that he had moved some extra funds into a money market. Joe Johnson said that his club put their extra money in short term CD's, because the rates were better. They were using the interest for field trips and renting a van for accessible needs. J.C. Moore moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Catherine Clevenz seconded the motion, which passed.

Tom Barnhizer introduced the State Directors present. They included Michele Yamanaka from Indiana, Jim Marburger from Nebraska, Timothy Hill from Iowa, Aletha and Harlan Hoogeterp from North and South Dakota, Bruce Stinemetz from Missouri and Arkansas, and Catherine Clevenz from Ohio.

Online were Joyce Kish, Assistant Director for Ohio, and Ernie Johnson, Assistant Director for Michigan. There was discussion about a problem with two clubs who had similar names and were running their shows the same weekend. Recommendations were suggested to the State Director for resolving the situation.

**Reports of Permanent Committees**

Archaeology - Skeeter Kish had a written report. He was online and added that spring is here, the

*(Continued on page 6)*

## CONVENTION BANQUET CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP HONOREES AND RECIPIENTS

**Clyde and Barbara Ogg** of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (Nebraska) were feted as the 2025 MWF Scholarship Honorees at the Awards Banquet of the MWF convention in April.

Both of the Oggs have been rockhounds since childhood, and are active with the club in recruiting speakers, planning field trips, and writing articles for the club's newsletter.

Barbara assists with juniors programs, and Clyde serves on the board. In addition, Clyde has built fluorescent mineral displays, converting transilluminators to super-UV fixtures; Barbara has become a self-taught expert in identifying antique jewelry.

Both have received degrees in entomology, Barbara a Ph.D. from Iowa State University and Clyde a master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). They have spent their professional careers with the Extension faculty at UNL, teaching about pest management and pesticide safety, writing educational publications, and making presentations at conferences and workshops.



*Clyde and Barbara Ogg at the Awards Banquet with grant recipient Megan Heins. The other recipient, Kali Neydon, wasn't able to attend. Photo by Donnite Stiles.*

Of course, when they were selected as this year's Scholarship Honorees, they turned to UNL for assistance in choosing the grant recipients. Each year, the MWF Scholarship Honorees select two graduate

students in the earth sciences, and each of those students receives a \$4,000 grant from the MWF.

Each of the other federations in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies also receives two \$4,000 grants to be given to students in their regions (except for the Southeast Federation, which has its own scholarship program).

The names of the two 2025 MWF grant recipients were announced at the convention Awards Banquet. They are **Megan Heins** and **Kali Neydon**. Both are studying micropaleontology of marine diatoms at the UNL Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Heins as a Ph.D. candidate and Neydon as a master's student.

"[Heins] is presently examining sediment cores recovered from West Antarctica, working within a team of international scientists to assess the past and future history of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet," according to Dr. David M. Harwood, who holds the Stout Chair of Stratigraphy at UNL.

For two years, Heins was the head teaching assistant and president of Students of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, a departmental organization. "This scholarship will prove to be invaluable to my peace of mind as I finish up my Ph.D.," Heins wrote in a letter to the Oggs.

Neydon is "working to develop a new paleoenvironmental and paleoclimate proxy using benthic diatoms . . . a proxy for open, ice-free coastlines during Pliocene times of past warmth," Harwood explained. (According to the U.S. Geological Survey's website, proxies are "materials preserved within the geologic record that can be analyzed and correlated with climate or environmental parameters in the modern world . . . to expand our understanding of climate variability to times before humans began measuring these things.")

Harwood wrote about Neydon, ". . . I am impressed with her keen understanding and fine work ethic."

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT THE BANQUET —  
WHICH ARE ALSO COMMITTEE REPORTS —  
CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

## CONVENTION AWARDS BANQUET: BULLETIN EDITORS CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, Chair  
Bulletin Editors Committee

We had a great year! The Midwest Federation received a second-place trophy for the most awards won by a federation. Stuart Reid, editor for the Minnesota Mineral Club's newsletter, won an award for most winning entries submitted by a club in the MWF. Here is the list of winners:

### LARGE BULLETINS

**Rock Rustler's News.** Editor Stuart Reid, Minnesota Mineral Club. First Place in the MWF, Fourth Place in the AFMS.

### ADULT ARTICLES

**"My Path to Microphotography"** by Jim Kennedy, Minnesota Mineral Club. First Place in the MWF, 15th Place in the AFMS.

**"Converting Rough Rocks Into Jewelry Pieces"** by John Porter, Minnesota Mineral Club. Second Place in the MWF, 20th place in the AFMS.

**"Geology Camp"** by Brenna Gentrup, Minnesota Mineral Club. Third Place in the MWF, Fourth Place in the AFMS. (That was out of 20 adult articles submitted to AFMS, a very high ranking, and she was only 18, barely an adult.)

**"Fabulous Feldspars, Common Orthoclase and the Celestially Named Feldspar: Moonstone"** by Nick Smith, Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society (IN). No MWF award, as it went straight to national; 11th Place in the AFMS.

### ADULT ARTICLES, ADVANCED

**"On the Rocks, Gypsum Hourglasses"** by Bill Cordua, Minnesota Mineral Club. First Place in the MWF, Fourth Place in the AFMS.

**"Roz'Grus: About a Mystery Vial"** by Johan Maertens, Dayton Gem and Mineral Society (OH). Second Place in the MWF, Fifth Place in the AFMS.

**"Sunstone"** by Nick Smith, Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society (IN). No MWF award, as it went straight to national; Ninth Place AFMS.

### WRITTEN FEATURES

**"Phytoremediation"** by Marilyn Russell, Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society (IN). No MWF

award, as it went straight to national; First Place in the AFMS.

**"Chinsekikan – 'The Hall of Curious Rocks'"** by Michele Yamanaka, Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society (IN). First Place in the MWF, Second Place in the AFMS.

**"MMC Field Trips 2024"** by Sandy Kenny, Minnesota Mineral Club. Second Place in the MWF, Fifth Place in the AFMS.

**"Delegate Report of the MWF"** by Eliyah Kemp, Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Club (IN). Third Place in the MWF, Seventh Place in the AFMS.

### ADULT POETRY

**"Fossil Record"** by Marilyn Russell, Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society (IN). First Place in the MWF, First Place in the AFMS.

**"The Christmas Rockhound Song"** by Stuart Reid, Minnesota Mineral Club. Second Place in the MWF, Third Place in the AFMS.

### JUNIOR COLLABORATION ARTICLES

**"Investigating a Trace Fossil on Ripple Marks in the Middle Cambrian Hickory Sandstone of Central Texas"** by Nathan Peters, Brody Dymond, Wyatt Maeder, Hunter Maeder. Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club (MI). First Place in the MWF, First Place in the AFMS.

### JUNIOR ARTICLES AGE 12-17

**"Richmond Road Cut Report"** by Alana Bassier, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society (IN). First Place in the MWF, Eighth Place in the AFMS.

Next year's deadline for submitting your entries to the MWF Bulletin Editors Contest is January 22, 2026, a date set by the AFMS. Those of you wishing to send directly to my temporary Tucson address can contact me by email after January 1<sup>st</sup> to find out the post office box number (I get a temporary post office box each year). I do get mail forwarded from my home address, but it causes about a week's delay, so I recommend checking with me for faster delivery. My email address is [mafr43@hotmail.com](mailto:mafr43@hotmail.com).

We had a great year this year – let's try for most trophies won by a federation in 2026!



**CONVENTION: ENVIRONMENT AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT GIVES CONTACT INFO**

Catherine Clevenz, Chair  
Environment and Legislation Committee

The public is losing more recreational land area across the United States. First, we had an administration help push a bill that closed off hundreds of miles of rivers and thousands of acres from public use, making it felony trespassing to enter these areas. Now we have an administration who would like to sell off the land to the private sector for mining. This will cause harm to the environment and lead to more loss of more places for rockhounding, camping, and other recreational uses. This not only will affect our hobby, but will also affect geologists and students.

We as a group need to flood the Senate with our concerns, thoughts, and ideas. Below is a list of all U.S. Senators in the states of the Midwest Federation. Please take about 15 minutes at your next meeting to have your club members write a quick letter to your Senators. For contact information about U.S. Representatives, and all members of Congress from non-MWF states, check the following links: [www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm](http://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm) and [www.house.gov/representatives](http://www.house.gov/representatives).

PLEASE NOTE: The city and ZIP code for ALL following addresses is: Washington, D.C. 20510.

**ARKANSAS**

John Boozman (R)  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Tom Cotton (R)  
326 Russell Senate Office Building

**ILLINOIS**

Richard J. Durbin (D)  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Tammy Duckworth (D)  
524 Hart Senate Office Building

**INDIANA**

Todd Young (R)  
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Jim Banks (R)  
303 Hart Senate Office Building

**IOWA**

Chuck Grassley (R)  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Joni Ernst (R)  
260 Russell Senate Office Building

**MICHIGAN**

Gary C. Peters (D)  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Elissa Slotkin (D)  
291 Russell Senate Office Building

**MINNESOTA**

Amy Klobuchar (D)  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Tina Smith (D)  
720 Hart Senate Office Building

**MISSOURI**

Josh Hawley (R)  
115 Russell Senate Office Building  
Eric Schmitt (R)  
404 Russell Senate Office Building

**NEBRASKA**

Deb Fischer (R)  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Pete Ricketts (R)  
139 Russell Senate Office Building

**NORTH DAKOTA**

John Hoeven (R)  
338 Russell Senate Office Building  
Kevin Cramer (R)  
313 Hart Senate Office Building

**OHIO**

Bernie Moreno (R)  
SR-B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Jon Husted (R)  
SR-198 Russell Senate Office Building

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

John Thune (R)  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Mike Rounds (R)  
716 Hart Senate Office Building

**WISCONSIN**

Ron Johnson (R)  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Tammy Baldwin (D)  
141 Hart Senate Office Building

**CONVENTION: MERIT AWARD ANNOUNCED**

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, Chair  
MWF Merit Awards Committee

We had one entry for the All American Yearbook award for the 2025 contest, and it was a great one! The **Minnesota Mineral Club** received the highest honor, the gold award, at both the Midwest Federation and the American Federation levels.

Congratulations to the Minnesota Mineral Club for an outstanding effort. The Merit Awards deadline was very early this year because of an early AFMS convention. For 2026, the convention is not quite as early, and the deadline will probably be in early to mid-February. The deadline for entry to the MWF contest will be announced as soon as the AFMS date for submissions is announced.

**CONVENTION: WEBSITE WINNERS NAMED**

Brad Zylman, Chair  
MWF Website Competition Committee

We had two great entries from the Midwest Federation Website Competition this year. The two finalists from the MWF contest, the **Ozarks Gem and Mineral Society** (Missouri) and the **Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club** (Michigan), were announced last October. I'm now pleased to report that both of these clubs' websites received accolades at the American Federation level. The Ozarks club received second place in the rankings this year, while the Tulip City website received an honorable mention!

Please stop by and visit them to enjoy their work. Ozarks can be visited at [ogms.rocks](http://ogms.rocks), and the Tulip City website can be seen at [tulipcity.org](http://tulipcity.org). I have provided the winners with a badge for their websites that they can proudly display.

A complete listing of all of this year's winners can be found on the AFMS website at [www.amfed.org/contests/website-contest](http://www.amfed.org/contests/website-contest).

**CONVENTION: DELEGATES MINUTES, CONT.**

*(Continued from page 2)*

clubs will be having summer picnics, and there will be a lot of volunteer work. The clubs have picked up a few new members.

Boundaries – Sandy Fuller noted that there was nothing new to report.

Bulletin Editors Contest – Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich was online. She reported that the Bulletin Editors Contest had almost three times the number of entries as last year. The MWF entries did very well in the AFMS contest. The MWF placed second in the regional federation with the most trophy winners.

All American Awards – There was one entry this year. It had good results.

Club Rockhound of the Year – Jeanine Mielecki had a written report.

Conventions and Shows – J.C. Moore reported that the convention in 2024 in East Peoria was well attended. This year Sharon Marburger has been the club/MWF coordinator. She has done this for a convention twice before. She is a good resource for any club considering hosting a convention.

Next year (2026) the MWF convention will be in conjunction with the AFMS Convention. It will be hosted by the Chicagoland group of clubs in St. Charles, Illinois, May 22-24, 2026.

J.C. asked John Rettler from Kettle Moraine Geological Society in Wisconsin about the 2027 convention. John noted it had been 40 years since Wisconsin had hosted an MWF convention. It will be their club's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have a big kids' corner at the show on the second weekend in March. Their show is after Tucson and before Easter. They had good attendance this year with 2,700 (2,100 adults).

Because of the time of year, they can't have field trips, but within 45 minutes are the DNR Horicon

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*June Issue Submission Deadline Is May 7th!*

## CONVENTION MINUTES, CONT.: COMMITTEE REPORTS, DIRECTOR OF SUPPLIES TO HISTORIAN

(Continued from page 6)

Marsh Explorium and the Kettle Moraine State Forest (which people can drive through to see glacial activity), as well as cross-country and downhill skiing. The show site is the Washington County Fairground near Route 45 near West Bend, Wisconsin. J.C. noted that he is willing to hear suggestions for dates after 2027.



*Hiking trail in Lapham Peak State Park, part of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Photo by Yinan Chen, via Wikimedia Commons.*

Director of Supplies – Sharon Marburger reported that she had nothing to report. She had brought badges, pins, patches and bolos for sale.

Directory – Martha Miss announced there were old ones (2024) available to whoever wanted to pick them up. Cheryl asked for a round of applause for Martha's work on the directory.

Endowment Fund – Cindy Root asked why people were not sending donations for the Endowment Fund. She and Marge Collins bickered back and forth (in good terms) about where donations should go – Endowment Fund or Scholarship Fund.

Cindy announced that the Tricky Tray proceeds and the auction of E. Bear go to the Endowment Fund. The winning bidder gets to take E. Bear home for a year. Only the interest from the Endowment Fund can be used. It goes for such things as the Diamond Dan newsletter for clubs with juniors who pay their dues on time, part of the cost of dues for all members to the AFMS, and patches for the juniors activities. The Endowment Fund was originally established to keep down dues and other costs for members.

Environment and Legislation – Catherine Clevenz announced she would have a suggested letter to send to Congress concerning closing of BLM lands and national monuments. There are some places we can no longer walk on, let alone collect on. Remember to keep it clean when we visit these areas that are still open. In some places, it is a felony to even walk in the area. This is hurting students, geologists, rockhounds and others. She planned to submit an article in the next newsletter with contacts and content suggestions.

Cheryl noted this would be a good program for your local club to participate in this needed activity. Tom Barnhizer added that it is not just the closures, but the restrictions, and there are fewer people to help if you have problems in these areas. Joe Johnson noted that they are facing issues in Arkansas. Many of the areas are no longer available to collecting, and there has been privatization of dig sites. Maybe we need to create a group to help bring in landowners for dialogue. We need to enlarge the footprint.

Reinee Hildebrandt reminded members that landowners have the liability issues. There needs to be a balance of how we approach sites. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a good example. They manage Forest Service land. We need to target specific lands.

John Rettler added that as a former farmer in Wisconsin, the DNR is not well liked because of their over-reach. When you choose to react, it is not necessarily a bad thing. It can give a forum for discussion.

Geology – No report.

Historian – Cindy Root reminded everyone that our history is on Google Drive. It includes all the directories, as well as convention meeting minutes and information. No one sends her anything. She accepts emails with photos, etc., from clubs.

Sharon Marburger reported that the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club puts their history on their website. Cindy can load club history onto the website. Pdf works fine. Joyce Kish added that she started collecting photos going back to 1942 on their club's website. They have all the MWF newsletters. Cindy also noted that the Silent Auction, which would be on

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**CONVENTION MINUTES, CONT.: COMMITTEE REPORTS, JUNIORS TO UNIFORM RULES**

(Continued from page 7)

Sunday, goes to the Endowment Fund. It would start at 10:00 a.m., and help was needed.

Juniors – Reinee Hildebrant had a report in the packet. She noted that she “does care.” Right now there are 841 junior members reported in MWF clubs. Three new clubs have reported junior groups – Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society; White River Rock, Gem and Mineral Club from Wisconsin; and Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club from Nebraska. She added that the juniors newsletter “Crack the News” had a collaborative article to which six MWF juniors contributed.

There are some fantastic things going on. Her survey results brought up some new things such as a club that gives the juniors “Monopoly money” for helping at its show. They can use the “money” at the swap, the show, etc., however the club wants. This is a volunteer reward. Clubs can sign up their juniors groups on the AFMS website. There are some new badges added, including “Sand and Sediment,” which was demonstrated at the AFMS cracker barrel.



*This photo from the March, 2024 edition of Crack the News shows 8-year-old Anthony of the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois. Anthony’s article was about collecting fossil nodules at Mazon Creek in Illinois.*

Lapidary Arts – David Root had a written report.

Long Range Planning – No report.

Membership – Jim Marburger reported that two clubs have new workshops, which will attract new members. The MWF had one request for information

about forming a new club, but no other contacts had been received.

Merit Awards – Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich was online, and reported that results from AFMS and MWF contests would be announced at the awards banquet.

Mineralogy – This chairmanship was vacant. Joe Johnson asked to see the Operating Procedure for this committee to see if he was interested in this chairmanship.

Newsletter – Valerie Meyers had a written report.

Paleontology – No report.

Program Requests – Bob Powers had a written report.

Safety and Field Trips – David Rich was online and noted that we need to consider safety first.

Scholarship – Marge Collins had a written report. She noted that, as part of the AFMS Scholarship Fund program, each year the MWF Scholarship Honoree selects two students to receive grants. The AFMS has given over \$1 million to graduate students who were majoring in the earth sciences. She told people to consider a living memorial instead of always waiting until someone passed away.

Joe Johnson reminded people to check to see if their companies will match donations. Marge suggested holding a 50/50 drawing. Donna Moore noted that these grants really help the students and their families. Steve Shimatzki stepped up with a donation for the Scholarship Fund and challenged others to give right at that time. Marge received several donations.

Silent Auction – Susan Stanforth has had to step down as chairperson due to health problems. A new chairperson is needed.

Uniform Rules – J.C. Moore reported that this area covers competitive exhibits that are set up according to the AFMS Rules. There was one exhibit at the Lincoln show of self-collected minerals. It included 35 minerals. Putting it together was challenging, but it is a nice display. Be sure to check it out at the show.

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## CONVENTION MINUTES, CONTINUED: OLD BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS



*Photo, by Steve Shimatzki, of the competitive display that Moore discussed. It was done by Bruce Stinemetz, member of the Independence Gem and Mineral Society and MWF Missouri/Arkansas State Director.*

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Marge Collins noted that the displays can be in totally different areas. Cheryl Neary added that at the AFMS show, it was mentioned the display could be a club showcase put together by members of the club, not just one individual. She suggested to make it a fun, educational display. Michele Yamanaka asked what size the cases needed to be. J.C. told her there is no restriction on the size of the case. The object is to make sure that it is not crowded. The idea is to put together an attractive display.

If a member would like, he or she can ask to have a non-competitive display critiqued, to help learn how to put together a display. Contact J.C. about this. Skeeter Kish asked if the display could be more than one case. The display should be a single case.

Website – Cindy Root said that this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year she has done the website. She asked folks to let her know if something needs to be fixed on the website. Otherwise, she may not be aware of any mistakes. She also noted that she needs an assistant in case something might happen to her. She needed someone to learn from her to help with corrections. Steve Shimatzki offered to assist her.

After a short break, Cheryl asked everyone to introduce themselves. J.C. Moore, Conventions and Shows Chair, then reported that the Minnesota Mineral Club had offered to host the MWF Convention and Annual Meeting in 2028. Cindy Root moved to accept the bid. Reinee Hildebrandt seconded the motion, which carried.

### Old Business

T-Shirts – It was suggested to let Sandy Shorter know if there was interest in more t-shirts.

Logo – The revised logo was shown (printed copies were available). Steve Shimatzki offered to do a revision in color (add the red). Cheryl urged people to look at their club materials and update the logo. Donna Moore can email it to anyone needing the revision.

Media – J.C. Moore reported that we have a new sound system, which we are still working with to get used to it. Catherine Clevenz added she will be getting a camera to use instead of her computer for the visual portion for the Zoom meetings.

### New Business

AFMS Report – J.C. Moore, AFMS President, reported that the AFMS Convention and Annual Meeting was held the previous weekend in Hickory, North Carolina. The most significant item of business was voting to transition the AFMS Newsletter to digital with distribution by e-mail. This will be transitioned over the next year. Also, there was a committee appointed to update the Judges Training Operating Procedure so there are new guidelines in order that a new committee chairperson could be found to oversee this.

MWF Officers – MWF first and second vice president positions need to be filled. It was stressed that people could start being involved in the MWF Executive Committee by volunteering to serve as an assistant on any of the permanent committees. Sandy Fuller is the chairperson for the nominating committee.

MWF Photographer – Cheryl reported that the AFMS Photographer John Martin has urged each regional federation to find an official photographer to record activities at each convention. If anyone is interested in doing this, please contact Cheryl. (Steve Shimatzki and Joe Johnson took photos at this convention).

State-wide or Federation-wide Field Trips – Cheryl asked if there might be interest in planning state or federation field trips. This is done in the Southeast Federation. They have Dixie Mineral Clubs, in which

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED**

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stress this point enough: In-person meetings are essential for the federation to thrive.

I had a great time at the convention! At the banquet on Saturday night, awards were announced for the Bulletin Editors Contest and the Website Competition on both the regional and national levels. The MWF scored second only to the Rocky Mountain Federation for the number of trophies awarded in the Bulletin Editors Contest.

I encourage all editors to compete and share your members' work with the rest of the federation(s). There are several categories, including articles, poetry, and whole newsletters. The AFMS website has all the information. The deadline for MWF entries is January 22<sup>nd</sup>; you can read more about submitting in Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich's article on page 4. You have several months to review your bulletins to see which articles or issue should be entered.

Marge Collins, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, made a plea for more donations to the scholarship fund. You can make a donation as an individual or as a club, in memory of a deceased member or to honor a living member. An article about the Scholarship Fund's good work is on page 3. All information about the Fund is in the green-page section of the MWF Directory.

Perhaps your club would contribute to the MWF Endowment Fund? Per the Directory: "The Endowment Fund was established to ensure that in the future and the present there will be monies available for projects approved by the Board of Directors and ratified by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting at an Executive Committee meeting. However, only the interest may be used for projects as well as administrative expenses."

Currently the Endowment Fund subsidizes AFMS dues for each club, and provides Diamond Dan's Mini Miners Monthly email subscription to clubs who renew their MWF memberships on time. To find out about donating, contact Endowment Fund Committee Chair Cindy Root, d-root@comcast.net.

Check out the report given to the convention by our Junior Activities Chair, Reinee Hildebrandt, on

page 14. Reinee can be reached at loessjr@gmail.com for any questions or comments regarding youth programs. Lately people say that all young people want to do is be on the electronics – and it does seem like that. But we can offer them more! Speak to Reinee about starting a juniors program for your club if you do not have one. If you do, let her know how your club is faring!

Enjoy your Spring!

**MINUTES: NEW BUSINESS, ADJOURNMENT**

*(Continued from page 9)*

each club hosts a field trip (collecting or museum tours), open to the other member clubs, once a month. Each club plans a field trip according to how many clubs participate; if twelve clubs participate, each club plans a field trip once a year.

Michele Yamanaka brought up a request for help. The 500 Earth Sciences Club is running out of specimens to include in the give-aways for the kids at their show, outreach to schools (STEM), and geological events around Indianapolis. Martha Miss suggested they find a dealer who goes to Tucson or Denver who would get items for them wholesale. Some wholesalers may discount their normal sale prices if they know they are for kids' specimens.

Cindy Root did the drawings for the Tricky Tray, which included nine bags. The proceeds were donated to the MWF Endowment Fund.

E. Bear – The auction brought in \$240, which allowed Catherine Clevenz to host E. Bear for the coming year.

The next MWF Council of Delegates meeting will be held in St. Charles, Illinois, on May 23, 2026. Watch the MWF website and newsletter for more information.

Joyce Kish announced that she is looking for club members that can create meeting topics. She can be contacted at skish1@neo.rr.com.

David Root moved to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Root seconded the motion. Cheryl adjourned the meeting.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>May 2-4</b> Fri 4-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society	Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, <b>Kalamazoo, MI</b>	Dave Haas, stonehouserock@cs.com
<b>May 3</b> Sat, 10-3	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society rock swap	Eldor Johnson Pavilion, Burns Park, 1 Eldor Johnson Drive, <b>North Little Rock, AR</b>	Bethany Lawhon, Roxxanneharte@gmail.com
<b>May 3-4</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center, 10101 Market Street, <b>Rothschild, WI</b>	Kim Aschbrenner, moonstonesmystics@ gmail.com
<b>May 3-4</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Northwest Ohio Rockhound Club	St. James Lutheran Church, 4727 W. Sylvania Ave., <b>Toledo, OH</b>	Suzanne Shimatzki, sshimatzki@gmail.com
<b>May 9-11</b> Fri noon-7, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Central Missouri Rock & Lapidary Club	Knights of Columbus Hall, 2525 Stadium Blvd., <b>Columbia, MO</b>	Mary Wozny, lmwoz@msn.com
<b>May 10-11</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Cuyuna Rock & Mineral Club	County Fairgrounds, 2000 SE 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, <b>Brainerd, MN</b>	Ed Opatz, opatz1@att.net
<b>May 16-18</b> Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Tri State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin History & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker, <b>Joplin, MO</b>	Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@ sbcglobal.net
<b>May 17</b> Sat, 10-1 This rock swap occurs on the third Saturday of every month from May through September.	Des Moines Lapidary Society rock swap	DMLS Clubhouse, 2608 24 <sup>th</sup> Street, <b>Des Moines, IA</b>	Barbara Eshelman, beshdoodles@gmail.com
<b>May 17</b> Sat, 10-2	White River Rock, Gem, & Mineral Club tailgate sale	Artisan Market Village, 8660 Water Street, <b>Montague, MI</b>	Chris Rogers, whiteriverrockclub092 @gmail.com
<b>May 17-18</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Parma Lapidary Club	Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain, <b>North Olmstead, OH</b>	Ruth Sholtis-Furpes, showchair@ parmalapidaryclub.com
<b>May 17-18</b> Sat & Sun, 10-4:30	Wisconsin Geological Society	Forum Bldg., Waukesha Expo Center, 1000 Northview Road, <b>Waukesha, WI</b>	Paul Okruhlica, p.okruhlica@gmail.com
<b>May 17-18</b> Sat & Sun, 9-4	Worthen Earth Searchers rock swap	Dahl Ford, 1210 E. Kimberly Road, <b>Davenport, IA</b>	Cindy Cottrell, cc31068@yahoo.com
<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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<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, danlynnsunrise farms@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
<b>Aug. 8-10</b> Fri 1-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-3	Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club	Houghton Elementary School, 203 W. Jacker Avenue, <b>Houghton, MI</b>	George Schriver, george.schriver@gmail.com
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, pres@ccrmc.info.			
<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, scgmcemail@gmail.com
<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, stephanie1695@gmail.com



**CONVENTION: OFFICERS' REPORTS****PRESIDENT CHERYL NEARY**

This year I had the honor to serve the MWF as president. To date, there have been no major issues that required attention. Club renewals have been actively submitted. As of February 11<sup>th</sup>, six clubs have not submitted their membership renewal.

The year is still young, as far as my term is concerned. I did receive a few requests from interested parties in finding someone who may be interested in the family collection that was inherited. I did provide them all with the nearest club for them to contact.

I will be traveling through a few states in the MWF as I journey to Nebraska from North Carolina. I hope to visit a few caverns, especially since I will be traveling through Missouri, with roughly 7,300 caves, and Tennessee, with approximately 10,000 caves.

**TREASURER STEPHEN SHIMATZKI**

The MWF Treasurer submitted a two-page report with a detailed accounting of income and expenses between August 22, 2024 (just before the 2024 MWF Convention) and March 30, 2025 (just before this year's convention). He wrote, "I don't like publishing it in public because we have such a focused amount of phishing/fraud attempts. I will share if someone calls. It will also be at the fall executive meeting."

**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 14, or contact Website Competition Chair Brad Zylman, [brad.zylman@gmail.com](mailto:brad.zylman@gmail.com).

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. See the last paragraphs of the article on page 4, or 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).

**CONVENTION: COMMITTEE REPORTS****ARCHAEOLOGY  
SKEETER KISH, CHAIR**

Archaeology is moving along. The farmers are plowing their fields and finds are feeding the research.

There is a lot of research referencing women's role in archaeology. The importance of their role in the daily activities of their cultures. Freeing the women shackled to a lifetime of domestic duties. Dispelling the Myth: Man-the-Hunter, Woman-the-Gatherer. The possible tool that may have enabled this was the Atlatl a throwing stick with a spear allowed the physical weaker of the sex to equalize the skills.

Another area of interest is the Clovis point: Could it kill a mammoth? One of our own anthropologists, Metin Eren from Kent State University, is involved in the research that's coming out of Zimbabwe. This should be an interesting conclusion coming forth.

**BULLETIN EDITORS  
MARY ANN FERGUSON-RICH, CHAIR**

The Bulletin Editors Committee report announced winners of last year's Bulletin Editors Contest. See the article on page 4.

**CREDENTIALS  
DAVID ROOT, CHAIR**

I am currently in the process of compiling information for the Lincoln meeting. Once this is accomplished, I will forward the information to the Secretary.

**ENDOWMENT FUND  
CINDY AND DAVID ROOT, CO-CHAIRS**

We want your money for the Endowment Fund. Things have been pretty slow. If you have a little left over in your pocket, send it our way.

**ENVIRONMENT AND LEGISLATION  
CATHERINE CLEVENZ, CHAIR**

See the article on page 5 for the chair's report, which includes information about what people can do

*(Continued on page 14)*

**CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONT.**

(Continued from page 13)

who are concerned about rockhounding on public lands.

### **HISTORIAN AND ARCHIVES CINDY ROOT, CHAIR**

The Historian Google Drive is still up and running. If you want access, please contact me. If you have something you feel should be included on the Drive, send it my way.

### **INSURANCE SUE GOEDERT, CHAIR**

No changes for insurance. ISelect has done a great job at responding quickly to our members.

### **JUNIOR ACTIVITIES REINEE HILDEBRANDT, CHAIR**

*[Editor's Note: The full Junior Activities Committee report is too long to run in the newsletter. Those interested in reading the complete report can contact me, [vjmwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:vjmwriter@yahoo.com), and I'll send it to them.]*

- Between the 2024 and 2025 MWF conventions, the following Youth Program objectives were met: An updated committee duties document was submitted to the MWF chair.
- The "Earth Moving Desert" activity from the LOESS Juniors Program was shared at the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual meeting, and will be shared at the 2025 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) meeting in Hickory, South Carolina.
- A packet of information was created to promote youth rockhound programs, and was distributed at the annual 2024 MWF meeting.
- I assisted Joan Stoker with the youth table at the Pasadena Academy of Science (Geology Section) 2024 Gem and Mineral Show. PAS Geology was sponsoring the MWF convention in East Peoria, Illinois.
- A MWF youth outreach survey was conducted at the 2024 MWF annual meeting. Its purpose was to determine the types of youth activities offered by MWF societies. The information is in a database and, along with an analysis of the results, is included in this report.

**WEBSITE COMPETITION CALLS FOR ENTRIES**

Brad Zylman, Chair  
MWF Website Competition Committee

The MWF Website Competition is open and running over the summer, so please enter! Website contest entry forms are **due August 31, 2025**.

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.

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

At the annual AFMS meeting in 2026, the highest-scoring website will receive a plaque. Second- and third-place entries, and honorable mentions, will receive certificates.

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.

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](mailto:brad.zylman@gmail.com).

- Junior Leaders from all MWF clubs signed up for the AFMS FRA program were contacted this year and asked to contribute to this annual report.
- Each month I participated in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Youth Program Committee. National initiatives from this committee are mentioned in this report.

According to the MWF Directory, there are 841 junior members in the MWF, ranging from 39 clubs with zero juniors to the Minnesota Mineral Club, with 180. Currently, there are 21 MWF clubs involved with

(Continued on page 15)

## CONVENTION: COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED, JUNIORS ACTIVITIES

(Continued from page 14)

the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) program. These clubs have an average of 21 juniors per club. Many FRA badges have been given out to MWF juniors, include several “Rockhound” (or “Honor Roll”) and “Rock Star” designations, for juniors who have earned 6 and 20 badges respectively.

*Both ends of the FRA experience spectrum at the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (Michigan): Right, Oliver and Kayson (backed by the juniors coordinators) show off their Rockhound Awards for earning six badges.*



*And above, seven Indian Mounds juniors received Beyond the Badge awards for in-depth projects in categories for which they earned a badge when younger. The picture of Selah, Aubrey, Myla, Lulu, Madison, Abby, and Rosie, as well as the photo above, ran in the club’s March 2025 Arrowhead News.*

In 2024, three clubs either joined or reactivated their involvement in FRA. They are the Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society; White River Rock, Gem and Mineral Club (Michigan); and Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club (Nebraska).

Several MWF juniors had articles and artwork published in Crack the News, the AFMS online newsletter by and for juniors. The MWF News ran five articles related to junior members and youth programs between June 2024 and January 2025.

Fourteen clubs at the 2024 MWF Convention responded to the youth outreach survey mentioned

above. Ten clubs had youth activities as a part of their club meeting; four did not. Following are some results related to junior activities at club meetings.

Some clubs had a separate youth program prior to the regular meeting while others struggle to get families with children to participate in the club activities. Nine clubs hand out rocks to youth. Seven clubs provided a short program about rocks, geology, and earth science. Six clubs have projects where the youth make a gem, lapidary, or craft project. Six clubs have free rock raffle/door prizes. Suggestions for meeting-related junior activities included:

- How and where to collect program
- Dinosaur discussions and dinosaur match game
- Rock identification discussions and match game
- Clear 24-compartment specimen box for kids given at meetings
- Open house at the library where kids can dress up in field trip clothes and equipment for photos
- Members talk at other kid venues and events in the area
- Creating a small baggie of rocks from the club’s state to help kids start their rock collections.
- Junior members of the club are given space to display their own collection.

All fourteen clubs that responded to the survey have youth activities at their annual Gem and Mineral Show. The most popular activities with ten of these clubs were Spin and Win, grab bags (both free and sold inexpensively), fossil or rock specimen dig, Touch and Feel tables, egg cartons for rock and fossil specimens, Fishing for a Prize, and geode or rock races. Suggestions for show-related junior activities included:

- Opening day as a free day for registered school classes
- Scavenger Hunt Contest. Kids go to various displays at the show and answer a series of questions to get a prize from the treasure chest
- Guess how many items in jar (bubblegum agate, tumbled stones, etc.)
- Kids-only silent auction items, designated with a sticker on the bid sheets
- Build a Crinoid Model with pipe cleaner stems and Styrofoam balls
- Rock identification
- Painting river rocks (“It is a big hit”)
- Provide Junior Bucks for juniors who attend functions, work shows, and take part in other

(Continued on page 16)

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### CONVENTION: COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED, JUNIORS TO MERIT AWARDS

*(Continued from page 15)*

sanctioned activities. Attendance helps them earn  
“Monopoly” money to cash in at show or swap

Half of the MWF survey respondents’ clubs participate in the FRA, five taking part in the badge program. Three clubs were using the Future Rockhounds Junior Volunteers Award, for juniors who put in 20 hours of volunteer work for their clubs. A few clubs reported using the FRA web resources. The survey response from the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (Nebraska) stated, “When we used the FRA Program, we had four juniors graduate to Rockhound. Two of those graduates are still members 9 years later.” (The Lincoln club was among those who reactivated their involvement in FRA in 2024.)

General remarks about, and ideas for, juniors programs included:

- Only two clubs were aware of Crack the News.
- Juniors submitting written articles for club newsletters.
- Designating a Junior Rockhound of the Year.
- A few respondents mentioned that the reason there is no youth program is because there are no adult club members who will volunteer or participate.

#### LAPIDARY ARTS DAVID ROOT, CHAIR

I have nothing new to report about the Lapidary Committee.

#### MERIT AWARDS MARY ANN FERGUSON-RICH, CHAIR

The Merit Awards Committee report announced that a Gold Award in last year’s All American Yearbook contest was won by a Midwest Federation Club, on both the MWF and the American Federation levels. See the article on page 6.

**Other committee reports,  
as well as State Directors’  
reports, will appear in the  
June issue of MWF News.**