

# ROCK TRAILS



## **Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society**

VOLUME 58  
ISSUE I  
JANUARY 2018

### **2018 Officers and Directors**

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President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310  
Secretary: Heidi Storehalder, 419 261-6451  
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123  
Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
First Year Director: Kurt Miller, (419) 923-2090  
Second Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971  
Third Year Director: Carl Mulholland, 517 539-2037  
Show Chairman: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Co-Show Chair: Glenda Gafner, (517) 451-2079  
Publicity: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
Sunshine & Membership: Jan Hauter, Judy Snyder, Shirley  
McGovern, and Nance Clarke  
Library: Kurt and Linda Miller.  
Education & Lapidary:  
Frank Karmic 517 458-7191  
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Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month  
at 2:00 PM  
at 201 W. Main St., Morenci, MI 49256

## *Secretary's Scoop*

The December 3, 2017 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 2:15 by president Sherm. Richard B. gave the invocation, followed by member participation with the pledge of allegiance.

**Secretary's report:** Doris made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Phyllis and passed with member approval.

**Treasurer's report:** Doris reported that the check she mailed to Nexicom apparently got lost in the mail since she received a call from Nexicom stating they had not received the check. She checked with the credit union about putting a stop payment order on the lost check but was told that it would cost an extra \$25.00 for the stop order. After some discussion, members thought it would not be necessary to pay for a stop order. Doris also paid for the clubhouse rent, insurance, Consumers Power, and reimbursed the sunshine committee for postage stamps and cards. Glenda made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as given, Phyllis seconded the motion which passed with an aye vote.

**Elections:** The nominating committee headed by Judy asked if there were any nominations from the floor to add to the committee's recommendations. There were none. Judy then asked each candidate if they were willing to serve in their respective positions and they all agreed. The secretary was not present at this meeting, but Judy said she had talked with her over the phone and Heidi was willing to remain as secretary. The following officers as elected by the members are as follows:

President - Sherman Kardatzke    Vice President- Glenda Gafner    Secretary- Heidi Storehalder  
Treasurer- Doris Brzezicki

1st year Director- Kurt Miller,                      2nd year Director- Jan Hauter,                      3rd year Director  
Carl Mulholland

The Library will be maintained by Kurt and Linda Miller. Sunshine and Membership will be handled by Jan Hauter, Judy Snyder, Shirley MCGovern, and Nance Clarke. The installation will take place at the January 2018 meeting. I checked with the President and he suggests that the **January 7, 2018** meeting be a **pot luck**.

Glenda officially welcomed our two new members, Sue and Linda.

**Field Trips:** Glenda stated that she has made arrangements to visit a dolomite mine in the upper peninsula. She will still need to determine the date when those who are interested will be able to go. She also highly recommended that anyone who has not taken the mine safety class (which is offered at our spring show in Wauseon Ohio) do so. The cost for the mine safety class is \$15.00 per person and an additional \$15.00 for the book. It is a good idea to let the show chairpersons know that you plan to attend so they can let Joel Vicary know how many books to bring. The classes are given in two parts, the basic safety-first aid portion and the mine awareness portion. The two parts are on Saturday of the show from 10:00 AM to 12 noon with an hour for lunch then from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. You will receive a certificate after completing the class.

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**Secretary's Scoop**

continued from page 2

Glenda reported that the **Bedford Indiana rock show** will be **June 22nd, 23rd and 24th**. If we need more geodes at that time we will be able to collect them.

Glenda was trying to nail down a time period for a trip to the Calumet area for collecting. July seemed to be pretty busy for many folks. A tentative time could be August 8th thru 10th. Let Glenda know if you plan to attend this trip and also if you want her to make reservations for places to stay. The Drummond Island is also a possibility. Glenda will check into specifics such as cost/availability of lodging and ferry transportation and scheduling.

Glenda thanked everyone who donated to Emma's Band Boosters fund for the trip to Disney.

**New Business:** Carl started a discussion regarding the club awarding of the scholarship. After several suggestions and offering of opinions, Linda Miller made a motion to offer three \$250.00 scholarship awards to deserving students, with the possibility of a fourth scholarship. Carl seconded, and the motion passed.

Linda Miller reported that Ray had a ring saw that could cut blanks out of slabs. She noted that such a saw would eliminate a lot of wear and tear on our diamond wheel grinders, since it would eliminate the need to grind off the irregular tips on blanks left by a trim saw. After some discussion showing favor for such a saw, Linda Miller made a motion to have the club purchase a diamond bladed ring saw which was seconded by Carl. The motion passed. Doris made a motion, seconded by Richard B. to amend Linda's motion to include all of Linda's motion and to add to have Sherm look into and purchase a ring saw at the best price he can find. The amendment passed.

Sherm mentioned that at a previous meeting, several months ago, it was agreed that members pay a \$2.00 fee to work on club equipment so that we could pay to maintain said equipment in good working order. he said that so far, he had not noticed that anyone was donating the \$2.00. Linda Miller suggested that a container be made available for such donations. Sherm said he would place a container and sign in the work area with funds being turned over to the treasurer at the monthly meetings.

Linda Miller made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Richard B. and passed by the members. Everyone made tracks to the room full of cookies and other goodies.

Please add the following new members to your members list.

Sue Eubank P.O. Box 62, Woodburn, IN 46797  
(260) 444-8714

[titanium.669sme@gmail.com](mailto:titanium.669sme@gmail.com)

Linda Wielfaert 12401 Holloway Rd., Deerfield, MI 49238  
(517) 447-4001

[UPTOWNWS@yahoo.com](mailto:UPTOWNWS@yahoo.com)

Respectfully submitted by Richard Brzezicki

## Fly Geyser



Fly Geyser, also known as Fly Ranch Geyser is a small geothermal geyser located on private land in Washoe County, Nevada approximately 20 miles north of Gerlach. Fly Geyser is located near the edge of Fly Reservoir in the Hualapai Geothermal Flats and is approximately 5 feet high, by 12 feet wide, counting the mound on which it sits.

The source of the Fly Geyser field's heat is attributed to a very deep pool of hot rock where tectonic rifting and faulting are common. Fly Geyser was accidentally created during well drilling in 1964 while exploring for sources of geothermal energy. The well may not have been capped correctly, or left unplugged, but either way, dissolved minerals started rising and accumulating, creating the travertine mound on which the geyser sits and continues growing. Water is constantly released, reaching 5 feet in the air. The geyser contains several terraces discharging water into 30 to 40 pools over an area of 74 acres. The geyser is made up of a series of different minerals, but its brilliant colors are due to thermophilic algae.

A prior well-drilling attempt in 1917 resulted in the creation of a geyser close to the currently active Fly Geyser; it created a pillar of calcium carbonate about 12 feet tall, but ceased when the Fly Geyser began releasing water in 1964.

Two additional geysers in the area were created in a similar way and continue to grow. The first geyser is approximately 3 feet and is shaped like a miniature volcano; the second is cone-shaped and is about 5 feet.

In June 2016, the non-profit Burning Man Project announced that they had purchased the Fly Ranch, including the geyser for \$6.5 million. The Burning Man Project is planning to provide controlled access to the property in the future and is asking for donations to move the project forward.



# Amazing Rock Trivia

from The Rock Prattle 09/2016 via 01/2018 Rockpile

- \*Tourmalines and Quartz will develop an electrical charge when heated, and tourmaline jewelry will attract dust when displayed under hot lights.
- \*There is no such thing as “Jade” - green “jade” is one of two different minerals, Jadeite or nephrite. Jadeite is the more valuable of the two. The second most valuable color of jadeite is lavender.
- \*You can dig and pan for colored gemstones such as emerald, aquamarine, moonstones, garnet, citrine, amethyst, ruby, and sapphire at Gem Mountain in Spruce Pine, NC.
- \*There is a man made brilliant white stone called moissanite, which can fool a jewelry store diamond tester. (Depending on what type tester they have).
- \*The big “ruby” in the royal crown of England is actually a red spinel.
- \*Ivory imitations are carved from corozo nuts, tagua nuts, and duom palm nuts.
- \*If allowed to sit in moist or humid conditions too long, hematite jewelry has such a high iron content it will rust.
- \*Jet, made popular for use in jewelry by Queen Victoria in the 19th century, is actually a type of fossilized coal formed 180 million years ago from trees.
- \*It takes one to three years to grow a cultured pearl (or more).
- \*Goldstone is not a stone - it is a glass containing copper powder that gives it aventurescence (quick bright flashes of light).
- \*\*“Black Onyx” is actually orange and brown sardonyx that has been dyed black, and it should be cleaned carefully to avoid removing the dye and dulling this porous quartz.
- \*Cultured pearls are made by inserting a small shell bead into an oyster or clam as an irritant, and waiting years for the shellfish to cover the bead with its luscious nacre.
- \*Amethysts can fade if exposed to too much sun.
- \*Historically, before science could tell minerals apart, all yellow stones were called “topaz.”
- \*Rubies were synthesized in the late 1800s and actually more was charged for the synthetics than for the natural rubies.
- \*Pearls, by law, must be called “cultured pearls” unless they are completely natural, and most pearls sold today are cultured.
- \*\*“Herkimer Diamonds” are actually double-terminated quartz.
- \*\*“Smokey Topaz” is not topaz - it is actually brown quartz.
- \*Radiation causes diamonds to turn green. Some diamonds are artificially (and safely) irradiated to achieve a green color - but early on, before the process was refined, some green diamonds were actually made radioactive. They are confiscated by the U.S. Government if found today. A new process has recently been developed to achieve a green color in diamonds using just pressure and heat.
- \*In ancient times, the term “sapphire” meant all blue stones, but usually it referred to lapis lazuli - which was considered the most expensive stone in the world.



Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

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M N X C H E M A T I T E W Z R
V O X R Q L T W E N E R G Y Y
T I B B C C U L T U R E D R D
S T B F A S B A L S Z L O W O
Y A W K L W R R L G A V B R L
H I X W C N R X N M I R R K O
T D W B I N R C R O T E T Q M
E A S L U J T E N C M S Y Y I
M R Q L M M H Y I K R Y J Z T
A J I G A T X N N Q K E P E E
L L D H O R O M U T C G E N T
L V G E P T E A K B N R A L L
C T G A C P R N R T E N R A G
L L F E E T A V I K D N L Y L
V Y T R Z K X S Z M J N F M M

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[www.WordSearchMaker.com](http://www.WordSearchMaker.com)

algae	ivory
amethyst	jet
calcium	minerals
cultured	onyx
dolomite	pearl
energy	quartz
garnet	radiation
geothermal	sapphire
geyser	slabs
hematite	tectonic

Answer on page 9

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# Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

## MINI DRILL PRESS



If you find yourself drilling a number of small holes for your work, you might want to look at the small, inexpensive drill presses now available. They take up just minimal space on your bench and are always ready to give you nice straight holes. Some models even have a variable speed control. I've been very pleased with a low-priced one that's been well-used in my classes for over a year.

Because these machines are only a foot high, they're limited as to the size of workpieces that can fit into the machine and the size of the drill bits you can use. But I've had no problems with drill bits up to about 3/16" (4.5mm), even drilling steel.

The machines are sold by a number of companies. If you do get one, be sure to buy a spare belt because they are generally not available at local hardware stores.

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## LASER WELDING

A question came up recently about how to solder some jump rings to hold blue topaz briolettes onto a necklace. We've all heard about ways to do some soldering close to a stone, and some of us have sized a ring without taking the stones out of their mounts. We've used wet paper towels, garnet sand, cooling gels, and my favorite of suspending the stone in a dish of water. All techniques bank on the principal of using a small, hot flame to do the job quickly before the stone gets hot enough to crack or change color.

But each job is somewhat of a gamble. Some stones are hardy and some are frail. Jades and jaspers will generally take some heat, but I'd never chance it with the likes of topaz or opal. Trying to shield a stone from the torch is always a betting game, and sometimes you lose.

If soldering something close to a stone is too risky, perhaps it's time to consider a no-heat method like laser welding. Most jewelry stores have laser welders these days, and the cost of having it done is quite affordable. They used to have problems doing silver, but now seem to do it routinely.

I've used a local shop twice recently, once for a piece with little emeralds that a "friend" asked me to repair and for a second piece where I needed a safety catch and didn't want the torch heat to expose all the solder lines again.



See all Brad's jewelry books at  
[Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith)

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**2018 Dues for membership in the State Line Gem & Mineral Society are now due.**

The Dues are: Family Membership (Husband and Wife and Children under 18 years of age, all living under one roof)- \$15.00, Individual Adult Membership (All individuals over 18 years of age) - \$10.00. The above memberships are defined in Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution. One half of the dues specified above shall apply to new members joining in the fourth quarter of the current year.

After the regular February meeting, all members whose dues remain unpaid shall receive a statement from the Treasurer. A Delinquent Member shall be that member whose dues are not paid by March 15th of the current year. Thereupon, voting privileges shall be revoked and publications discontinued. Full privileges shall be restored immediately upon payment of delinquent dues.

The above information is taken from our Constitution and By-laws, written back in 1961 when our club was founded. I can remember reviewing them at different club meetings when questions arose about different situations. We reviewed them again at our December meeting. It was decided (by unanimous vote) that because of a misunderstanding in communication, that the members who joined the club in September and/or October of 2017 should have their payment applied towards their 2018 dues.

So, simply stated, what all the above information says is: Please pay your dues by the February 2018 meeting so I don't have to remind you to pay them, and if you don't pay them by March 15, you will be delinquent and won't receive the newsletter until you do pay dues.

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer

## *Upcoming Events*

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

**State Line Gem & Mineral Society**

monthly meeting

**2:00 p.m.**

201 W. Main St.

Morenci, MI 49256

**Potluck**







Answers to Word Search puzzle

M	N	X	C	H	E	M	A	T	I	T	E	W	Z	R
V	O	X	R	Q	L	T	W	E	N	E	R	G	Y	Y
T	I	B	B	C	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	D	R	D
S	T	B	F	A	S	B	A	L	S	Z	L	O	W	O
Y	A	W	K	L	W	R	R	L	G	A	V	B	R	L
H	I	X	W	C	N	R	X	N	M	I	R	R	K	O
T	D	W	B	I	N	R	C	R	O	T	E	T	Q	M
E	A	S	L	U	J	T	E	N	C	M	S	Y	Y	I
M	R	Q	L	M	M	H	Y	I	K	R	Y	J	Z	T
A	J	I	G	A	T	X	N	N	Q	K	E	P	E	E
L	L	D	H	O	R	O	M	U	T	C	G	E	N	T
L	V	G	E	P	T	E	A	K	B	N	R	A	L	L
C	T	G	A	C	P	R	N	R	T	E	N	R	A	G
L	L	F	E	E	T	A	V	I	K	D	N	L	Y	L
V	Y	T	R	Z	K	X	S	Z	M	J	N	F	M	M



# Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor  
704 W. US Hwy 223, #205  
Adrian, MI 49221

Meetings are held the  
first Sunday of each month  
at 2:00 PM  
at 201 W. Main St.,  
Morenci, MI 49256

