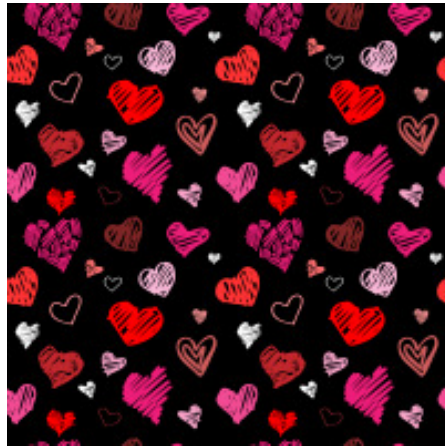


ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

**VOLUME 58
ISSUE II
FEBRUARY 2018**

2018 Officers and Directors

In This Issue:

- 1 Officers and Directors**
- 2 President's Tidings**
- 2 Dues Notice**
- 3 - 4 Old Man of the Lake**
- 5 Bench Tips**
- 6 Upcoming Events**
- 7 What's the Hardest Material in the World?**

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
Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666
Newsletter Editor: Sandy Gerhart, 734 347-4796
s_gerhart@yahoo.com
Website: <http://statelinegms.com/index.html>



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

President's Tidings



Well, another year gone by and what a year! It was a lot better than expected. Thanks, everyone, for all the hard work that was done!

In Feb. we have a demonstration at Clinton which we will talk about at the next meeting. Also we will be talking about the Jackson show. As most of you know, there were some problems that came up and have to be addressed.

Wire wrapping for the time being is headed by Linda Miller, due to some health problems with Judy. I have stopped in a couple times at lunch and turnout has been light. If you are coming, let Linda know or let her know if you're not. She does come a ways. The same for class on Sat., please let me know if you are coming. We do this for the club to pass on things that we know.

Think about things you would like to do and go to for the upcoming year so planning can be done. And thanks again for all the hard work that has been done!

Sherm

Dues Notice

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.

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.

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. You can pay your dues at the meeting on Feb 04 or mail a check made out to State Line Gem & Mineral Society to me at my home address: Doris Brzezicki, 419 N Broad St, Adrian, MI 49221. If you have any questions please call me at (517) 263-1669.

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer

The Old Man of the Lake

According to Native American legend, an epic battle occurred one night in southern Oregon 7,700 years ago. Standing atop Mount Mazama, spurned by the daughter of a local chief, Llao, god of the underworld, spit magma and shot superheated steam miles into the sky. Skell, god of the world above, fought back by pitching pyroclastic fireballs from California's Mount Shasta, blowing the massive summit of Mount Mazama to bits. By dawn, Llao was driven back underground; Skell honored the victory by filling the massive caldera with water, creating Oregon's Crater Lake.

Since then, strange stories have hovered above the area like a chilly Northwest fog. People have spotted ghostly campfires on uninhabited Wizard Island, and visitors to Crater Lake Lodge still tell stories of eerie occurrences in the night. Despite these tales, the park's most famous phenomenon appears during the day: An ancient hemlock tree, known as "the Old Man of the Lake," has been floating completely upright for more than 100 years.

The first written account of the Old Man appeared in 1902, the year Crater Lake was named a national park. While reporting on the cataclysmic events that shaped the area, geologist Joseph S. Diller mentioned seeing the miraculous stump six years earlier near Wizard Island at Crater Lake's west end. The Old Man's sun-bleached and splintered head and torso floated nearly four feet above the water. His lower body descended 30 feet into the depths, and his waist was two feet in diameter at the surface.



Appearing to be rooted and yet, still moving, the Old Man seemed to defy the laws of physics. In 1929, William Gladstone Steel, known as "the father of Crater Lake" for pushing Congress to designate it as a park, mentioned seeing "the great tree, broken squarely off and floating upright." In 1938, park naturalist John Doerr spent three months tracking its travel patterns, noting "the Old Man travels extensively and, at times, surprisingly fast." Between July 1st and Sept 30th, the Old Man logged more than 62 miles and, on one particularly windy day, traveled 3.8 miles. In the years that followed, the Old Man became a local celebrity, and a legend rose up that he controlled the weather. Naturally, the scientists who helicoptered a small submarine into the lake in 1988 to study the geothermal activity downplayed such an idea. To them, the Old Man was a navigational hazard, so they tied him up near Wizard Island—but the moment they did, the sky grew dark, and a storm blew in. Humbled, the scientists quickly released the Old Man, and moments later, the skies miraculously cleared.

The initial belief was that a landslide on the crater wall carried the Old Man into the lake, and rocks wedged in an expansive root structure stabilized its base. Such an explanation made sense, for at Spirit Lake near Mount St. Helens, hundreds of trees have been floating upright ever since the eruption in 1980. But these trees follow a typical pattern: They have a large root structure, float for a number of years, and eventually sink to the lake bottom. Why hasn't the Old Man sunk? Why hasn't he eroded? And how, despite having no significant root structure, does he stay balanced?

The Old Man of the Lake

Continued from page 3

When Ranger Dave Grimes leads his boat tour on Crater Lake, he doesn't jump aboard the massive conifer like rangers in the past, but often steers the boat over to pay a visit. Up close, the Old Man is an example of perfect balance—between movement and stillness, darkness and light, earth and sky, Llaol and Skell. And then there's the matter of depth. You could stack the Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty, and Washington Monument beneath the Old Man and still not reach the lake's deepest point of 1,943 feet. "It takes people a few moments to register what they're seeing," says Grimes, "but once they realize that this log has been floating like this for over a hundred years, they're amazed."

Grimes credits Crater Lake's clean, cold water for preserving the tree and the higher density of the submerged part for keeping it balanced. Based upon initial carbon dating, Scott Girdner, an aquatic biologist with the park, says the Old Man is at least 450 years old but he isn't sure how long it's been floating in the lake. For the staff, the Old Man is much more than a floating log. "He has character, a story, and history that is part of the park," says Girdner.

While some tourists find the Old Man eerie, Grimes has a different experience. "For me, the Old Man is a calming presence," he says. "He is blown by the wind, but he's not rocked by the waves."

<https://www.npca.org/articles/1016-the-old-man-of-the-lake>

Happy Valentine's Day!



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

MOBILE FLEXSHAFT STAND

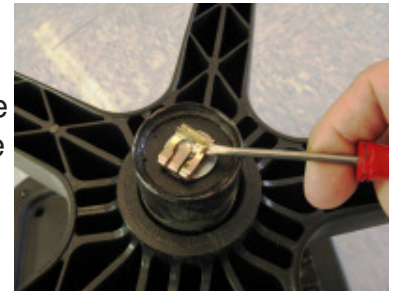
A handy mobile stand for your flexshaft can be made easily and quickly from the base of an old swivel office chair. You can find these chairs being thrown out at office buildings and schools. I just asked the custodian in my building to set one aside for me.

To separate the chair from the wheeled base, simply remove the spring clip from the center bottom. I use a small screwdriver or a pair of pliers.



To make the stand, you'll need two pieces of threaded galvanized steel pipe and a pipe fitting from a hardware store. The first length of pipe is 3/4 inch diameter to fit the hole in most chair bases. The second piece is a length of less expensive 1/2 inch pipe.

The total length of the two pipes should be five feet. I used a two foot length of 3/4 pipe and a three foot length of 1/2 pipe. They are joined together by a pipe fitting called a 3/4 to 1/2 reducing coupler.



LOCAL METALS SOURCE

Local companies that use sheet metal typically have barrels of scrap copper, brass and aluminum sheet that they save for recycling. The shop owner/manager will usually let you go through it to select the shapes and thicknesses you want. Prices vary but will generally be close to the wholesale per-pound scrap value. For me at this time, that's \$3 per pound for copper.

I've found it's much cheaper to buy metal this way than ordering from a catalog. There are no shipping charges, and you'll be supporting a local small business in your community.

Remember to bring your work gloves if you try this. Also useful is a thickness gauge. When I asked if they had any 14 gauge, they didn't know. Turns out they measure the thickness of copper by its weight per square foot.



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



Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 4, 2018
State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting
2:00 p.m.
201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

March 3rd & 4th, 2018
Livonia, MI
The Roamin Club Silent Auction
Schoolcraft Community College
18600 Haggerty Rd.
Livonia, MI

March 16 - 18, 2018
Jackson, MI
Michigan Gem and Mineral Society
Annual Show
American One Event Center
200 W. Ganson St.
Jackson, MI

April 5, 6, & 7, 2018
Wyoming, MI
Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club's
43rd Annual
GEM & MINERAL SHOW
Thursday 9:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Rogers Plaza Town Center
972 28th Street SW in Wyoming, Michigan
FREE ADMISSION & PARKING
1/4 mile west of US 131

A Note From the Editor

I would like to say Thank You to all of you, for the gift card which was given to me. I haven't decided yet what I am going to spend it on.

It is always nice when you do something to be told that people appreciate and enjoy what you have done. It really makes it worthwhile. I enjoy putting together the newsletter and trying to find items to put in it that I think would be interesting. If anyone has any ideas of something they would like to learn more about, please feel free to send me an email suggesting it! I'm always open to ideas. Also, if anyone wants to write anything to be put in the newsletter, I would be more than happy to include it!

Thank you again for thinking of me!

Sandy

Quick, what's the hardest material in the world?

Did you say "diamond?" We bet you did, because we just planted that word in your mind.

In fact, though, the joke's on all of us. In 2009, scientists realized that two rare substances are even harder than diamonds. According to the Scientific American, "Wurtzite boron nitride and lonsdaleite are harder than diamonds. The first resists indentation with 18% more fortitude than a diamond, and the second—a whopping 58%."

Still, no one's claiming that wurtzite boron nitride is a girl's best friend. And that's not the only problem with the competition between these rare materials and diamonds.

A 2004 public letter from a group of crystallographers, published in the journal Nature, points out that the claims about these materials are based on simulated models—scientists just haven't collected enough of the super-rare wurtzite boron nitride or lonsdaleite to perform physical experiments. In fact, the authors of the letter claim, "experimental measurements of their bulk properties, such as hardness, strength, toughness and abrasion resistance, is less than clear."

Meanwhile, in 2015, a team of researchers at North Carolina State university aimed a laser into a lump of carbon and produced a substance they're calling "Q-carbon," which, while human-made, is also harder than a diamond. Say what you want about wedding rings: Diamonds just can't win.





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

