

# ROCK TRAILS



## **Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society**

VOLUME 61  
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MARCH 2021

### **2021 Officers and Directors**

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.  
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Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
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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



Hope everyone is still safe.

I have an update for the show in June. Last week I called the fair and our dates are locked in with no restrictions. I also called the Health Dept to see what they were going to mandate. They are concerned about distance between the vendors and the amount of people who are in the building. We can have no more than 300 including the vendors. We will also be allowed to have food. So, in short, the show is on!

I have also called a few members and everyone I called is willing to help. I am in the process of contacting the vendors now. We do have to keep in mind that things can change between now and the show date. This is dictated by the Health Department and the Governor. I will keep everyone updated on the changes, if any.

Sherm

## *Treasurer's Statement*

2021 Dues for membership in the State Line Gem & Mineral Society are now due.

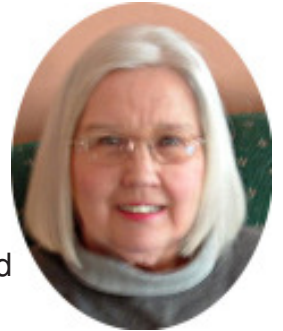
The Dues are:

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.

The above memberships are defined in Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution.

It is difficult to remember to pay dues when we are not having regular meetings. I sent out 23 notices via snail mail and e-mail to the members (30) who had not paid their 2021 dues. I will send a current membership list to Sandy Gerhart on March 15th to be included in the Newsletter. If you do not pay your dues by March 15, you will be considered delinquent. Thereupon, voting privileges shall be revoked and publications discontinued. Full privileges shall be restored immediately upon payment of delinquent dues.



Please pay your dues by checks made payable to State Line Gem & Mineral Society and mailed to Doris Brzezicki, 419 N Broad St, Adrian, MI 49221

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer

Please add the following names to your membership list.



Sundie Pietszak  
6060 Fairhaven  
Toledo, OH 43623  
(419) 984-7739  
smp268@aol.com

Candy Monqohan  
6229 Valley Stream  
Toledo, OH 43615  
(419) 442-1986  
cmunique64@gmail.com

## *In Memory*

Carl Mulholland was born on December 13, 1932, to a German mother and Irish father. He was described as a “rock puppy,” enjoying rocks from the time he was a child. Carl was active in 4-H when he was growing up.

In his early adult life, Carl worked for the Chicago Boys Club. One of the youth at the boys club while Carl worked there was David Eisenhower, the grandson of the late president Dwight D. Eisenhower. David was able to arrange for the club to tour the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

In the early 1970s, Carl met Beverly Noble through a mutual friend. When Carl was 43 years old, he and Bev married. They celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on November 26, 2020.

Carl taught math, shop, and a variety of subjects including a program for at-risk students, at Longfellow Junior High School in Flint, Michigan, for thirty years, until he retired.

While in Flint, Carl was an active member of the Flint Rock and Gem Club. In 1996, he was chairman of the Flint rock show. He became a life-time member of the club.

For a time, Carl and Bev lived in Colorado, where Carl was active in the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club. He received an award (partly in jest, though accurate,) for the “most classes taken” at the Grand Junction club.

Carl and Bev moved back to Manchester, Michigan, and Carl became a member of the Stateline Gem and Mineral Society in 2014, and also served as a director. Fieldtrips were a popular activity for Carl, typically including travels with club members a couple of times a year to Bedford, Indiana to look for geodes; and several trips to Flint Ridge to collect flint for jewelry making. In 2017, Carl and a couple of club members traveled to the big rock show at the Tucson, Arizona, Expo Center. He was a master craftsman at making jewelry, and an expert wire wrapper, too. Carl could be found manning his booth at most of the area rock club shows.

In early September 2020, Carl had a minor stroke, which led to a fall, a broken hip, and a steady decline in his health. He was at Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Chelsea, Michigan, where he passed away peacefully on January 31, 2021, at age 88. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there are no plans for a service at this time.

Carl was loved by many, and was a dear friend. He will be remembered for his great sense of humor; his leadership, dedication, and active membership in the club; and his focus on education, such as getting youth interested in rock hunting, and supporting scholarship opportunities. Carl will be greatly missed!



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## *Stromatolites*

Stromatolites – Greek for ‘layered rock’ – are microbial reefs created by cyanobacteria (formerly known as blue-green algae).

Stromatolite deposits are formed by sediment trapping and binding, and/or by precipitation activities of the microbial communities. The microbes are active on the surface layer of the Stromatolites, while the underlying build-up is a lithified remnant of former microbial surface communities, that could be interpreted as a trace-fossil.

These deposits built up very slowly: a single 1m structure may be 2,000 to 3,000 years old. But the tiny microbes that make up modern Stromatolites are similar to organism that existed 3.5 billion years ago!

For context, consider that the Earth itself has been around for 4.5 billion years, and that Homo Sapiens have only been on Earth for 195,000 years. What’s more, Stromatolites are the reason why we’re alive today! Before cyanobacteria the air was only 1% oxygen. Then, for 2 billion years, our photosynthesising Stromatolites pumped oxygen into the oceans (like underwater trees, before trees existed). When the oceans’ waters were saturated, oxygen was released into the air, and with around 20% of oxygen in the air, life was able to flourish and evolve.

Even today you can see Stromatolites ‘fizzing’ underwater, releasing oxygen.

Living Stromatolites are no longer widely distributed. There are only two well-developed marine Stromatolite areas in the world: in the Bahamas and at Hamelin Pool in the Shark Bay area of Western Australia.

Hamelin Pool is home to the most extensive living Stromatolite system in the world: the organisms thrive in the area’s hypersaline water, which is twice as salty as normal seawater.

Australia’s marine Stromatolites are protected: they’re part of the Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve, which lies within the UNESCO World Heritage listed Shark Bay. The adjacent Hamelin Station Reserve is now owned by Bush Heritage Australia.

Hamelin Pool is perfect for Stromatolites because it’s hypersaline. Sea grass forms a ‘barrier’ between Hamelin Pool and the rest of the ocean, preventing ocean circulation, which would dilute the super-salty water.

But sea grass meadows are being damaged by the runoff caused by floods and extreme temperature events. Climate change is likely to lead to more frequent tropical storms and more frequent flooding events in the area, threatening the Stromatolites of Hamelin Pool.

## **Stromatolites**

cont. from page 4

Human interference is another threat. To protect the delicate structures, visitors are restricted to the boardwalk. From here they may be underwhelmed: Stromatolites look a little like cow pats from that vista. But, as Stromatolite expert Dr. Erica Suosaari says “underwater, the shapes, the sizes and the different mat surfaces are overwhelming in their variety...you feel like you’re in you in a Precambrian world!”.



# Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

## SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies.

The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.



## USE YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shaft sizes and of course the many different sizes of drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.

So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.



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



### Are you Missing your Jewelry Classes? Try an online session at home

Online Class - Castellated Bezels - March 13th 10am - 4pm EST

The castellated setting is a fabulous way to show off a larger cabochon in a fresh, bold, and beautiful way. It works particularly well for larger stones in both rings and pendants. The setting is formed from heavy gauge 14 or 16 thick material with equally spaced cuts cut all around.

Join me for this online class to learn the tricks of working with thick bezel material. This setting is worthy of your best cabochon. It makes stones up to a inch or more look great in a ring design and larger ones in pendant or bracelet designs - your choice after completing this bezel.

Class fee \$85 Registration closes March 5th  
Contact: BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

Online Class - Adding Textures Without a Mill - March 27th 10am - 4pm EST

Jewelry makers use textured surfaces to add depth, complexity and elegance to their designs. We all have our favorites, but this session is bound to turn up a few new ones for you, all without the need of expensive equipment like rolling mills or hydraulic presses.

The online session will feature 20 different techniques for adding texture - including a variety of simple punches, hammers and rotary tools. Some are applicable to raw sheet material while others can be used on partially fabricated pieces.

Class fee \$85 Registration closes March 25th  
Contact: BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

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## *Random Thoughts from an Old Timer:*

When I was a child I thought "nap time" was a punishment. Now, as a grown up, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it".

I don't have gray hair, I have "wisdom highlights".  
I'm very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have placed them on my knees.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course, I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age, "getting lucky" means walking into a room and actually remembering what I came in there for.

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later:

I don't have to go to school or go to work,  
I get an allowance every month,  
I have my own pad,  
I don't have a curfew,

I have a driver's license and my own car (if only  
I could remember where I parked it).



All I need to know about life I  
learned from Santa:

Encourage people to believe in you,  
always remember who's naughty and who's nice,  
It's as much fun to give as to receive, some days  
it's ok to feel a little chubby, make your presence known,  
always ask for a little bit more than what you really want,  
bright red can make anyone look great,  
wear a side belt and no one will notice how many pounds you have gained,  
don't pout, whenever you are at a loss for words just say "Ho, Ho, Ho!", and  
if you only show up once a year everyone will think you are important.

From Good Times Bi-weekly Newsletter, #199 & #205, Eastside Edition (Michigan),  
via source unknown.

From the Conglomerate 1/19

From the RockPile 3/21



# Upcoming Events

## No March 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

**April 8 - 10**  
**Wyoming MI**  
Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club  
Rogers Plaza Town Center  
28th Street SW,  
Wyoming, MI  
Thurs & Fri 9:30-9, Sat 9:30-7

**April 24-25**  
**TROY, OH**  
Miami County Gem &  
Mineral Club Annual Club Show  
Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4.  
Miami County Fairgrounds,  
650 N. Co. Rd. 25A,  
Troy.

**April 24-25**  
**CUYAHUGO FALLS, OH**  
Summit Lapidary Club Annual Show.  
Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5.  
Expo Center,  
48 East Bath Rd.,  
Cuyahugo Falls.

**May 6-9**  
**KALAMAZOO, MI**  
Kalamazoo Geological &  
Mineral Society Annual Show  
Kalamazoo Expo Center,  
2900 Lake St.,  
Kalamazoo

### 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

