

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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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



President's Tidings



This month is a very important meeting. We need to go over our show and get the final things done.

As for me, I have been going to shows and getting things ready for the show in Parma. This will be the first big show that I have done. Some of you already know that I purchased Bob Moorehead's lapidary supplies and am starting a new business. It is called Not Just Rocks Lapidary Supply, and will be open very soon.

I will be operating out of my house and going to shows. This is why I haven't been around the club house but have been checking on Friday's at Hobby Lobby. There has has been a good turnout. Thanks, Judy, for heading this up. Great job!

Secretary's Scoop

Due to some problems with Heidi's computer access, she was unable to send me her Secretary's report and will be giving it in person on Sunday.



Found: Hundreds of Minerals That Only Exist Because of Humans

Minerals are supposed to be “naturally occurring.”



There are more than 5,000 minerals in the world—naturally occurring chemical compounds that are stable at room temperature and have a unique chemical formula. But, as *Scientific American* reports, humans are rapidly adding to that number. In a new report in *American Mineralogist*, a team of scientists reports that they found 208 new minerals that would never have occurred without humans and thousands more mineral-like compounds that humans have created.

“There is nothing at all like this in the geology of the past 4.5 billion years on Earth,” one geologist [told *Scientific American*](#).

The new minerals, *SciAm* reports, formed in conditions created only by humans—in man-made mines with unnatural humidity or in shipwrecks deep on the ocean floor

Humans have also added thousands of new chemical compounds, many more than were created in the “Great Oxidation Event,” a period that lasted two billion years, when the increase in the supply of oxygen created thousands of oxides.

The compounds that humans have created will change the geological record forever: our most lasting legacy may be in the ground. Like the holes and tunnels humans have created, the earth’s strata will show marks of our presence long after we’re gone. *SciAm*:

The Washington Monument, for example, will eventually be a lens-shaped pocket composed of limestone where no other limestone is found. And the pocket that was once the Smithsonian will contain so many rare minerals that they could not possibly have formed so close together in nature.

Which means that whoever inherits the Earth will have more than a few geological mysteries to solve.

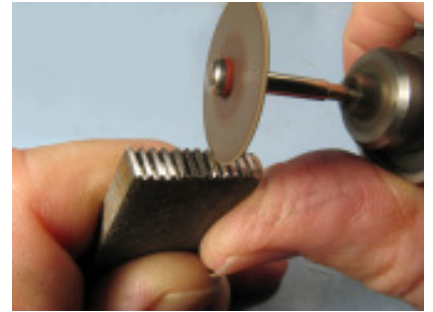
Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

CUTOFF WHEELS



Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.



My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of steel coming off the disk.

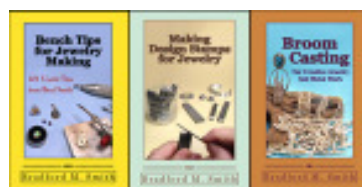
BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges

DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chainmaking, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It's best not to tumble for a long period with the pyramids because it will remove the polished finish from the wire.

No tumbler, no problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

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, May 7, 2017

State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting
2:00 p.m.
201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

May 5-7, 2017

Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society
County Expo Center
2900 Lake Street
Kalamazoo, MI
Fri 4-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5

June 9 - 13, 2017

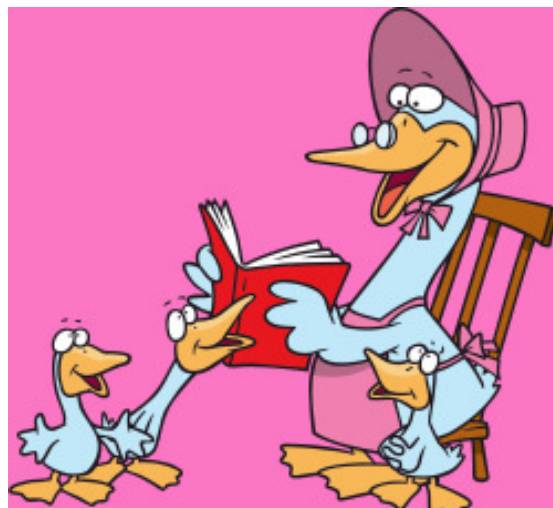
Trip to Upper Peninsula to search for
Lake Superior Agates

June 2 -4, 2017

StateLine Gem and Mineral Society
Annual Show
Junior Fair Building
Fulton County Fairgrounds
8514 SR. 108
Wauseon, OH

June 23 - 25, 2017

Annual Trip to Bedford, IN to attend rock show
and collect geodes.



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