

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the Stateline Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 55
ISSUE III
MARCH 2015

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



President's Tidings

Wow! What a nasty month from Mother Nature. Guess we just have to think spring (just around the corner). Can't wait! I hope every one is working on a project, haven't had much time myself but will get to the workshop when weather breaks.

Some of us have gone to the seminars that the the Art-A-Licious people organized. They gave us a lot of good information on do's and don'ts on setting up, displays, and some of the laws you have to follow.

We covered a lot of things at our last meeting and started getting ready for our show in May; sorted rocks and slabbed for the silent auction and the ladies did grab bags.

There are a few shows coming up at other clubs for those who like to go. The Livonia auction is coming up: I went there last year and picked up some rough. I also went to the auction at Schoolcraft College. It is a small auction but a good place to pick up some rough material. I am planning to go again to both this year.

The web site for the Midwest Federation Shows in Michigan is MIROCKCLUBSPAGES.org

This is all capital letters, this will get you to the events list for MI.

Sherm



Treasurer's Statement



Dues for 2015 were due in January. It is the policy of the club to continue sending our newsletter to members thru March. At that time, if they haven't paid their current dues, they will be considered delinquent and membership privileges (i.e. the newsletter) will be suspended. Most members have paid their dues but there are still a few who haven't.

Our next fundraiser is at the Michigan Gem & Mineral Society on March 20, 21, & 22 . The hours are Friday 11 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-7 pm and Sunday 11 am-5 pm. We have been invited to demonstrate cabochon cutting & polishing and will crack geodes. We will also bring Geode, our grab bag Lion, and have a few items for member sales. Please mark your calendars for these dates and let me know what times you are available to help at the booth.

Traditionally, we have a Silent Auction at the March Meeting. This consists of items donated to the club by its members and can represent lapidary items as well as other treasures they feel might entice bidding. Hopefully there will be some nice slabs available from the wonderful collection of rocks we have in our club house basement.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer

Secretary's Scoop



The State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order by president Sherm, with Ed giving the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Doris made the motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter. Richard seconded and the motion passed with no objections.

Treasurer's Report: Payments were made, and forms were submitted for the club's non-profit status. Clubhouse rent and the Consumers Power bill has been paid. Doris reported that the Mason Club was kind enough to invite our club to crack and sell geodes at their show and suggested that if we make enough money we could make a donation to their club. After some discussion among club members, it was decided that we could donate about 10% of what we made to the Mason Club. Doris made a motion to approve the payment discussed, seconded by Richard B. and the motion passed with all in favor. Doris also wrote a check for the rock tumbling contest and Ed agreed to do the tumbling for the club. Doris also paid the dues to the Midwest Federation so that our club could enjoy the benefits. Doris has membership cards for all of our members and will distribute them after the meeting. She anticipates expenses for the Fulton County Fairgrounds, kitchen purchases, utilities, rent, and partial repayment by the club to Marilyn. Dues are also due in March. Richard B. made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Ed and the motion passed with all in favor.

Doris submitted a proposed budget for this year which included expenses and anticipated receipts. She distributed copies of the budget to all members present and allowed for discussion and questions. Phyllis made a motion to accept the budget as printed on the handouts. The motion was seconded by Carl and passed with all in favor.

Doris asked if a club member could audit the 2013 – 2014 budgets so that there could be more than one person involved with club funds. Carl volunteered to go over the records and do some spot checks for accuracy.

Old Business: Programs sponsored by the Art-A-licious committee to help artists prepare for show, sales, presentation and photos, etc. including rules for legal situations and tax ID numbers. Doris, Richard B., Glenda and Sherm have been attending these programs and report that they are very informative. The next one, which will include how to display and photograph your art, will be held in the basement of the Adrian Public Library on **Saturday February 28th at 10:00 AM.**

Show: Doris reported that checks are coming in from dealers and we still have a few tables available. She is open to suggestions for dealers and thanked Linda S. for her help in procuring dealers. Pat reported that she plans to include **tacos** as a new menu item for this year's show. She also said she could use member donations of pies for the show. Doris said she talked to Cletus and he was not sure if he would be a returning club member. He has accepted a new job and is not sure that he will have time for club activities. Doris asked if he planned to do the show security. He said that he felt it was really never necessary as our previous recordings never showed any problems. He said that if

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we were really concerned about overnight security, perhaps a member could spend a night in the building but since all the doors are locked, he did not think it was necessary.

Doris reviewed the list of show positions we already have committed and said we could still use help for the member sales, and kids table. We can also use some relief volunteers to help wherever needed.

Publicity/Ads: Glenda reported that she has put information into 19 publications. She has been searching on line for magazines and various related sites. She has posted info to every show in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. She feels that e-mails are good to use for publicity. Richard B. asked if our posters were really effective. Ed said that he wasn't happy with the quality of last year's poster. He felt it was too pixilated. Richard B. thought the posters may be too big to post in small areas. Ed noted that the yellow signs are a good effect and he liked the yard signs but thought they were sometimes hard to keep up. Glenda suggested that we might try smaller posters but Ed thought the larger ones were impressive. He thought we could use the smaller flyers with the money off coupon which seemed to work well.

Gift Shop Update: Judy asked Glenda to explain the procedure of keeping track of gift shop sales. Glenda said that there will be a book for recording which items members are submitting for sale. The items should be labeled for owner, price and type of product. The club member should indicate if he/she wants to donate any percentage of that sale to the club. All crafts will be accepted, but Judy will have the option to limit any items or put some items in storage instead of displaying everything, since we have a limited display area. Glenda thought we might also sell cabs made by members as other income options. If we are using club materials, she thought making one for the club and one for the member would be fair. Glenda also thought it would be a good idea to organize our geodes by size. Charlie mentioned that it would be a good idea to take a board and cut holes of different sizes for geodes to drop through.

Future Events: Glenda noted that the Bedford field trip would co-inside with the **Bedford Rock Show on June 26th, 27th, and 28th**. Ed was considering taking his antique truck. Glenda plans on taking a utility trailer but will not take it to the collecting site. She was still trying to figure out where to park the trailer while there. Richard B. said he believes there is a camping site near the collecting area. Glenda was curious about how much it would cost to park the trailer. She also asked members to let her know in advance if they planned to book a motel. She found one with reasonable rates and would like to coordinate the booking. She also wants to know if anyone has a large wheeled wagon we can use to move the geodes at the collecting site.

Glenda reported that the Jackson Fairy Festival was **on April 25th and 26th**. She feels anything mystical or magical would do well. Perhaps Charlie's gem trees could be used. Glenda made a motion for the club to do the Fairy Festival and have the club pay the entry fee. Carl seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Glenda said that there was a children's outreach program scheduled for the Adrian Mall. She thought our geodes would do well. The person she talked to said we could participate for free. Carl made a motion for the club to participate in this outreach program. Phyllis seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

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Glenda started a discussion about another field trip to Flint Ridge but the dates were uncertain. Ed thought the best time to go there was during the Flint Knapper's Festival.

Sherm and Glenda passed out copies of the club's by-laws which they printed up. They had also talked to realtors about various real estate options closer to the Adrian area. Most were out of range for our budget. They agreed that the space we are renting is a pretty good deal.

Doris reported about the possibility of purchasing some Mexican geodes from one of our dealers who lives in Texas. He sells them to the general public for \$18.00 a pound but could give us a better deal as a club. This opportunity occurred after the budget was written so as treasurer, Doris asked for permission to purchase \$75.00 worth of the Mexican geodes to try out as a money raiser for the club. Ed made a motion to have the club purchase \$75.00 worth of Mexican geodes, seconded by Richard B. The motion passed with all in favor.

Doris read an e-mail from Steve from the Toledo club. He expressed his regrets about not inviting our club back to the Toledo show to crack geodes. He explained that the Toledo club has purchased a geode cracker and plans to crack their own geodes this year. He thought it was great that we came last year and said that we were really well received. He enjoys our club and plans to continue going to our show in Wauseon with his family.

Richard B. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ed and passed with all in favor.



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

WINDING JUMP RINGS

Whenever you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house.

To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution. If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.



TOUCHING UP A BEZEL

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howelite, etc.

If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

My preference is the one inch diameter ones such as those shown at riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/)
or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon
www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/

Colored Diamonds

Colored diamonds, also known as “fancy diamonds” or “fancy colored diamonds” are those diamonds which have natural, distinct hues of color which makes them rare, beautiful and highly desirable. Colored diamonds are a stunning alternative to white diamonds, and come in many different beautiful shades. Although extremely rare and valuable, there is something for everyone who yearns for their own colored diamonds.

Colored and colorless diamonds are often found in the same mine.

Why Are Colored Diamonds So Valuable?

While white diamonds are plentiful and beautiful, fancy colored diamonds consist of only 1 in 10,000 of the all diamonds in the world. There continues to be a decline in the production of colored diamonds, making them incredibly rare. The most common colored diamonds are yellow, whereas the green, red, pink and blue diamonds are found so rarely in nature that they are considered quite extraordinary.



Colored Diamonds and Grading

Just as with white diamonds, colored diamonds are influenced by the 4 Cs of grading and are priced accordingly. Yet there are some notable differences:

Cut: In general, colored diamonds are cut to the same proportions as white diamonds. However, to best accentuate the color, the polish in fancy colored diamonds is slightly different from the white diamonds. The cutter will take special note of a colored diamonds inclusions since they can complement the diamond's color.

Clarity: While white diamonds depend on a high degree of clarity, colored diamonds can have some inclusions (sometimes the same color of the diamond) without affecting its brilliance.

Carat: As with all diamonds, the price depends on the carat size/weight of the stone and its rarity. A yellow diamond, although still rare, will cost less than an even more rare red, blue or green diamond of the same size.

Color: Generally, the more intense and saturated the color, or hue, the more expensive the diamond. Many diamonds will generally appear naturally with a dominant color and a secondary color, also known as a color modifier. There is a price difference based on the secondary colors (modifiers) found in the stone. For instance, a diamond graded as “Purplish-Pink” will generally cost less than a diamond graded strictly as “Pink” without any secondary coloring. Pink diamonds cost from 5 to 100 times as much as colorless diamonds. To organize colored diamonds, the GIA has several different color grades, ranging from “faint” to “fancy vivid.” Blue and red are the rarest colored diamonds. Yellow and brown are the most common and most affordable colored diamonds, at around one third the price of white diamonds.

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Colored Diamonds: Enhancement

The hue and intensity of a colored diamond can be enhanced through various treatments (high pressure, high temperature, or irradiation). Gemologists will generally need to state any enhancements on the grading report, as there are distinct differences between a natural colored diamond and a color treated (or enhanced) stone.



Helpful Tips for Buying Colored Diamonds

Ensure that you receive a grading report (or diamond origin report). Unfortunately, some jewelers may sell a “color enhanced stone” as a natural colored diamond, and the prices should reflect the difference.

For the best prices, deal with wholesalers or direct buyers. Savings will be substantial, although it may take some effort to find a wholesaler who is willing to sell to the average consumer.

Different colors of gold can complement different colored diamonds.

Yellow diamonds look stunning in a yellow gold setting, while rose gold can enhance the look of warmer colored diamonds.

A color modifier marginally lessens the price of the diamond. Colored diamonds with a secondary color or hue will generally be more affordable.

If natural colored diamonds are out of your price range, opt for color treated stones or synthetic (man-made) colored diamonds. They offer similar beauty for a more affordable price.

<http://www.thediamondauthority.org/colored-diamonds>



Upcoming Events

Sunday, Mar. 1, 2015

State Line Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting

2:00 p.m.

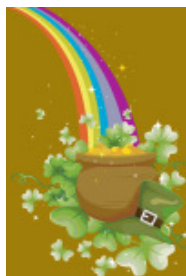
201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

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.)



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

APRIL 9 - 11, 2015

Wyoming, MI

39th ANNUAL SHOW
INDIAN MOUNDS ROCK & MINERAL CLUB
Rogers Plaza Town Center
972 28th St., 49509(1/4 Mile West of 131)
Thurs & Fri 9:30 - 9:00, Sat 9:30 - 8:00
Free Admission & Parking

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.

April 18 - 19, 2015

Roseville, MI

38th ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW
MT. CLEMONS GEM & LAPIDARY SOCIETY
Roseville Recreation Center
18185 Sycamore
Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5

April 26 - 27, 2015

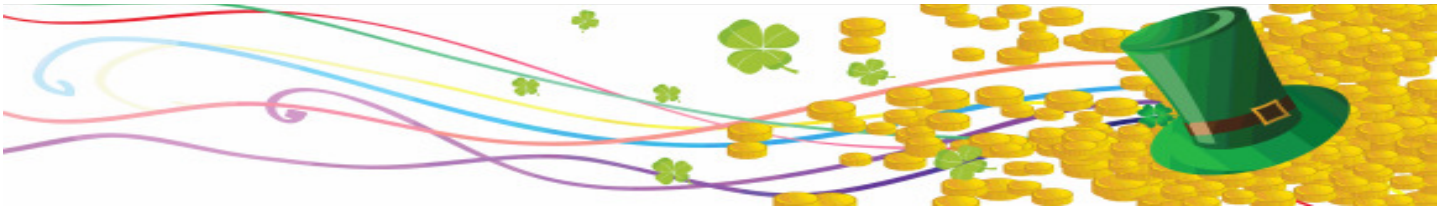
Benton Harbor, MI.

ANNUAL SHOW
BLOSSOMLAND GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
Sat 10-7, Sun 11-4
Orchards Mall
1800 Pipestone Rd.

May 1 - 3, 2015

Kalamazoo, MI

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



Rock Trails

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

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

