

ROCK TRAILS



Daylight Savings Time - March 12

Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 57
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2016 Officers and Directors

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Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310
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Second Year Director: Carl Mulholland, 517 539-2037
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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

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President's Tidings

What a month! Started out with an adventure that I have wanted to do for several years: a trip to the show in Tucson. Wow, what a show! We were there a week and that was not enough. There were so many things to go to and see, and, yes, I did bring some rocks back, as did the other two that went with me: our good friends Carl and young Bill. If I go again, I will have to rethink the mode of transportation. We drove a lot of road time.



As for our show - Glenda and I sat down and did the layout for the tables. The show is full and there are more that we could not let in. We do need someone to take over the kitchen, since Pat is no longer going to be doing it. Anyone interested contact me and I can let you know what the duties are. The kitchen is one of the main parts of the show that brings in revenue for the club.

There are some shows coming up, so check the newsletter at the bottom for the list. Sandy keeps up on the shows and does a very good job of that and the newsletter. Thanks, Sandy! We don't tell you that enough.

Secretary's Scoop

Vice President Glenda brought the meeting to order due to Sherm's absence and gave the invocation. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Linda H. made a motion to accept the Secretary's report as it was printed in the newsletter and was seconded by Phyllis. It passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Glenda gave the Treasurer's report including the club's balance, our usual monthly expenses including rent and Consumers, as well as expenses for posters, the Rock and Gem magazine subscription, the Ohio Dept. of Taxation, and Village Originals. She also reported deposits made from the raffle, member dues and some donations.



Phyllis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Jan. It passed with all in favor.

It was announced that Richard and Doris B, as well as Judy were putting on a presentation for the State Employees Retirement Association on February 15th.

Members were reminded that the Jackson show will be March 17-19 and that we will need volunteers.

There was some discussion about yard signs to advertise for our annual show in June, but most of the details had been decided and voted on during our previous meeting.

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Secretary's Scoop
Continued from page 2

Glenda informed the club that slots for our show had been completely filled up by vendors and that a floor plan was being worked out to fit people in. She also said that she was receiving even more requests from other vendors. Some members have already volunteered to help set up and help during the show, but we will need help manning the kitchen this year. Bill and Mary S. are hosting a picnic and BBQ for members and vendors at their house on Saturday night after the show closes for the day. Members were wondering if we were still going to have the luncheon for vendors on Thursday after set up, but no conclusion was reached.

Jan brought up that we are in need of more cloth bags for grab bags. Anyone who wants to contribute is welcome. It was also brought up that members had been working hard sorting tumbled stones and labeling them to be put into the grab bags.

Glenda has booked a house for the trip to the Upper Peninsula during June 10-13th and some members who are attending have made deposits to help offset the cost. Other members have decided to stay in cabins or camp so that there will be enough room for everyone who is attending.

Glenda has also made motel reservations for our annual trip to Bedford in southern Indiana during June 23-25th.

It was suggested that some members could help clean out the club's basement and find specimens that could be cleaned up and labeled for selling at shows and fundraisers.

I brought up the fact that the Brown County Rock and Mineral Club in southern Indiana were getting officially organized as a club and that a few of my friends in that club had been in contact with me. They had wondered if there could be an affiliation between our clubs and someone to act as a liaison. I had volunteered myself for the job and I wanted to know the club's opinion on this before I acted on it. After some discussion about the club's inviting each other on outings like Bedford and about previous contact with the Brown County club and its members, I was given the club's approval.

Other trips for this year such as Flint Ridge, Marble Head Quarry, and White Rock Quarry are still in the works. There were also suggestions made about future trips to Franklin, NC, Arkansas, and Georgia.

Linda H. made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Nancy. It passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
~Heidi Storehalder



Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum

Mines throughout the Upper Peninsula of Michigan have supplied iron and copper for over 100 years, and while some of them have long been since capped, they have found new life as museums showcasing the history of the mines and works of the many miners. In Ishpeming, at the former Cliffs Shaft Mine, now a museum, one large modern tower tops the mine's C shaft, but above A and B shafts are Egyptian Revival obelisks.

In mining, the structure above a vertical shaft that holds the elevator works and hoists is called a headframe. Atop two shafts of the country's largest hematite mine, Cliffs Shaft Mine, the wooden headframes were in need of replacement in 1919. The head of the newly formed Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, William G. Mather, wanted to see a distinct architecture for the new headframes since they would be seen from the entire local area. The company commissioned Prairie School architect George Washington Maher to design the new headframes, and he designed obelisks in the Egyptian Revival style. The obelisks above A and B shafts are made of reinforced concrete and over 96 feet tall. They can still be seen from US Route 41 and on the way into Ishpeming's business district. The obelisks can be seen on signs and plaques in the city.

The museum tour shows visitors around the B shaft obelisk for great photography, as well as the entry to the C shaft, topped by a more modern headframe in 1955, and exhibits about mine life and minerals donated by local rockhounds. The mine was capped in 1967, and the obelisks still rise over the Upper Peninsula.

Open June through September, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 AM - 4 PM.

<http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/cliffs-shaft-mi-e-museum>



Langsdon Mineral Collection

Celina, Ohio



A geode looks like a normal rock — but, it's not just a rock, because it in fact contains a dazzling mineral display concealed within its interior. Similarly, Celina, Ohio seems like a fairly standard city of 10,000. However, hidden in the back of the unassuming Mercer County Library, you'll find a mineral collection with almost a thousand specimens from all over the world.

The collection was amassed by Ron and Ruth Langsdon, residents of nearby

St. Marys who spent 15 years collecting minerals from the comfort of their own home. Having never gone rockhounding in the field, they instead worked with mineral dealers to build a personal collection that numbers in the thousands. In 2006, upon deciding that they wanted to share their finds with the public (and presumably looking to clear out some space at home), they donated part of their collection to the county library so that they could be enjoyed by current and future generations alike.

The Langsdon Mineral Collection contains not only a a glittering array of colors, shapes, and sizes, but also remarkable items from mines now closed as well as rare specimens from China and India heretofore unidentified by Western mineralogy textbooks. It rivals the mineral collections of major museums in terms of quality, and is listed as one of the most notable public mineral collections in the world, alongside places like the Smithsonian and London's Natural History Museum.

Starting with an initial endowment of roughly 300 specimens, the library's catalog now contains over 900 items (all donated by the Langsdons) and the displays have been expanded to branch libraries in Marion, Mendon, and St. Henry.

FREE Tours are available for classes, clubs, scouts, schools, college and senior citizens.

To schedule a tour or school visit-

Call 419-586-4442 or email Minerals@MercerLibrary.org

The collection can be viewed for free during library hours.

<http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/langsdon-mineral-collection>

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

BENCH SHEARS

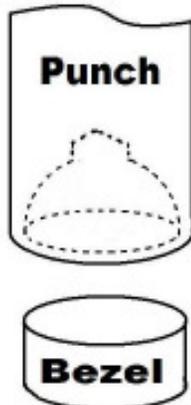
When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.



Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$22 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.

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. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your 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 good quality, round steel rod 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, center punch 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 smaller than the steel rod but slightly 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 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, burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.



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, March 5, 2017

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

2:00 p.m.

201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

March 3 - 5, 2017

Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society
Wayne County Fairgrounds
861 N. Salisbury
Richmond, IN
Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-4

March 25, 2017

Midwest Mineralogical &
Lapidary Society (rock swap)
St. John's Lutheran Church
13115 Telegraph
Taylor, MI
Sat 10-5

March 4 - 5, 2017

The Roamin Club (silent auction)
Schoolcraft College
18600 Haggerty Road
Livonia, MI
Sat 11-6, Sun noon-6

April 6 - 8, 2017

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club
Roger's Plaza Town Center
28 th Street at Clyde Park
Wyoming, MI
Thurs & Fri 9:30-9,
Sat 9:30-8

March 12, 2017

Daylight Savings Time
Turn your clocks **forward** one hour.

April 8 - 9, 2017

Columbus Rock & Mineral Society
Northland Performing Arts Center
4411 Tamarack Blvd.
Columbus, OH
Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5

March 17, 18, 19, 2017

Michigan Gem & Mineral Society
Annual Show
See flyer on page 8



MICHIGAN GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

WE WILL ROCK YOU

MGMS ANNUAL SHOW 2017

MARCH 17-18-19

FRI 10 am - 7 pm

SAT 10 am - 6 pm

SUN 11 am - 5 pm



*GEMS
ROCKS
BEADS
RAFFLE
FOSSILS
EXHIBITS
JEWELRY
MINERALS*

DOOR PRIZES

*SILENT AUCTION
DEMONSTRATORS*



Adult \$4
Senior \$2
Student \$1
5 & Under FREE

**Girl/Boy Scouts & Military
Personnel in Uniform FREE**

School Groups & Other Organizations Welcome

Contact Us for More Information

Sally 517.522.3396

www.mgmsrockclub.com

info@mgmsrockclub.com



American One Event Center

Jackson Co. Fairgrounds 200 W. Ganson St, Jackson, MI

Ammonites

During medieval times ammonites were believed to be petrified snakes. They were fitted with carved heads and sold to pilgrims.

The original discus used by the ancient Greeks in their Olympics was a fossilized ammonite!

In India, ammonite fossils are identified with the god Vishnu and are used in various religious ceremonies.

Ammonite fossils are found all over the world and are used in many cultures as artifacts of wealth, luck and often have odd stories attached to them.

The Navajo and Indians of the North American Plains carried ammonites in their medicine bags for health and good hunting.

They called the ammonites buffalo stones because of their resemblance to the North American bison.

Ammonite shells are among the most perfect geometric shapes in the natural world and have been studied for their strength and versatility as an architectural structure. The shape of the nautili's shell is used universally as an archetype of sacred geometry (the golden mean), mathematical precision and the wonder of nature across the world.

Squids and Octopi (cephalopods) are distant relatives of ammonites and are among the most intelligent animals on the planet.

The world's largest ammonite is 6.5 feet in diameter and is housed at Seppenrade near Munster in Germany.

From MMS The Conglomerate 1/ 2016 via
The Rockpile 3/2017





Rock Trails

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