

ROCK TRAILS

**Happy
Valentine's
Day**

Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 61
ISSUE II
FEBRUARY 2021

2021 Officers and Directors

In This Issue:

- 1 Officers and Directors
- 2 Treasurer's Statement
- 3 - 4 Becoming a Rock
Collector
- 5 - 6 Bench Tips
- 7 Why Are Rocks and
Minerals Important?
- 8 Graveyard Gravel Fudge
- 9 Upcoming Events

President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310
Vice-President: Charlene Hacker, 517 270-8061
Secretary: Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123
Past President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487
First Year Director: Heidi Storehalder, 517 403-7626
Second Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971
Third Year Director: Bill Schultz, 419 335-6791
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
Library: Curt and Linda Miller.
Education & Lapidary:
Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487
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

The Michigan Gem and Mineral Society has decided to cancel their annual show scheduled for March 19-21 in Jackson, MI due to the ongoing Covid pandemic. State Line Gem and Mineral Society has enjoyed demonstrating at this show for many years. They had to cancel their show last year also. It is a difficult time for many organizations, but the safety of people is more important.



Treasurer's Statement

2021 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.

If dues are not paid by March 15, you will not receive the next newsletter.

Please add the following information to your membership list.

Harlan (Bud) and Christine Taylor, U 031 Cty Rd 5b, Liberty Center, OH 43532
budvtwin@embarqmail.com (419) 966-6142

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer



Becoming a Rock Collector

I like to collect rocks, and so do many other people I know. While you can purchase rock collecting starter kits, rock collecting is a great free activity. It's a fun excuse to go out into nature. Many rock collectors like to travel to different places in order to collect different types of rocks. Some rock collectors like to learn all about the rocks they collect, while some base their collection on looks. What kind of collector are you?

The Rock Collecting Types

I think of a rock collector as someone who compiles rock and mineral specimens as an end in itself. Rock collectors come in a couple of models:

The rockhound is the most familiar: someone who enjoys hunting for unusual, rare or valuable minerals in organized group trips to mines. Rockhounds swap specimens with other collectors and may sell small amounts of material. Some tend to acquire piles of "bulk rough" that they may process later, but others may maintain exquisite cabinets of fine mounted minerals. They are hobbyists who may graduate to become dealers.

The lapidary collects rocks to make things with them. I would include jewelers in this category too: people who cut crystals and gemstones into jewelry making. They are hobbyists who may graduate to become artisans.

That said, some people collect rocks as a means to an end. I don't call them rock collectors, although they certainly care about rocks:

Geologists do study and collect rocks, but they aren't rock collectors. Their collections have scientific or professional, not personal purposes.

Mineral dealers aren't rock collectors, even if they dig up their own material. Their collections are for sale, not for pleasure.

Starting a Rock Collection

You don't need to have been a coin (or stamp) collector to become a rock collector. But I was, and one personal rule I kept was to collect only rocks that I've found myself. To me, the virtue in this is that I've documented each stone and its context. It means that each of my stones is connected to an experience in the field. Each rock represents something I learned and stands as a reminder of somewhere I've been.

Building a Rock Collection

My collection stays relatively small. That's because I'm a careful selector. You might call my practice seeking a type specimen for each place I visit, a single rock that displays the geological features of the site in miniature. There are other ways I can expand my collection as well.

Becoming a Rock Collector

Continued from page 4

I could trade rocks with other collectors like many people do. But then I would need to take more rock back from my trips. This can have negative effects on the environment. I've visited more than one outcrop that has been harvested out of existence, and I don't want to contribute to that problem. Besides, if no trading partner is interested the collecting has been a waste.

In some locations, rock collecting is forbidden. I've learned I can collect the forbidden or unfeasible, thanks to the camera. Photographing a rock and then leaving it behind allows me to collect without collecting. Photography protects the environment and gives me ample room at home to display the rocks I truly love.

A word about the rock and mineral photos on the Web and on my site: Rock photos are generally good examples of the rock types you'll see in the field. The same is not true for minerals, however. Mineral photos tend to favor spectacular specimens. I try as much as possible to avoid that approach in my mineral galleries because for me the point is to learn minerals from typical specimens, the way that students of rocks encounter them.

Rock Collectors versus Mineral Collectors

Rock collectors and mineral collectors are two different kinds of rockhound. Although both seek specimens that are good examples of their type, good rocks and good minerals never occur together. A good rock specimen contains all the right minerals in due proportion, but a good mineral specimen is always out of proportion for its rock type.

Rock collectors are generally limited to whatever they can find or trade for because there is no market for rock specimens (except for educational starter collections). Little more is involved than trimming a hand specimen and recording where it was found. Mineral collectors, however, can shop for all kinds of rarities in rock shops and mineral shows; indeed, you can amass a great mineral collection without getting your hands dirty at all. And a major part of the hobby happens at home in the cleaning, mounting and displaying of mineral specimens.

Alden, Andrew. "Becoming a Rock Collector." ThoughtCo, Aug. 27, 2020, [thoughtco.com/rock-collectors-a-collection-1441155](https://www.thoughtco.com/rock-collectors-a-collection-1441155).



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. It works with regular bezels, with tube settings, and with prong settings. Stones can be set in as little as 30 seconds.

The working end is a concave cavity that fits over the bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

Find a round steel rod or bolt a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, centerpunch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next, if it's a small stone, I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, I burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.



Cont. on page 6

Bench Tips

Cont. from page 5

BENCH SHEARS

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$36 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07

I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.



Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Why Are Rocks and Minerals Important?

By Kat Koch

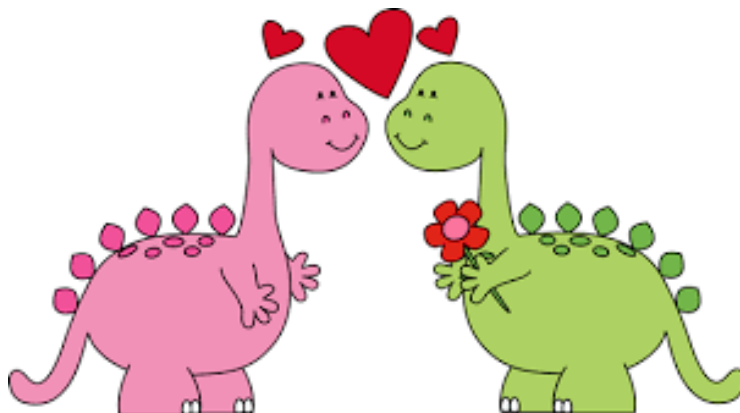
For millions of years, rocks and minerals have been very useful to humans. Throughout history, rocks like jade and obsidian were used to make tools and weapons like knives, hammers, axes, and hooks for catching fish.

Historically rocks and minerals have also been used as jewelry or body adornments. Before humans had matches, rocks were used to create different tools meant for starting fires. Minerals and rocks are found in batteries, soap, paper, detergent, toothpaste, makeup, sports equipment, dishes, pencils, cement and more. Rocks are used in all kinds of construction like ships, cars, roads, planes, buildings, homes, cellphones, televisions, radios and appliances. Some types of rocks like granite are used to make statues, counter tops, and gravestones. Imagine if we didn't have any of the products listed above. Wow! Where would we be without rocks and minerals? 95% of the Earth's crust is made of igneous rock (formed when lava from volcanoes or magma cools). Of the over 4000 minerals on planet Earth, only about 30 of them can be commonly found in Earth's crust. It is estimated that the average person on the Earth will use over one million pounds of rocks, minerals, and metals in a lifetime! That's the equivalent of approximately 50 Orca whales. Hard to believe isn't it?



Source: The Tumbler, June 2020, from Wikipedia, Science for Kids Club, Science Trek, USGS, Britannica

From the Conglomerate 9/20, via Rockpile 2/21



Graveyard Gravel Fudge

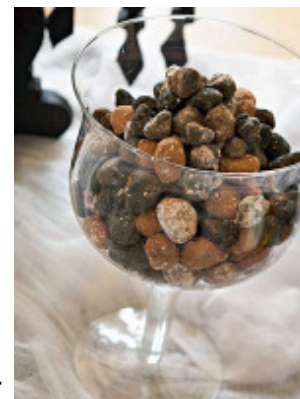
Rating: 4 stars

These chocolate truffle-like candies taste sophisticated enough for adults, but kids love to eat the “rocks” too. Please everyone when you serve the gravel at your next Halloween party.

Source: Midwest Living

Ingredients

- 3 cups semisweet chocolate pieces
- 1 14 ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla
- Dash salt
- 2 cups tiny marshmallows
- Unsweetened cocoa powder mixed with an equal amount of powdered sugar
- Powdered sugar



Directions

Step 1

Line a 9x9x2-inch or an 8x8x2-inch baking pan with foil; set aside.

Step 2

In a medium saucepan, heat and stir chocolate pieces, condensed milk, butter, vanilla, and salt over medium heat until melted and smooth. Remove from heat; stir in marshmallows just until combined. Spread mixture evenly in the prepared pan. Using a table knife or thin metal spatula, swirl marshmallows through fudge in pan until marshmallows are mostly melted. Cover and chill about 2 hours or until firm.

Step 3

Using a small scoop, scoop fudge and shape into rocks (fudge will be sticky). Roll some in cocoa powder mixture and some in powdered sugar. Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days. Makes about 80 pieces (2 1/4 pounds).

<https://www.midwestliving.com/recipe/candy/graveyard-gravel-fudge/>

Upcoming Events



No February Meeting

State Line Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting

201 W. Main St.,

Morenci, MI 49256

The Michigan Gem and Mineral Society

has decided to cancel their annual show
scheduled for March 19-21 in Jackson, MI
due to the ongoing Covid pandemic

Richmond IN

has cancelled their Rock Show this year,
normally in March

Livingston County

has cancelled their Rock Show this year,
normally in September

Ongoing - Currently canceled

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

