

# ROCK TRAILS



## Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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### 2014 Officers and Directors

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Past President: Richard Brzezicki, 517 263-1669  
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### In This Issue:

Officers and Directors	1
President's Tidings	2
Treasurer's Statement	2
Secretary's Scoop	3 - 4
Fantasy Canyon	5 - 6
Upcoming Events	7

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



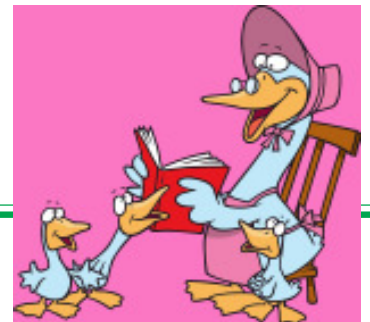
## President's Tidings

### Professional Grade



If you look in "Rock and Gem" under "Show Dates", you realize that there are hundreds of gem and mineral shows around the country each month. Looking closer, you realize that many of these shows are the efforts of professional promoters and not club shows. Professional shows operate with limited personnel, they do all the promotion and preparation, rely on sponsorships, collect the money at the door, and everyone pays them for the privilege of being a part of their show. Professional shows are like the circus coming to town. It is a grand gala event but when they tear down you may not see those faces again. Club shows on the other hand operate in a professional manner, also, but share the load of success among the membership and supporters. We are promoters of the rock hound hobby three hundred and sixty-five days per year. The tri-state communities know us and are waiting for us to remind them to attend our 53rd Annual Gem and Mineral and Jewelry Show, the first weekend after Memorial Day. Remember to keep extra flyers with you to display and pass out. Like General Motors trucks, we are professional grade.

Best regards,  
Eddie



## Treasurer's Statement

We received the Consumers Power bills, one for the upstairs and one for the basement. They were quite a bit higher than anticipated and I had a couple of conversations with our landlord. He is going to turn all the heaters completely off, including the hot water heater. This is helpful, as I am not sure when a member will be going down to Morenci. In the winter, we will be able to leave the heat off in all the areas that don't have water pipes and have the heat reduced in the necessary areas. Larry Sines will have the pipes wrapped with special tape to help prevent freezing. He is paying one half of the electric for the basement.



On a much happier note, the show is at capacity for dealers and we have a demonstrator that does wire wrapping and beaded jewelry. Her name is CJ Bauschka and she lives in Adrian. I am very pleased. Sandy Gerhart has ordered the posters and hopefully they will be available at our next meeting as well as our individual flyers and a slightly larger flyer for posting. Time flies!

Doris Brzezicki

## Secretary's Scoop



The State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting came to order at 2:10 PM with Richard giving the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter. Sherm seconded it and the motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's report: Rent and utilities have been paid for the month. Funds were recently received from the Jackson show, badge sales, dues and dealers. We will need to distribute funds for the fairgrounds, kitchen start-up and the scholarship. The expenditure does not leave us in a real comfortable spot. Utility expenses are still pending with the water heater and lights in the basement being added. The club may want to consider whether the hot water is needed in the summer. Ed asked about the large utility bill we had received. Doris said that she has checked with the utility company and had Richard relay the meter reading to the utility representative. The amount seemed to be correct for the amount of kilowatts used. Doris said she could turn the bill over to Ed and he could discuss possible options with the landlord since her health is taxing her energy. Cletus suggested turning off all but the lights in the basement and putting a timer on the lights so that they could not be left on accidentally. Doris moved to have a club member install a timed switch for the basement lighting, seconded by Richard. Ed felt we may not need the timer. Doris stated that Larry (the landlord) sometimes had difficulty with paperwork and record keeping but has always been good to the club. He has offered to pay half of the basement utility bill. Glenda made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Judy. The motion passed with all in favor.

Old business: Linda Sharkey has been able to recruit the new vendors for the show. Frank asked about outside spaces for vendors but Doris pointed out that outside security would be difficult, especially overnight. Ed reported that he placed an ad in the Rock and Gem magazine. He planned to do more advertisements closer to the show. Doris mentioned that it was important to advertise our mine safety class because it is a big draw to our show. Posters have been started and there are flyers available for distribution. There may be some last minute changes but all should be ready by the next club meeting.

Cletus will be doing security again this year. He and Jackie will be camping outside the Junior Fair Building. He plans to have additional cameras to discourage shoplifters. He is also requesting at least one volunteer to help watch customers who pick things up and put them down to make sure they go back on the table. Cletus said that watching is enough, there would be no need to do any intervention. He can easily contact the sheriff's department if the need arises. Doris noted that most of the members already have commitments but Sherm thought he would be able to help watch.

New business: We need to renew our subscription to the Rock & Gem magazine. Richard made a motion to renew the magazine by the most economical means, seconded by Glenda and the motion passed with all in favor. Doris said we need to reply to the Fulton County Fair to let them know if we want our same spot for this year. The notification is due now but payment can be delayed until August 1<sup>st</sup>. Glenda made a motion to show our acceptance and to pay for the fairgrounds at the appropriate time. Sherm seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Cletus asked whether we could

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## Secretary's Scoop

continued

have silversmithing demos at our show. There was discussion about who might do the demos and whether we had room inside or outside. The discussion was tabled for a later date.

Good news: Jacqueline from the Macomb County club gave our club some free tickets for their show which Doris passed out.

Cletus asked if members/dealers would need to pay to get into our show. Doris said no, but it's going to be difficult to determine who needs to pay since this is the first year we are charging admission. Some suggestions were made to identify dealers with some sort of temporary name tags or badges and hand stamps for paying customers.

Cletus requested to have the security monitors next to him as he demonstrates his faceting. Doris said we should be able to accommodate him without a problem.

Linda Sharkey had some stones (blue sapphire, tumbled stones and specimens) which the club had used for various events that will need to be paid back at some point. Ed asked about the various items Linda brought to the meeting. They were some educational stone sample cards and grab bag items. Doris suggested the club pay \$200.00 for the various items Linda has provided for the club to use. Linda also has two display cases that the club had been interested in for purchase. Glenda asked about the type and size. Doris stated that we also have a commitment to Marilyn for some money she loaned the club. Doris noted that funds going out are difficult right now, with show expenses, scholarship, kitchen start up etc. Glenda made a motion to pay Linda what she was due by the end of the year. The motion was seconded by Richard and passed with all in favor.

Doris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Richard and the meeting was adjourned with all in favor.





## Fantasy Canyon

Fantasy Canyon is an area composed of unique erosional features located about 27 miles south of Vernal, in northeastern Utah. Even though the area is only about 10 acres in size, it contains some of the most unique geologic features in the world. The site was officially documented by early explorer and paleontologist Earl Douglass, who recorded the area by other names such as “The Devil’s Playground” and “Hades Pit.” He published photographs of this area in a 1909 publication called “The Columbian Magazine.”

### **Geology**

The rocks of Fantasy Canyon were deposited during the Eocene Epoch. The age of the rocks date around 38 to 50 million years ago. During the geologic period, the Uinta Basin was occupied by a large lake called Lake Uinta. Fantasy Canyon is along the east shore of what was once Lake Uinta, where the sediments eroded from the surrounding high lands. Sediments were deposited and the once loose sands, silts, and clays were forged into sandstone and shale. Because of different rates of weathering, the more durable sandstone remained while the more easily weathered siltstone and shale washed away, yielding this spectacular scenery. Today’s geologic formations of Fantasy Canyon will eventually give way to weather and then topple and erode into sand, but new formations will appear as the topsoil washes away. Because the delicate formations are so fragile, the area is referred to as “Nature’s China Shop.”



### **Mineralization**

There are black ribbons of coal-like material along the small washes on the trail or as horizontal stripes in the rocks. This magnetic material is called magnetite (iron oxide). It is the only mineral which shows strong magnetism. Magnetite was named for Magnes, a Greek shepherd, who discovered the mineral on Mount Ida, Australia. He noted the nails of his shoes and the iron ferrule of his staff clung to a rock.

There are inch-wide black vertical northwest – southeast running veins in the formations. This material is called “Gilsonite” (hydrocarbon), named after U.S. Marshall Samuel H. Gilson. Gilsonite was discovered in the early 1860’s, but it was not until the mid-1880’s that Gilson began to promote the mineral as a waterproof coating for wooden pilings, as an insulation for wire cable, and as a unique varnish.



### **Fossils**

The Uinta formation is an important keeper of a portion of the fossil record for this area. It contains the widely scattered bones of creatures, mostly mammals, which roamed the Basin during the Eocene. Fossilized turtle shells are visible in the area.

## Fantasy Canyon

continued from pg 5

### **Indian Legend**

Images of Fantasy Canyon have inspired the following Indian Legend – Written by George E. Stewart over an interview with Muse Harris, Indian Chief (known to the Indians as Chief Red Moose)... “ONE DAY, the story goes, the evil creatures of the nether regions, tired of living in the dark and dank, decided to dig up to the surface and take over everything above and below the earth. They dug and the ground trembled and rumbled in their work.

Two coyotes heard the rumble, and curious, as all coyotes are, couldn't resist the urge to investigate. The pair discovered the plot of the creatures from down under and in a trice howled the alarm to all their fellow mortals round-about.

A great council was held to decide what to do; it would take more than mortal power to stop the invasion of these supernatural beings, this they understood. Finally, they determined to send for the greatest medicine man they knew. Two eagles flew with the summons, and on the very first day, they found the great one in his mountain fastness.

The wild horses set up a relay of the fleetest stallions on earth; they bore the mighty one with the speed of the wind over mountains, rivers, valleys and plains. And it was none too soon, for as he came up White River the Sachem could see the red light in the sky where the underworld denizens had broken through.

Without sleep or rest or food the Medicine Chief went to work. First, he called on the Wind of the West and a great hurricane blew, carrying dust, dirt, rocks and trees to fill in the awful hole. But all this went for naught, it fell through to be burned in first down below.

Then the Rain God was asked for help and he sent water in clouds and torrents, but it vanished away in steam and mist, while the Devil Chief laughed loud and long and his minions screamed with glee.

The Sachem called to the God of the North, “Help us, help us,” he chanted and drummed, “Oh, Great Lord of Ice and Snow.”

Help came as swift as an arrow; intense, deep, bitter cold. The North God caught the denizens of the deep as they gathered to spread over the world. In the wink of an eye he turned them all to ice. The Devil Chief, the Great Mother Witch, the magician and all the rest stand there just as they stood at the instant the cold struck long ago.

When the warmth came back, again the West Wind blew and as the ice melted, the dust took its place and now the monsters stand in the pit they dug all of them turned to stone. It is a warning to the evil ones down in hell to leave the good green earth alone.” (Salt Lake Tribune July 16, 1972)



## Upcoming Events

**May 4, 2014**

**StateLine Gem & Mineral Society**

monthly meeting  
2:00 p.m.  
201 W. Main St.  
Morenci, MI 49256

**May 2-4, 2014**

Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society  
55th Annual Rock, Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show  
Kalamazoo County Expo Center  
2900 Lake St.  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Adults \$3.00  
Children under 12 free w/paying adult

**June 7-8, 2014**

Kalamazoo, MI  
MGAGS Rockhound Weekend!  
Workshops, demos, hands on various topics;  
Rood Hall, Western Michigan University  
advance tickets adults: \$15.00 per day  
or \$25 for both days  
For More Information [www.mgags.org](http://www.mgags.org)  
or call 231-740-5512

**May 30- June 1, 2014**

Wauseon OH  
State Line Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show  
; Fulton County Fairgrounds; Junior Fair Bldg.,  
8514 State Rte. 108  
; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-4;  
adults \$3, seniors \$2,  
children free  
dealers, demonstrations, classes

**June 7-8, 2014**

Mansfield, Oh:  
Annual show;  
Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society  
; Richland County Fairgrounds;  
750 N. Home Rd., Arts and Crafts Bldg.;  
Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$4,  
seniors and children (6-16) \$3  
Opals Agates Amethyst: 11 dealers,  
silent auctions, speakers,  
geode breaking, demonstrations,  
hourly door prizes,  
museum-quality agate displays;





# Rock Trails

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

