



# MWF News

**Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

October 2025 - Issue No. 645

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

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



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Cheryl Neary, MWF President

Due to emerging and more accessible technology, our idea of the geology of the Midwest has begun to change. In the year 2025, there were several significant geological discoveries that occurred in the Midwest.

Beneath the area characterized by its vast plains and agricultural land – from the Great Lakes to the Great Plains – lies ancient fractured bedrock with fault lines that had been inactive for millions of years; deep seismic shifts in Illinois; ancient volcanic cores found beneath Missouri’s Ozarks; buried lava tubes found beneath Indiana farmland; a fossilized hydrothermal vent system in Ohio; hidden aquifers in Wisconsin; sudden uplift detected beneath Minneapolis; and magnetic anomalies in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. For more information, go to YouTube and watch “What Just Emerged in the US Midwest Terrified Scientists.”



*(Continued on page 2)*

## THINGS TO DO IN CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO

Valerie J. Meyers  
Editor, MWF News

The MWF Executive Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, at the joint clubhouse of Summit Lapidary Club and the Akron Mineral Society, 244 Chestnut Blvd., in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Plans for a host hotel and a Friday-evening get-together are in process; please check the MWF website, [mwfed.org](http://mwfed.org), for that information.

MWF officers, committee chairs, and state directors are the only people who can vote at the meeting, but everyone’s invited to attend.

For those of us who aren’t Ohioans, here’s the pronunciation: KY-uh-HO-guh. With Akron just a few miles south and Cleveland a few more miles north, there’s obviously a lot to do in the region. But Cuyahoga Falls itself has interesting sights and tastes to offer. Here are a few of them.

The Clifford Mini Auto Museum, built in a former gas station, is a popular stop in town. According to Cleveland Magazine’s “12 Must-Go Places in

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Scientific American reported in April of 2025 that something strange appears to be happening deep underneath the US Midwest and the Ohio Valley in the area from Michigan to Nebraska: A long-lost geological plate may be siphoning molten rock from the underside of the North American craton – a massive block of continental rock – and eroding it.

Based on computer models, the Farallon plate is sinking through the Earth's lower mantle. The Farallon plate was an ancient oceanic tectonic plate.

In December of 2024, an earthquake with a magnitude of 3 impacted New Madrid, Missouri. Most earthquakes in the Midwest occur in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ). NMSZ lies in the Mississippi River Valley and spans to northeastern Arkansas, southeastern Missouri, western Tennessee, western Kentucky and southern Illinois.

This seismic zone receives the most attention, but it is only one of three seismic zones located in the Midwest. Among them, the NMSZ, the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone, and the South Central Illinois seismic zone could affect parts of Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois.

There have been significant events in the year 2024-2025 with the Midwest Federation, too. J.C. Moore, former MWF President, served as AFMS President, fostering future changes to the distribution of the AFMS newsletter.

In addition, the revised "New Club President Binder" has become available. The Juniors Program has escalated. The MWF had record number of Bulletin Editors Aids Contest entries. Let's keep the momentum rolling!

I too had an interesting year serving as the President of the Midwest Federation. I would like to thank my Board for their support in fulfilling their roles.

Each club, take a bow! Thanks for everything each of you has done for the Federation, and thanks to all who have made this year educational, entertaining and energized!

Let's keep on rockin' and rollin'!

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**NEED AN INSURANCE CERTIFICATE?**

If your club needs an insurance certificate for an upcoming event or field trip, be aware that the Midwest Federation's insurance agent no longer takes fax orders for certificates.

Sue Goedert, the MWF Insurance Committee chair, passed along that information from the insurance company, ISelect. Orders for certificates now need to be sent by email to [supportservices@iselectrisk.com](mailto:supportservices@iselectrisk.com).

If you have any questions about MWF insurance-related issues, contact Sue, [sonbeams2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sonbeams2000@yahoo.com).

**DEADLINE CALENDAR**

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

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

**Club 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).

**THINGS TO DO DURING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN CUYAHOGA FALLS, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Cuyahoga Falls,” “. . . the museum features a personal collection of vintage cars, bicycles and other gadgets, such as a 1904 Oldsmobile and retro pedal cars.” (You can read the whole article at [clevelandmagazine.com](http://clevelandmagazine.com).) The museum’s address is 1950 Front Street, and its phone number is 330-928-2147.



*Photo from the Clifford Mini Auto Museum’s Facebook page.*



The Cuyahoga River and the multi-colored sandstone ledges at the park seen in these photos were photographed by Judy Birmingham for her blog, [seeinganew.blogspot.com](http://seeinganew.blogspot.com).



Gorge Metro Park offers beautiful vistas and – in case you like rocks – lots of them. You can collect small amounts for personal collections. SMALL.

candies, and glass-bottle sodas, among other nostalgic and tasty treats. The phone number is 330-805-4557.



*Photo from [grandpa-joescandyshop.com/location/cuyahoga-falls-oh](http://grandpa-joescandyshop.com/location/cuyahoga-falls-oh).*

Have a great time!

**ZOOM SEMINAR WILL TACKLE PR FOR CLUBS**

Jim Brace-Thompson  
AFMS Public Relations Chair

In the past two years, I’ve held an annual Zoom seminar open to members of all seven regional federations comprising the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The first was on “Practicing Public Relations in the Age of Social Media.” The second focused on “Sharing Best Practices in Public Relations.”

I’d like to continue the tradition with a third Zoom this coming November focused on the topic of “Public Relations through Community Involvement.”

Public relations is about more than advertising or posting your club events. It’s about engaging with your community in ways that are mutually beneficial – for instance, sharing your club’s knowledge, resources, and volunteers to enhance a local school science night. Your local school and its students benefit from your knowledge and experience while your club benefits by raising its profile, and potentially attracting new family members and/or science teachers.

In what ways has your club endeavored to raise its profile through community action and involvement? Here’s a chance to share your success stories and to learn from other clubs from across our varied regional federations. If you would like to join in on such a Zoom seminar, please contact me at [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com) or (805) 659-3577, and I’ll keep you posted when a date is scheduled.

Grandpa Joe’s Candy Shop, at 2156 Front Street, offers 250 candy bars, 100 kinds of bulk

**MWF BUSTLES IN WEBSITE COMPETITION**

Brad Zylman, Chair  
MWF Website Competition Committee

This year's AFMS Website Competition is going strong for the Midwest! So far this year, the Midwest Federation has more entries than any of the other regional federation (although some other federations are still taking entries.) The MWF entry deadline has passed, and the three MWF entries are:

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. (Nebraska)  
Wisconsin Geological Society  
Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City  
(Missouri)

The Rocky Mountain Federation has two entries; the Northwest and South Central federations have one each. The California, Southeast, and Eastern federations have no entries at this point.

I hope to have the judging completed for the MWF entries before October 25<sup>th</sup>, and will provide the scoring results at that time. I am very pleased to have three entries, and will be working with each of those webmasters to make them stronger candidates to win the American Federation contest!

A big THANK YOU to those who participated this year. For those of you thinking about next year's competition, I can be reached at [brad.zylman@gmail.com](mailto:brad.zylman@gmail.com). Happy content creation!

**PROMOTE THE MWF IN STYLE**

Sandy Shorter, Chair  
MWF Public Image & Courtesy Committee

We are once again promoting our wonderful Federation and all they do. Buy and wear a fun tee shirt in our MWF colors, or wear our hoodie to your events! Help us promote name recognition and all that the federation stands for.

**But the deadline is coming up fast: October 1st.** So get your orders in as soon as possible!

The zip hoodies are gray with black printing, and the T-shirts are red heather with turquoise printing. The popular slogan and artwork "Life Is Better With Rocks" are back this 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: 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. Be certain that the "Ship To" address is checked on a daily basis to avoid theft.

The club order forms **must be received by October 1<sup>st</sup>**. If you have any comments or questions, email them to me, [sandyshorter25@gmail.com](mailto:sandyshorter25@gmail.com).

**STYRACOSAURUS GOES TO SCHOOL (DON'T WORRY, HE'S AN HERBIVORE)**

Katherine Howard and Jim Bigler  
Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois (ESCONI)  
From the September, 2025 Earth Science News

Many years ago, Rusty Grenier, a member of ESCONI, built a Styracosaurus sculpture with his father. After his father died, Rusty donated the sculpture to ESCONI. It was stored at the ESCONI warehouse with care, its future undecided.

In March 2025, Katherine Howard and Jim Bigler, beaming with excitement, made the announcement that a forever home had been found for the amazing dinosaur sculpture at Ranch View Elementary School in Naperville, Illinois.

Over the summer break, the sculpture was stored while a new addition was added to the school. On the first day of school, the students entered the remodeled library and saw the Styracosaurus. Everyone at the school was

*(Continued on page 8)*



### Individual 2025 MFW Tee Shirt and Zip Hoodie form

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total

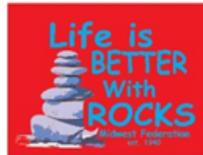
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Please make checks payable to your club.



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

### Club Order Form

#### 2025 MFW Tee Shirt and Zip Hoodie form

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

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP TO: Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Grand Total  
Make checks Payable  
to: MFW

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

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

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

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



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>Sept. 26-28</b> Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin History & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker Ave., <b>Joplin, MO</b>	Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@ sbcglobal.net
<b>Sept. 27-28</b> Sat & Sun, 10-5	Flint Rock & Gem Club	Crossroads Village, 6140 Bray Road, <b>Flint, MI</b>	Bill Wendline, 810-638-5796
<b>Sept. 27-28</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4	Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club	VFW Post, 3400 Veterans Drive, <b>Traverse City, MI</b>	Lauren Vaughn, maple_2b@aol.com
<b>Sept. 27-28</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Minnesota Mineral Club	Dairy Building, State Fairgrounds, 1694 Judson Ave., <b>St. Paul, MN</b>	Karen Frater, showchair@minne- sotamineralclub.org
<b>Sept. 27-28</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Oshkosh Earth Science Club annual show and rock swap	Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Road Y, <b>Oshkosh, WI</b>	Bob Fox, foxbooks@att.net
<b>Oct. 4-5</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society	Event Center, Veterans Park, 508 N. Lincoln Street, <b>Cabot, AR</b>	Joseph Johnson, cagmags@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 4-5</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (LOESS)	Orr Bldg., State Fairgrounds, 801 E. E. Sangamon Ave., <b>Springfield, IL</b>	Ed Wagner, loesseditor @gmail.com
<b>Oct. 4-5</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society	Methodist Outreach Center, 3602 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, <b>Columbus, NE</b>	Deb Gonsior, loupvalleynews@ gmail.com
<b>Oct. 4-5</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society	County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, <b>Belleville, MI</b>	Bill Barr, wbarr@umich.edu
<b>Oct. 4-5</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Worthen Earth Searchers	County Fairgrounds, 4200 Archer Drive, <b>East Moline, IL</b>	Cindy Cottrell, cc31068@yahoo.com
<b>Oct. 11-12</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club	County Fairgrounds, 2606 W. Burlington Street, <b>Fairfield, IA</b>	Ron Brown, ron1947@ ronbrownfamily.net
<b>Oct. 17-19</b> Fri 1-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash, <b>Mason, MI</b>	Robin Smith, rsmith@radssmith.com
<b>Oct. 17-19</b> Fri through Sun, 9-5	Ozark Gem & Mineral Society	E-Plex West Hall, Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, 3001 N. Grant Avenue, <b>Springfield, MO</b>	Mark Northrup, omgms.57@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 17-19</b> Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society	County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Road, <b>Fort Wayne, IN</b>	Bev Jenkins, 3riversshow@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 18</b> Sat, 10-5	Michigan Mineralogical Society rock swap	Macomb Community College, 14500 E. 12 Mile Road, <b>Warren, MI</b>	David Lurie, dlurie2001@comcast.net

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Oct. 18-19</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4	Des Moines Lapidary Society	Elwell Family Food Center, State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., <b>Des Moines, IA</b>	Melanie Overton, moverton0613@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 25</b> Sat, 9-1	St. Croix Rockhounds	Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, <b>Woodbury, MN</b>	Dave Rusterholz, stcroixrock@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 25-26</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Akron Mineral Society	Emidio & Sons Banquet Center, 48 E. Bath Road, <b>Cuyahoga Falls, OH</b>	Cathy Milhoan, slcmembershipchair@gmail.com
<b>This show is being held in conjunction with the MWF Executive Committee Meeting. See article on page 1.</b>			
<b>Oct. 25-26</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club	Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive N., <b>Crystal, MN</b>	Martha Miss, martha@rock-biz.biz
<b>Oct. 25-26</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 9:30-4	Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club	Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W. Locust Street, <b>Davenport, IA</b>	Bret Henderson, reminerals@gmail.com
<b>Nov. 1</b> Sat: tables open 6, oral auction 7	Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society auction	Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Road, <b>Taylor, MI</b>	Dwayne Ferguson, shelby0671111@yahoo.com
<b>Nov. 1-2</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Gem City Rock Club	Quincy Town Center, 3347 Broadway, <b>Quincy, IL</b>	Brad Fanning, bfanning@yahoo.com
<b>Nov. 1-2</b> Sat & Sun, 10-5	Mid-Michigan Rock Club	Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour Road, <b>Midland, MI</b>	Laura Foster, pop345corn@sbcglobal.net
<b>Nov. 1-2</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club	Liberty First Credit Union Arena, 72 <sup>nd</sup> and Q Street, <b>Ralston, NE</b>	Tammy Jeanneret, tjeanneret@hughes.net
<b>Nov. 1-2</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Racine Geological Society	Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand Avenue, Highway 11, <b>Sturtevant, WI</b>	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
<b>Nov. 8-9</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Illinois Rock Club	Eagles Club #679, 1200 W. Galena, <b>Freeport, IL</b>	Brian Green, nwilrockclub@gmail.com
<b>Nov. 10</b> Mon, 7:30	Michigan Mineralogical Society auction	Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward, <b>Bloomfield Hills, MI</b>	David Lurie, dlurie2001@comcast.net
<b>Nov. 21-23</b> Fri 3-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5	St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society	Affton Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, <b>St. Louis, MO</b>	Beth Schlegel, beth.schlegel@att.net

*November Issue Submission Deadline  
Is October 8th!*

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor  
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**Please notify the Secretary of any violations.**  
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**STYRACOSAURUS GOES TO SCHOOL, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 4)*

excited to have it displayed in their library. They are thinking of having a “Name the Dino” contest. The school will let us know which name wins!

Jessie Mougette, Ranch View STEM Robotics Coach, expressed appreciation on behalf of the school staff, teachers, and students for the generous donation by ESCONI and Rusty Grenier, as well as the efforts of Jim Bigler and the Chesney family, who orchestrated the transportation.

Styracosaurus is a relative of the Triceratops. It lived about 10 million years before its more famous relative, and went extinct around 75 million years ago. Though not as large as Triceratops, Styracosaurus had a row of long spikes around its frill. It also had a long horn between its eyes and nose. The long spikes and horn would have made it difficult for the predators of that time, such as the early tyrannosaur, Albertosaurus, to take on an adult Styracosaurus.

This plant-eater had typical features of the ceratopsian dinosaurs, a beak that would have been

used to cut the leaves from the plants and a row of densely packed teeth to chew them into pulp.



*Hey, there's a dinosaur in the library! Photo from the September 2025 ESCONI Earth Science News. Jim Bigler's grandson (future paleontologist) is standing on the desk in the middle of the photo.*