

MWF News

Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

March 2019 - Issue No. 580

Web Site - www.amfed.org/mwf

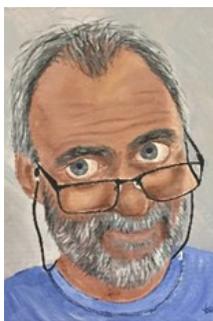


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin Ponzio, MWF President

Hello, everyone!

The MWF/AFMS convention is just days away! Are you ready? I'm ready! The mysteries of geodes will be revealed in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 22nd to 24th.



You weren't planning on going? But you'll miss all the fun. There are so many incredible things happening there. This is a great opportunity to say you were part of this historic event. Imagine sitting around the campfire with young rockhounds and the sound of coyotes yipping in the background on a moonlit, starry night. All of them listening to your every word, regaling tales of the 2019 convention. Even the crickets are chirping with joy. Oh yeah! That could be you! See you at the convention!

Sharon Marbuger is stepping down from the Bulletin Editors Permanent Committee. Hmm. Where

(Continued on page 2)

CONVENTION: THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Jay Vavra, Director
Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society

On March 23rd and 24th, the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society will host our annual rock show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In addition to being the local rock club annual show, this will also be the Midwest Federation convention and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies convention.

Why should you plan to travel to Cedar Rapids for this event? In a previous article I wrote about the show itself, and that is reason enough to make this trip, but you don't have to spend all your time in Eastern Iowa at the show. There are plenty of other activities available in and around Cedar Rapids, both geological and otherwise.

The University of Iowa Museum of Natural History is located in Iowa City. The museum is approximately a 30-minute drive south from the location of the show and is located in Macbride Hall at the University of Iowa. The museum is the oldest university museum located west of the Mississippi

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

have I heard that before? Oh, our past president David Root wrote this last year in the MWF newsletter. I'm calling on one, brave, intelligent, industrious member to step into this position. Be the one among thousands. Be amazing, incredible and famous! (Even more than you already are.) Step over the edge and find that an escalator awaits to take you to new heights!

What a wonderful time to be a rockhound. There are new materials harder than a diamond – wurtzite boron nitride, manufactured by high-pressure compression or detonation, and lonsdaleite, which occurs when meteorites containing graphite strike the earth. Each is similar to a diamond but much harder. It wasn't until recently that scientists realized just how much harder they are. It's even harder to find one! Please save me one if you do find some. (#Humor)

Remember to share the new MWF Directory with all the club members.

See you all next month!

MINERALS WITH CHLORINE

Kreigh Tomaszewski
 West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group

Our mineral study group just finished its study of minerals containing chlorine. Because of its great reactivity, all chlorine in the Earth's crust is in the form of ionic chloride compounds, which includes table salt (we rockhounds call it halite).

We use MinDat.org's Search by Chemistry function to produce an alphabetical list of minerals to study, and use the list to bring representative specimens from our collections to pass around the table. If you have seen several specimens of a mineral you are more likely to identify it correctly the next time you meet it in the field.

We started this month with the carbonate Northupite, the halogens Paratacamite, Penfieldite, and Pseudoboleite. Boleite contains Silver and Potassium that is missing in the pseudo variety.



Boleite on clay matrix. Photo by Rob Lavinsky of irocks.com, via Wikimedia Commons.

Next we looked at the tectosilicate Quadridavyne, whose name reflects its unit-cell volume, which is QUADrupled relative to that of Davyne (which was named in honor of Sir Humphry Davy). We had a short discussion about minerals that don't have the standard -ite ending.

(Continued on page 6)

April Issue Submission Deadline Is March 6th!

FIRE DAMAGES FLUORITE MUSEUM

Dean Stone, MWF Past President

The Arctic freezing temperatures in the Midwest were particularly brutal to the American Fluorite Museum in Rosiclare, Illinois, in late January. A fire broke out in the museum during the night in the terribly cold weather that severely damaged the contents of the museum.

The Illinois State Fire Marshal and the local fire department are investigating causation. The source is believed to be a malfunctioning furnace. The matter is still under official investigation.

There was considerable smoke and water damage to certain areas of the museum. The pictures shown were taken on February 3rd, approximately four days after the fire, showing both interior and exterior damage. The officials of the Museum have just begun the extensive cleaning process needed to have the museum open, hopefully, in early summer.



Fire damage at the American Fluorite Museum. Photos courtesy of Dean Stone.

According to Roy Jackson, secretary/treasurer of the museum, "We need all the help we can get." If any MWF member or club wishes to contribute to the restoration of a truly historic museum, please contact: Wesley Atkinson, President, 618-841-1062, or Roy Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer, 618-285-3367, or write:

The American Fluorite Museum
P.O. Box 755
Rosiclare, IL 62982

CONVENTION: GREAT DEALS AT AUCTION

Susan Stanforth,
Silent Auction Chair

Going once! Going twice! Sold! Almost time for another thrilling, amazing chance to win your favorite rock or fossil item at the silent auction table. I hope to see you Saturday and Sunday, March 23rd and 24th, at the Cedar Valley Rock and Mineral Society show. If you are a newbie to auction fun, you will get the best deal on so many great items. What a super way to add to your collections! And for a very reasonable price, believe me.

AND this doesn't happen without our wonderful donors. So, please think about bringing a couple of items that you can part with, and filling out bid sheets. Bid sheets are on both MWF and CVRMS websites. Draw a broad line of any color on top of the bid sheet to ensure that the proceeds for your item will be donated to the MWF. Then look for me at the convention to give me your donation and bid sheet.

I am very grateful for those of you who have faithfully donated year after year. Blessings!!!!

CONVENTION: YOU COULD BE A WINNER

Awards for the 2018 MWF Bulletin Editors competition will be presented at the MWF convention March 23rd and 24th in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Winners of the AFMS Bulletin Editors competition will also be announced.

Tickets for the drawing benefiting the AFMS Endowment Fund are available from J.C. Moore by mail until the convention, and can be bought from him or Donna Moore personally on the morning of the 23rd. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. To buy them by mail, send a check made out to AFMS Endowment Fund to: J.C. Moore, 25235 N. Illinois Highway 97, Cuba, IL 61427.

To see pictures of the possible prizes, go to the home page of the AFMS website, www.amfed.org, and click on "2019 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing."

**MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
COUNCIL MEETING
DELEGATE REGISTRATION**

Saturday March 23, 2019

The Midwest Federation's 79th annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual 2019 show of the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, March 23-24, 2019. The show will be held at the Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Council of Delegates Meeting will be held at the Ramada Cedar Rapids, 525 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids. Each member club/society is entitled to one (1) Delegate and one *(1) Alternate to represent them.

The MWF Council of Delegates Meeting will convene Saturday, March 23rd at 1:00pm, with the delegate registration beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Ramada Cedar Rapids. 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 MWF President Kevin Ponzio and MWF 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.

*Each club is entitled to one vote. An alternate may vote only in the absence of a Delegate. Guests are invited to attend the meeting, but are ineligible to vote.

Please fill out this form and return it to the Credentials Chairman:

Tony Kapta
1483 E Wood Street, Decatur, IL 62521
217-233-1164, email cigmc@comcast.net
Before March 4th, 2019

(DO NOT send this form to the show registration committee)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPTNESS

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

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT (name of club) _____

OF (city and state) _____

HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING DELEGATE TO THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MWF:

DELEGATE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

ALTERNATE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

DATED _____ SIGNED _____, Club President

CONVENTION: EASTERN IOWA OFFERS A VARIETY OF THINGS TO SEE AND DO (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

River. It has fantastic exhibits of a Devonian coral reef, which is based on fossil remains of a reef located in Coralville, Iowa, and a Pennsylvanian coal swamp. The Hall of Birds and Mammal Hall are two highlights that offer a change of pace from geology. You can find more information at: <https://mnh.uiowa.edu>.



This smiley fellow is part of the Devonian Coral Reef exhibit at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History. Photo from mnh.uiowa.edu.

The Devonian Fossil Gorge, which the exhibit described above is based on, is located in Coralville, Iowa, which is approximately a 30-minute drive south from the show location. The Devonian Fossil Gorge is the exposed fossils and limestone bedrock which were first exposed during flooding in 1993. Historic floods in 2008 increased the area of exposed fossilized sea floor.

While collecting fossils is prohibited here, this is a wonderful opportunity to walk on a fossilized ocean floor and see the remains of the sea life that lived in Iowa during the Devonian period. Brachiopods, corals, crinoids, and trilobites are all represented here. You can find more information on the Devonian Fossil Gorge at <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions>.

If you are interested in collecting fossils, one of the nearby opportunities with a near guarantee of

success is the Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve near Rockford, Iowa. The Fossil and Prairie Park is about a 2-hour drive to the northwest from the show location. The Fossil and Prairie Park allows personal collecting of the abundant Devonian fossils found on the site. You can collect brachiopods, gastropods, corals, crinoids, bryozoans, and cephalopods. There are also trails for hiking and shelters available.

Although the main building with exhibits on the history of the park will still be closed for the season at the time of the show in Cedar Rapids, if the weather is cooperative, the fossil collecting may still be enjoyable. You can find more information on the Fossil and Prairie Park Preserve at: <http://www.fossilcenter.com>.

The theme of the 2019 show is geodes. Geodes are the State Rock of Iowa, and with good reason. Some of the best specimens in the world can be found in the Keokuk area of Iowa. Jacobs Geode Shop and Mine is located in Hamilton, Illinois, just across the Mississippi River from Keokuk, Iowa, and is approximately a 2-hour drive to the southeast from the show location. Gary Jacobs operates this mine on private property, so be sure to call before visiting.

Geodes here are plentiful, and many have good sized hollows with beautiful clear crystals. Note that there is a fee for collecting at this location. More information on Jacobs Geode Mine and other geode related opportunities in the area can be found here: <http://keokukiowatourism.org/geodes>.

If you're looking for a break from rocks and minerals, Cedar Rapids has a number of excellent museums which are highly recommended. The Cedar Rapids Museum of Art is about a 10-minute drive from the show location. This museum possesses the world's largest collection of art by famous local artist Grant Wood. Not only can you view a number of his works on display, you can also tour his studio.

Grant Wood is famous for his paintings of rural, Midwestern people and landscapes. Another local but world-renowned artist well represented at the museum is Marvin Cone, whose depictions of nature and clouds

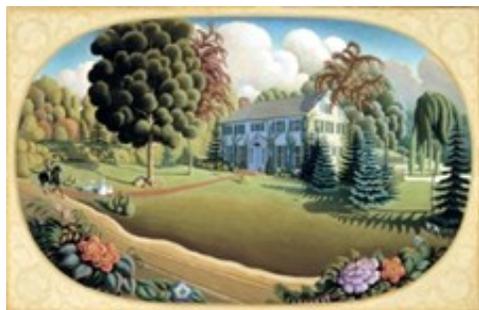
(Continued on page 6)



CONVENTION: THINGS TO SEE AND DO INCLUDE VARIED MUSEUMS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 5)

are wonderful. More information on the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art can be found here: <http://www.crma.org>.



Grant Wood, Overmantel Decoration, 1930, owned by the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. Photo from www.crma.org.

The Czech and Slovak heritage of Cedar Rapids will be apparent across much of the city, but the best place to experience it is the Czech Village neighborhood and the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, which is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

The museum has exhibits of art and artifacts representing Czech and Slovak life and culture, both in Europe and in the United States. The internationally important museum was dedicated in 1995 by President Bill Clinton of the United States, President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, and President Michal Kovac of the Slovak Republic.

In 2011, as part of the recovery from the historic flooding of 2008, the 16,000-square-foot (and 1,500-ton) museum building was lifted and moved 480 feet to a new location that sits 11 feet higher than where it was built. If you're not interested in the art and exhibits inside, the fact that this mammoth structure was able to be moved is fascinating and worth a visit just to imagine how it could be done. More information on the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library can be found here: <https://www.ncsml.org>.

Cedar Rapids is also home to the Iowa Masonic Library and Museum, which is one of the largest Masonic libraries in the world, and also a fascinating museum with three collections of both Masonic and Non-Masonic items.

The African American Museum of Iowa, in Cedar Rapids, is a wonderful resource that showcases the African American heritage of Iowa. Bruce more, a Queen Anne style mansion on 26 acres, offers tours that exhibit the lifestyle of the wealthy and prominent families who built and lived there. The Cedar Rapids History Center offers exhibits on the local history of Cedar Rapids and Linn County.

These are just a few of the many reasons (besides the fantastic rock show) to visit Cedar Rapids. If you have any questions about the 2019 Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society Show, or about things to do while you're here in Eastern Iowa, please feel free to contact any of the members listed on our web page. We look forward to seeing you in March in Cedar Rapids.

CHLORINE MINERALS, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

Getting back on track, we looked at the inosilicates Richterite and Sadanagaite, and the halide Salammoniac, which sent us back into the weeds of nomenclature again. Then it was the tectosilicate Sodalite, the sulfates Spangolite and Sulphohalite, and the inosilicate Tremolite, which MinDat lists as the Tremolite-Actinolite Series. It was noted that Tremolite is often triboluminescent, meaning it gives a flash of light when the mineral is subjected to friction, impact, or breakage.

We finished up with the halide Tugtupite, which glows bright red under black light, and many wonderful specimens of the phosphate Vanadinite.

We meet at my home once a month, and all West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Contact me at kreigh@gmail.com for details. You are always welcome even if you can't bring any specimens.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
March 1-3 F & St 10-6, Sn 11-4	Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society	Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Road, Richmond, IN	Judy Burton, JLeeBurton@woh.rr.com
March 8-10 F 10-8, St 10-7, Sn 10-5	Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City	KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador, Kansas City, MO	Bruce Stinemetz, brucestinemetz@att.net
March 9 Sat 6-9	Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society silent auction	Gymnasium, St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie, Skokie, IL	Jeanine Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com
March 9-10 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Geodeland Earth Science Clubs	Student Union Ballroom, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL	Deb Coursey, courseyfarms@gmail.com
March 9-10 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Kettle Moraine Geological Society	County Fair Park and Convention Center, 3000 Highway PV, West Bend, WI	John Rettler, johnrettler@gmail.com
March 9-10 Sat 11-6, Sun noon-6	Roamin Club	Vista Tech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia MI	Todd Gall, roaminrockhound@gmail.com
March 22-24 F 4-8, St 10-7, Sn 10-5	Rock Hobby Club	Machinist Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO	Roy Hurlburt, hurlburt@juno.com
March 23 Sat, 10-5	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society rock swap	St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI	Lou Talley, ltalley1970@gmail.com
March 23-24 Sat 8:30-6, Sun 9:30-5 <i>The MWF and AFMS conventions are being held in conjunction with this show. For more information, see pages 1-4.</i>	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society	Hawkeye Downs, 4400 6 th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA	Marv Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
March 23-24 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois	DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL	Dave Carlson, fossil54@att.net
March 30-31 Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4	River Valley Rockhounds	Webster County Fairgrounds, 22770 Old Highway 169, Fort Dodge, IA	Robert Wolf, midnightwriter@frontiernet.net
March 30-31 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Stark County Gem and Mineral Club	Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz, Canton, OH	Jeff Storz, jstorz42@gmail.com
April 4-6 Thur & Fri 9:30-9, Sat 9:30-7	Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club	Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 28 th Street SW, Wyoming, MI	Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com
April 6 Sat, 10-3	Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society open house	North Suburban Library, 6340 N. 2 nd St., Loves Park, IL	Duane Cushing, tcde@comcast.net
April 6-7 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Des Plaines Valley Geological Society	Recreation Center, 2222 Birch Street, Des Plaines, IL	Frank Lavin, nival42@hotmail.com
April 6-7 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club	Lancaster Event Center, 84 th & Havelock, Lincoln, NE	Jayne Beer, jbeer60070@aol.com
April 6-7 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Neville Public Museum Geology Club	Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay, WI	Randy Phillips, bay45@hotmail.com
April 6-7 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Southern Illinois Earth Science Club	City of Marion Pavilion, 1602 Sioux Drive, Marion, IL	www.siesclub.org

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Please notify the Secretary of any violations.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT RECEIVING THE MWF NEWS?

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

Which officers in a Midwest Federation club should be receiving the MWF News?

Each club in the Midwest Federation should indicate to the MWF Secretary which officers should be receiving the MWF newsletter and in what format. The treasurer and the newsletter editor are designated to receive printed copies, if desired, along with one other officer. Other officers may receive the e-mailed newsletter if requested. We neglected to have a spot designated on some of the dues forms this year telling us which officers should receive the newsletter.

If your club has a liaison, that is supposed to be the person who keeps the line of communications open between the club members and the MWF. So the liaison might be designated to receive the newsletter in one form or another, so he or she can keep the club updated on any information from the MWF that is pertinent to the club.

If all officers want the newsletter by email, terrific. If the above designated ones wish to receive

printed copies, please let me know. Email me at mwfsecretary@gmail.com. The request for emailed newsletters should be sent to MWF Newsletter Editor Valerie J. Meyers at vjmwriter@yahoo.com. If you email us, please indicate the name of your club.

We hope that, if one of your officers receives the newsletter by e-mail, that person will forward it to all the other club members. The printed copy should be taken to club meetings for anyone who wishes to look it over.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or the other officers.

DEADLINE CALENDAR

Delegate registration for the MWF Annual Meeting is due **March 4, 2019**. The meeting will be held March 23-24 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information see the form on page 4, or contact Tony Kapta, cigmc@comcast.net.