

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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MARCH 2016

2016 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

Another month past, another month closer to the show season. Boy, can't wait! Have a couple of shows I like to go to in March. I will be picking up flyers from the shows and will copy them and leave the copy's at the club house. There is a copy of the Midwest shows at the clubhouse

Sounds like everyone is having a lot of fun at the wire wrapping class on Wed. Thanks, Linda, Carl and Judy! There are a lot of very nice things being made and put in the show case for club sales. I cut up some petoskey stone and will put them

in the case for club sales.

Got a letter from my good friends at the Parma lapidary club - they are having a show on May 14-15. Also, they invited us to an in house rock extravaganza on April 19 at their clubhouse and in June they are having a swap, but you know how busy June is.

Remember this meeting there is another silent auction, so bring in lots of rocks or slabs to auction off! Can't wait, need more rocks! I'm down to about a ton. ha ha

For those of you that didn't know, Richard has been in the hospital again. According to Facebook post he is doing well, he had to have his pacemaker replaced. Get well soon, Richard!

Sherm

Secretary's Scoop

Our President, Sherm Kardatzki, called the State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting to order at 2:25 pm and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions to a visitor from the Morenci Sportsman Club and two potential new members.

There was no newsletter yet this month because it had unfortunately been delayed, so all were in agreement that accepting the secretary's report would be held off until the next meeting.

Vice President, Glenda Gafner, gave the Treasurer's report in Doris' absence and informed us that our Midwest Federation dues had been paid, as well as our Consumer's bill and our rent. Glenda also ran through our expected expenses and informed us that the IRS had approved the renewal of our club's status as a non-profit organization. She also informed us that membership dues were still coming in, as well as deposits from vendors for our show in June. Linda M made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Jan H. The motion passed with all in favor.

Our club has been invited to the show in Jackson, MI during Friday, March 18th to Sunday, March 20th and we have been offered three free tickets a day for our volunteer workers. Set up will be early that Friday morning and Bill volunteered to transport everything to the show. Linda Miller and Judy Snyder volunteered to work on Friday, Jan H. volunteered for Saturday, and Judy and Richard Snyder volunteered for Sunday.

June will be a busy month for the club, as we have our own show that first weekend, followed a field



trip to Alpena, MI and trips to Cave City, KY and Bedford, IN.

Our show will be June 3rd- 5th and we will have posters to put up by the next meeting as well as flyers and sandwich signs that Ed will put out. There was some discussion over whether to get 50 or 100 posters made and a compromise of 75 was reached. Jan made a motion to accept this and was seconded by Phylis.

The weekend Alpena Trip has now been scheduled for June 10th and those who are going are welcome to leave after work that day and drive to the cabin and stay the night before continuing on to Alpena in the morning. The trip will include a visit to a mine and the chance to collect fossils, calcite and daisy stones. A \$20 donation was suggested for those who wish to attend and a vehicle sticker will be needed for any vehicle entering the state park.

The trips to Cave City, Kentucky and Bedford, IN could be combined together into one week long trip or members could choose just one to go on if they'd rather not go on both. The Kentucky trip is to be scheduled around the 18th of June, though we still need an exact date, and we will arrive in Bedford by the 21st. Details for Kentucky are still being planned, though chances to collect geodes, fossils and Indian artifacts are expected. Bedford has their annual show the 24th- 26th and we will, of course, collect lots of geodes to sell at our shows. Those who are going on either trip or on both need to let us know by the next meeting so reservations can be made. Camping will be available at campgrounds and fairgrounds for those who wish to camp out instead of staying in a hotel.

Jan H. has done an inventory of our grab bag for shows and stated that we were running low. No more trinkets will need to be purchased, but we need more fabric bags to be sewn and then filled. Linda M, Shirley, and Pat volunteered to sew bags and a work day was scheduled for March 2nd at 1pm to fill the bags with trinkets and stones. February 10th was also decided upon for those who wished to fill grab bags.

We had some potential new members visit who were interested in wire wrapping lessons. Those workdays and lessons still continue as usual on Wednesdays at 1pm for those who wish to attend.

Marsha Osgood from the Morenci Sportsman Club invited the club to set up a display of gems, stones and geodes at a Kid's Outdoor Day that they are hosting on July 9th from 9am- 2pm. They will pay our expenses for us to come and for us to be able to offer a choice of a grab bag or a small geode for each kid. This event will be free for the kids and they expect around 70 kids to attend. There will also be archery ranges, an animal show, and demonstrations for the kids. If we had volunteers to give lapidary or wire wrapping demonstrations, Marsha said that it would also be appreciated. A list of volunteers will likely be discussed at a later meeting.

Jan H. informed everyone that she had brought a book with lovely pictures about collecting fossils to the meeting and that she would be donating it to the club's library.

Next month in March we will have our deadline for membership dues on the 15th and our silent auction after the monthly meeting on the 6th. Jan and I volunteered to help set up the silent auction and other members may bring in items to donate for the auction if they wish to.

Jan made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Carl and passed with all in favor

Finding Minerals

Where to collect

The best place to find minerals is at mines. Mines are locations where industrially important rocks, minerals, and ores, as well as precious metals and gemstones are extracted from the earth. Mines can produce large amounts of specimens of certain minerals, and continue to provide specimens as long as the mine is actively worked. Even after mines are exhausted or abandoned, specimens are often found in the mine dumps. Some abandoned mines are on public lands or in areas which trespassing is permitted, and these localities can afford some of the best collecting experiences. Many famous mines and deposits are entirely gone, having been built over or completely sealed and inaccessible.



In the past, it was often easy to obtain permission to take minerals from a commercial mine. Collectors would enter the mining areas and extract the minerals without interfering with the workers or collect on weekends. This is rarely possible today, due to insurance liabilities and corporate agglomeration restrictions and bureaucracy. Many famous localities that have been abandoned are also difficult to collect upon due to trespass barring by the property owners. Therefore, it may be very difficult or impossible to collect at well-known mineral localities. In these cases, the only way to collect is to either have connections to a mine operator or get permission from a property owner. Another possibility is

to collect with a mineral group or club, which works on getting the permits and permission to enter active quarries where an individual would not be permitted.

There are a number of specimen-producing mines that have closed for commercial mining and have been transformed into tourist attractions and museums. Minerals can be extracted from some of these mines without membership or requirement of a permit. A collector usually pays a fee to search a quarry or dump.

Some minerals are also found in road cuts on the side of roads, highways, and railroads.

Construction sites have also yielded many interesting specimens, and in a mineral-producing region one should always keep an eye out for construction sites as these can yield the biggest surprises.

Collecting Procedures

Mineral collecting requires certain tools which can be purchase in hardware and hobby stores. A hammer and chisel is the most important, and is used to break apart the host rock as well as remove specimens from their surroundings. A backpack or pail is necessary to store the rocks, and newspapers should be used to wrap specimens after they are found to protect them. Some collecting localities require hard hats and goggles for safety, and this is good practice.

Behavior at a Collecting Site

It is always beneficial to find out all about a locality before going collecting. Care must be exercised when chipping at a cliff not to leave any unstable portion. In addition, make sure not to chisel rocks when a person is in close proximity, lest a mineral fragment fly out and injure the person. When visiting an operating mine, make sure not to disturb the workers. Further, don't leave any garbage - take out what you bring in. Any such offenses can permanently close a locality to collectors!

Types of Collecting Areas

There are various mines and mineral deposits where minerals occur. These are:

Open pit mine - A large, open, terraced hole in the ground. Open pit mines will eventually fill with water if abandoned since water is not pumped out.

Underground or tunnel mine - A series of shafts where rock is blasted out underground or in a cliffside; the ore is brought out then processed. Underground mines can be a network of tunnels, often on different levels. Some are well over a mile deep.

Quarry - Cliff which has been created by continuous digging into a mountain or hill for ore extraction.

Dump - Area where left over material is placed after being brought out of the mine. If no new material is brought to a dump, the material can eventually become exhausted by collectors.

Alluvial deposit - Area in a stream or a river bed where collectible material is found. In such an area, boots and sieving apparatuses are required for collecting, unless collecting is done on the banks.



http://www.minerals.net/resource/Finding_Minerals.aspx



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS



There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.

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INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC WAX PEN

You can make your own wax pen from a small soldering iron plugged into a light dimmer switch for heat control. Both components are easily found at Radio Shack, a big hardware store or at Harbor Freight. As an example of the components, see www.harborfreight.com items #43060 and #47887

File the tip of the soldering iron into the shape you prefer, or even better, get a soldering iron with replaceable tips. Then you can make several tip shapes for different tasks. Set the dimmer control just hot enough to melt the wax without producing any smoke.

A tip design that I find ideal for some work is a length of small gauge wire that lets me reach in around the model to melt some wax. The wire is about 15mm long and 18 or 20 gauge. To conduct heat all the way to the tip, I use Sterling wire and silver solder it into a hole on the end of a copper or brass rod that will fit into the soldering iron.

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and
"Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry"
are available on Amazon

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

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Mar. 6, 2016

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

2:00 p.m

201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

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

**Rockhounds,
Pebble Pups**



Make It a Family Affair

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

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.



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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