

MWF News

January 2008 — Issue #468

www.amfed.org/mwf

Official Publication of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies
Member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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The President's Message

WOW....it's time again for another newsletter! Here I sit in front of my computer with not a clue as to what to write about in my message???

BUT you know me.....I can always find something to talk about!!!!

On my desk is the basket where I keep all the club newsletters that I receive from this Federation as well as three other Federations. I do read each and every one of the newsletters that are sent to me the same day I receive them. When I put them in the basket, they are read and have lots of orange or yellow highlighting marks all over them....this the result of "Hey, that's an excellent idea, I'll pass on in one of my president's messages." So, here are a few I've seen!

IDEAS to include in your newsletters:

- welcome all new members (contact information posted)
- tips concerning our hobby (look online for ideas to print)
- legislation news section
- statement that "credited copying of this newsletter is permitted"
- "program this month" with an article about it
- on the Web news and a list of some links for folks to check out
- affiliation updates/reports (Midwest & American Federation news)
- just have last month's meeting minute highlights and not write the entire meeting minutes
- have local museum activities listed and upcoming programs listed on PBS or other learning stations on TV
- an area for junior rockhound news
- post the MWF & AFMS website in your newsletter each

month

- 2008 field trip schedule posted

IDEAS to incorporate in your meetings:

- have a show and tell at your meetings
- have a greeters' table with specimens and lapidary work on that members can socialize about after the meeting
- have new members bring any rocks from their collection to talk about or to ask to have identified

IDEAS to just do!

- have committee chairs — membership, holiday party, picnic, park/museum liaison, hospitality, nominating/audit, publicity, quizmaster, librarian
- have study groups for....fossils, minerals, micromounts, lapidary arts
- hold a silent auction at your meeting (pending regulations established by your meeting place) and proceeds are saved up for scholarships
- have in the winter (snowy months), field trips to members' houses to view their collections and socialize
- have a specific objective for your club/organization
- have a best finds contest (some different categories: best rock, best Michigan (use your state) find, ugliest specimen, best all inclusive lapidary)
- have a SHOW IT OFF treasure — great for stories and sharing

Keep those newsletters coming. If you have not yet added 'ME' to your club's mailing list.....can you please. I really want to read and see what YOU are doing in your local clubs.

Keep looking down.....you'll find something!

—Pam Hecht, MWF President

2008 Shows & Such**January:**

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc, Annual Indoor Swap, Bethany Park Shelter House, Cotner & Vine Sts, LINCOLN, NE, Sat., **1/26**, 1:00-5:00, Contact Pat Akins, Jr, 5017 NW 6th St, Lincoln, NE 68521, (402) 477-1322

March:

Kettle Moraine Geological Society, 47th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Olympia Resort & Conference Center, 1350 Royale Mile Rd, Oconomowoc, WI, 53066, Sat., **3/1**, 10:00-5:00, Sun., **3/2**, 10:00-4:00, Contact Liz Fuher, (262)246-6684

Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc, 28th Annual Show, WIU Student Union, Murray St, Macomb, IL, Sat., **3/8**, 10:00-6:00, Sun., **3/9**, 10:00-5:00, Contact: Steve Holley, 30795 N Norris Blacktop, Farmington, IL 61531, (309) 647-8864, ifossil@hotmail.com

Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society, Annual Silent Auction! Salvation Army, 4056 N. Pulaski Avenue, Chicago, IL. That is 2 blocks east on Irving after exiting the Kennedy at Irving Park Road, Sat., **3/8**. Open to the public, no admission fee. The first tables close at 5:45 P.M., with viewing beginning at 5:30 P.M. The auction is expected to last until approximately 10 P.M.

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, Annual Show, Teamsters Union Hall, 500 J St SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, Sat., **3/15**, 8:30-6:00, Sun., **3/16**, 9:30-5:00, Contact: Marv Houg, 1820 30th St Dr SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403, (319) 364-2868, m_houg@yahoo.com

The Badger Lapidary & Geological Society 38th Annual Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show, Monroe High School, 1600 26th St., Monroe, WI, Sat.,

3/29 and Sun., **3/30**, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Dealers, Speaker, Education Exhibits, Gold Panning, Fluorescent Mineral Tent Demonstrations, Hourly Door Prizes, Videos and a "Fish Pond" for the kids, No contact listed

April:

Columbus Rock & Mineral Society Annual Show, Veteran Memorial, 300 W Broad St, Columbus, OH, Sat., **4/5**, 10:00-6:00, Sun., **4/6**, 11:00-5:00, no contact listed

Neville Public Museum Geology Club, Rock, Gem, and Mineral Show, Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay, WI, Sat., **4/5**, 9:00-5:00, Sun., **4/6**, 10:00-4:00, Contact Dan Tumpach dtumpk@yahoo.com

Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's 43rd Annual Jewelry, Gem, Fossil, Mineral, and Lapidary Arts Show, Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St., Des Plaines, IL, Sat., **4/12**, Sun., **4/13**, contacts Lois Zima, 847-298-4653 and Jeanine Mielcki, jaynine9@aol.com

Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show, Eau Claire Expo Ctr, Lorch Ave off Hwy 93, Eau Claire, WI, Sat., **4/19**, Sun., **4/20**, contact Roger Goss, 922 Dover St, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729, (715) 723-0196, Rgoss@cool.net

**REMEMBER:**

Notify the MWF of your show's dates to get them on the Website and in the
"MWF News"

There is a form on page 3 to use.

**MWF DIRECTORY & WEBSITE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS LISTING INFORMATION
PRINT OR TYPE**

CLUB NAME _____

#1 TYPE EVENT _____

DATE, DAYS, TIMES _____

FACILITY _____

ADDRESS _____

PUBLIC INFORMATION CONTACT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

CLUB NAME _____

#2 TYPE EVENT _____

DATE, DAYS, TIMES _____

FACILITY _____

ADDRESS _____

PUBLIC INFORMATION CONTACT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Mail Completed Form(s) To: John Blue, Directory Chairman
16155 Shurmer Rd
Strongsville, OH, 44136

Or e-mail requested info to jblue@n2net.net

**!!!! DEADLINE FOR NEXT DIRECTORY JANUARY 15TH !!!!
SECOND YEAR INFO SUGGESTED FOR JAN, FEB, MAR**

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS

We (Bob and Kathy Miller) have been asked to serve on an Ad-Hoc committee for the AFMS to poll the members of our federation (MWF) about the growing lack of interest or participation in some of the different categories of our hobby.

With increasing costs of awards, etc., eliminating some of the areas not competed in because of lack of interest would result in savings for the annual AFMS budget and those savings could also be passed on to our federation.

TO THE PERSON THAT RECEIVES THE MWF NEWSLETTER

Please take this to your club meeting. This is an important survey that could possibly affect our being able to participate in some of the various categories. **PLEASE, WE NEED** the input from individual members — their thoughts and comments — to be able to evaluate the information along with those from the members of other federations to consider eliminating categories, revising categories, or leaving the different categories as they now stand.

AGAIN, WE NEED YOUR INPUT. Below you will find a sample list with the various contests in question. Please take the time to evaluate the different categories. Make your comments as **BRIEF** as possible. You need not sign your name to the comments, but please include your club affiliation so we will know how many clubs in the federation have participated.

Our "snail" mail address is listed below. If you respond by e-mail, our "E" address is also listed. Please title it as "**Rock survey.**" Not being familiar with your e-mail address, your comments might otherwise be deleted as spam.

CATEGORIES

Competitions to be studied include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Club Publications
2. Program Competition
3. Uniform rules and Competitive exhibiting
4. Two special AFMS competitions:
 - a. AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
 - b. Education—All American

Question examples

1. Have you or your club entered into any of these categories?
2. Do you plan to participate in any of the categories?
3. If you do not have an interest to participate in any of these categories or have never participated, why?
4. Should they be eliminated or remain as they are?

AGAIN, please be **brief** with your comments.

Send to: Bob & Kathy Miller AFMS Survey
1106 Clayton Dr
So.Bend, IN 46614

e-mail: KanBrock@aol.com



AFMS News

From the *AFMS Newsletter*,
December 2007— January 2008

Shirley Leeson, AFMS President, in her article "My Thoughts This Month," has noted that she is in contact with the editor of Rock and Gem Magazine. She found that they are having a competition called "Lapidary Article of the Year Contest." Please see the December 2007 issue for details.

She is very concerned about the waning interest in the competitions sponsored by AFMS. Please see the article on page 4 of this issue from our committee on this. You can contact Shirley directly about this or any other issue that you feel the AFMS should be handling. Her e-mail addresses are shirleyleeson@msn.com and beauholland@salmoninternet.com. She recommends using both as she has had problems with delivery in the past. To prevent your message from being considered as spam, your editor recommends that you use AFMS in the subject/title line.

The Editor of the *AFMS Newsletter* corrected the November issue that *Rock & Gem* is the only magazine printing show information. *Rocks & Minerals* does, too. The two websites are:

- > rocksandminerals.org
- > www.rockngem.com

There is a three to four month lead time, so get those show dates in NOW!

John Wright, Conservation and Legislation Chair, noted that the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act has not yet passed in Congress. Your editor checked this website,

<http://www.govtrack.us>

for it's current status. You can check there, too. The sponsors are listed and they should be contacted with your views. This Act would restrict our collecting. Quoting from John's article:

"If the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act becomes law in it's present form it will result in major restriction being placed on our activities. If this act becomes law, will you be comfortable visiting federal lands with the knowledge that someone in your family or field trip group might inadvertently pick up the wrong kind of "rock"? Do you have fossil exhibits at your shows? Is this going to stop the commercial exploitation of fossils as intended? I don't think so, it will make the fossils even more valuable and while some individuals or smaller entities may be shut down, this is a multi-million-dollar business and many of the prized specimens will be sold on the black market or quietly slipped out of the country to be sold. Will the Paleontologists gain from this proposed law, maybe, but they will loose a lot of public input and support. I know that I wouldn't report a major fossil find because if there is any site damage, I would be a suspect and I don't want police searching my home. Think about these issues and while you are at it, I want you to remember "We the People" own these federal lands and our ancestors obtained them with their blood, sacrifice, and unimaginable hardships. We in turn have continued to support these lands often under similar conditions and with the added burden of our hard earned money in tax dollars. We should not ever consider letting our access to public owned lands or their content (in this case fossils) be restricted or taken away without a fight."

To read more of the AFMS Newsletter, go to this website:

<http://www.amfed.org/news>

—Ellen R. Dettwiler,
Editor,
MWF News



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Michele Yamanaka, MWF Junior Activities Chairman

This topic can be especially educational for juniors if you can get samples from your members to show them. It also serves as a way to get members skilled in lapidary arts involved with your Junior program. I am not an expert in this field, so consider it a "layman's" view.

INTRODUCTION TO LAPIDARY ARTS

What is a "lapidary"? The word means "concerned with stones". A Lapidary is an artist who works with, forms and finishes stones, minerals, gemstones and other similar things like amber, jet, pearl, coral, and bone. He or she makes these things into useful or wearable things by cutting, shaping, polishing, carving, drilling, or arranging them. Lapidary Arts refers to the various different kinds of things a lapidary artist makes.

Now it is your turn. Name some things that you think may be a lapidary art:

There are 3 main categories of lapidary arts: tumbling rocks, cabochon cutting, and faceting. There are also some other forms of lapidary art. Here is a list of common lapidary art possibilities:

Tumbled rocks - using a tumbler, rocks are tumbled with different sizes of grit (tiny particles with specific hardnesses) to take off the sharp and rough edges and produce smooth, shiny pieces. Sometimes these tumbled rocks can have a hole drilled in them for jewelry or can be glued into a bell cap for jewelry.

Cabochon cutting - Using a special saw, cutting out a pattern (usually round or oval) in a rock slice to polish and make into a cab, which is then fastened into a setting (usually metal). Often this is jewelry.

Faceting - Using special equipment, shaping by cutting sides of a gem along surfaces called "planes" to allow light to reflect back. This makes transparent gems sparkle.

Cameo making - Carving a pattern in a rock/shell (usually part of a person's profile) with different layers so that the pattern shows up in one layer as a different color in contrast to the rest of the rock. This is used for jewelry.

Carving - Cutting a rock or mineral into the shape of something, e.g., horse, dish, bird....

Scrimshaw - Cutting a design into a piece of bone, ivory or animal horn and then inking it.

Sphere-making - Creating a round or oval shape from a square piece of rock. Can be big or small (marble).

Rock arranging - Using rough stone or cut pieces to create gem trees, butterflies, lamp shades, wind chimes, gem trees, rock critters...This may require drilling of the pieces, fastening of pieces to metal or fastening things onto the rocks.

Intarsia - Arranging small pieces of rocks (cut or rough) to create a picture or design instead of paint.

knapping - Hitting the edges of a rock material like flint to produce sharp edges for arrowheads, spear points, knives...

There are also many other possibilities like making bookends, clock faces and painting rocks.

Lapidary Arts schools not only teach how to do these skills, but also usually offer gold and silver smithing, jewelry making, wire wrapping, beading and other skills which are not directly lapidary, but are associated with them.



Draw a line from the lapidary art to the picture which shows it.

Tumbled rock

A



B



Cabochon

Faceted stone

C



Cameo

D



E



Carving

F



Scrimshaw

G



H



Sphere-making

Rock arranging

I



J



Intarsia

Knapping

Which one would you like to learn more about? _____

-by Michele Yamanaka (article & photos)

Tumbled - H Cab - I Facet - G Cameo - A Carving - J Scrim - E Sphere - D Rock arranging - F Intarsia - C Knapping - B

You Asked for it....

This article is about improving access to quarries for field trips. Getting access for club field trips has been accomplished through various methods. For quite some time, clubs have had a better chance of access if they took the mine safety course and obtained an annual certificate of same. This was beneficial to clubs in states where this requirement was insisted upon by the quarries. Although the level of training required by mine safety regulations has come into question, that course with certificates has opened doors.

In another case, the quarry was willing to allow access to a club on a Sunday when they were not operating, if the club paid an employee overtime to be present. It has also been suggested that a club that is organized as a 501(c) (3) might offer the quarry a letter with the club's tax number and an agreed upon amount as a tax deduction by the quarry owners after allowing access. I bounced this concept off a couple of attorneys, including our own resident attorney, Dean Stone, MWF Chair of Legislation & Environment, and the consensus was that this was a possibility.

Again, partnering with the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers (IAAP), as per Sandy Fullers Strategic Planning suggestion to partner with groups that can have a mutual benefit, I mentioned the idea of a tax deduction to the executive director of IAAP. The executive director is himself an attorney, and he thought a better idea would be to assist the quarries with their public image. He then put me in contact with his assistant. His assistant e-mailed me and wanted to know more about our clubs, how often we meet, whether or not the public was invited to attend our meetings, and if our members gave talks to school groups, etc.

Based on my responses, he offered a 15 minute DVD or video about the aggregate industry and a brochure to hand out to members. He asked that we show the DVD and distribute the brochures to our members and guests. He also gave us a Web site address for educational materials that could be used by our speakers at schools. The DVD is very good, as is the brochure, so I have no problem with their use and distribution. I have already contacted the Illinois clubs about these items. He then asked me to supply him with a list of Illinois clubs and their locations, but not their address, which I gladly did. With this list, he is going to set-up tours of some mines, quarries, or gravel pits (field trips) for each club to help get the ball rolling! They are interested in the clubs inviting the public to these tours and to speak favorably about the industry. I don't think this would be too much to ask.

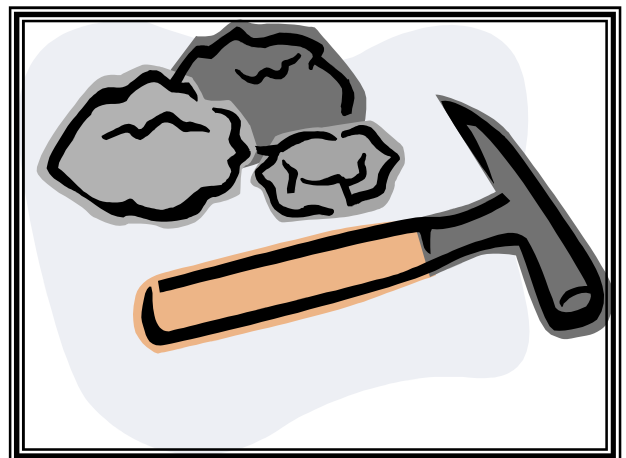
If you already have contacts with a local quarry in which you are having trouble with access, you might like to propose a solution of this nature to them. I know of one situation in Illinois where the local club has helped the quarry with an annual open house, and this has cemented their relationships. If you don't have any contacts to begin the process, then you should contact your state's aggregate association. They should have a Web site. I will try to provide you with a list of those Web sites later. In Michigan, the group is called the Michigan Aggregate Association; in Wisconsin, Aggregate Producers of Wisconsin; in Ohio, Ohio Aggregate & Industrial Minerals Association; etc.

Let me know if you have found another method that has worked to gain access to quarries in your area, and I will share with all.

John R. Washburn
Chair, MWF Long Range Planning

P.S. To find the link to your state aggregate association just click on the following and scroll down.

<http://www.nssga.org/links/index.cfm#10>





I'm not sure who gave me this article that was printed in the EFMLS News of March 2007 — Pam Hecht, MWF President

THOUGHTS ON WHAT MAKES CLUBS THRIVE

Many clubs see difficult times approaching, and are trying to reinvent themselves to restore some of the vigor from when they were younger. Keeping our hobby alive is something we should all be concerned about. I've been thinking about this for a while, and would like to make some observations in hope of starting a discussion that can help our Hobby continue. I think it would help to reach an understanding of what works.

In my opinion.....

- Thriving Clubs have significant number of kids attending meetings with their parents.
- Thriving Clubs have a wide variety of speakers from the area presenting programs. These speakers should become recruiters for the Club.
- Thriving Clubs have regular Field Trips. Many to ,ost trips are kid, and family, friendly, even if they are to local sites many in the Club don't want to visit again.
- Thriving Clubs have an annual show.
- Thriving Clubs have an outreach program that puts them into local classrooms on a regular basis.
- Thriving Clubs have programs that very between targeting kids and new members, and the most experienced members.
- Thriving Clubs share email addresses in their Directory so members can talk between meetings.

I would also like to suggest that the current general decline of Rock Club's vitality correlates with the rise of 'entertainment', via the medium of television, from the 1950's thru the 1970's. TV took from us that generation of leaders that should be running most Clubs today based on the traditional model of rockhounding where kids around 10 get interested, and reconnect/recommit around 40 (when they start their families).

—Kreigh Tomazewski
posted on rockhounds@drizzle.com, February 7, 2007



Remembering Old Rockhounds

by Julie Whilatch (6/14/06)

A young man, (we will call him Johnny), came out of a restaurant. Along the sidewalk, glossy stones shown up at him. He picked one up to look at. An elderly gentleman coming up the walk commented, "That's a nice agate you have there." Johnny looked up and asked, "What's an agate?" The man went on to explain to Johnny what type of rock an agate was and how it got to Iowa. He then gave Johnny a business card and suggested that he and his family stop by his rock shop sometime.

A few days later, Johnny and his father did visit the shop. While there, they got to see agates collected by the owner. He showed them many different rocks. Then he told them about the upcoming rock show.

When the rock show day came, Johnny was so excited he could hardly wait. As his family entered, a friendly, smiling lady greeted them. She told them about the local rock club and upcoming activities. She also answered Johnny's question about who had more agates he could see. Johnny thought the club member was very nice and hoped they could join the club.

As Johnny and his family shopped, he paused at one table to look at some interesting rocks. The older dealer behind the table explained to them what kind of rocks they were and where they came from. He also told Johnny's mother about the beads she was looking at. He seemed really nice.

One of the displays that caught Johnny's eye was made up of many oval rocks. The gentleman standing near the four large cases told him they were called "cabs," short for cabochons. He told them about how he had cut and polished them all himself. Johnny was surprised at how many different types of stones he had. The ones that looked like pictures were really neat.

Johnny and his family learned a lot that day and found a hobby they could all enjoy.

I have written this in remembrance of some old rockhounds that have passed on. I hope everyone will remember as time passes, we are all becoming the older gentleman and the smiling lady. We need to teach about our craft and pass on the lore to all the Johnny's we meet. As a friend recently, wrote, "Some of the gray hairs are gone, but we are here to take their places."

Remembering all that have left us in 2007 ~





Midwest Federation 2008 Meeting and Show

Our show and meeting is scheduled for the third week in June, 2008. The **Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club** is hosting us in conjunction with their 50th Annual Show in Lincoln, Nebraska.

We have secured a new host motel for the MWF convention:

The new host motel is: Ramada Limited South, 1511 Center Park Road, Lincoln, NE 68512. They have reserved a block of rooms from June 20-22. Rates are \$65.00 for room with one queen size bed and \$85.00 for two queens beds. Please refer to the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club room block when making reservations. All reservations must be made directly with the motel. The cut off date is May 20, 2008.

Phone: 402 423-3131

e-mail: wassungramada@aol.com

— Roger K. Pabian

2008 Show Chairman



CORRECTION

Roy Wickman's email address

rktswick@chibardun.net

He is the education chair

per Pam Hecht, President

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

!!NOW!! is the time for nominating someone for the **2008 MWF Honorary Scholarship Award**. The winner is the person or persons who will select the two (2) students to receive AFMS Scholarship grants. All clubs are eligible to submit nominations. Previous, non-winning, nominations can be revised and resubmitted. Candidates may be from your club, another club, or the professional world, such as a university or college professor.

Qualifications of candidates, nominating procedures, and winner selection procedures are outlined in the Green pages of the MWF Official Directory. Nominations should be mailed to Rose Blue, Chairman, 2008 Board of Selectors, 16155 Shurmer Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136, to reach her by January 15, 2008.

Remember, you are the one to honor someone for work well done. Don't hope that someone else will do the job.

— Rose Blue, MWF 1st VP



REMINDER!

Midwest Federation Executive Committee Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the Spring MWF Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, **March 15th**, at the Weis Earth Science Museum in Wisconsin.

Watch the website for more information.

--Pam Hecht, President

FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the February issue is the first Monday of January, January 7th.

See Ellen’s address in the return address field below for mailing in articles.

For e-mailing articles send to this address:
erd@msn.com

You may send in MS Word, Word Perfect, or just in rich text format (RTF) from any editing program. Attach your article or just type it into your e-mail message.

Articles may be reprinted, just ask me for the text and what format you need.

To correct your address send the change to:
Donna Moore
25235 North Illinois 97
Cuba IL 61427

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