

ROCK TRAILS



Happy
Valentines
Day

Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 56
ISSUE II
FEBRUARY 2016

2016 Officers and Directors

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Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 451-2079
Secretary: Heidi Storehalder, 517 286-6450
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 517 263-1669
Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
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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

January 3, 2016

President Sherm Kardatzki called the State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting to order with Richard B. giving the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This month's meeting held the annual induction of officers, who were all sworn in according to the guidelines of the club. All officers agreed to abide by the duties and responsibilities of their positions.



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

Doris reported the club's balance and that the bills for last month's Consumer's Energy and rent had been paid, as well as the cost of wire wrapping supplies for the club. She also paid the dues to the Midwest Federation and had deposited the club's membership dues received from members. She also reminded everyone that anyone who hasn't paid their membership dues by March 15th will be dropped as a member. Our reported number of members are 59 adults and 10 juniors. It was also mentioned that wire wrapping classes should be held in the front rooms because there is much better lighting and it would be more cost effective as it takes larger heaters to heat the back rooms. Linda made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Jan seconded it. It passed with all in favor.

Doris submitted a proposed budget for this year which included anticipated expenses and incomes. Copies were passed around to all members who were present and Doris allowed for discussion and questions. Richard made a motion to accept the budget as printed and the motion was seconded by Nancy. The motion passed with no objections.

The Alpena trip is to be scheduled for a weekend in May in hopes that temperatures will no longer be too cold and to beat the oncoming bug season. Mother's Day weekend and the weekend of the 20th were suggested as suitable times for the trip. It was also suggested that those who planned on attending could leave on a Friday and drive up to the cabin and stay overnight, therefore eliminating the need to leave so early in the morning to arrive. It is estimated that 10- 12 people will go. Glenda is looking into scheduling the cabin.



Sherm had finally heard back from our contact about the Kentucky trip and the prospective date corresponds with the trip to Bedford, Indiana at the end of June. It was discussed that the two trips could be combined into one because of their locations; starting with leaving for Kentucky on the 21st or 22nd and then circling around to Bedford to collect geodes for their show. A detour to Brown County in Indiana for great fossils was also suggested. Anyone who is interested in going is to let Glenda know by March.

Linda M. reported that there won't be a need for too many more wire

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wrapping classes because everyone has learned the basics, but if there was enough interest, workshops could be scheduled for members who wanted to still work together in a group setting. Three more weekly classes were decided on and project ideas were discussed.

At December's open house, many volunteers came when they were able and made wire jewelry and creations for the club's gift shop. Thanks to them, the shop looks much nicer and we will have much more to sell at our fundraisers and events.

There has been no word yet about March's annual show in Jackson, MI. Sherm has received a few responses to invitations for our show at the beginning of June, but hasn't heard back from the others yet.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters had asked if any members of our club could give lectures or demonstrations during the month of April. They would be once a week for around an hour and a half and the public would be invited. The Dominican Sisters would be printing a booklet about it and the club agreed that the free press would be good for the club. Doris noted that sharing knowledge and promoting learning are also core parts of the club's values. Linda M. agreed to call after the meeting to gather more information. Ed was concerned about exhausting the club's members and it was suggested that with more members taking part, each member would only have to do one lecture each. Ideas for topics of stained glass, wire wrapping, spinning and weaving, and rocks and minerals for the individual lectures were discussed.

Richard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jan H., which passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Storehalder



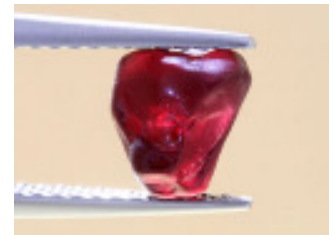
Ant Hill Garnet

Tiny ants mine some of the best garnets.

What are Ant Hill Garnets?

Some gemstones derive a large portion of their appeal because they are found in an unexpected locality or have an unusual origin. “Ant hill garnets” are one of the more interesting of these “novelty gems.”

They are called “ant hill garnets” because they are found on and around the margins of ant hills. The ants encounter the garnets while excavating their underground passages. The ants haul the stones to the surface and discard them. The rain washes the garnets clean and moves them down the flank of the ant hill, where they can accumulate in large numbers. This concentrates the little gems and makes them easy for people to collect. Their brilliant luster and red color contrasts strongly with the surrounding soil.



Arizona Ant Hills

A few areas in Arizona are well known for ant hill garnets. These are beautiful bright red chromium pyrope garnets with a very high color saturation. The Native Americans discovered them long ago and marveled at their color and beauty. They regarded them as special and sometimes sewed them into ceremonial rattles or gave them as tokens of appreciation.

Today, Native Americans and rockhounds collect the garnets and sell them in parcels to lapidaries who cut them into cabochons and faceted stones. The finished stones and attractive pieces of rough are sold to gem collectors and mounted into jewelry. The novelty origin of the stones adds to their appeal and can elevate their price to a higher level than what is paid for similar-quality stones from other localities.

The typical ant hill garnet is a tiny stone - almost always less than one carat when cut into a cabochon or faceted stone. The ants are smart enough to excavate around larger stones rather than haul them to the surface. This small size can actually be a blessing because many of the stones have a very high color saturation. If they were larger in size, the stones would have a very dark, almost black appearance; but in small sizes, enough light passes through them to reveal their desirable deep red color.

Ant hill garnets are novelty gems that mainly have a local popularity. The number of stones produced is far lower than what would be needed to make them a commercial gem, to be used in mass-produced jewelry with broad distribution.

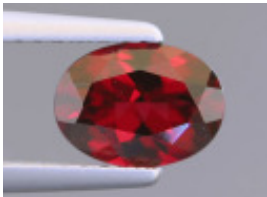
Ant Hill Garnets as Diamond Indicators

Ants delivering small mineral particles to the surface is not unique to Arizona. It is known in many parts of the world. In a few instances, ant hill minerals have been used as a prospecting tool.

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In prospecting for diamonds, geologists use “indicator minerals” to determine if they are on or near a kimberlite pipe - the host rock of many diamond deposits. The diamonds are brought up from the mantle by deep source volcanic eruptions. There is often only a few carats of diamonds in many tons of kimberlite - but the kimberlite can be loaded with mantle-source minerals such as pyrope, garnet, and olivine.



So, instead of looking for diamonds, geologists look for these more abundant minerals to locate a pipe. Then they collect a bulk sample of the kimberlite to determine if the pipe contains diamonds. Geologists who do this type of work will often stop at any ant hill that they encounter to take a quick look for colorful bits of mantle minerals. The ants provide evidence of the geology below.



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS



Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies.

The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.

USE YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course the many different sizes of drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.

So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.



For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

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By the way, we editors do a lot of writing and often never realize how many people are reading and appreciating the effort. Today I was surprised by some feedback.

Way back in 2007, I wrote an article for the inaugural issue of Interweave's Jewelry Artist magazine about broom casting. Last year, a portion of it was reprinted in the company's huge Jewelry Making Daily blog. That was definitely neat, but yesterday I was blown away by their announcement.

My post was named the most popular one of 2015, eight years after the original. Who would have guessed that so many people get a kick out of pouring molten silver into a floor broom. My book on the entire process is available on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/1Z6hYws>

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016

State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting & induction of officers

2:00 p.m

201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256



February 19 - 21, 2016

Indianapolis, IN

GeoFest

14th Annual Indiana State Museum Fossil,
Gem & Mineral Show
Indiana State Museum
650 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN

March 4 - 6, 2016

Richmond, IN

43rd Annual Show

Wayne County Fairgrounds
861 N. Salisbury Rd.
Richmond, IN

March 5-6, 2015

Livonia, MI.

Roamin Club 44th annual special auction
Schoolcraft College
Visatech Center Bldg.
18600 Haggerty Rd
Sat. 11-6, Sun. 12-6;

March 18 - 20, 2016

Jackson, MI

Michigan Gem & Mineral Society
Annual Show
"May the Quartz Be With You"
Jackson County Fairgrounds
American One Event Center
200 W. Ganson
Jackson, MI

April 29, 30, May 1, 2016

Kalamazoo, MI

Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society
57th Annual
Rock, Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show
"Dinosaurs Will Rule"
Kalamazoo Expo Center
2900 Lake St.
Kalamazoo, MI

Central Ohio Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale



Make It a Family Affair

Learn about family rock & fossil hunting in Ohio!

April 2-3, 2016

Sat. 10 AM-6 PM & Sun. 11 AM-5 PM

Northland Performing Arts Center

4411 Tamarack Blvd., Columbus OH 43229

South side of Morse Rd. next to Menards. Access from I-71, I-270, Rt. 23.
Look for yellow building with blue scaffold tower set back from the road.
Plenty of **FREE PARKING** behind the building.

What you'll find at the show:

- Mineral, fossil and gem dealers with treasures for sale from around the world
- Interesting speakers
- Special talks for kids
- Lapidary demonstrations
- Gold panning
- Educational exhibits
- Free specimen ID
- Silent auctions
- Silent auctions for kids
- Games & activities for kids
- Door prizes
- Free specimen for kids



Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, 2-day pass \$12, Youth 6-16 \$3, Under 6 FREE
FREE: Scouts & 4-H in uniform, Teachers with school ID, Military with ID

Please note: Tickets are available at the door, cash or check only. Credit/debit cards cannot be accepted for admission, but our dealer vendors can process credit/debit cards.



Sponsored by the Columbus Rock & Mineral Society with the Licking County Rock & Mineral Society

We are a non-profit organization and the only family-oriented, educational rock show in Central Ohio that welcomes children. All show proceeds benefit scholarships for Ohio earth science majors. We invite you to come and explore the exciting world of geology as a family. Learn more at www.ColumbusRockAndMineralSociety.org.

Dealer contact: Craig Kramer 614-436-4511 or craig.kramer@wowway.com

Bring in this flyer for \$1 off adult & senior ticket prices. One discount per ticket.



Rock Trails

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first Sunday of each month
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