

# MWF News

Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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Member of the American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Stanforth, MWF President

*"Don't let the virus get you down,"* I keep repeating to myself. Just when I thought we were released from our "captivity," here comes DELTA.

I do have great news to report. I so enjoyed my trip to the AFMS Convention in Wyoming. Thanks to the continual kindness of JC and Donna Moore, I had an amazing week of networking with AFMS folks (especially President Judy Beck) and hunting for petrified wood and fossil fish.



Huge kudos to the Sublette County Rock Hound leader Jim Gray and field trip organizer Doug True. Your MWF Officers Catherine Clevenz and Sandy Fuller were there to represent your Federation.

I'm terribly excited about our MWF Convention to be held Sept. 10-12 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Bowling Green, Ohio, hosted by the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club. The convention will be held in conjunction with the Toledo club's annual show at

*(Continued on page 2)*

## REMEMBER BOWLING GREEN!

Valerie J. Meyers, Editor

. . . Bowling Green, Ohio, that is, where the MWF annual convention will be held Sept. 10-12<sup>th</sup>. The convention and the awards banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites. Delegates vote on MWF policies that can affect clubs, so make your club's voice heard.

Make your hotel reservation very soon, since the popular Black Swamp Arts Festival will be in town! Call the hotel directly, 419-353-5500, and say you're with the MWF; some of the discounted rooms the hotel blocked off for the club may still be available.

The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club will be presenting its annual rock show at the same time. It will be held at the Pratt Pavilion of Wood County Fairgrounds in Bowling Green. For information about convention or show, call Jerri Heer, 419-344-9999.

Go to the MWF website and click on "Convention," then "Calendar of Events" for the schedule. In the same way, you will find forms to register to attend the convention (including your food choices), to be listed as a delegate from your club, and to enter an exhibit in the show.

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**VACATIONING? SEE MINERAL MUSEUMS!**

Eric Fritsch, Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club  
From the April, 2021 Pick & Shovel  
of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club

This is the time of year when people are thinking about vacations. Practically anywhere you travel you can find museums; however, this list is meant to show you where you can find some of my favorite mineral museums. If you find yourself visiting one of these areas, you might want to carve aside a couple hours or more to visit these impressive displays.

This isn't intended to be an all-inclusive list of mineral museums, but a helpful aid. Many cities, colleges, and even local museums may have small displays of minerals.

**1. Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History ([naturalhistory.si.edu](http://naturalhistory.si.edu)).** This is one of the great museums of the world, located in Washington, D.C. It is actually a series of buildings and museums with the natural history museum housing the minerals. It is home to some of the most iconic specimens in the world. I've been to this museum a half-dozen times and always want to return. D.C. is a great destination for a vacation and, with subways, it is an easy city to get around in.

**2. American Museum of Natural History ([amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent](http://amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent)).** This museum, located in New York City, has recently undergone an upgrade to its displays. It is a major metropolitan

*(Continued on page 4)*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 1)*

the Wood County Fairgrounds Pavilion, also in Bowling Green. I hope to see a lot of MWF members in attendance. I promise that the executive and delegate meetings will be full of fun and surprises. So get your registrations in ASAP (deadline August 25<sup>th</sup>).

And don't forget the E-Bear auction during the Saturday Night awards banquet! The winner of the auction, which raises funds for the MWF Endowment Fund, gets to take E-Bear home for a whole year and introduce him around his or her hometown. As you can see from the photo, I'm fond of the little guy, so I plan to win the auction no matter what it costs me. So there, David Rich.



*Photo taken by my neighbor, Mary Jo Nelson.*

Our 1<sup>st</sup> VP Catherine Clevenz has been busily arranging for this year's Scholarship Honoree, and the students he chose to receive scholarships, to attend our Saturday night banquet. There was an article about the Honoree, Joshua Mathews, in the June issue of MWF News; there's an article about his scholarship recipients in this issue. It's so very exciting to hear from them about their work. SCIENCE!!!

Our scholarship program, in my mind, is the most important work that MWF/AFMS does. I need to remind you to send your personal/club donations, payable to AFMS Scholarship Foundation, to our Scholarship Chairperson, Marge Collins. Her address is 3017 Niles-Buchanan Road, Buchanan, MI 49107. Contact Marge with any questions by phone, 269-695-4313, or by email, [margekcollins@yahoo.com](mailto:margekcollins@yahoo.com). As we lose rock friends, a memorial in their names is a wonderful tribute, don't you think? All the scholarship info is in the green pages of your directory. Thank you for your generosity.

## 2021 MWF GRANT RECIPIENTS STUDY SUBSURFACE GEOLOGY AND ELEPHANT BIRDS

Catherine Clevenz, MWF 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Joshua Mathews, chosen to be the MWF's 2021 Scholarship Honoree, has chosen the two students from the MWF area who will receive grants from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' Scholarship Foundation. The students are Elizabeth Lester and Michael Sell.

Elizabeth Lester is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Biological Sciences at Northern Illinois University. She earned bachelor's degrees in earth sciences and evolution from Ohio State University in 2017, then a master's degree in biological sciences from Marshall University in West Virginia in 2019, researching Antarctic plesiosaurs.

Her current research focuses on elephant birds' diet and histology. She works as a lab supervisor in the university's Karen Samonds Lab while pursuing her degree.



*Photo of Elizabeth Lester from the Lab Members page of sadabe.com.*

Michael Sell is a second-year graduate student enrolled in the hydrogeology program at Illinois State University. He received a B.A. degree in geology at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. For his master's thesis Illinois State, he is studying the Pennsylvanian stratigraphy in Central Illinois. In this project, he will use 3-D modeling to understand the structure and stratigraphy near Lexington, Illinois using a program called Petrel.

In addition to the 3-D modeling aspect, he is creating a 1:24,000 scale surficial map of the

Lexington 7.5-minute quadrangle. This project will provide useful information to the city about the subsurface geology and surficial deposits of the area, as residents primarily use groundwater for everyday purposes.

The Scholarship Honoree who chose these students, Joshua Mathews, is the Engelhardt-Moore Director of Paleontology at the Burpee Museum and a Ph.D. candidate in biological sciences at Northern Illinois University. His selection was announced earlier this year, and an article about him was published in the June issue of MWF News.

Six of the seven regional federations of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies take part in the AFMS' Scholarship Foundation program. Each federation receives nominees from its member clubs, then chooses a Scholarship Honoree (an individual or couple) who has given outstanding service to the rockhound community, through service to a club or in the professional world.

The Honoree then chooses two students, each of whom receives (at this time) a one-year \$4,000 grant. As of January 30, 2020, the Midwest Federation had given more than \$236,000 in grants.

Nominations for the 2022 Scholarship Honoree are now being taken. For information, contact MWF 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Debbie Hamilton at [pleasedonteatherocks@gmail.com](mailto:pleasedonteatherocks@gmail.com).

### DEADLINE CALENDAR

**Early hotel registration** is strongly 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, contact Bulletin Editors Committee Chair Sharon Marburger, [mamamar7880@outlook.com](mailto:mamamar7880@outlook.com).

**Rockhound of the Year Awards** presented by MWF clubs to valued members may be submitted at any time for certificates and a mention in the MWF News. Contact Steve Shimatzki, [sjs132@gmail.com](mailto:sjs132@gmail.com).



## VACATIONING? SEE MINERAL MUSEUMS (AND ALLOW A COUPLE OF HOURS), CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

museum, and other displays will keep you interested along with the minerals. The mines and museum ([franklinmineralmuseum.com](http://franklinmineralmuseum.com)) at Franklin, New Jersey are also nearby.

**3. Mineralogical and Geological Museum at Harvard University ([mgmh.fas.harvard.edu](http://mgmh.fas.harvard.edu)).** This is a great college museum and there are a lot of other things to do and see in and around Boston. The museum display is in old wooden cases and is one of the earliest collections in the United States.

**4. Maine Mineral Museum ([mainemineralmuseum.org](http://mainemineralmuseum.org)).** This is a new museum and I haven't been there yet. It was opened in late 2020, had some flooding issues, then reopened in 2021 and had to shut down due to COVID. It is privately funded and is located in Bethel, Maine. The collection of local material is fabulous and it has a great meteorite collection as well. I am hoping to get there in the next couple of years as a destination vacation.

**5. Royal Ontario Museum (See the Teck Suite of Galleries at [rom.on.ca/en/exhibitions-galleries/galleries/natural-history](http://rom.on.ca/en/exhibitions-galleries/galleries/natural-history)).** This is a museum at which I spent lots of time as a kid. Whenever my father traveled for work to New York City, Washington D.C., or Toronto, I'd tag along. When he went to work, I'd figure out the local bus, train, or subway system and visit the mineralogical museums.

The ROM has a great display and the last time I was up there, they had recently upgraded their exhibits. It is now perhaps the best displayed mineralogical museum. Toronto is a great city to visit.

**6. Canadian Museum of Nature ([nature.ca/en/research-collections/collections/minerals](http://nature.ca/en/research-collections/collections/minerals)).** This museum bought Bill Pinch's collection of minerals and merged it with their own collection to make a wonderful display. Ottawa is the national capitol of Canada and borders Quebec, so it has an international feel. It is kind of hard to get to, but a great place to visit.

**7. A.E. Seaman Mineralogical Museum ([museum.mtu.edu](http://museum.mtu.edu)).** This college collection is located far north in the Keweenaw Peninsula, in Houghton, Michigan. It is hard to get to, but well worth the visit. I've been to this museum several times and about four

years ago, they moved the exhibit to a freestanding building on campus.



*Seaman Mineralogical Museum specimen of variscite, crandallite, and wardite from Clay Canyon, Fairfield, Utah. Photo from the Specimen Picture Gallery at [museum.mtu.edu/collections/aesmm-collection/gallery](http://museum.mtu.edu/collections/aesmm-collection/gallery).*

**8. Carnegie Museum of Natural History ([carnegiemnh.org](http://carnegiemnh.org)).** This is one of about three or four museums I haven't been to on this list, despite it being close to where I grew up. I just never had a chance to visit Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Perhaps one of these days I'll visit it, but I hear it has a great mineral collection.

**9. Museum of Geology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology ([sdsmt.edu/Academics/Museum-of-Geology](http://sdsmt.edu/Academics/Museum-of-Geology)).** Located in Rapid City, South Dakota, this collection started as ore specimens to teach miners and engineers. I worked there for about 10 years and it isn't as fancy as some of the other museums on this list, but it is a nice collection. The Black Hills is a special place to visit.

**10. Montana Tech Mineral Museum ([mbmg.mtech.edu/mineralmuseum](http://mbmg.mtech.edu/mineralmuseum)).** Another mining college collection, this one located in Butte, Montana.

**11. Colorado School of Mines Museum of the Earth ([mines.edu](http://mines.edu) / [museumofearthscience](http://museumofearthscience)).** This is the premier mining college mineral museum. It's located in Golden, Colorado, just a few miles west of Denver. The collection is well cared for, funded, and up to date.

(Continued on page 5)

**VACATIONING? SEE MINERAL MUSEUMS (AND ALLOW A COUPLE OF HOURS), CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 4)*

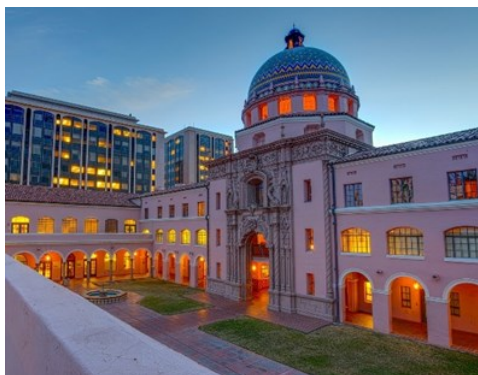
**12. Denver Museum of Nature and Science (dmns.org).** Located in Denver, Colorado, this municipal museum is well worth the admission charge to see the Alma King, the reconstructed rhodochrosite pocket, or the gold vault. Denver is a fun city to vacation in.

**13. New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources Mineral Museum (geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum).** Located on the campus of New Mexico Tech in Socorro, New Mexico, this is another mining-college collection. They've recently undergone a renovation and are constantly adding new specimens. They host a popular mineral symposium in November each year.

**14. The Perot Museum Lyda Hill Gems and Mineral Hall (perotmuseum.org/exhibits-and-films/permanent-exhibit-halls/lyda-hill-gems-and-minerals-hall).** Ross Perot left money to establish this municipal museum in Dallas, Texas. Lyda Hill and others donated specimens and finances to support this section of the museum.

**15. Houston Museum of Natural History (hmns.org).** I haven't been to this museum, but it is on my bucket list. I've heard extraordinary things about the mineral collection, some of which was purchased by T. Boone Pickens, an eccentric oil tycoon.

**16. Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum (gemandmineralmuseum.arizona.edu).** This exhibit opened recently. I've visited the University of Arizona collection several times and this collection, along with new pieces, graces the former Pima County Court House in a new museum in downtown Tucson.



*Site of the Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum.  
Photo fromo gemandmineralmuseum.arizona.edu.*

**17. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (nhm.org/experience-nhm/exhibitions-natural-historymuseum/gem-and-mineral-hall).** This is a great collection that is often overlooked when people visit Los Angeles. I once flew out to this museum with my girlfriend (now wife) to see the collection and returned the same day – I was working for an airline at the time and could fly for free. This collection houses an impressive gem, gold, and California collection.

**18. Keck Earth Science and Mining Museum (unr.edu/mackay/keck-museum).** This is another mineral museum that I haven't visited, but have heard great things. Located on the University of Nevada at Reno campus, this collection also inspired miners and engineers to examine minerals that they were mining. Lake Tahoe is nearby, and gambling is legal in Reno.

**19. Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals (ricenorthwestmuseum.org).** This collection is located in the house owned by the collector in Hillsboro, Oregon (just west of Portland, Oregon). It has many nice zeolite specimens collected in the area. A good stop on your way down to the Oregon coast.

There are many other museums and displays to check out. I've heard great things about the University of Delaware; Tellus Museum (Cartersville, Georgia); James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Virginia); Yale (Peabody Museum); and elsewhere. Sadly, some museums tend to think of their collections as stagnant and push minerals aside. I encourage everyone to visit mineralogical museums and take some time to appreciate the things we collect. Check the museums' websites for their hours, days open, parking, admissions, and other information.

Currently, some of these museums are closed due to COVID, but we expect them to reopen soon. Estimates are that perhaps one-third of museums that closed during COVID may not recover and will close permanently. Support your local museum.

*October Issue Submission  
Deadline Is September 8th!*

## 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
<b>Aug. 21</b> Sat, 10-5	Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society rock swap	Dunham Sports parking lot, 5601 US 10 E, <b>Stevens Point, WI</b>	Sandy Brandl, stonez@tds.net
<b>Aug. 28</b> Sat 10-5	Racine Geological Society sale and swap	Bartlett Youth Foundation, 1120 N. Stuart Road, <b>Mt. Pleasant, WI</b>	John Lowman, 262-989-9193
<b>Aug. 28-29</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5	Peoria Academy of Sciences (PAS) Geology	East Side Center, 1 Eastside Drive, <b>East Peoria, IL</b>	Jim Travis, boatnick@aol.com
<b>Sept. 10-12</b> Fri 10-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis	County Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple St., <b>Greenfield, IN</b>	Tom Odom, tomodom65@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 10-12</b> Fri noon-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5 <i>(The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club is the host of the MWF annual convention, which will be held in conjunction with the show.)</i>	Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club	Pavilion, County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Road, <b>Bowling Green, OH</b>	Jerri Heer, jheerx6@aol.com
<b>Sept. 11</b> Sat, 9-3	Coulee Rock Club of LaCrosse rock swap	Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, <b>Onalaska, WI</b>	Apryl Denny, aldenny@viterbo.edu
<b>Sept. 17-19</b> Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Mozarkite Society of Lincoln	Mike Hare Memorial Field, under the water tower, <b>Lincoln, MO</b>	John "Kelly" Blum, 816-835-2044
<b>Sept. 17-19</b> Fri 3-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5	Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club	Soccer Stop Sportsplex, 5 River Hills Drive, <b>Holland, MI</b>	Sue Goedert, sonbeams2000@yahoo.com
<b>Sept. 18</b> Sat, 9:30-3:30	Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society rock swap	Odd Fellows Lodge, 6219 Forest Hills Road, <b>Rockford, IL</b>	Duane Cushing, RRVGMS@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 18-19</b> Sat 9-8, Sun 9-3	Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society rock auction	Amana RV Park, 39 38 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, <b>Amana, IA</b>	Marvin Houg, m_houg@yahoo.com
<b>Sept. 24-26</b> Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3	Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society	Joplin Historical & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker, <b>Joplin, MO</b>	Christopher Wiseman, jmc-cwiseman@ sbcglobal.net
<b>Sept. 25-26</b> Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4	Brown County Rock & Mineral Club	Brown County History Center, 90 E. Gould Street, <b>Nashville, IN</b>	Rhonda A. Dunn, BCRM2010@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 25-26</b> Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4	Minnesota Mineral Club	State Fairgrounds, Dairy Building, 1694 Judson, <b>Falcon Heights, MN</b>	Earl Netwal, enetwal@gmail.com
<b>Sept. 25-26</b> Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4	Oshkosh Earth Science Club	Sunnyview Exposition Center, 500 E. County Road Y, <b>Oshkosh, WI</b>	Bob Fox, foxbooks@att.net



## SEEMINGLY UNIMPORTANT DECISIONS CAN HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES

Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, NE  
From the May, 2021 Pick & Shovel

Sometimes seemingly unimportant decisions can have VERY important consequences. Such was the case with my choice for what to carry my "finds" in when I go rock collecting.

For many years, I used a military-style canvas satchel with a long strap that I slung over my shoulder (see picture #1). The satchel can hold lots of material. I carried bison skulls, large megafauna fossils, and maybe 40 pounds of agate, petrified wood, and so on. It also had pockets for water, phone, insect repellent, and whatever else I wanted to keep separate. Using my gem scoop in one hand, I could pick up specimens and with the other, slip them into the bag. It was very convenient.

Many of my friends would use a backpack or sack. A sack requires one hand to carry it, making it rather inefficient. A backpack is nice because it spreads the weight evenly across both shoulders. Backpacks can carry a pretty good load, but the problem is, you have to stop and remove the back pack to put things in it. This slows me down too much.



*Picture 1: Satchel modeled by Willow. Photo courtesy of Charles Wooldridge.*

So the satchel was a pretty good solution, right? Well, here comes the rub.

While traveling in Morocco in November of 2019, I suddenly collapsed. It just seemed to come out of nowhere. I didn't pass out, I vividly watched the ground come up and meet my face. I had just lost

control of my body. Fortunately, a midwife was nearby. She helped me sit up, gave me some water with chlorophyll and put powdered chlorophyll on my scrapes and abrasions. When I stood up, I seemed just fine.

Later in December I started to get strange symptoms in all of my limbs, especially my right arm, which felt like it was submerged in ice water. It was very painful and unrelenting. Eventually the V.A. sent me to a top neurosurgeon at the Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Thorell said I needed immediate emergency surgery. So, in the middle of the pandemic, I found myself having neurosurgery on my neck. It seems my 3rd and 4th cervical vertebrae had shifted 5mm and were crimping my spinal cord. The doctor said if I hadn't had the surgery to stabilize my neck, I would have become a quadriplegic.

I had to sell my motorcycle, and I still have some pain and dexterity issues with my right hand, but I can rockhound! It seems all those years of carrying heavy loads in that satchel was a very important decision!

Now for the good news. I have discovered an efficient way to carry my "treasures" safely. I now use a turkey-hunting vest (see picture #2). It has pockets on both sides in the front, a smaller pocket for my phone, and the back is a large pocket to hold a turkey or a bison skull. I can carry just as much as before, but it is spreading the weight evenly across my shoulders without crimping my neck.

Sometimes you have to learn lessons the hard way!

*Picture 2: Turkey-hunting vest modeled by Willow. Photo courtesy of Charles Wooldridge.*



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**PEARLY PREHNITE CAN BE FOUND FROM AUSTRALIA TO MICHIGAN**

Elena Lorenz (Junior Member)  
Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club (MI)  
From the February, 2021 Arrowhead News

Have you ever found a rock that looks like it's granite? Well, it could be prehnite, and then it would be a mineral, not a rock.

Prehnite is a mineral, occurring in light-green color with many round crystals. The luster of prehnite is vitreous, or pearly. The streak of this mineral is white. Prehnite is usually green but can be pink. The hardness level of prehnite is 6 to 6.5. The cleavage of prehnite is distinct [001]. The mineral composition is  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$ .

Colonel H. Von Prehn discovered prehnite in 1788, at the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. IMR&MC member Don VanDyke found my sample of prehnite on Thomsonite Hill, in Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan.

Prehnite is a mixture of calcium and aluminum. The crystal form of prehnite is globular or spherical and reforms to stalactitical or cone shaped. It is green and is often found on other stones, and you ruin the

specimen by trying to break it off. Shaping and polishing a prehnite specimen is easy, but requires a large machine. It is not easily broken, except with a machine or a chisel and hammer.



*Prehnite photo from Elena Lorenz.*

Prehnite ranges in color from brown, yellow and orange to greens and teals or even pinks. My prehnite specimen is teal green with a little yellowish color. Prehnite is most common in Australia, and some of the best specimens were found in Prospect and Mullaley, New South Wales. It is a wonderful gemstone, found almost all over the world.

Bibliography:  
"Prehnite", Wikipedia; January 23: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehnite>  
"Prehnite", Mindat; January 23: <https://www.mindat.org/min-3277.html>