

ROCK TRAILS



Happy Easter!

Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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2021 Officers and Directors

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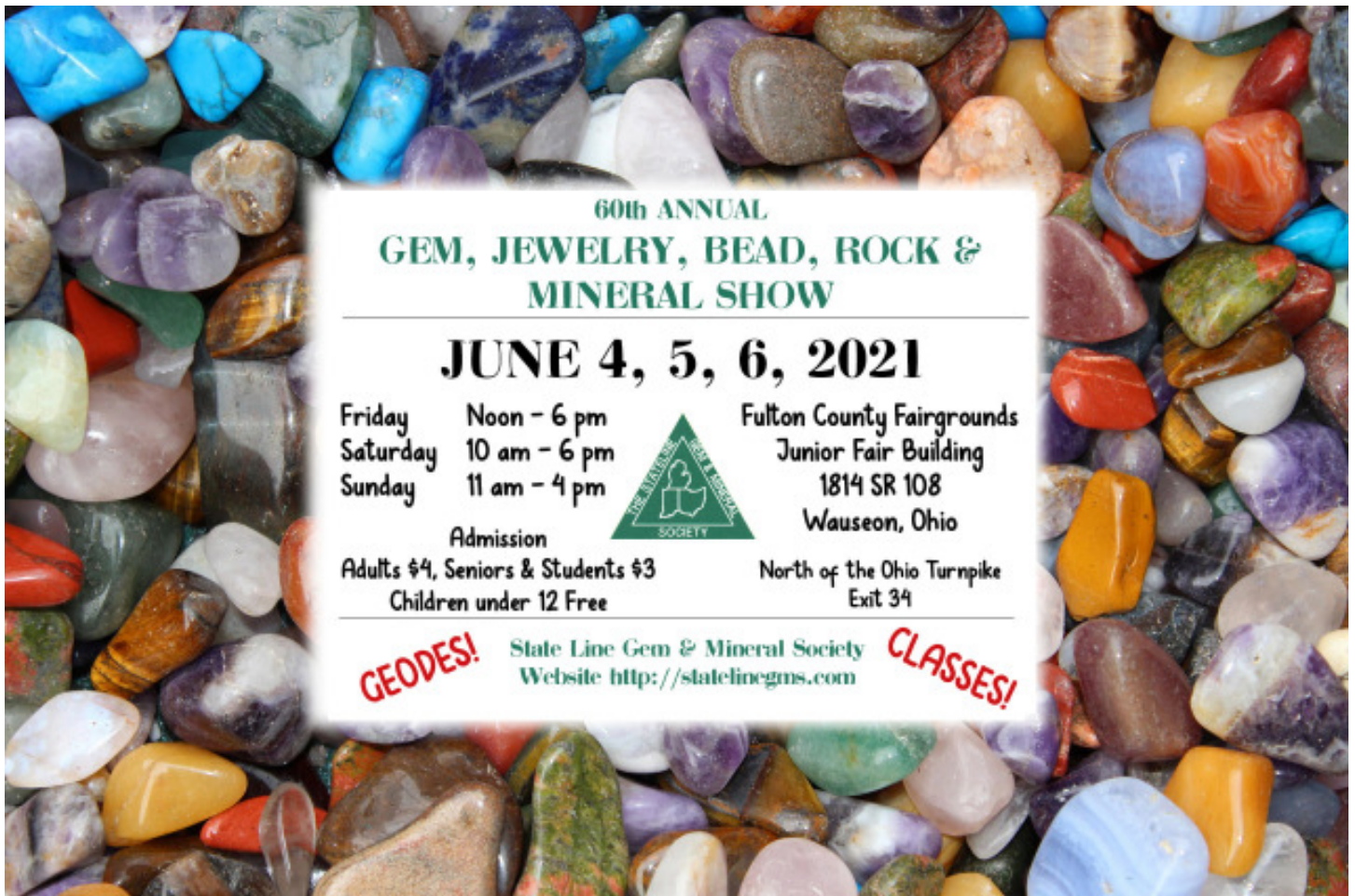


Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM
at 201 W. Main St., Morenci, MI 49256

2021 Membership List


The new membership list for 2021 is included in this newsletter. Please double check your information and if there are any errors to be corrected, please contact either Sandy Gerhart (s_gerhart@yahoo.com) or Richard Brzezicki.(rychard@tc3net.com).

See page 7 for meeting information.



**60th ANNUAL
GEM, JEWELRY, BEAD, ROCK &
MINERAL SHOW**

JUNE 4, 5, 6, 2021

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Friday Noon - 6 pm Saturday 10 am - 6 pm Sunday 11 am - 4 pm</p> |  | <p>Fulton County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building 1814 SR 108 Wauseon, Ohio</p> |
| <p>Admission Adults \$4, Seniors & Students \$3 Children under 12 Free</p> | | <p>North of the Ohio Turnpike Exit 34</p> |

GEODES! State Line Gem & Mineral Society Website <http://statelinegms.com> CLASSES!

Gemologist Discovers Rock That Looks Like Cookie Monster

You never know what you're going to get when you crack open a geode-like rock called an agate, but a new specimen is even more surprising than usual: It looks just like Cookie Monster. The agate, found in Soledade, a precious stone hotspot in southern Brazil, is a dead ringer for the blue, googly-eyed Sesame Street Muppet. After its owner, California mineral collector Mike Bowers, posted about the agate on Facebook, it went viral, with write-ups in newspapers from Australia to Israel to the United States.

"I didn't realize that Cookie Monster was so well known and part of the world cultural heritage!" Bowers told Live Science. He's since been contacted by the actor who plays Cookie Monster on "Sesame Street," he said.

The agate came to Bowers in November via Brazilian gemologist Lucas Fassari, who had acquired it in a batch of many agates from Soledade. Bowers immediately purchased the Cookie Monster agate, but didn't post it online until Jan. 16, as he was ill with COVID-19.

Agates are a form of quartz, the crystalline form of silicon dioxide, that develop within cavities in volcanic rocks. The cavities are formed by gas bubbles in hot lava. Over time, as the lava cools, water infused with silicon dioxide percolates through the cavities. As the water evaporates, the silicon dioxide is left behind on the cavity walls, creating colorful layers of crystals. The colors are caused by chemical impurities in the silicon dioxide and by the spacing of the crystals. Some agates completely fill their volcanic voids, but many leave small spaces inside, lined with sparkly, inward-facing quartz crystals. In the case of the Cookie Monster agate, these voids just happen to look like a pair of Muppet eyes and an enthusiastically grinning mouth.

"It is somewhat uncommon to find a face shape in agates, but in many instances it's like looking at the clouds. You kind of see a face," Bowers said. "What makes the Cookie Monster unique is there is just no doubt: Clear-cut, it is Cookie Monster, no explanation required."

Another unique feature of the Cookie Monster agate is that the face appears on both sides of the cut stone, Bowers added. Usually the voids are not lined up so neatly as to create a mirror image. For now, Bowers said, he plans to keep the stone. It may eventually end up in a museum or in the hands of a high-end collector, he said. "It is totally unique and awesome to see everyone loving this stone as much as we do," he said.



<https://www.livescience.com/collector-finds-rare-cookie-monster-rock.html>

New Mineral Discovered in United Kingdom: Kernowite



Kernowite is a new mineral that has been found only in an old specimen collected at a single location in Cornwall, UK.

The only known specimen of kernowite, named after Kernow which is the Cornish word for Cornwall, was collected in the 1700s.

It became part of the Natural History Museum, London's geological collections in 1964.

“Considering how many geologists, prospectors and collectors have scoured the county over the centuries in search of mineral treasure it's amazing that in 2020 we are adding a new mineral,” said Mike Rumsey, principal curator of minerals at the Natural History Museum, London.

Kernowite is what is known as a secondary mineral due to the way it has been formed.

It is formed when other rocks, close to the surface of the Earth have had their chemical elements mobilized by circulating water.

The elements now present within the fluid re-combine to create a new mineral from different elements of previously crystallized rock.

It is not always possible to date the formation of a secondary mineral and many likely have a short 'life' due to being subject to erosion.

“To show we have a new species, we must carry out analyses which determine the chemical composition of the material, the positions of these atoms within 3D crystal structure,” Rumsey said.

“Broadly speaking, if either or both of these features are unique the mineral is new.”

“One part of its internal structure was dominated by iron instead of aluminum, so we found it worthy of a new name, kernowite.”

“Although kernowite has no obvious direct application, all newly found minerals build upon our understanding of materials generally,” he added.

The description of kernowite will be published in the *Mineralogical Magazine* in 2021.

<http://www.sci-news.com/geology/kernowite-09187.html>

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

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.



Learn how to use 20 different techniques for adding texture in this online class. No large equipment is needed, just a variety of simple punches, hammers and rotary tools. Some techniques are applicable are used with your raw sheet material while other techniques can be used on partially fabricated pieces (ideal for hiding an imperfection).

A few of the tools that will be demonstrated are inexpensive and readily available from jewelry suppliers or from trade-stores. Others are simple modifications of items we all have at our benches. And I'll also share some tools that you can make from a piece of steel rod or some old carpenter tools you can pick up on Ebay or at a yard sale.

> Register at: BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

> Class fee: \$85

Handouts for the class will highlight all the sources mentioned, and a recording of the whole session will be available for a couple weeks.



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

From a Good Cab to "Wow"

Some stones that make pretty cabs can be turned into spectacular cabs with a little planning, effort, and extra work. The secret is to form layers of the slab material with something else. First, let's talk about plume agates. Often, these beautiful agates contain plumes that are really something when you light a slab from behind. But when a cab is made they're rather blah. This occurs because there is no contrast to bring out the plumes. A wonderful solution is to cut the plume cab one half as thick and then make a doublet with a contrasting stone which is also cut half the normal slab thickness. For example, I had some Friday plume agate which made outstanding cabs when backed with either black obsidian or white glass slag. Other agates become outstanding when backed with red jasper. Other colors may work too. We all have great color no-pattern slabs. To test, put water between them and look. If you decide they make a good pair, a careful gluing with water-clear 330 epoxy makes your doublet. Let dry at least two full days. Then treat it as any slab - with your templates, hunt for a good cab, mark it and trim it into a cab rough, then grind and polish as usual. The only change you must make is to make the cab somewhat flatter on top with steep curves into the edge. This keeps the bottom stone from showing separately when the cab is mounted.



A second way to enhance some materials into something spectacular is useful on some rocks with clear or nearly clear portions. It involves a technique which has grown to mean shoddy to a lot of people. The trick is gluing aluminum foil on the back of the finished cab. It can be beautiful when used to enhance natural materials instead of the infamous cheapo cabs whose only beauty lies in the foil. As an example of good use, let's consider Montana agate.

Some Montana agate has within the clear-to-translucent portions a beautiful golden color which you cannot see until you view the cab with aluminum foil behind. Then a beautiful glowing gold-yellow appears. To use foil, you hunt for a pretty pattern within the agate as you normally would. Then make a cab just as normal. Then, using 330 epoxy again, glue the shiny side of the foil to the back of the cab. Let dry at least a day. Then carefully trim the edges and polish off any glue you got on top of the cab. The foil will peel off if you're not careful.

The colorful array of aluminum foils available for gifts - gold, red, green, blue - can enhance the beauty of other stones just as the doublet in the method above. If you do this, your finding must be solid backed because the foil will scratch off if not protected. Give one or both methods a try. I guarantee you that the right combination will indeed make everyone say "Wow."

Taken from the April 2021 Rockpile

Mel Albright, Osage Hills Gems, Nov. 1991, via
Rock Rustler's News, March 1993
From The Rockpile How To Book

Upcoming Events

Meeting:

Glenda is considering having a meeting to talk about the show. Please check with her regarding when and where. I believe she is considering April 10th or 11th at Family Kitchen. She may post more info on the club's Facebook page.

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

Cancelled

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

Livingston County
has cancelled their Rock Show this year, normally in September

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

