

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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2014 Officers and Directors

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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

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President's Tidings

Winter is speeding along and good weather will be here. Shows to go to, field trips, and just a lot of great time with our good friends. Can't wait for good weather. There has been some interest in going back to Flint Ridge, New York, and Bedford, Indiana. So think about the things you would like to do this summer. The show is sneaking up on us and a lot of planning needs to be done (rocks sorted and slabbed for the silent auction, etc.). I would like to thank everyone who helped last year with the show. That made a great year! Thanks again!

Sherm



Treasurer's Statement



Welcome to the new year! I like to start the new year looking ahead to the possibilities, opportunities to improve as an individual and as a member of this club. At the Installation Banquet I read words written by Bon Duritsky, a former president of our club and a good friend. Bon has since died, but his words and spirit continue to inspire us. I will repeat the pledge so that those of you who weren't able to make the meeting can know what I'm talking about and so those of you who were there can reflect further.

Do you _____, promise to fulfill your duties as _____ (office) of the State Line Gem & Mineral Society to the best of your ability, according to its Constitution and By-Laws, working with club members for the good of the Club and the hobby? I do.
Club members, do you promise to work with these officers - helping them fulfill their duties by co-operating in Club activities, accepting positions offered, and volunteering to help when possible? We do.

So what does this mean to you? It is an invitation to you to be a little more active, do a little more to help out when you can and to actually look for ways that things can be improved.

Dues are now payable for 2015. Many members have paid at the meetings, and that is great. You can also mail me a check made out to State Line Gem & Mineral Society. My address is Doris Brzezicki, 419 N Broad St, Adrian, MI 49221. If I do not hear from you by February, I will contact you to let you know your status. If you do not pay your dues by March 15, you will be considered delinquent, you will not be included in the membership list, and will no longer receive the newsletter. If you have questions, you can telephone me at (517) 263-1669 or e-mail me at rychard@tc3net.com.

I plan on having the 2015 proposed budget for State Line at our February 1st meeting.

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer

Secretary's Scoop



After enjoying a potluck meal, the State Line Gem and Mineral Society installment of officers meeting came to order at 3:10 p.m.

Doris had each officer-elect stand up and be sworn in according to club guidelines. The past president, Ed, helps and aids the new president when able. All new officers agreed to abide by the duties and responsibilities of their new posts.

Richard B. made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter. Phyllis seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurers report: Doris reported that Consumers and the rent have been paid for the month. Richard B. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Ed and passed with all in favor.

Doris added that she is continuing to work on the budget and that it will be based on what the club is willing to do in the future. After some discussion, members agreed that the club should focus on the fundraisers that seem to be our major money makers. This would include the Jackson show, our show and the Fulton County Fair. Doris said that the club really needs more member support for these activities. She noted that she and Richard B. and Charlie have typically worked the fair from morning to evening each of the days, and it was getting to be too much for them. She thought it would be good for other members to work the evening shift until closing. Ed said the public relations from this event is well worth the effort. Other shows where we do well include Art-a-Licious and the Clinton Fall Festival. We will not be doing the Toledo show this year as they have their own geode cracker now. Did we inspire them too much?

Regarding the Mason show from last year: Doris said that the members from the Mason club expressed a desire to have our club give them a donation if we did well with our geode cracking sales. Ed felt that the Mason club was a worthy organization and made a motion to have 10% of what we earned donated to their club as a thank you measure for being invited to participate. Bill seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Phyllis said she will get busy sewing the bags, which brought Doris to explain our grab bag activity to Dana.

Doris reported that our current membership stands at 52 adult members and 5 or 6 youth members.

Doris mentioned that she received an email for a rough rock tumbling contest from California. Participants get 3 pounds of rough rocks to tumble and return 5 of the best ones between January and June. The entry fee is \$30.00. Ed seemed very interested in participating, so Doris made a motion to have the club pay the entry fee and for Ed to order/send for the rocks and do the polishing. Bill seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Doris reported that there would be a program open to all Art-a-Licious artists with information about the professional aspects of the artist's products from advertising to the displays and more. The

seminar is free for Art-a-Licious artists and only \$5.00 for non Art-a-Licious artists. The programs are January 17th, February 7th and February 28th 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Ed asked if it would be possible to have the club repay some of the funds they borrowed from his wife. Glenda and Doris did some math on the numbers for future months. They felt that it should not put the club in any financial bind, so Glenda made a motion to pay half of what the club owed, seconded by Richard B. Bill said it was a great gesture on Marilyn's part to loan the money to the club when we were in need. The motion passed with all in favor.

Doris mentioned some other potential committee vacancies which are open to members. These include membership, hospitality, sunshine, etc. Charlie seemed interested in the Hospitality chair. Doris said that in the past there was a donation box where members could make a donation to help pay for the goodies provided. Richard B. pointed out that there was a stained glass donation box in place for such donations.

Richard B. pointed out the fact that we no longer had running hot water but stated that he used the coffee pot to heat water with and it worked well when mixed with some cold water in the sink. Ed said that running the Genie with cold water sucks. Charlie brought up checking on and fixing equipment. Discussion also suggested that members should pick up after themselves and clean up any messes they make.

Glenda asked about the quilt raffle and Doris said we did good but not as good as expected. Glenda then asked about the show raffle and if there could also be a 50/50 raffle. The discussion which ensued seemed to focus on the fact that we do not have the manpower to have a person go around selling an additional raffle at our type of show.

Sherm brought in a thank you card from the chairperson of the Midwest Mineralogical Federation for members to see.

Glenda asked if we can go on field trips organized by other clubs. Sherm said yes, if they are on the list of clubs in the Federation. Emma said we should have a wish list of various excursions. Doris mentioned that the club has field trip guide books in our library.

Richard B. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Phyllis. The motion passed with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

From Linda Sharkey -

Joseph Kinches (of "Joseph's Designs") will be having a HUGE auction to reduce his vast rock, gem, and lapidary related inventory. He will be concentrating on his flint work, so you can just imagine how much there will be !

The Auction is set for **MARCH 4th**. At the Champion Event Center , 340 Mississippi Ave, N. Canton. Preview 11:00 starts 1:00. Spread the word..Thanks

(Joseph has been a longtime vendor at our Show. He will not be there this year. Joseph always had beautiful cabs. He is selling out his inventory and will be retiring.)

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. It's not a tool you'll use everyday, but they're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.



For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.

TESTING FOR SILVER

With the price of silver as high as it is, jewelry people need to keep their scrap metals sorted. Part of that process is identifying some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox.

Silver testing solutions can be used to distinguish high silver content alloys like Fine (.999), Sterling (.925) and Coin (.900) from alloys that have the same appearance but no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41 for \$3. With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. Procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I get when testing various materials:

Fine silver	Red/Orange
Sterling silver	Brick Red
80% silver 20% copper	Dark red changing to gray
Brass	Yellow changing to blue
Nickel	Gray-green
Copper	Yellow changing to blue
Steel	Black
Stainless Steel	No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.

Always have a solution of baking soda and water handy to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you're done.

Gemstone Mining in the United States

A Diversity of U.S. Gemstones

A surprising diversity of gemstones are produced within the United States. Did you know that Montana is the home of world-famous sapphire localities, and that emeralds, rubies, and sapphires are found in North Carolina? Have you ever seen an "Oregon sunstone" that flashes with a copper aventurescence or a cultured freshwater pearl with a golden luster produced in Tennessee? These are just a few of the unique gemstones produced in the United States.



The United States Geological Survey reports that notable quantities of gem-quality beryl, coral, garnet, feldspar, opal, quartz, sapphire, ruby, shell, pearls, peridot, topaz, tourmaline and turquoise are currently produced in the United States. The ten states with the highest dollar value of gemstone production are listed here in descending order: Arizona, North Carolina, Oregon, California, Utah, Tennessee, Montana, Colorado, Arkansas, and Idaho.

Small Mines and Recreational Miners

Although the United States produces a diversity of gemstone varieties, the quantity produced is very small. In calendar year 2011 the total gemstone production of the United States was only \$11 million. That amount is very very small compared to the \$23.5 billion in gemstones that were imported. The United States has greater than a 99.9 percent dependence on foreign gemstone supplies.

Most of the gemstone production in the United States comes from very small mines with just two or three employees who are often part-time or seasonal workers. Very few of the mines have more than a dozen employees and operate during all four seasons of the year. In 2011 only about 1000 to 1200 people in the United States worked in the gemstone mining industry.

Much of the gemstone mining in the United States is done by rockhounds (amateurs who search for rocks, minerals, gemstones and fossils as a hobby). Many of them do their rockhounding on public land (areas owned by the government where individuals can collect if they observe the rules). Others go to fee mining sites. These are proven gemstone deposits where visitors can pay a fee, look for gemstones, and keep any that they find.

Why Is Production So Low?

Some of the gemstone deposits in the United States have been associated with major metal deposits which are much more valuable. The gemstone deposits, which are generally very slow to mine, were removed because the disruption that they cause is more costly than the value of the gem materials. Other gemstone deposits are not operated because they are extremely labor intensive. They would be mined in countries where labor rates are very low - but they can not be operated at a profit at United States labor rates. Other deposits are not mined because environmental or safety concerns make mining unattractive.



Patronage for Domestic Gemstones

Many people really enjoy gemstones produced from domestic deposits. Some mineral collectors favor certain localities and some gemstone buyers (especially

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Gemstone Mining in the United States

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tourists) have a strong desire to purchase a “Montana Sapphire” or an “Oregon Sunstone” when they visit those states. This patronage strongly supports the price of stones from certain localities - far above the price of similar-size, similar-quality stones from anywhere else in the world. This patronage also supports a small domestic lapidary industry.

Many people who visit Arizona want to bring home a piece of petrified wood and many people who visit upstate New York want to find a “Herkimer Diamond.” There is even one location in Arkansas, Crater of Diamonds, where anyone can become a diamond miner by paying a small fee. These are fun activities, many people enjoy them, and they support the small gemstone industry of the United States.

<http://geology.com/gemstones/states/>



Herkimer Diamond Trip 2006

Paraprosdokians

A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect.

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right -- only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops.
My desk is a work station.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Some people are like Slinkies ... not really good for anything, but you can't help smiling
when you see one tumble down the stairs.

Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge
of the pool and throw them fish.

I thought I wanted a career; turns out I just wanted pay checks.

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, notify:" I put "DOCTOR."

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

I saw a woman wearing a sweat shirt with "Guess" on it... So I said, "Implants?"

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they are sexy.

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?

Behind every successful man is his woman.
Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive more than once.

The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!

Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot.

Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go.

There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

I always take life with a grain of salt ... plus a slice of lime ... and a shot of tequila.

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

You might be a rockhound if...

- The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- When you lick a dirty rock to show off the wonderful colors, without stopping to realize that you are the only rockhound in the group.
- Considering the purchase of a spectacular specimen at a mineral show, you wonder if all three of your kids really need to attend college.
- The rockpile in your garage is taller than you are.
- You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
- The local university's geology department requests permission to hold field trips in your back yard.
- There's amethyst in your aquarium.
- The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.
- You're planning on using a pick and shovel while you're on vacation.
- You've installed more than one mineralogical database program on your computer.
- You hate walking, but would walk 10+ miles to dig.
- Your kids bring you a "pretty stone" they've found, and you contrive to steal it. And you know you've done it. Don't lie.
- Someone talks about cleavage and you don't think about women.
- A truck throws a rock into your windshield and you examine the rock first.
- Your wife has ever had to ask you to move flats of rocks out of the tub so she could take a bath.
- You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.
- The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.
- You and/or your spouse corrects a sales person in a jewelry store.
- You have ever wondered how far the dealer underestimated the towing capacity of your truck.
- You have ever NOT helped a fellow rockhound move because you knew EXACTLY what would be in those boxes.
- You always carry a hammer, chisels, gloves, shovel, and a pick with you JUST IN CASE.
- You have friends that go on vacation somewhere and you tell them to bring you a rock or If you bring back rocks for your friends from a trip instead of tee shirts.
- If you've ever considered leaving camping gear behind in order to take more rocks home.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015

State Line Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting

2:00 p.m.

201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

March 7 - 8, 2014

Livonia, MI

ROAMIN Club's 43rd Annual
Rock, Mineral & Fossil Auction
Schoolcraft College
Vistatech Center
18600 Haggerty Rd.
Free Admission and Parking.

Auction proceeds benefit the Tom Williams
Scholarship Fund and the ROAMIN Endowment
at Schoolcraft College. (Roamin Club is sponsored by Livonia Parks & Recreation.)

April 11 - 12, 2015

Columbus, OH

Frozen: Ohio's Ice Age
41st Annual Central Ohio
Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show
Sponsored by
Columbus Rock and Mineral Society
Northland Performing Arts Center
4411 Tamarack Blvd.

May 1 - 3, 2015

Kalamazoo, MI

Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society
Rock, Gem, Fossil, Jewelry & Mineral Show
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake St

March 20 - 22, 2015

Jackson, MI

Michigan Gem & Mineral Society presents
It's a Hard Rock Life!
Jackson County Fairgrounds
American One Event Center
200 West Ganson



Happy Valentine's Day



Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor
210 Chestnut St.
Adrian, MI 49221

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first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM
at 201 W. Main St.,
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