

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

June 2021 - Issue No. 603

Web Site - www.amfed.org/mwf

Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Stanforth, MWF President

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy”! If you haven’t planned rock trips yet, it’s that time, especially for the folks up North. If you’re looking for information please consult our Safety & Field Trips chair, David Rich, birdman035@hotmail.com.

And while you’re at it, take a long hard look at the American Federation’s Code of Ethics. Trust me, I know that exhilarating moment when you “find” a great “find.” But don’t be hoggish and take more than you should.

I recently saw the Oscar winning movie “Nomadland,” which is about a group of wanderers traveling in vans to experience the Southwest and all its beauty. I got very excited to see the group of RV’ers that call Quartzsite, Arizona home. I need to experience that myself.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TACKLES ISSUES

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

[Editor’s Note: The annual MWF Executive Committee meeting was held April 10th on Zoom.]

First Vice President Catherine Clevenz called the meeting to order. J.C. Moore gave the invocation. Catherine asked everyone to face east and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The MWF Past Presidents who were participating in the meeting included J.C. Moore, Anne Cook, Cindy Root, David Root, David Rich, Jim Marburger and Sandy Fuller.

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

Secretary Donna Moore reported that the minutes of the last executive committee meeting, held in Cedar Valley, Iowa in March 2019, had been printed in the newsletter following that meeting and were on the MWF website. J.C. Moore moved to accept the

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CORRECTION

The Ohio State Director's report in last month's issue of MWF News appeared to say that the annual show of the Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club had been cancelled this year. Happily, this is NOT the case, as you can see by looking at the Upcoming Events calendar on page 12. The show will be held June 12-13 in Mansfield, Ohio; further details are in the calendar listing.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TACKLES ISSUES AND HEARS COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

minutes as printed. David Root and Anne Cook seconded the motion, which carried.

Treasurer Sandy Fuller reviewed the treasurer's report. It was printed in the packet that was published on the website. Membership is down. It is only about 85% of what it was last year. It is difficult being able to cover expenses for this year with the decreased membership. Most of the expenses have been covered with the big expense that is left for travel to the AMFS Convention for the President, 1st Vice President and the Uniform Rules Chairman. David Rich moved to approve the treasurer's report. Cindy Root seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Second Vice President Debbie Hamilton called for reports from the state directors. Iowa Director Timothy Hill was present; he had nothing to add to his written report. No information or reports had been received from Illinois and Indiana. Dennis Westman had sent a written report for Minnesota; he is asking to be replaced. Jim Marburger was present; he had nothing to add to his report in the packet.

There was a written report in the packet from Steve Shimatzki and his assistants from Ohio. The Cincinnati Mineral Society was meeting by Zoom. The Greater Cincinnati Lapidary & Faceting Society was meeting outside when possible. Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club in Mansfield and Parma Lapidary were planning to hold their show.

John Donker sent a report for Michigan. The Livingston Gem & Mineral Society is having a one-day swap outside instead of their normal show.

Catherine called for reports from the permanent committee chairmen. (Written reports were posted on the website and printed in the May issue of the Midwest Federation Newsletter.)

Archaeology: Skeeter Kish was present and added to his written report that the archaeology department in Ohio is doing well. Several are planning to get together in June.

Boundaries: No activity at the time of his written report.

Bulletin Editors: Sharon Marburger reported that she had sent an article to Valerie with the winners for the newsletter. She would like to step down, but would be more than willing to help her replacement.

Club Rockhound of the Year: Steve Shimatzki is still covering this position, but would like to be replaced.

Credentials: J.C. Moore reported that we have a quorum. He has made contact to get any information from the previous chairman, Tony Kapta, who recently passed away. David Root volunteered to take over this position.

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MWF CONVENTION, WITH ROCK SHOW AND ARTS FESTIVAL, TO BE HELD IN A (FORMER) SWAMP**COME TO THE CONVENTION AND ROCK SHOW!**

Jerri Heer
Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (OH)

The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (TGRC) is pleased to welcome the hard-working leaders and members of the Midwest Federation for the MWF annual convention. Although we do not yet have enough details to offer a registration form, the rough outline of events is as follows.

The convention will be held on Friday, Sept. 10th through Sunday, Sept. 12, as will our annual TGRC Gem Show. The convention hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2150 E. Wooster Street, in Bowling Green, Ohio.

The MWF delegate and executive meetings on Saturday, as well as the banquet and awards dinner Saturday night, will be held at the conference hotel. There will be a Friday night social as well, but the location for that has not yet been determined. Field trips have yet to be determined.

The Holiday Inn Express has reserved a block of 25 rooms at a rate of \$99 per night (negotiated from \$162!). Call 419-353-5500, and mention that you are with the MWF when you make your reservation. It is a big weekend for Bowling Green; our show and the annual Black Swamp Arts Festival will have the town filled. So make reservations early.

The TGRC show will be held at the Pavilion of the Wood County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Road, in Bowling Green. Show hours will be Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. (with early bird hours from noon to 2 p.m.), Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Forms for club delegates, and for people wishing to enter a competitive exhibit at the show, are in this issue on pages 4 and 5. As soon as final arrangements are made, conference registration forms (in which you specify which activities you'll be participating in), as well as further details, will be posted on the MWF website and distributed by email to clubs. If you have any questions in the meantime, please call me, Jerri Heer, at 419-344-9999.

We're looking forward to seeing you!

STAY FOR THE ARTS FESTIVAL AND ACTIVITIES!

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

You'll go to Bowling Green, Ohio, to attend the conference and snap up rocks at the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club show, sure. But these aren't the only activities in town, not by a long shot.

To begin with, there will be the music and art celebration that's making us all call early for our hotel reservations before they get booked! The Black Swamp Arts Festival includes two art shows, a juried show and the Wood County Invitational Art Show. Musical acts range from R&B to rockabilly to jazz. Local teens take part in the BG Rotary Chalk Walk, creating elaborate sidewalk art, and in the musical Beats on the Street program, competing to win money for their high schools' art and music departments. Admission to the festival is free! For more details, see blackswampfest.org.



Photos from the 2019 Black Swamp Arts Festival, via blackswampfest.org.

The Wood County Park District includes more than 1,100 acres of outdoor sights and activities, including the Black Swamp Preserve, which is in Bowling Green itself. The preserve is wheelchair- and bicycle-accessible, and has indoor restrooms. It has pollinator gardens, grass trails, and paved access to the Slippery Elm Trail, a 13-mile bike path.

Food will absolutely not be a problem. The town is the site of Bowling Green State University, so food for all palates and price ranges can be found, both on campus and in the shopping districts.

There are chain stores in Bowling Green, but also local stores like Coyote Beads & Jewelry (open

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**MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES COUNCIL MEETING
DELEGATE REGISTRATION
Saturday, September 11, 2021**

The Midwest Federation's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Show and the MWF Convention. The Council of Delegates Meeting will be held at the Host Hotel. Each member club/society is entitled to one (1) Delegate and one *(1) Alternate to represent it.

*Each club is entitled to one vote. An alternate may vote in the absence of the delegate. Guests are invited but will not be able to vote.

The MWF Council of Delegates Meeting will convene on Saturday September 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., with delegate registrations beginning at 12:00 p.m. at the Hotel. The delegate appointed by your club or society will represent your interests, and may bring up pertinent discussions and proposals. However, in order to expedite matters, if your society intends to have its delegate present any special motion at the meeting, please notify the Midwest President, Susan Stanworth, and the Secretary, Donna Moore, as to the nature of the subject so that it may be placed on the agenda. This needs to be presented in written form. This should be done at least one month prior to the meeting.

Please fill out this form, BEING SURE THAT THE CLUB PRESIDENT SIGNS IT, and return it to the CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN (not to the show registration committee) BEFORE AUG. 15, 2021

Credentials Committee Chair J C Moore
25235 N IL Highway 97
Cuba, IL 61427
309-231-1952, jcmoore3rd@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPTNESS

**MIDWEST FEDERATION DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE TO AVOID ERRORS**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT _____
Name of your club on this line

OF _____
City and State on this line

HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING DELEGATE TO THE 2021 MEETING OF THE MIDWEST FEDERATION:

DELEGATE _____

ADDRESS _____ Email _____

ALTERNATE _____

ADDRESS _____ Email _____

SIGNED _____, CLUB PRESIDENT Date: _____



MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES 2021 CONVENTION
COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

The form is due by August 15, 2021, and it must be signed and dated. Mail the completed form to:

J C Moore
25235 N IL Highway 97
Cuba, IL 61427

Or email the completed form to jcmoore3rd@gmail.com.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Name of Club/Society: _____

Exhibitor Group: Master ___ Advanced ___ Novice ___ Junior ___ Society ___ Junior Society ___

Division: _____ Exhibitor Class: _____

There will be 24-hour building security. However,
neither the MWF nor its affiliates assumes any responsibility for loss or damage.

EXHIBIT CASE AND SPACE INFORMATION

Exhibit Set-Up Time: Thursday, September 10, 2021, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

I will use my own case: Yes ___ No ___

If I will use my own case, its dimensions are: Width _____ Height _____ Depth _____

Do you need a case provided? Yes ___ No ___

All cases will be assigned space. Bring your own risers if needed. If your case has its own stand, please let us know about that. _____

By signing below, I certify that I have read the current AFMS Uniform Rules ("the Rules") and agree to abide by them. I understand that Competitive Exhibitors are to be Society members in good standing, and eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to the Rules. The Rules are available at http://www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm. I agree to leave my exhibit on display until 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 12, 2021.

Exhibitor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

If Junior Entry, date of birth: _____

THIS YEAR'S BULLETIN EDITORS' CONTEST HAS AN EARLY DEADLINE

Sharon Marburger, Chairman
MWF Bulletin Editors' Aids Committee

DEADLINE: November 1, 2021

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies ("AFMS") will hold its annual convention in January 2022, thereby shortening up the timeline and number of entries available to submit for competition. It will soon be time to gather your bulletin items to send for competition in the MWF Bulletin Editors' Contest, sponsored by the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies ("MWF").

The 2022 Bulletin Contest packet will be posted on the MWF website, <http://www.amfed.org/mwf>, and contains the forms and instructions needed to enter your club's bulletin and the work of your authors. Please read this entire article for specific rules. Also, please note that I prefer entries be submitted via e-mail, but paper copies will be accepted.

Summary of General Rules

The author and editor of the item must be a member of the club whose editor is submitting the item to the contest.

All entries must have been originally published during January 1 through September 30, 2021 only. They should not be revised in any way.

All entries (except Special Publications) must have been published in the club bulletin.

The subject matter must be related to some phase of the earth science hobby.

There should be no copyright violations.

Only one entry is allowed per author, per class, per club, except that any number of special publications may be entered. (See below for specific information for contest submissions.)

Bulletins:

- Mini Bulletins (6 pages or less)
- Small Bulletins (7 to 11 pages)
- Large Bulletins (12 pages or more)
- New Editors (any number of pages)

Articles/Features/Poetry/Drawings:

- Original Articles, Adult
- Original Articles, Adult Advanced
- Original Articles, Junior (ages 12-17)
- Original Articles, Junior (under age 12)
- Original Adult Poetry
- Original Junior Poetry
- Written Features
- Drawn Features
- Special Publications

Entries of bulletins and special publications must be "original printings" exactly as distributed to the club members. (Exception: If the item was distributed only by electronic mail or on CD/DVD, then a "hard copy" must be submitted on one-sided paper.)

Entries of articles, poems, and features should be sent as actual pages from the bulletin. Photocopies of an entire page are acceptable if the page includes the bulletin title, date, and page number. Be sure to include any continuation pages.

If a club belongs to more than one regional federation, the editor must pick only one federation contest to enter. If a club has more than one bulletin, only one may be entered in competition.

The act of entering the contest constitutes the granting of permission to the MWF, the AFMS, and their member clubs to reprint any materials entered, provided the author and the name and date of the original publication are properly credited.

How to Enter the Contest

The MWF contest uses basic AFMS contest rules with some modifications, as shown below. The complete AFMS rules and some interesting essays by expert judges are posted on the AFMS website at: <http://amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm>.

Read all the General Rules, Additional Rules, and Score Sheets that pertain to the item(s) to be entered.

Select the proper score sheet for each item. Make as many copies as needed for all intended entries. Fill out the information at the top of each score

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THIS YEAR'S BULLETIN EDITOR'S CONTEST HAS AN EARLY DEADLINE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

sheet, down through the CLUB CITY/STATE/ZIP line. Do not mark anything below that line – the BEAC or the judges select which criteria to use.

Use the fillable forms on the website. If you cannot use the online forms, please print clearly and include the 5-digit or 9-digit zip code in the editor's address, since contest results may be mailed there. The club's address is optional except for city and state.

To enter your bulletin, I prefer you send electronic copies. Only one copy is needed if sent electronically. If you must send paper:

Submit two copies of the bulletin; **this year only**, the month selected is your choice.

Attach the proper score sheet with the required information to each of the copies.

To enter anything other than your bulletin, I prefer you send electronic copies. Only one copy is needed if sent electronically. If you must send paper:

Submit two copies of each selection.

Attach the proper score sheet with the required information to each of the copies.

If the author is a junior member, be sure to include the age of the author at the time of the publication so that the entry may be judged appropriately.

The BEAC Chairman will accept either e-mailed submissions or those sent via U.S. mail.

E-mail your PDF entries, no later than November 1, 2021, to the BEAC Chair at mamamar7880@outlook.com. Please put "BEAC Competition" in the subject line.

Mail paper entries, postmarked no later than November 1, 2021, to the BEAC Chair:

Sharon Marburger

P.O. Box 64

Hickman, NE 68372-0064

For confirmation of delivery, include your e-mail address or a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

Eligibility of Previous Winners

Watch the September MWF News for ineligible entries, as they are not available at the time of this printing.

The first, second, and third place MWF winners in each class will be submitted, by the MWF BEAC Chair, to the AFMS Bulletin Editors' Contest. Do not send your entries directly to the AFMS.

Please check the MWF website for further information. If you still have questions, please contact Sharon Marburger, 402-429-3323, or at mamamar7880@outlook.com.

I look forward to reading your submissions! Good luck!

SUMMARY

Deadline: November 1, 2021

Submissions from January through September 2021

Month of bulletin is editor's choice

Check back later for ineligible entries

MWF WEBSITE CONTEST HAS TWO WINNERS

Brad Zylman, Chair

MWF Website Contest Committee

Three judges working independently have scored the entries in the 2021 Midwest Federation Website Contest. The results are that we have two clear winners.

First place has gone to the Michigan Mineralogical Society (www.michmin.org), and second place has gone to the Des Moines Lapidary Society (<http://dmlapidary.org>). Both websites have been entered into the American Federation's annual website contest.

Please take the time to visit these two websites and send a quick note to the webmasters in congratulation!

*September Issue Submission
Deadline Is August 4th!
Have a Great Summer!*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HEARS REPORTS (DIRECTOR OF SUPPLIES-SAFETY & FIELD TRIPS), CONT.

(Continued from page 2)

Director of Supplies: Andrea Morehead reported there is a link on the supplies that is not working. It is for the pins and patches. All the other lists of supplies are current. She had some new ideas about making the manuals electronic that she would bring up in new business.

Education: No report.

Endowment Fund: Cindy and David Root reported there is an article in the newsletter about a tricky tray to raise money at the convention. They need donations that are worth about \$10.

Environment and Legislation: Catherine had a written report. She is waiting to see how the real green deal affects things. They are wanting to close areas, not even allowing day use of vehicles. People are trashing areas and ruining the access for everyone. David Rich noted there is a nice article in the newsletter about the Bureau of Land Management. He urged people and clubs to join American Lands Access Association.

Geology: Dr. Bill Cordua continues to write articles.

Historian: Cindy Root said there has been nothing new to add to the cloud for a while. She has two directories that need to be scanned. She asked if we want recordings of the meetings on the cloud as well as the printed minutes. (It was felt that was not necessary.) Martha Miss offered to send Cindy the directories she had done so Cindy doesn't have to scan them.

Insurance: Sue Goedert reported she had been able to get a competitive quote, so saved the federation some money.

Junior Activities: No report.

Lapidary Arts: David Root reported that he continues to maintain a database of reference people or lapidary activities, but no one calls and asks for information.

Long Range Planning: David Root reported there is nothing new to report.

Membership: Jim Marburger had a written report, to which he added that he had received a couple

of inquiries. It was noted that he needs to update the fees on the membership forms.

Merit Awards: Mary Ann Rich said there were no applications for the contest this year. The national contest has some new criteria that include Zoom events and anything that encourages club activities.

Mineralogy: No report. Kevin Ponzio was in Tucson.

Paleontology: Debbie Hamilton had a written report with nothing to add.

Program Competition: No report.

Program Requests: Bob Powers had reported that borrowing was down because many clubs were not meeting.

Program Review: Jim Travis reported that he has not found anything to add to the library. There are many very good programs on YouTube. He mentioned Mike Sammartano, a geology teacher from New York, who has posted some good things. He has his own channel.



Besides his YouTube channel, [youtube.com/user/mikesammartano](https://www.youtube.com/user/mikesammartano), Sammartano has an *Exploring Earth Science* app. Photo via [Earthscience.glideapp.io](https://earthscience.glideapp.io).

Public Image & Courtesy: Regina Kapta had stepped down from the chairmanship, but said she would be willing to help anyone willing to take over.

Safety & Field Trips: David Rich had a written report. He stressed social distancing, masks, hand washing, safety glasses, and vests.

Scholarship: No report.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HEARS REPORTS, DISCUSSES CONVENTIONS, TACKLES ISSUES (CONT.)

(Continued from page 8)

Silent Auction: Susan Stanforth had a written report.

Technology Resources: Sandy Fuller had a written report.

Uniform Rules: J.C. Moore reported that the meeting with the AFMS would be in June at the convention and he would have an update in September.

Website: Cindy reported she had some new business to go over. A lot of shows had been canceled last year and already this year.

Website Competition: Brad Zylman reported there were two websites entered into competition this year. They were evaluated and sent on to the AFMS competition. Some of the websites need a little spit and polish.

Conventions

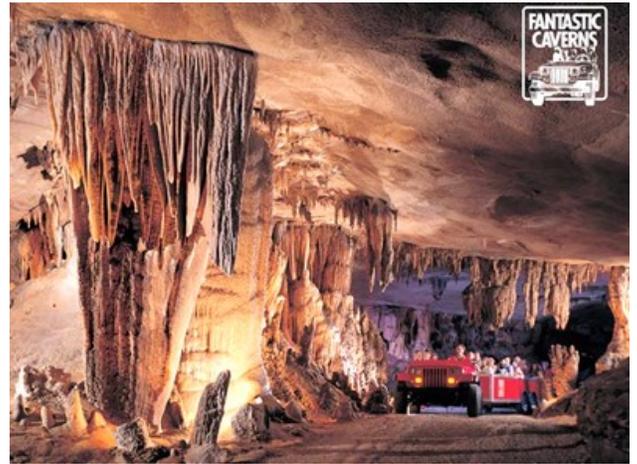
Jerri Heer from Toledo reported that the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club will be hosting the MWF Convention September 10-12, 2021. The Conference hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express in Bowling Green, Ohio, with a negotiated rate of \$99 per night. Specific information will be in the newsletter. There is a huge art festival in town that same time, so it will be best to make reservations early. The show is in a new venue at the Wood County Fairgrounds. They have double the space. More information will be forthcoming.

They don't anticipate any COVID-19 problems, unless the local government makes it an issue. J.C. Moore, Conventions and Show Advisory Committee chair, thanked Jerri for the club's efforts in trying to put this all together. She said they are doing most of it remotely. They are trying to arrange a field trip, but that isn't finalized.

J.C. reported that the last convention was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in March of 2019. Everything went well. The AFMS people who attended were quite happy with arrangements. He said thank you to Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society for hosting and doing a great job.

Livingston Gem & Mineral Society in Michigan

had to cancel in 2020. They still want to host in 2022. Marianne reported that they are looking forward to welcoming the Federation. J.C. reported that Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society in Springfield, Missouri would like to host 2023. He hoped to get that approved today. Cindy Root moved to approve Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society from Springfield, Missouri hosting the 2023 Convention. David Rich seconded the motion, which was approved.



Fantastic Caverns in Springfield, Missouri. The Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society in Springfield was just approved as the site for the 2023 MWF Convention. Photo via fantasticcaverns.com.

In 2026, MWF will again be hosting the AFMS Convention in conjunction with ours. He has a couple of feelers out. Chicagoland might be interested in hosting. They have moved to the Kane County Fairgrounds. There is a major airport and good transportation there. He is willing for other clubs to request to host.

Old Business

Filling vacant positions. We need to stress making people aware of what is needed in each position.

New Business

Report from the AFMS by David Rich, 3rd Regional VP. The AFMS Convention is being held in person in Big Piney, Wyoming, with the annual

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TACKLES ISSUES INCLUDING LOGO AND WEBSITE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 9)

meeting June 17th. He is responsible for the following committees: International Relations – Chairman Bob Jones, Program Competition – Chairman Darrell Watkins, Safety – Ellery Burrows, Chairman, and Historian Jennifer Haley. He will have more to report in Toledo after attending the meeting in Wyoming.

MWF Logo: Martha Miss had noted that there are various versions of the MWF logo being used on the newsletter, directory and membership cards. She asked why we were not being consistent. J.C. Moore added that the 50th Anniversary Program had described the logo (insignia) and showed what was then considered the official one. Brad Zylman said he couldn't find a good copy a few years ago. The official one will need to be sent to Cindy Root for the website so members/clubs can use it. Valerie will need it for the newsletter. The logo has not been registered for a copyright. A black and white version is needed. Sandy reminded that we will need to maintain the scale so it isn't squashed. Sharon Marburger suggested that the final determination for the logo be put in the newsletter. Martha agreed to do that. It was noted that if an editor wants to use the logo, it needs to be a high resolution image. The website might have a lower resolution.

Funds to pay deficit: Sandy Fuller reported that in the past, the Endowment Fund was used to pay part of the dues to the AFMS, which is \$1.00 per member regardless of age. This was covering the last 25-cent increase plus 50 cents for each junior. Now it is also covering the subscriptions to Mini Miners Monthly. With interest rates almost zero, not enough interest is being generated to cover these expenses. We are not allowed to touch the principal of the fund, only the interest. There are essentially no earnings to cover either of these expenses next year.

J.C. Moore moved to pay the shortage for these funds from the accumulated reserves instead of the Endowment Fund for 2022. David Rich seconded the motion. Sandy noted that last year the expense was \$2,075 for the AFMS dues and \$650 for the Mini Miners Monthly, which came to approximately \$2,725. We have that much in the accumulated reserves to cover it this year. The ayes approved the motion with no nays.

There was a question about **Geology 365**. Sandy explained that an ad hoc committee of the AFMS is in negotiations with the person behind it. He had added clubs and information without permission. They are attempting to get him to stop or do it in conjunction with the AFMS. He is proposing to bring in clubs later. Right now it is free. More information will be available after the AFMS meeting. Anyone who would like to get involved in the process can contact Sandy.

Andrea Morehead, Chairman of Supplies, asked about **making manuals electronic**. She noted that there were different logos on manuals in her supplies. Some of the manuals need their cover sheets updated. Martha Miss asked her to be sure to use the approved version going forward. Andrea wanted to update the cover sheets when documents are updated.

The nature of .pdfs is that they are available for download. She asked about charging for downloads if electronically available. Sometimes she doesn't know if things have been updated. We need to have everything available to our members. She wondered about approval to scan in manuals so they are available to download. Cindy has the permission link for the storage of items on the cloud. She will give Andrea permission. Should we pay someone to scan the manuals? Cindy said she doesn't mind doing it. Andrea said she actually has very few requests, most of the requests are for directories.

J.C. Moore noted that several years ago Dennis Westman talked about getting things into electronic format. Scanning might have an initial cost, but printing and mailing costs would be saved. Sandy Fuller added that the uniform rules are on the AFMS Website. Old copies confuse people and could be destroyed. The club leadership manual and juniors manual need to be on the website. Cindy noted that she has not added any manuals. We can still have some physical copies to sell at shows. Brad added that anything on the website should be in .pdf format. A fee would require setting up e-commerce and use of credit cards which brings up safety issues. Catherine appointed a committee consisting of Andrea, Brad, Sandy, Sharon, and Cindy to look into this and report back at the convention in September.

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**EXEC COMMITTEE TACKLES ISSUES, CONT.**

(Continued from page 10)

Name tags: Andrea said she has had a rough time finding anyone to replicate our name tags and position plates. She can't find any local vendors. She talked to Susan about going to just paper name tags in a laminated sleeve. (This was the format before the present colored ones were purchased. Timothy Hill had one of the old ones to show.) It was decided to discuss this as a committee. Brad suggested coming up with samples.

Cindy Root said **we will be getting a new website**. Ours is a subdivision of the AFMS site. If it doesn't exist, neither does ours. The AFMS site is undergoing revision. They are considering going to Google Suites. When they move, we will need a new host. Google Suites is free to non-profits. We will have to get a new domain name and set it up on Google Suites, which Cindy isn't familiar with. Brad has used it in a limited capacity. Cindy had been planning to redo the website using Expression Web.

She asked for permission to contact Marty Hart to get us separated. She needs to get a domain name. She will need to get proof that we are a registered non-profit. Sandy said she can get that from the registered agent in Minnesota for \$15. Sandy will get that and send it to Cindy. Cindy is ready to start the procedure whenever Sandy can get that to her. She asked for permission to separate from the AFMS site. She will talk to Marty Hart, AFMS Webmaster, now so we can be affiliated. We will keep the old website until the new one is up and running. AFMS is getting the software. Cindy and Sandy will work it out.

Brad Zylman asked about an operating procedures manual. He has a lot of questions and would like to discuss it further. It was noted we have an operating procedures manual, part of which has been updated.

Catherine Clevenz announced that because of the art festival near the Toledo show site, some people might want to look at rooms in Perrysburg, Ohio, which is about 15 minutes from Bowling Green, the site of the fairgrounds where the show will be held.

J.C. Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. David Rich seconded the motion. Catherine adjourned the meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

These rockhound friends have passed away since the last in-person MWF Convention in March, 2019. All were valued contributors to our shared avocation.

MWF Executives: **Pat Powers**, Program Requests Committee chair (Akron Mineral Society, OH); **Julia Donker**, Michigan State Director (Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club); **Charlotte Charno**, 101-year-old former Illinois State Director (Edwards River Earth Science Club, IL); **Kitty Starbuck**, MWF Past President (Kalamazoo Mineralogical and Geological Society, MI); **Marve Starbuck**, AFMS Past President and MWF Past President (Kalamazoo Mineralogical and Geological Society, MI); **Tony Kapta**, MWF Credentials Chair and MWF Past President (Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club).

Illinois: **Wayne Frankie** of the Illinois State Geological Society (he did rock identification at Geodeland and other shows); **JoAnn Rice**, Edwards River Earth Science Club.

Iowa: **Jo Powelka**, Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society; **June Fergenson**, River Valley Rockhounds.

Michigan: **Mary Wing**, Wonderland Rock Club; **Chet Smith**, Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club; **Helen Johnson**, Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club; **Archy Ammerman**, Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society (owner of Archie's Rock Shop in Mason).

Missouri: **Ralph "Charlie" Hedges**, Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City; **Robert Lee Helwig**, Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City.

Nebraska: **Shirley Rockel** (Lincoln Gem & Mineral Society, of which she and her late husband Bill were both honorary Life Members).

South Dakota: **Kern Schwartz**, Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society.

Wisconsin: **Joe Peterson**, Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society (co-owner of Jack Pine Rock Shop in Hayward); **Randy Phillips**, Neville Public Museum Geology Club.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events may be cancelled on short notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Be sure to contact the host club before traveling to an event**, to be sure that it is still scheduled.

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
May 22 Sat, 9-5	Livingston County Gem and Mineral Society	Christ Lutheran Church, 5987 Williams Lake Road, Waterford, MI (outdoors; mask required)	Ed Oller, 810-241-8801
May 29-30 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association	County Fairgrounds, 525 S. Randall, St. Charles, IL	Mark Kuntz, m-kuntz@sbcglobal.net
June 4-6 Fri noon-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4	State Line Gem and Mineral Society	Junior Fair Bldg., County Fairground, 8514 SR 108, Wauseon, OH	Sherman Kardatzke, sakardatzke@gmail.com
June 5-6 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Coulee Rock Club of LaCrosse	Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI	Allison Conrad, rockinbabe@acegroup.cc
June 12 Sat 10-2	Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club	Parking lot, United Methodist Church, 16 2 nd Avenue SE, Osseo, MN	Martha Miss, martha@rock-biz.biz
June 12 Sat 9-noon	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club	Woodland Drive-In Church, 2600 Breton SE, Grand Rapids, MI Outdoors; masks required	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
June 12-13 Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club	FairhavenHall, Mansfield Fairgrounds, 750 Home Road N., Mansfield, OH	Tom Kottyan, TheMineralHouse@netzero.net
June 25-27 Fri 10-6:30, Sat 9-6:30, Sun 10-4	Lawrence County Rock Club	County Fairgrounds, US Highway 50, Bedford, IN	Michael Tweedate, 573-466-9093
June 25-27 Fri 2-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-3	Osage Rock & Mineral Club	Eldon Community Center, 309 E. 2 nd Street, Eldon, MO	Steve Rudloff, mc2021show@centurylink.net
June 26-27 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club rock swap	Beer Family Farm, 18701 Ashland, Ashland, NE	Corey Beer, 402-890-9155
July 16-17 Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5	Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club	Lakeland Union High School, 9573 Highway 70, Minocqua, WI	Ron Zimmer, rzimmer@charter.net
July 17-18 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club	Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Ellens Drive, Moose Lake, MN	David Johnson, davidrj@chartermi.net
July 24-25 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Indianhead Rock & Mineral Society	Frederic High School, 1437 Clam Falls Drive, Frederic, WI	Roy Wickman, 715-357-3223
July 31 Sat, 9-2:30	Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society	Jack Fox Park, 225 N. Broadway, Canton, SD	Harlan Hoogeterp, rockswap@segams.org
Aug. 7 Sat, 9:30-4:30	Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club	Elks Lodge, 597 Lakeshore Drive, Ishpeming, MI	Kirsten R. Maki, krmaki75@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
Aug. 13-15 Fri 1-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-3	Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club	Houghton Middle School, 1603 Gundlach Road, Houghton, MI	Rob Grabarczyk, pres@ccrmmc.info
Aug. 14-15 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society	Expo Bldg., County Fairgrounds, Highway 48 North, Rice Lake, WI	Dave Skrupky, dskrupky@centurytel.net
Aug. 21 Sat, 10-5	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Dunham Sports parking lot, 5601 US 10 E, Stevens Point, WI	Sandy Brandl, stonez@tds.net
Aug. 28 Sat 10-5	Racine Geological Society	Bartlett Youth Foundation, 1120 N. Stuart Road, Mt. Pleasant, WI	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
Aug. 28-29 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Peoria Academy of Sciences (PAS) Geology	East Side Center, 1 Eastside Drive, East Peoria, IL	Jim Travis, boatnick@aol.com
Sept. 10-12 Fri 10-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis	County Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple St., Greenfield, IN	Tom Odom, tomodom65@gmail.com
Sept. 10-12 Fri noon-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (hosting the MWF convention)	Pavilion, County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Road, Bowling Green, OH	Jerri Heer, jheerx6@aol.com
Sept. 11 Sat, 9-3	Coulee Rock Club of LaCrosse rock swap	Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI	Apryl Denny, aldenny@viterbo.edu
Sept. 17-19 Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Mozarkite Society of Lincoln	Mike Hare Memorial Field, under the water tower, Lincoln, MO	John "Kelly" Blum, 816-835-2044
Sept. 17-19 Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club	Soccer Stop Sportsplex, 5 River Hills Drive, Holland, MI	Sue Goedert, sonbeams2000@yahoo.com
Sept. 18 Sat, 9:30-3:30	Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society rock swap	Odd Fellows Lodge, 6219 Forest Hills Road, Rockford, IL	Duane Cushing, RRVGMS@gmail.com
Sept. 18-19 Sat 9-8, Sun 9-3	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society rock auction	Amana RV Park, 39 38 th Avenue, Amana, IA	Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
Sept. 24-26 Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin Historical & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker, Joplin, MO	Christopher Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@ sbcglobal.net
Sept. 25-26 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Brown County Rock & Mineral Club	Brown County History Center, 90 E. Gould Street, Nashville, IN	Rhonda A. Dunn, BCRM2010@gmail.com
Sept. 25-26	Minnesota Mineral Club	Dairy Building, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN	showchair@ minnesotamineralclub.org
Sept. 25-26 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club	Ramada Plaza, 3321 S. 72nd Street, Omaha, NE	Tammy Jeanneret, tjeanneret@hughes.net

CONVENTION AND ROCK SHOW TO BE HELD IN A (FORMER) SWAMP, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

Tuesday through Saturday); Grounds for Thought, a combination coffee shop and used-book store; The Busy Thimble, a fabric and yarn store that sells quilts; and Inspect UR Gadget, which buys, sells, and repairs electronics.

Bowling Green State University has a planetarium that will begin offering programs to the public in September, and the BGSU Fine Arts Center has three art galleries open Tuesday through Sunday; for more information on either, see bgsu.edu. The BGSU Falcons football team will be playing the University of South Alabama on September 11th; for more information about that, see bgsufalcons.com.



Map by Drdpw, via Wikimedia Commons. Bowling Green is about halfway between Toledo and Findlay. Two centuries ago — no convention or rock show!

WHAT WAS THE GREAT BLACK SWAMP?

The Great Black Swamp, for which the Black Swamp Arts Festival is named, was fascinating both geologically and ecologically. Here are excerpts from various sources that tell the story of the Great Black Swamp.

From “The Great Black Swamp” page of saudervillage.org: “The Great Black Swamp, which covered approximately 1,500 square miles in Northwest Ohio and northeastern Indiana, formed as a result of the Wisconsin Glacier covering the land about 20,000 years ago. When the glacier retreated, it left a flattened surface covered with impermeable clay. Sand ridges were left behind that separated certain areas of the swamp from each other, and provided some higher ground . . . When the leaves from the trees and other plant material fell into the water, they decomposed and the water turned black. Thus the swamp became the Great Black Swamp.” [Editor’s Note: *Sauder Village is a living history museum and farm in Archbold, Ohio.*]

From Wikipedia’s “The Great Black Swamp”: “. . . it occupied what was formerly the southwestern part of proglacial Lake Maumee, a holocene precursor to Lake Erie. The area was about 25 miles wide (north to south) and 100 miles long, covering an estimated 1,500 square miles . . . the dense habitat and difficulty of travel through the swamp delayed its development by several decades. A corduroy road (from modern-day Fremont, Ohio to Perrysburg, Ohio) was constructed . . . in 1825. . . Travel in the wet season could still take days or even weeks. . .”

From “The Black Swamp: An Impenetrable Bog,” a flier published by Historic Perrysburg, Inc.: “Water, often up to the belly of a horse, stood on the surface until it evaporated in the hot summer months. When it rained, or thawed in the winter, it was water and muck. Much of the swamp was covered with an almost impenetrable forest of giant oak, sycamore, hickory, walnut, ash, elm, maple and cottonwood trees, except in a few prairie areas where limestone just under the surface would not support timber growth.

“Finally, in 1850, the Ohio legislature passed the first law regarding government support for drainage systems . . . with ditches deep enough to drain the swamp water into Lake Erie via the Maumee, Portage and other rivers. Individual farmers continued to dry out their fields by plowing trenches across them, using wooden troughs laid underground, and eventually with clay tiles and pipe introduced by European farmers. It took back-breaking labor and construction of one of the greatest underground drainage systems in the history of the world to create the productive farmland we now drive by and take for granted . . .”

From Wikipedia: “Gradually drained and settled in the second half of the 19th century, it is now highly productive farmland. However, this development has been detrimental to the ecosystem as a result of agricultural runoff. This runoff, in turn, has contributed to frequent toxic algal blooms in Lake Erie. . .”

From “Learning to Love the Great Black Swamp,” by Sharon Levy, from undark.org: “In spring, rains wash a pulse of nutrients off the surrounding

(Continued on page 15)

WHAT WAS THE GREAT BLACK SWAMP? CONT.

(Continued from page 14)

region's fertilized farms and send it . . . into western Lake Erie. And in summer, as water temperatures rise, *Microcystis* forms an iridescent mat over parts of the lake's surface. In early August of 2014, strong winds blew a lawn of cyanobacteria over Toledo's water intake, which lies just outside the Maumee's mouth. Tests showed that the city's water contained dangerous levels of microcystin, a liver toxin . . .

“. . .in the aftermath . . . William Mitsch, a wetlands expert and professor emeritus at Ohio State University, offered up a characteristically blunt solution. Harmful algal blooms have become chronic in western Lake Erie, he said, because of the wrong-headed way people manage the watershed. Mitsch proposed that a significant fraction of the region's rich cropland be taken out of production and converted to wetlands, which act as natural filters for the overload of nutrients now flowing from farm to river to lake. . .

A preserved section of the swamp, off the Slippery Elm Trail. Photo by Mbrickn, via Wikimedia Commons.



“And yet, [Jim Moyer, Sandusky County Engineer] doesn't see large-scale wetland restoration as practical part of that solution. ‘I try to be realistic,’ he says. ‘In our county, agriculture is important. We have corn, soybeans and wheat, but also tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, cabbage — high-dollar crops. Boy, they cannot tolerate any excess water.’”

From Wikipedia: “During the second half of the 20th century, efforts were undertaken to preserve and restore portions of the swamp . . . The Black Swamp Conservancy, founded in 1993, has also been involved in preserving former swamplands. They currently protect 17,600 acres spread throughout the Northwest Ohio region.”

[Editor's Note: All of the above articles are worthy, interesting reading, but Sharon Levy's article on undark.com is riveting. I strongly recommend it!]

DEADLINE CALENDAR

Advance registration deadline for the **AFMS Convention** is **June 1, 2021**; fees are non-refundable if sent in after that date. **Deadline for exhibit entries** is also **June 1st**. The convention will be held June 17-20 in Big Piney, Wyoming, with the rock show by the Sublette County Rock Hounds. For more information and the registration packet, see the AFMS website home page, amfed.org.

Early hotel registration is suggested for the **MWF Convention**, Sept. 10-12 at the Holiday Inn Express in Bowling Green, Ohio (419-353-5500). For more information, see page 3 of this issue.

An early deadline, **Nov. 1, 2021**, has been announced for the **MWF Bulletin Editors Contest**. For more information, see page 6 of this issue.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

I'll be going to Big Piney, Wyoming, for the AFMS Convention in the middle of June. The Sublette County Rock Hounds are hosting. I'm quite excited to see old friends and make new ones. And the field trips for Blue Forest Petrified Wood and Green River Fossil Fish will be an experience of a lifetime.

On April 10th, the MWF had its Spring Executive Committee meeting by Zoom. I was ill-disposed, but 1st Vice President Catherine Clevenz filled in for me and ran the meeting efficiently. The minutes for that meeting begin on page 1 of this issue.

We have vacancies to fill, including Rockhound of the Year committee chair and Minnesota State Director. The fabulously successful Bulletin Editors' Aids Committee chair, Sharon Marburger, also wishes to step down. She's willing to assist her replacement.

Next newsletter will be for September, and by then, the MWF Convention will be ready to go. It will take place Sept. 10th through 12th, hosted by the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club at the Wood County Fairgrounds in Bowling Green, Ohio. Look for registration forms on the website coming soon, and for more details on page 3 of this issue. Huge thanks to Jerri Heer for organizing this event. Hope to see you all there!!!!

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor
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SCHOLARSHIP HONOREE DIGS DINOSAURS, STUDIES BIOLOGY, CLEANS UP AFTER PIPE BREAKS

Catherine Clevenz, MWF 1st V.P., and Member of the MWF Scholarship Honoree Board of Selectors

The MWF Scholarship Selection Committee has voted Joshua Mathews to be the 2021 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' Scholarship Foundation Honoree for the Midwest Federation.

Mathews studied invertebrate paleoecology of Mississippian and Pennsylvanian deposits in Illinois, while earning degrees in geology and biology from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2003. He is a Ph.D. candidate in biological sciences at Northern Illinois University, and is Director of Paleontology at the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford, Illinois. He has been very busy in doing clean-up work after the museum was flooded in February.

From mid-May to June, he will be going to a dinosaur dig southern Utah. There are about 20 dinosaurs in one quarry, which has been excavated for more than 10 years. Every summer a large crew of folks go there and dig mostly long necked dinosaurs. He then takes a few weeks off back in Rockford while he prepares to go to Montana for a month and a half, digging up there. His summers are quite busy but he gets to enjoy doing what he loves! People can pay a

fee for the chance to help. To find out more about this you can go to www.burpee.org, click the tab that says "Experience," and a drop-down menu will appear.



Joshua Mathews, 2021 MWF Scholarship Honoree.

As the Scholarship Honoree, Mathews, coordinating with university faculty, will choose two students working on a master's degree or doctorate in the earth sciences. Each of those students will receive a scholarship grant from the MWF Scholarship Fund.

It's not too early for your club to begin working on a Scholarship Honoree nomination for 2022. For more information, read pages G-1 and G-2 of the MWF Directory. Send your nominations to Debbie Hamilton at crinoidqueen@gmail.com or mail them to her at 1818 Adlai Stevenson, Springfield, IL 62703.