

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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Web Site - [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin Ponzio, MWF President

Greetings everyone!!

September has come way too fast. By now you have all had countless summer adventures! If not, get out and have some unforgettable experiences. As for me, I came down from the mountains in Wyoming to write this. Each day we have gone on day-long hikes from camp at 8,000 ft. to about 10,000 ft. across rivers, walking creeks and seeing wildlife. The first few days, eagles, hawks, and badgers were spotted. Countless prairie dogs would pop their heads up, standing on their hind legs. Then they would scurry off dragging their bellies full of summer berries.



The next day we hiked for about an hour and a half up a river valley when we saw some grizzly bears. I guess I should say they saw us first. It was a momma and two yearlings. We stopped in our tracks to watch the bears ramble up the side of the mountain and

*(Continued on page 2)*

## WHOOOOO WILL YOU NOMINATE?

Susan Stanforth, 2nd Vice President

Why is Susan worried about MWF club members? They don't seem to give a hoot about nominating a MWF/AFMS Scholarship Honorary Award winner!

And it couldn't be simpler. If you haven't misplaced your directory (Brian), check out pages 2-6 in the green section for directions. Submit a biographical sketch and letter of recommendation outlining your nominee's contributions to the rockhound world. We would like this in by end of October / beginning of November. Send it to:

Board of Selectors  
c/o Susan Stanforth  
850 Palau Parkway  
Rockford, IL 61108

Or email them to [sstanforth123@yahoo.com](mailto:sstanforth123@yahoo.com).

You will be so proud of your winner when he or she hands out the scholarships. Please "give a hoot!"

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GOES TO HOLLAND**

Donna Moore, MWF Secretary

The MWF Executive Committee will have its fall meeting at the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club show in Holland, Michigan on the morning of Saturday, September 14. Anyone is more than welcome to join us at the meeting.

There will be a meet and greet on Friday evening to visit with the MWF officers. Anyone who might like to join us can e-mail me for time and place.

We do not have a host hotel in Holland, but some of us are staying at the Best Western Plus Holland

*(Continued on page 3)*

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 1)*

over the ridge. The two cubs had little care as they wrestled with each other and took turns climbing up trees. Mother bear must have reminded them as they stopped playing and followed her up over the ridge. Later that day a black bear was sighted only two miles from our campsite! Yikes!

Another day we helped a couple in our camp to document a possible habitational Native American site. A few signs were photographed, GPS'd and recorded; further study is needed.

There were many plants to see as well. There had been a fire in 2011 and countless young trees were filling in the barren landscape. Flowers of every color dotted the hillside below the tree line.

OK, so that's all well and good, but Kev, what about the rocks? Yes, there were rocks too! Lots of jasper, agate and petrified wood. Many loose pieces were in the river gravels. Veins of agate could be seen crisscrossing the faces of the cliffs above. Most were solid colors, but banded, moss, and some iris agate could be found.

After getting some supplies in town and washing some clothes, I'm heading back up to the mountain. We have some overnight hikes planned for when I return. Bears and weather are the biggest concern. Possible medical issues are high on the list too.

Come to the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club show in Holland, Mich. the second week of September. We are having a MWF executive officers meeting there. Sit in on the meeting and then enjoy a great show! They will have some awesome displays too! I will be there so I can finish telling you the rest of my adventure. See you all there.

***October Issue Submission Deadline Is Sept. 4th!***

## HOLLAND, MICHIGAN OFFERS TREATS BESIDES A ROCK SHOW AND EXECUTIVES

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

If you're going to Holland, Michigan the weekend of September 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, it's probably to see the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club's annual show, which is celebrating its golden anniversary this year. There will be dealers, exhibits, demonstrations, a sluice, and a silent auction. MWF President Kevin Ponzio will present an exhibit of minerals and lapidary.

The show will be held at the Soccer Stop Sportsplex, 5 River Hills Drive, in Holland; see the club's website, tulipcity.org, for good directions about how to get there.

Of course, you may also be coming to attend the Executive Committee meeting, where MWF officers and committee chairs will be discussing upcoming issues related to the federation.

There will be a meet-and-greet Friday night, September 13<sup>th</sup>; the place hasn't been decided yet, but if you're going to go, send an email to Donna Moore, the MWF Secretary, at mwfsecretary@gmail.com when it's closer to the date, and she'll fill you in.

There's more to do in Holland than just a great rock show. There's the DeKlomp Wooden Shoe and Delft Factory, which is exactly what it says; they manufacture wooden shoes and Delft pottery, both, of

course, traditional Dutch crafts. You can watch as the items are made.

View Dutch art and artifacts at the Holland Museum, or have a drink and dinner, along with some bowling or escape-room excitement, at BAM! Entertainment Center.



*The boardwalk at Holland State Park. In the background is the Big Red Lighthouse on Lake Michigan. Photo from michigandnr.com..*

Temperatures in September range from lows in the mid-50s to highs in the mid-70s, so it might be the perfect time if your tastes run more to outdoor activities. You can take a stroll along the beaches and boardwalk in Holland State Park, or see the DeGraaf Nature Center, an 18-acre nature preserve within the city limits.

Have a great time!

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 2)*

Inn & Suites, 2888 W. Shore Drive, in Holland (1-616-994-0400). As near as I can tell from the map, this shouldn't be too far from the show site. Evidently that is a busy weekend in Holland, because some of the hotels are already booked.

The State Directors' meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on the 14th, with the Executive Committee meeting immediately following. Officers and committee chairs, please let me know if you plan to attend this meeting. As always, we must have a quorum to conduct business.

## DEADLINE CALENDAR

**Scholarship Honoree:** Nominations for the honoree, who selects the college to which two MWF Scholarships will be presented, are due **Nov. 15, 2019**.

**AFMS Video/Slide Program Contest:** Entries in the contest, which offers cash prizes, are due **Nov. 15, 2019**. See article on page 4.

**All American Club Awards:** Entries are due to the MWF program on **Feb. 1, 2020**. The AFMS awards program deadline is March 1, 2020.



## CASH PRIZES OFFERED IN AFMS PROGRAM COMPETITION

Cindy Root, MWF Program Competition Chair

With all of us having cameras and cell phones that can make movies, I think that we should start filming field trips, shop techniques, and other items of interest concerning our hobby, to share with our membership. The MWF and AFMS have a Program Competition every year that anyone can enter. **This year's deadline is November 15, 2019.**

The purpose of the competition is to recognize and reward authors of presentations about the earth sciences and lapidary arts, and to make winning programs available to affiliated clubs across the country.

A \$200 cash prize will be given for the highest scoring program scoring 95 and above, and a \$100 prize for a score of 94-90 points, in Classes 1 through 4. In addition, winners receive national recognition. A copy of each winning program is given to each AFMS Regional Program Library; thus, winning programs are available to clubs across the country.

Each program is judged on its own merits. Entrants will receive a composite score sheet with comments and score. Winners may be asked to make some changes based on judges' comments before the final version is produced for duplication.

**Who May Enter:** Any club, society, or members thereof, with 2019 dues paid to the AFMS, may enter. Entry form and "Tips for Good Programs" are available on AFMS website ([www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)).

**How and What to Enter:** All digital presentations or videos relating to the earth sciences and lapidary arts are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four following amateur classes:

Class I, Educational - About geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.

Class II, Field Collecting - Showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.

Class III, "How to Do It" – Techniques / equipment for fossil preparation, jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.

Class IV, Just for Juniors - Any of the above for or by youngsters.

Commercial presentations are judged separately, in the "Excellence in Education" Class.

The entry form, as well as tips for developing good programs in various formats, is available on the AFMS website, [amfed.org](http://amfed.org). Click on "Downloads," then go to the AFMS Program Competition page.

### Judges look for:

1. accuracy of information / educational value;
2. quality of photographs and visuals;
3. completeness of story, but not "too much" information;
4. narration that moves well from one image to the next;
5. presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas and techniques which viewers may try;
6. title, credits and "The End" slides for CD, DVD or video entries.

**Format:** For CD, DVD or video amateur entries, do not send in a DVD format for judging. Submit a copy, preferably in PowerPoint or similar format, on a flash drive instead of CD, without author's credits, for anonymity. Entries may be live action or static slides. Integrated audio is preferred but not required for judging (audio will be added for final version). Please include a typed script if there is no audio.

35-mm slide presentations can be considered. Please contact me at [d-root@comcast.net](mailto:d-root@comcast.net) before submission.

**Reproduction/Duplication:** By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate / transfer their entry to DVD format for the Regional Libraries. Flash drives will be returned after

*(Continued on page 5)*



## LAKE SUPERIOR “ROCKS WITH THE POX” AREN’T CONTAGIOUS

Dr. Bill Cordua, Geology Committee Chair

Agate pickers often encounter a rock that looks as though it has the measles or chicken pox. It’s not mysterious – it is a rock well known in the Lake Superior region, and goes by the name “ophitic basalt.” As is true for most rocks, it has a neat story to tell.



*Ophitic basalt from glacial drift. Photo by Dr. Bill Cordua.*

As one would suspect from the name “basalt,” it is linked to the 1.1-billion-year-old volcanic event tied to the opening of the Mid-Continent Rift. Rocks from this event are exposed along both the north and south shore of Lake Superior, extending as far south as Taylors Falls in Minnesota.

## PROGRAM COMPETITION, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 4)*

duplication. 35-mm slides will be scanned and returned to producer. Non-winning entries will be returned after AFMS Convention. Reasonable precautions will be taken to protect the program while it is in our hands.

**Entries should be sent to:**  
MWF Program Competition  
c/o Cindy Root  
1051 Meadow Lane  
Jenison, MI 49428

If you have questions, call me at 616-498-4698, or email me, [d-root@comcast.net](mailto:d-root@comcast.net).

“Ophitic” refers to the splotchy texture. The splotches are crystals of the mineral augite, a member of the pyroxene group. The augite contains many elongated inclusions of plagioclase feldspar. It is also generally altered to secondary minerals such as chlorite and actinolite, due to heat during the lava flows’ burial deep in a pile of warm volcanic rocks.

The term “ophitic” was first used way back in 1798 by French geologist Abbe Pelassou, who was studying volcanic rocks in the Pyrenees. The word comes from the Greek “ophis” meaning “snake,” because Pelassou felt the rocks resembled the skin of a snake. The term was later refined by other geologists to describe the unique texture described above. In most ophities the larger crystals are augite, but in a few cases they are olivine.

In the 1800’s, geologists recognized rocks with this texture occurring frequently in the Lake Superior region. The massive Greenstone Flow of Isle Royale and the Keweenaw Peninsula have ophitic textures. Blocks of this material are common on the old copper mine dumps there.

Closer to the Twin Cities, lava flows exposed at the overlook on Highway 8 just south of Taylors Falls show excellent ophitic texture, as do the outcrops along “Trap Rock Alley” inside Interstate Park. By the way, “trap rock” is a quarryman’s term for massive basalt.

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*Outcrop of ophitic basalt at the overlook on Highway 8, just south of Taylor’s Falls, Minnesota. Photo by Dr. Bill Cordua.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>August 24</b> Sat 8-4	Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Eau Claire County Expo Center on Lorch Avenue, <b>Eau Claire, WI</b>	Paul Tubbs, bizpam1@gmail.com
<b>August 24</b> Sat 10-5	Racine Geological Society	Bartlett Youth Foundation, 1120 N. Stuart Road, <b>Racine, WI</b>	John Lowman, Lowman.John@sbcglobal.com
<b>August 24-25</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Peoria Academy of Science, Geology Section	Eastside Center, 1 Eastside Drive, <b>East Peoria, IL</b>	Jim Travis, boatnick@aol.com
<b>September 6-8</b> Fri and Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis	4H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple Street, <b>Greenfield, IN</b>	Tom Odom, tomo1@hughes.net
<b>September 6-8</b> Fri 2-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club	Stranahan Theater Complex, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd., <b>Toledo, OH</b>	Stephen Shimatzki, sjs132@gmail.com
<b>September 13-15</b> Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club	The Soccer Stop, 5 River Hills Drive, <b>Holland, MI</b>	Sue Goedert, sonbeams2000@yahoo.com
<b>September 14</b> Sat 9:30-4	Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Odd Fellows Lodge, 6219 Forest Hills, <b>Rockford, IL</b>	Duane Cushing, tcdc78@comcast.net
<b>September 20-22</b> Fri and Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Mozarkite Society of Lincoln	Mike Hare Memorial Field, under the water tower, <b>Lincoln, MO</b>	Karl David Parsons, mozarkiterocks@gmail.com
<b>September 21-22</b> Sat 9-7, Sun 9-3	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society rock auction	Marten Building, Amana RV Park, 39 38 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, <b>Amana, IL</b>	Marv Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
<b>September 21-22</b> Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4	Livingston Gem & Mineral Society	Hartland Schools Service Center, 9525 Highland Road, <b>Howell, MI</b>	Ed Oller, edleathercraft@gmail.com
<b>September 27-29</b> Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin Museum, 504 Schifferdecker Ave., <b>Joplin, MO</b>	Chris Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net
<b>September 28-29</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Brown County Rock & Mineral Club	Brown County History Center, 90 E. Gould Street, <b>Nashville, IN</b>	Rhonda A. Dunn, BCRMC2010@gmail.com
<b>September 28-29</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4	Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club	Cherryland VFW Hall (Post 2780), 3400 Veterans Drive, <b>Traverse City, MI</b>	Jared Bowen, JaredJBowen@gmail.com
<b>September 28-29</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Oshkosh Earth Science Club	Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Road Y, <b>Oshkosh, WI</b>	Ann Voges, hankemps@milwpc.com
<b>October 5-6</b> Sat & Sun 9-5	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, & Geology Society	Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Drive, <b>Jacksonville, AR</b>	Lorri Norwood, ShadowBearVision@aol.com
<b>October 5-6</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (LOESS)	State Fairgrounds, Orr Building, 801 E. Sangamon Avenue, <b>Springfield, IL</b>	Ed Wagner, loesseditor@gmail.com
<b>Oct. 5-6</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society	Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, <b>Belleville, MI</b>	Bill Barr, wbarr@umich.edu



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Organization	Place	Contact
<b>October 5-6</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club	Westside Middle School, 8601 Arbor, <b>Omaha, NE</b>	Bruce Sturges, bsturges@yahoo.com
<b>October 11-13</b> Fri 9-6, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Michigan Mineralogical Society	Macomb Sports & Expo Center, Bldg. P, 14500 E. 12 Mile Road, <b>Warren, MI</b>	John Peters, joopett13@hotmail.com
<b>October 12-13</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society	First United Methodist Church Outreach Center, 3602 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, <b>Columbus, NE</b>	Greg Johnson, loupvalleynew@gmail.com
<b>October 12-13</b> Sat 10-4, Sun noon-4	Parma Lapidary Club	Parma Lapidary Club, 2130 W. 110 <sup>th</sup> , <b>Cleveland, OH</b>	Amanda Balog, parmalapidary@yahoo.com
<b>October 18-20</b> Fri 6-9, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5	Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society	Ingham County Fairgrounds, Main Arena, 700 Ash Street, <b>Mason, MI</b>	L. Roger Laylin, www.michrocks.org
<b>October 18-20</b> Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society	Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll, <b>Fort Wayne, IN</b>	Russell Greim, 3riversshow@gmail.com
<b>October 19-20</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Des Moines Lapidary Society	State Fairgrounds, Knapp Center, 33 <sup>rd</sup> Street & E. University, <b>Des Moines, IA</b>	Ken Belzer, DMLS.2019show@ DMLapidary.com
<b>October 19-20</b> Sat & Sun, 10-5	Flint Rock & Gem Club	Carter Middle School, 300 Rogers Lodge Drive, <b>Clio, MI</b>	Bill Wendling, bwrockbarn@centurytel.net
<b>October 19-20</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-5	Minnesota Mineral Club	Nat. Guard Training & Community Ctr., 8180 Belden Blvd., <b>Cottage Grove, MN</b>	Maureen Scaglia, mascaglia@comcast.net
<b>October 19-20</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30	Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society	Springfield Expo Convention Center, 333 S. John Q. Hammons, <b>Springfield, MO</b>	Larry Lillich, omgms.57@gmail.com
<b>October 19-20</b> Sat & Sun, 10-5	South Suburban Earth Science Club	Prairie State College, 202 S. Halsted St., <b>Chicago Heights, IL</b>	Jan Podbielski, Jan@Janskidesigns.com
<b>October 26</b> Sat, 9-1	St. Croix Rockhounds	Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, <b>St. Paul, MN</b>	David Rusterholz, 715-760-0479
<b>October 26-27</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5	“Gemboree” sponsored by Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club. Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Road, <b>Cuyahoga Falls, OH.</b>		Gujo Kotch, Gemboree@outlook.com
<b>October 26-27</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4	Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club	Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W. Locust Street, <b>Davenport, IA</b>	Craig or Kellie Moore, Kalsinean@gmail.com
<b>October 26-27</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Evansville Lapidary Society	C.K. Newsome Community Center, 100 E. Walnut Street, <b>Evansville, IN</b>	Sara Rappee, sarasrappee@yahoo.com
<b>November 1-3</b> Fri 3-10, Sat 9-5, Sun 9:30-3	Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History	Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, University Circle, <b>Cleveland, OH</b>	Janet Clifford, janet15clifford@gmail.com

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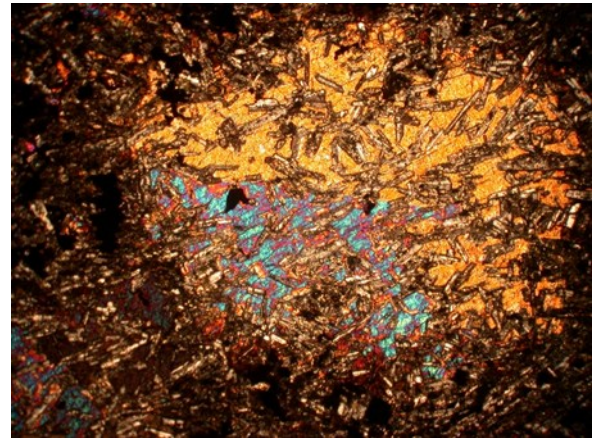
## LAKE SUPERIOR ROCKS WITH THE POX, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 5)*

How this texture forms is a matter of some importance, as it illustrates the sequence of events during the crystallization of basaltic magma. Ophitic textures are quite pretty when viewed under the microscope in thin slices. The texture shows that abundant rectangular plagioclase crystals formed first, then were engulfed by the later growth of the augite.

Apparently relatively few augite crystals were forming. When few crystals of a mineral are forming, those that do form are able to grow relatively large. The plagioclase continued to form along with the augite. This texture requires relatively slow crystallization.

Since lava flows cool at the surface, one might ask how they can show textures suggesting they cool slowly. The flows with ophitic textures are rather thick – the Greenstone Flow is locally 400 meters (1,300 feet) thick, for example. These massive outpourings of basalt can make deep lava lakes. Ophitic flows in Michigan, for example, average 33 meters (108 feet) thick, where the average thickness of all flows is 10-11 meters (32-36 feet). The tops, bottoms and edges of



*View of thinly sliced ophitic basalt from Taylor's Falls, Minnesota, as seen under the microscope using crossed polarized light. Small rectangular crystals are plagioclase feldspar. The large yellow to blue crystals are twinned augite. Field of view is about 2 mm. Photo by Dr. Bill Cordua.*

these lava ponds cool fast against the air or ground, but the centers are well insulated and can take years to solidify.