

# ROCK TRAILS



## No April Meeting

### Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 60  
ISSUE IV  
APRIL 2020

#### 2020 Officers and Directors

President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310  
Secretary: Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666  
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123  
Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
First Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971  
Second Year Director: Bill Schultz, 419 335-6791  
Third Year Director: Curt Miller, 419 923-2090  
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>



#### In This Issue:

- 1 Officers and Directors
- 2 President's Tidings
- 2 - 3 Secretary's Scoop
- 4 Bench Tips
- 5 - 6 Petrified Opal Tree Trunk
- 7 Upcoming Events

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



## President's Tidings

Hello everyone! Hope everyone is ok and doing well with this mess in the world. Have not been going anywhere other than work and home. I guess it's time to get things done around the house that have been pushed aside. I have been getting some slabbing done so I can take to shows when they start again. So many have been canceled - Jackson, Troy Ohio, the show in Grand Rapids and many others. Hope that all of this clears before our show but things are not looking good. If it doesn't, I will call the officers and executive committee to make that decision.

I have talked with Glenda and we decided to cancel the April meeting. This meets the recommendations of the state. Also I have canceled the cabbng class. The wirewrapping has also been canceled.

So this newsletter does not bring good news with the canceled shows and meetings. We all have to understand that this is serious and we all should follow what is directed by the government. So stay safe everyone, and stay in contact. We still have phone and Facebook.

Sherm



## Secretary's Scoop



The 3-1-2020 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by president Sherm at 2:07 PM. Eddie gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Doris made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Catherine and passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Doris presented the treasurer's written report for the club members to sign as requested by the club. She paid the rent, Consumers bill, newsletter expenses, poster and postcard expenses for the annual show . She received dues from renewing members. Jan made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Kathy and passed with all in favor.

Doris updated the current membership list and passed it around for any necessary corrections or additions. Richard Snyder requested to have a newsletter directed to his personal email as well as one to Judy's email.

Old Business – Sherm verified that we are definitely invited to the Jackson show. He said he talked to Sally and she told him the show would be in the new building at the Jackson Fairgrounds and that we will have two tables. Richard B. asked if we were still limited to a total of 3 workers, since it seemed we had more room, but Sherm said he did not ask. We will be required to bring tarps to protect the tables and floors, since the new building is carpeted. Ensuing discussions revealed that we have always brought tarps to the Jackson show in the past so that would not be a problem. Doris asked for

Continued on page 3

---

**Secretary's Scoop**

Cont. from page 2

volunteers to help with set up on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM and help load the Genie, geode cracker, geodes and the grab bag lion and grab bags. Bill Schultz, Bill Sipes, Henry and Ed all plan to help load Ray's van with all we will need for the Jackson show.

Doris noted that we still have two Miner AI t-shirts for sale at \$20.00 each.

Sherm reported that he contacted all of the vendors for our show and two will not be coming back. He has recruited Jackie Swain to come back this year. He plans to call our flint knapper, Steve Laut and he asked Doris to contact Don Baker, our scrimshaw artist to demonstrate at our show. Doris stated that Sandy Cline and Rita came to visit us recently and she gave them the show postcards to make available to visitors at Sandy's shows. He also plans to demonstrate soapstone carving at our show.

Judy reported that she had raffle tickets available but was not sure of how many to print, since she does not want to waste ink and paper. She asked members to please try to sell five books of tickets. Discussion revealed that we sold more tickets last year than the year before and Judy was to be commended for her efforts. The question about increasing our cash prize from \$50.00 to \$100.00 came up. It was also noted that some other club raffles have containers such as coffee cans in front of the prizes so that you could put all your raffle tickets on just the item you really want to win. There were concerns about leaving valuable items open in front of a coffee can, and the solution was to number the prizes in the case, and number the corresponding coffee cans so customers could pick what they wanted. Judy brought up the concern of trying to sell tickets to folks who were not at the show because they would have no way of knowing what the prizes were. Eddie made a motion to raise the cash prize to \$100.00. We would still need to use the tickets we have that require full name address and phone number so that we can contact winners. Customers who buy tickets at the show can choose the prize corresponding to the can they drop their tickets into. Kathy seconded the motion which passed with all in favor. Sherm said he could supply plenty of coffee cans. The motion passed with all in favor. Linda H-K made a motion to have all tickets sold before the show to automatically go into the \$100.00 can so they would know what they might win. The motion was seconded by Catherine and passed with all in favor.

Jan reported that we have enough filled grab bags for Jackson and our show, but we have run out of rock samples to put in new bags. Doris explained that we put three stones in each bag, and that depleted our supply. She noted that the places she has researched want exorbitant prices for their tumbled stones and four thousand stones would be very expensive. Catherine said that she gets stones from the Select Stone Company, in Mt. Clova Ohio. They have a nice variety and she plans to bring some samples to the April club meeting. She also suggested Carnival and Fire Mountain as possibilities of smaller samples. Jan made a motion to reduce the number of stones per bag from three to two, but that motion was tabled until Glenda and Carl could be at a meeting. Eddie said he may have some tumbled stones he can donate.

Henry made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eddie and passed with all in favor. A silent auction was quickly set up as members enjoyed the refreshments brought by Charlie. Doris reported that members were very generous in their support and we raised \$100.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Brzezicki

---

## *Bench Tips*

by Brad Smith

### PROBLEMS WITH SMALL DRILLS

Drilling small holes can be a problem. With drills that are less than 1mm (18 gauge or .040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely.

The problem is easily solved in either of two ways - with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.



### PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

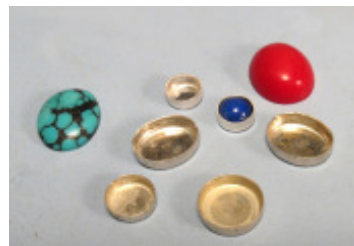
As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things.

First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

Work Smarter & Be More Productive  
With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



---

## ***Petrified Opal Tree Trunk Situated In Arizona It's About 225 Million Years Old***

What happened to the wood that made it that way in the beautiful petrified trees in the forests of Arizona? They believe that petrified wood is so old that in the prehistoric period it has emerged. But do you know how petrified wood was made? This guide will show you how. What is petrified wood and how is it formed?

Fossil wood is considered to have grown when the material of the plant is buried by sediment. When the wood is buried deep in the muck, it is protected from decay caused by exposure to oxygen and organisms.

Because the wood is stored in deep water, the minerals in the groundwater flow through the sediment, replacing the original plant material such as silica, calcite, and pyrite.

Even very expensive minerals can infiltrate wood-like opal. The result is a fossil made from the original woody material, which often shows preserved details of tree bark, wood, and cellular structures.

This is probably the most popular petrified park in the world. The Petrified Forest National Park near Holbrook in northeastern Arizona was established millions of years ago. About 225 million years ago, this was simply a lowland with a tropical climate with a dense forest.

Rivers made by tropical rainstorms washed mud and other sediments. This was where you would find giant coniferous trees 9 feet in diameter and towering 200 feet lived and died.

Fallen trees and broken branches from these trees were buried by rich river sediments. Meanwhile, volcanoes nearby erupted numerous times and the ash and silica from these eruptions buried the area.

Eruptions caused large dense clouds of ash that buried the area and this quick cover prevented anything from escaping and of course, nothing can also move in, even oxygen and insects. In time, the soluble ash was dissolved by groundwater through the sediments. The dissolved ash became the source of silica that replaced the plant debris.

This silication process creates petrified wood. Aside from silica, trace amounts of iron, manganese and other minerals also penetrated the wood and this gave petrified wood a variety of colors. This is how the lovely Chinle Formation was made.

So how was this area discovered? Millions of years after the Chinle Formation were created, the entire area was dug and the rocks found on top of Chinle have eroded away.



---

## Petrified Opal Tree Trunk

Cont. from page 7

What was discovered was wood here was much harder and resistant to weathering compared to the mudrocks and ash deposits in Chinle. Wood that was taken from the ground surface as nearby mudrocks and ash layers washed away.

The park covers 146 square miles. It's dry and often windy, but the elevation of 5400 feet means that it's not as hot as desert areas at lower altitudes, and it's mostly covered in grass rather than cacti and other desert plants.

Of course, the big attraction here is the petrified trees, which grew here about 225 million years ago when this part of Arizona was at a much lower elevation near the shores of a large sea to the west.

As well as the trees, many fossilized animals such as clams, freshwater snails, giant amphibians, crocodile-like reptiles, and early dinosaurs have been found here.

The silica in the logs crystallized into quartz, but often iron oxide and other minerals were mixed in, producing extraordinarily beautiful kaleidoscopic patterns and colors.

The petrified trees are often so attractive that a whole industry grew up around hauling them out from where they lay and cutting them up to make decorative furniture, wall displays, bookends, and other items. Theft from the park has always been a problem, and it's estimated that around 12 tons of fossilized wood are stolen each year.

[https://archaeology-world.com/petrified-opal-tree-trunk-situated-in-arizona-its-about-225-million-years-old/?fbclid=IwAR1wkNx-\\_8FX-3d2+RLgs-IUjsC3YB91EzpE-\\_rFUEYQu72UkzIV0ag1ujU](https://archaeology-world.com/petrified-opal-tree-trunk-situated-in-arizona-its-about-225-million-years-old/?fbclid=IwAR1wkNx-_8FX-3d2+RLgs-IUjsC3YB91EzpE-_rFUEYQu72UkzIV0ag1ujU)



# Upcoming Events

## No April Meeting

State Line Gem & Mineral Society  
monthly meeting  
201 W. Main St.,  
Morenci, MI 49256

Because of the Corona Virus, all upcoming shows scheduled for the next month have been canceled.



### 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

