

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 60
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2020 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

President's Tidings



Well, another month closer to summer, season for fun and shows and don't forget about field trips!

Last month there was a work party for cleanup. The meeting room got cleaned up, new wheels put on the grinder, new blade on the saw. The entryway was cleaned, samples put in case and the rest taken care of. Old oil was taken out of the saws in the saw room. Ed and I checked out the saws and removed shaft in one saw that needed bearings. The other saw needs a blade and new oil. Greg looked at light in office and front area. Thanks, everyone that was there, for all the

help.

I will be starting class again on Thursday night, 6-9 in the evening, so anyone that wants some instruction can come. Richard goes in the afternoon and you can come then also but give him a call to make sure.

There has been a problem with the saw. When I replaced the blade the old blade had a 3 inch piece on the edge missing. There was some stone in the sink. We can't dump things from the grinder or the saw in the sink! Dump in a bucket and dump outside.

Sherm

Treasurer's Statement

2020 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 2020 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 02 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

Secretary's Scoop



The January 5, 2020 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Sherm at 2:20 PM. Ed gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Treasurer's report – Doris paid the rent, utilities and the Ohio state tax incurred from our sales at the Fulton County Fair. She also noted that in renewing the club's subscription to Rock and Gem magazine, we were offered a cheaper rate per year by opting for a three year subscription rather than two years, so she chose the three year renewal. Doris also presented a print out of the checking account showing December's activity as requested. Judy made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Catherine. The motion passed with all in favor.

New budget – Doris presented a new budget for the year 2020. She outlined income and expenses. She also gave president Sherm all the treasurer's 2019 bank statements and receipts for expenses so he could assign someone to do the annual audit. Carl made a motion to accept the proposed budget, seconded by Terry. The motion passed with all in favor.

Old business – Induction of officers. Ed asked the nominated officers to stand and asked that they fulfill the duties of their office. They answered they would. He then asked the attending club members to support the elected officers in their respective tasks and everyone agreed. The new officers were then duly installed.

Glenda asked if we were invited to do the Jackson show in March. Doris said she called Thurman and he said that the club has not had their meeting yet, but he was certain that we would be officially invited.

Doris noted that Jan had brought more supplies to fill our grab bags, but we should have another work date to sew and fill more bags for the Jackson show. The date decided upon was Tuesday, January 7th at 10:00 AM.

Glenda reported that she and some club members were leaving for Phoenix, Arizona for a field trip from 1-9-2020 to 1-27-2020 She said there might be room for one more person if anyone was interested. This was going to be in the desert but she thinks the rattlesnakes will be hibernating at this time of year. She also mentioned the Bedford Indiana show coming up the third weekend in June. She has used the same motel for several years and is willing to make reservations for any club members interested in attending the Bedford show and hunting for geodes. Please let her know by March 2020 if you will need a reservation. Camping facilities can also be found at the fairgrounds and a camp site a few miles out of town. You will need to make your own arrangements for camping.

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Secretary's Scoop

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Sherm estimated that about 5 or 6 vendors have sent in payments to be in our show. He plans to start calling vendors to make sure we have plenty of participants. Doris said she contacted Joel Vicary and he planned to do the mine safety class. Sherm said he had not contacted anyone yet to present the health safety part of the class. The Fulton County Fire Department had a fire call last year and was not able to come. Steve Shimanski had stepped in to do the presentation. Tom said he has done the safety portion of that program and would be glad to help if needed. Doris also contacted Sandy Cline and he plans to demonstrate at our show this year. Sherm said he also plans to have Shelly Carder and Don Baker demonstrate for us also.

Glenda said she has done internet postings for our show to several other clubs and rock related sites and plans to do more. Catherine will print up a list of advertising sources. We still need to order posters for this year and post cards promoting our 2021 show.

Sherm wanted to have a meeting of the building committee at the Family Restaurant on January 7th at 6:00 PM.

Doris suggested that we need to have a work day to clean up the clubhouse. That was scheduled for January 11th at 10:00 AM. Several areas in the clubhouse need attention. Tom and Meg suggested that we could rent storage places at reasonable prices to house some of our geodes to eliminate having to haul them up and down the basement steps. Judy would like some racks set up in the front entrance to display jewelry made by club members. We could use the glass cabinet to display rocks. A number of excellent specimens have been donated to the club. Sherm plans on working on our equipment to get it operational for club use,

Earlier in December the club was contacted by Charles VanderHorst, a former club member. He is moving to North Carolina and wanted to donate some items to State Line Gem & Mineral Club. He does plan to continue doing lapidary work, but wasn't able to take everything with him. Richard B., Bill Schultz and Ed helped in getting rocks and some used equipment loaded onto Bill's trailer and they are temporarily stored in Bill S's garage. Richard B wrote Charles a thank you letter from the club.

Richard B. and Henry plan a trip to Deming New Mexico where the local club plans to have field trips March 12th , 13th and 14th 2020. Doris did not think she was up for a 25 hour drive each way, so she is staying home. She is willing to share any information if anyone else is interested in going.

Sherm will do cabbing classes soon. We are reminded that when you use club equipment, you are encouraged to donate a nominal fee to help replace worn equipment. We also do not want inexperienced members to use the equipment without supervision by someone experienced in that specific machine. We are also expected to follow all safety rules.

Meg made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Phyllis. The meeting was adjourned with approval by all.

There are 2 address corrections:

Pat Baier-Hay's new address is: Pat Baier-Hay, 1035 Ottawa Dr., Adrian, MI 49221 Phone (517) 750-7065 and Anita Anderson, 23490 Norwood, Oak Park, MI 48237

Finders, Keepers: Five of the Best Places to Go Gem Hunting in the U.S.

From diamonds to emeralds, the United States is full of buried bling

Do you dream of the good life? For a lucky few, treasure may lie hidden beneath your feet. Across the United States there are dozens of public mining and digging sites packed with everything from diamonds and emeralds to jade and sunstone. The secret is knowing where to sink your shovel.

Often called “rockhounding,” the search for gems and minerals has been popular for decades. One of the earliest accounts of mining in what is now the United States comes from the Pueblo, a Southwestern tribe that began mining for turquoise some 2,600 years ago. As early Anglo settlers spread the word about the wealth of buried treasures beneath the land, immigrants flocked to the colonies to stake their claim.

The hunt for buried treasure is so interwoven into U.S. history that even today every state in the union has either a state gem or mineral—or both. (Generally speaking, minerals are inorganic objects containing a specific chemical makeup and molecular structure. Gems are precious or semiprecious minerals that can be cut and polished into colorful stones. Gold is neither a gem nor a mineral—it’s a chemical element.)

Today nearly every state has at least one fee-based mine or dig site that’s open to the public with a “finders, keepers” policy that allows visitors to pocket their finds. (Some places will even cut, polish and set found minerals into jewelry for a fee.) The rare specimen can prove elusive, but it’s all about the thrill of the hunt.

Intrigued by the idea of finding a bit of bling in plain sight? Here are five public dig sites worth rolling up your sleeves for:

Emerald Hollow Mine (Hiddenite, North Carolina)

Tucked in the foothills of the Brushy Mountains in western North Carolina, Emerald Hollow Mine is the only emerald mine in the United States that’s open to the public. It’s also the only spot in the country where North Carolina Hiddenite, a rare gemstone discovered by geologist William Earl Hidden in 1879, can be found. The stone is known for its high chromium content, which gives it a lime-green hue, and forms in the hydrothermal veins of rocks. Visitors to the mine are equipped with a shovel, a pickaxe and a bucket and can hunt for emeralds, hiddenite, quartz and 60 other gems and minerals at its seven-acre dig site. There’s also a full-service lapidary on site that can transform rough stones into glittering mementos.



Crater of Diamonds State Park (Murfreesboro, Arkansas)

A visit to most state parks includes a hike or a bit of fly fishing. But Crater of Diamonds State Park brings something different to the table: some serious bling. Located about 115 miles southwest of

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Finders, Keepers

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Little Rock on the site of a volcanic crater, the park is a hotbed of buried diamonds crystallized from carbon, which formed in the earth's mantle billions of years ago and were thrust to the surface by the crater's explosion. In June 2015, one lucky visitor unearthed an 8.52-carat diamond—the fifth largest specimen found at the park since it opened in 1972—and the site regularly updates its list of record finds. Thanks to the mineral's brilliant luster, a would-be diamond hunter's best tool is often their own eyes, and it's not uncommon to find diamonds glistening in the soil.



Jade Cove Trail (Big Sur, California)

Don't let the breathtaking ocean views that surround this central California trail distract you from something just as spectacular: the ground. The one-and-a-half mile Jade Cove Trail is a popular spot for jade hunters searching for the greenish-hued gemstone, which forms due to subduction or when oceanic and continental plates collide. Because the trail is part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration has released strict guidelines for jade hunting, but as long as specimens are in plain sight, rockhounds are welcome to pocket them. The region is also home to the annual Big Sur Jade Festival. This year, due to the Soberanes forest fire, the event has been rescheduled for the spring.

Morefield Mine (Amelia County, Virginia)

During World War II, Morefield Mine, located just outside of Richmond, Virginia, was used by military suppliers in search of strategic minerals like mica, beryl and tantalum for use in tanks and artillery. Today, it's privately owned and is a popular site to hunt for amazonite, a greenish gem named after the Amazon River, and 80 other gems and minerals. Located 300 feet under ground and stretching 2,000 feet in length, the mine is always growing and changing. The area formed more than 250 million years ago when magma



pushed from the center of the earth to the surface and cooled, leaving behind massive deposits of minerals. The mine owners periodically use explosives to blast the cave and open up new areas for visitors to explore. Equipped with five-gallon buckets (hammers and pickaxes aren't allowed), diggers can bring home whatever they can fit into a single bucket.

Graves Mountain (Lincolnton, Georgia)

Several times each year, the caretakers of Graves Mountain, located about 130 miles east of Atlanta, invite visitors to dig for buried treasure at this site, which formed millions of years ago when sedimentary rocks metamorphosed. At one time, Tiffany & Co. mined the site for rutile, a crystal-like mineral it used to polish its collection of diamonds. Large traces of the mineral can still be found there today. The mountain's next dig and rock swap will be held October 7 through October 9—participants can bring their own shovels and hand tools to search for quartz, iridescent hematite, bluish lazulite and other specimens.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/hidden-gems-hunt-treasure-these-geological-sites-180957962/>

Some Easy Recipes



JUNK YARD SALAD

- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 lg. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 can Eagle Brand milk
- 2 c. miniature marshmallows
- 1 c. pecans
- 1 (8 oz.) Cool Whip

Mix in order and refrigerate overnight.

No Bake Oreo Cheesecake

Yield: 9 servings Prep Time: 15 minutes Chill Time: 3 hours
Total Time: 3 hours 15 minutes

Ingredients

For the Oreo Crust:

- 25 regular Oreo cookies, crushed into fine crumbs (I used a food processor)
- 3 tablespoons melted butter

For the Cheesecake:

- 8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar, sifted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 8 ounces frozen whipped topping (Cool Whip or TruWhip), thawed according to package directions

For the Topping:

- 21 ounce can of cherry pie filling



Instructions

Line an 8x8 inch baking pan with foil, leaving about 1 inch of the foil extending over the edges of the pan. The extra foil will create handles that you can use to lift the No Bake Oreo Cheesecake from the pan.

In a medium bowl, stir together the Oreo cookie crumbs and melted butter. Add crumb mixture into the bottom of prepared pan and press into an even layer.

In a large bowl with an electric mixer, beat cream cheese for about 2 minutes. Gradually add in confectioners' sugar and continue beating until smooth. Beat in vanilla until combined. Use a rubber spatula to fold in the whipped topping until completely incorporated.

Spoon filling onto crust and spread into an even layer. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours. When you are ready to serve, remove cheesecake from pan using the foil overhang and cut into squares. Before serving, top with cherry pie filling.

Notes

No Bake Oreo Cheesecake can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.

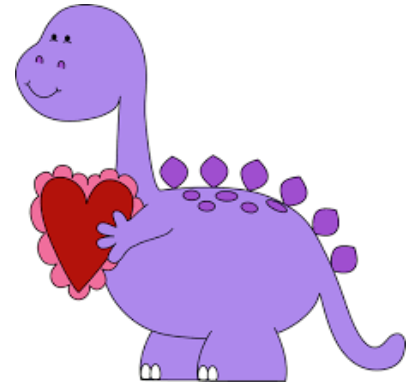
Upcoming Events

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020

State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting
201 W. Main St.,
Morenci, MI 49256

Feb 29-Mar 1, 2020
LIVONIA, MI

The Roamin Club Annual Auction.
Sat 11 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 6 pm.
Schoolcraft Community College
18600 Haggerty Rd.
Livonia.



Mar. 28, 2020
48TH ANNUAL
METRO ROCK SWAP

Hosted by the
Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society.
At the St. Johns Lutheran Church
13115 Telegraph Road
Taylor, MI.

Ongoing -

Richard Brzezicki is at the clubhouse on
Thursdays 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm. It is best to check
with him first before you go. Cell (269) 267-7666

Sherm Kardatzke will be holding cabbing classes
on Thursday evenings, 6:00 pm - 9 pm.

Wire Wrapping Sessions at Hobby Lobby in
Adrian on Fridays 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Linda Miller (419) 923-2090 and
Judy Snyder (517) 902-3990
(check to verify there will be someone there)



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

