

ROCK CHATTER

Published by West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral
Club of Macomb, Illinois
Member of AFMS, MWF, and GESCI

Objective: To promote interest and education in
Earth Sciences and all related fields.
Volume 22, Bulletin 2, March 2018

Almost Show Time
Monday, March 5, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church, Macomb

ALLUVIUM - March, 2018

Finally! After two weather related cancellations, we had our first meeting of 2018 on February 12th and it was much needed with this year's show fast approaching.

Members who attended received signs for the show to post, a bit of business was discussed (including the possibility of getting shirts for the club prior to the show or shortly thereafter), and a few changes for upcoming club meeting activities that we can continue discussing in March.

A group of members met on the Friday following the meeting and set up some displays around Macomb businesses to bring attention to the upcoming show. Keep an eye open as you are out and about.

Donna and JC have more flier signs-if you need some or more, contact them and see if they can arrange to get them to you so they can be put up. Area schools are being covered by our members-thank you to all who do this!

Our club display will feature fossils this year (no, not me). If you have material to add to the display, bring it out to the show during set up on Friday and please have all the labeling information with it. If it goes in the club case, it will be there for the duration of the show.

As always we need everyone's help as much as possible on show weekend so plan on spending some quality or quantity-time with us!

Bring any material needing identified to our meeting on the 5th along with any items you might want help setting values on that are going to silent auction and we will try to get you set.

As I write this on February 23, the cold that has been teasing me since Monday has gone in to full kma mode so I am out for the weekend as far as much of anything. Las Vegas Open disc golf tournament on the computer will likely be my only time spent out of either bed or the easy chair. Hope everyone else is healthy, but I need to recover...

See you all on the 5th of March at Trinity Lutheran at 6pm. Last meeting before the show!!

Rob



News from the American Federation

The Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club in Raleigh, North Carolina is hosting the AFMS Conventin on April 6-8, 2018. The AFMS Meetings will be held on Thursday, April 5, the banquet will be Saturday, April 7. Monday, April 9, a field trip to a fee mine at Hiddenite will be held for several minerals including emeralds. The fee is \$20 per person.

In 2019, the MWF hosts the AFMS in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on March 16-17, 2019, in conjunction with the MWF Convention and the Cedar Valley show.



News from the Midwest Federation

The MWF spring meeting of the executive committee is being hosted by the Kalamazoo Geological and Mineralogical Society, Kalamazoo, Michigan, on May 5. This club puts on a really nice show. So even if you don't plan to go to the meeting, you could still visit the show.

The 2018 MWF Convention will be hosted by LOESS in Springfield, Illinois, October 5-6, 2018. We hope to see good attendance. Plans are being made for a special field trip to Funk's Prairie Home and Mineral Museum as



News from Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc.

The theme for the 2018 Geodeland Show is Fossils. Be keeping an eye out for some different or striking fossils that could be used in our club case for the show. We will put it together on Friday night, March 9.

Also, pencil in the dates on your calendar, so you can help with set up, the show and take down. Dates are March 10-11, 2018.

On Friday, March 9, we will start covering tables with sheets at 1:00 p.m. We can use help for this. On Sunday night, we will need help with tear down starting shortly after 5:00 p.m. Should be done before 9:00 p.m.

Geology Museum in Tillman Hall will be open on Saturday.

2018 SHOW CALENDAR

March 2018

2-4: RICHMOND, IN Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society Annual Show. Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 4 pm. Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd., Richmond.

3-4: LIVONIA, MI The Roamin Club Auction. Sat 11 am - 6 pm; Sun 12 noon - 6 pm. Schoolcraft Community College, 18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia.

9-11: KANSAS CITY, MO Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City Annual Show. Fri 10 am - 8 pm; Sat 10 am - 7 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador Dr., Kansas City.

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10: SKOKIE, IL Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society Annual Silent Auction. 6 - 9 pm. St. Peter's United Church of Christ Gym, 8013 Laramie, Skokie.

10-11: MACOMB, IL Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc. Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Western Illinois University Student Union Ballroom, Murray Street, Macomb.

10-11: WEST BEND, WI Kettle Moraine Geological Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Washington County Fair Park & Convention Center, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bend.

11: LINCOLN, NE Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Geology Day. 1 pm - 4 pm. Pioneer Park, Codrington & West Van Dorn, Lincoln.

23-24: CEDAR RAPIDS, IA Cedar Valley Rocks & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 8:30 am - 6 pm; Sun 9:30 am - 5 pm. Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 - 6th St., SW, Cedar Rapids.

23-25: BRIDGETON, MO Rock Hobby Club Annual Show. Fri 4 - 8 pm; Sat 10 am - 7 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Machinist Auditorium, 12365 St. Charles Rock Rd., Bridgeton

24-25: WHEATON, IL Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton.

24-25: JANESVILLE, WI Badger Lapidary & Geological Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 9 am - 4 pm. Craig Center Building, Rock County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Ave, Janesville.

31: WOODBURY, MN St. Croix Rockhounds Annual Show. 9 am - 2 pm. Valley Creek Mall, Weir Dr. & Valley

Creek Rd., Woodbury.

April 2018

5-7: WYOMING, MI Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show. Thurs & Fri 9:30 am - 9 pm. Sat 9:30 am - 7 pm. Roger's Plaza Town Center, 28th & Clyde Park.

7: LOVES PARK, IL Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society Open House. 10 am - 3 pm. North Suburban Library, 6340 N2d St., Loves Park.

7-8: LINCOLN, NE Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln.

7-8: DES PLAINES, IL Des Plaines Valley Geological Society Annual Show. Sat 9:30 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St., Des Plaines.

7-8: CANTON, OH Stark County Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave, Canton.

14-15: DECATUR, IL Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Lester Building, Progress City, 4140 E 2nd Progress St., Decatur.

14-15: MARION, IL Southern Illinois Earth Science Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Pavilion of the City of Marion, 1602 Sioux Dr., Marion.

15: WATERLOO, IA Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. 11 am - 5 pm. Waterloo Center for the Arts, 225 Commercial St., Waterloo

21-22: EAU CLAIRE, WI Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Eau Claire Expo Center, Lorch Ave, Eau Claire.

21-22: CANTON, IL Fulton County Rockhounds Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Donnelson Center @ Wallace Park, 250 South Avenue D, Canton.

28-29: CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH Summit Lapidary Club Semi-Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Emidio and Sons Expo Center, 48 East Bath Rd., Cuyahoga Falls.

28-29: TROY, OH Miami County Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Miami County Fairgrounds-Duke Lundgard Building, North County Rd. 25-A, Troy.

28-29: FT. DODGE, IA River Valley Rockhounds Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 11 am - 4 pm. Webster County Fairgrounds, 22770 Old Highway 169, Ft. Dodge 50501

Guide to Gem Show Display Case Design

Submitted to the Pick & Shovel, February 2018

by Jim Marburger, excerpted by Sharon Marburger

Information excerpted from Brandy Zzyzx's "Best Practices Guide to Gem Show Display Case Design." Full blog post can be found at <http://wheretofindrocks.com/best-practices-guide-to-gem-show-display-case-design/>

◆ Pick a Theme or Statement of Purpose for your display case.

What is the purpose for displaying my collection?

Answer 1: To showcase my collection of rocks & minerals.

In some instances the display case may be on a theme, such as minerals all the same size, all specimens from the same locality, or all the same type of mineral. Traditional display cases usually have very little, if any signage except for specimen labels, because the rocks, crystals, or gems are the main focus of the display.

Answer 2: To teach the people about rocks & minerals.

Display cases that are educational in nature can be scientific and technical in nature; or can contain a detailed timeline of the operations of particular locations or discovery history of a specific mineral type, including signs, graphs, charts, photos, and labels.

Answer 3: To share my experiences with rocks & minerals.

Display cases related to rocks and minerals but are telling a story or relaying a feeling or memory, are very different from the displays around them. These displays can contain someone's art, craft, or other creative endeavors; or be a memorial of photos and specimens of a departed collector or of a closed collecting location. This type of case is quite important as it can offer stories and history of our collective past that would be forgotten if not shared.

◆ Plan and execute the actual design and presentation of your display case.

The most visually appealing displays are ones that utilize all 3 dimensions; length, width, and height. In order to take full advantage of the entire volume of a display case; risers, pedestals, and other display accessories are used to not only provide height, but to assist in the viewing of all specimens equally.

For specimens of mixed sizes, place larger specimens in the back or on the sides of the display and alternate the spacing between rows to ensure optimal viewing of each specimen. Signs and photos can be used to add height to an otherwise empty display.

Select a case liner in a color that will showcase your specimens the best. For instance, if you are displaying a case of white or clear specimens, choose a dark colored

background material to provide visual contrast. Neutral or natural colors are preferred for backgrounds, stands, and other non-specimen display items. However, a monochromatic color scheme, like a pink background for a case of hot pink rhodochrosite specimens, can also be visually appealing. When considering color, remember that this element will change how your specimens and your overall display is perceived by viewers. Creative, but tasteful, use of color can enhance your display in some instances, but keep in mind, "less is more."

Use of cardboard, foam core, or wood cut to size and covered in fabric, secured in place by duct or masking tape, are best for back and side case inserts. The best fabrics to use are cotton, blends, suede, canvas, muslin, and flannel. Iron your fabric before securing it to the background board. Stands and risers can be made of wood, plastic, Styrofoam, Foam core, or cardboard. Paint or cover with fabric to enhance the display or to create a custom effect.

◆ Make sure your rocks and minerals are display ready.

Always display full, terminated crystals facing the viewer. Broken crystals should face toward the back or bottom when all possible.

Clean any dust or dirt from your minerals and rocks prior to displaying them.

Mount small specimens on stands or bases securely. Test under shaking and heat to ensure effectiveness of the mount.

Label your display. Use a clean, simple, font that is easy to read, and consistent throughout your display.

◆ Practice, Prepare, Pack, Present

Pay attention to the details, this is what will make or break the successful execution of your display.

Double check the spelling and grammar on all labels and signs.

Make sure dirt, dust, stains, or hair is removed from all fabric.

Check all mountings for stability and adhesion.

Do a practice set-up of your display case and see if all your specimens are clearly visible.

Take a photo of your practice display to use as a reference for real display day.

Bring all tools and accessories you may need to set up your display case.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Be sure to look up and follow the AFMS Uniform Rules if you plan to enter your display into competition.

**Hope to see everyone
at the Geodeland Earth
Science Clubs, Inc.
Rock and Mineral Show**

March 10-11, 2018

**Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5
WIU Student Union Ballroom**

**WIU Geology Museum
at Tillman Hall
will be open 9-4 on Saturday.**

ROCK CHATTER PUBLICATION
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All numbers are in 309 area code.

Meetings

The first Monday of each month (except September, which is the second Monday) at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 123 S. Campbell St., Macomb at 6:00 p.m. (Oct. - March). April through September meetings at 7:00 p.m. May meeting is usually held at Western Illinois University. Call Rob or Donna if you are concerned about weather related cancellations or have other questions about meetings.

Dues (per year)

Individual	\$10.00
Family or individual sponsoring juniors	\$15.00