

ROCK TRAILS

Meteorites



From Space

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



Wow, where has this month gone to? Nice weather, good shows, and good friends to talk to at the different shows. Went to one of our sister clubs in Parma. It was a very good show and (the ones that know me will not believe it), I didn't buy any rocks, just talked to friends and vendors that I have met over the last few years. That was great. Coming up on Memorial weekend, Glenda and I will be going to the Midwest Federation Convention in Chicago. We will fill everyone in at the next meeting after the our show ends. All the preparations have been made and setup will be on Wed. before the show starts, so everyone that can help, show up at the club house at about 10:00 a.m. to transport things to Wauseon. See everyone at the show. The shirts are all done, so at the show it would be nice if everyone had them.

Treasurer's Statement

Club members are very busy preparing for our 54th annual Rock Show. Thank you for all you have done. It is only with your help that we are able to pull this whole thing off. With that said, of course, there is still more to be done. But THANK YOU!!! Please give yourself a pat on the back. We all deserve the recognition of the part we play in this production. It is a whole event and each part compliments the others to create ONE FANTASTIC SHOW.



Club members will meet in Morenci at the depot at 10:00 am on Wednesday, May 27 to transport supplies and equipment to the fairgrounds in Wauseon. We will need to arrange the tables, clean the kitchen and prepare displays. Dealers are scheduled to arrive after noon on Thursday. We will have a dinner on Thursday evening to show our appreciation of their support for our club. Members are welcome to attend and bring a dish to pass.

The show hours are: Friday 12:00 pm- 7:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am-7:00 pm, and Sunday 11:00 am-4:00 pm. I realize that we all have busy lives and must make choices how to use our time. If at all possible, please choose to help the club at the show. It is my sincere belief that you get out what you put in. Even though it involves a lot of work, we have the satisfaction of sharing our knowledge and love of rocks with others. It really is a lot of fun, plus it generates much needed funds for the club. Please donate baked goods to the kitchen. Our visitors enjoy the good food we have.

See you at the Show! Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer, Show Co-Chairperson



Secretary's Scoop

Vice president Glenda called the May 4th State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting to order with Ed giving the invocation. The pledge of allegiance followed.



Secretary's Report: Richard B. made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in last month's newsletter. The motion was seconded by Judy and passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Doris reported that we have some income from dealers, dues, donations and the Fairy Festival. Expenses included posters, flyers, Federation fees, rent and utilities. Doris also paid for the Fulton County Fairgrounds. Richard B. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Linda S. The motion passed with all in favor.

Doris reported that Sandy ordered the new posters and they turned out lovely. Now we need to distribute them. Doris and Richard B. will take the Morenci area, Jan will do Hudson, Phyllis and Bill will do Adrian, and Pat and Judy will do Tecumseh.

Doris and Glenda both brought flyers they printed up at home. We have approximately 250 to 300 flyers for members to distribute.

Show Report: Doris reported that she got donations from various members for new tablecloths for the show. She brought the tablecloths for the club to see and everyone thought they were very professional looking and thought they would be durable and could be used indefinitely. She also said that the dealers are at capacity and she found a demonstrator at the Toledo club's open house who does wire knitting. We will try to squeeze her in somewhere. There will be a dinner for the dealers and volunteers on Thursday evening. Our club will provide the lasagna, Pat will get the garlic bread, Linda S. will get the salad, Charlie will bring a dessert and Richard B. and Doris will bring the drinks.

The schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday- Set up tables- Sandy and Rita Cline have volunteered to help again this year. Ed will be in charge of bringing needed supplies, kitchen, pie safes, display cases, geodes, silent auction materials and raffle tumbler. The children's activities area and member sales will all need to be set up.

Thursday- Dealers set up- Make and receive donations, brownies etc., purchase pies from Sauder's Village. Phyllis will make cherry and rhubarb or pecan pies. Doris will make her mandarin orange pies. Dolores will make Chocolate pie. Judy will make muffins and Jan will make a cake. Linda H. will make cup cakes. Doris will make soup for dealers and members for Thursday lunch.

Field trip to Archie's will be Wednesday, May 13th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. The address is 4148 Legion, Mason, MI. All are welcome.

Bedford, Indiana trip is scheduled for the week end of June 26th 27th and 28th. Glenda plans to arrive earlier, in case she needs to make adjustments due to weather. Ed asked when we would collect geodes as a group. He is considering taking one of his antique vehicles down for a nice trip. Doris said that we **usually** have cell phone communications and she plans to be there on the 26th and 27th but there will be a variety of opportunities for picking up geodes. Her cell phone number is (269) 267-1123, Richard B's. is (269) 267-7666. We also plan to all meet for breakfast at the Golden Corral in the morning (around 9:00 AM).

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The members were asked to recheck the roster and member info sheet for accuracy.

Glenda is in the process of ordering club shirts. Contact her if you want to order a shirt or need more info.

Glenda noted that the utilities for our portion of the basement amounted to more than \$50.00 a month. She suggested that if we rent the additional room which the landlord is currently using as his work-out room, we could regulate the heat there and we would also have a larger place to hold our monthly meetings. We may even be able to come out ahead since the utilities seem to be so high.

Richard B. made a motion to have the club agree to pay the extra \$50.00 and rent the additional room. Glenda noted that we may be better off to try to extend our rental contract for a longer period so that we might be able to get the benefit of a fixed rate for our rent. Richard amended his motion to pay the extra \$50.00 for the extra room and attempt to fix our contract for a 3 year period if possible. The motion was seconded by Linda S. and passed with all in favor.

Scholarship applications have been sent out and we have been contacted by a 4-H group and several individuals. The recipient will be chosen on merits of interest in science, grades, leadership and financial needs. The scholarship committee plans to make a decision soon and plans to present the award at our show. After receiving the scholarship, the student has to show proof of acceptance to a college and how the money was spent.

Midwest Federation Convention- Originally a motion was passed to award \$150.00 to the club's representatives to help with the expenses of representing the club. Doris mentioned that she already sent in the \$75.00 admission fee and that just left \$75.00 for rooms, gas and food for each delegate. Linda S. said that when she was a delegate, she was given \$25.00 and stayed in a dorm. Linda H. said maybe the club should pay for the hotel but let the gas be the representative's responsibility. Phyllis made a motion for the club to allot \$300.00 for convention expenses. After some discussion, she amended her motion amount to \$250.00. Judy seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Doris announced that she, Linda S. and Pat were going to have a kitchen meeting after the club meeting.

Advertising: Ed volunteered to contact Hillsdale, Williams, Swanton and Defiance counties. Glenda has agreed to do community announcements, radio stations, e-mails, magazines and newspapers. Jan suggested Facebook and Glenda said she would do that. Doris said that she felt Glenda is doing a great job.

The Parma, Ohio show is coming up and we will be picking up our Mexican geodes there.

Linda S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.



Gems From Space

**A few rare gem materials are pieces of extraterrestrial objects
or are a product of their impacts.**

Can Gemstones Really Come from Space?

Rocks that fall from the sky have frightened and fascinated people throughout history. They immediately generate curiosity and have a scientific significance. They are made of extremely rare materials that interest scientists, collectors, and curious people alike.

Many meteorites and impactites are small enough and attractive enough to be used as gems in the same condition in which they fell from the sky. Iron meteorites are alloys of iron and nickel that can be cut and polished into beautiful gems or fashioned into the metal parts of jewelry. Pallasites are stony-iron meteorites that contain colorful peridot (olivine) crystals that can be cut into gems. Impactites are often colorful glasses that can be faceted, cut into cabochons, or carved into small sculptures.

Who Buys Extraterrestrial Gems?

Even though these materials are extremely rare, they can typically be purchased at a lower price than some of the most popular gemstones. Why are they so inexpensive? Most people are not familiar with them, so they are not being requested in jewelry stores. In addition, the supply of these materials is so small, so fragmented, and so unreliable that they do not have a place with wholesale or mass-market jewelers.

The highest quality "as found" specimens are of greatest interest to scientists, meteorite collectors, and mineral collectors. The best gem-quality materials generally go to a small number of designer jewelers who use them to create one-of-a-kind pieces. Smaller and lower quality items fall into the novelty gem and collectibles markets.

The largest demand for extraterrestrial gem materials comes from people interested in alternative and complementary medicine. They believe that these materials have special properties that are helpful in promoting wellness. (There is no scientific evidence to support their role in wellness.)



This is a photo of a thin slice cut from the Esquel pallasite meteorite that fell near Chubut, Argentina. This meteorite was found by a farmer working his field, and when unearthed, it weighed about 1500 pounds. It consists of yellowish green olivine crystals, some of which are gem-quality peridot, in a matrix of meteoritic iron. This composition suggests that it was once part of a planet or other large body of our solar system that had a metallic core and a rocky mantle. The pallasite material comes from a portion of that body near the core-mantle boundary.

The stresses placed on a meteorite during its formation, its travel through space, entry into Earth's atmosphere, and impact with Earth's surface all have a chance of fracturing the olivine crystals. Because of these fractures it can be difficult to find pieces of extraterrestrial olivine that are large enough to facet - but many faceted stones have been produced! Photograph by Doug Bowman used here under a Creative Commons License.

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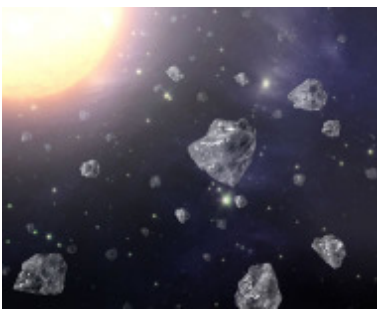


Cutting and polishing an iron meteorite usually reveals a fantastic pattern of metal crystals inside. Known as a "Widmanstätten pattern," these crystal shapes are natural art that many people appreciate. Cut and polished meteorites are used to make cabochons, pendants, beads, watch faces, rings, and many other items. The piece in the photo above is a guitar pick. Imagine making music with a piece of the core of an extraterrestrial body! Photo by Mike Beauregard. Image used here under a Creative Commons license.

Moldavite (also called Bouteille Stone) is an amorphous glassy material, a mineraloid, that is usually olive green in color. It is thought to have formed during an asteroid impact about 15 million years ago in central Europe. The impacting body hit with a high enough velocity to melt and splatter the target rock across a strewn field that includes portions of what is now the Czech Republic, Austria, and Germany. Most of the splatter solidified in the air and fell to Earth in the Czech Republic. Today it is found in sediments of Middle to Upper Miocene age as drop-let-shaped particles of green glassy material a few centimeters in diameter or smaller. Meteorite experts have named such materials "impactites."



Gem-quality moldavite is often faceted or cut en cabochon and sold as a novelty gem. This faceted stone is about 13 millimeters x 11 millimeters in size and weighs a little over 6 carats. Nice pieces of rough with an attractive shape and color are often wire-wrapped or drilled and used as pendants or earrings. Many uncut specimens are purchased by meteorite and mineral collectors. Moldavite has to be used with care because it is about the same hardness as glass (5.5) and is brittle. It is best used in earrings and pendants. The largest market for gem and rough specimens of moldavite is in alternative and complementary medicine. There is no scientific proof that these treatments are effective.



In the 1980s, researchers discovered that some meteorites are loaded with tiny nanometer-sized diamonds. In fact, about three percent of all carbon found in meteorites is in the form of nanodiamonds. Image by NASA

Large asteroids can hit the earth at a velocity of 15 to 20 miles per second. This produces an impact that is powerful enough to vaporize rock, excavate a huge crater, and blast millions of tons of ejecta into the air.

The force at the point of impact exceeds the temperature and pressure required to form diamonds. For diamonds to form, the target rock must contain significant amounts of carbon. The Popigai Crater in northern Russia is an asteroid impact that may have produced the world's largest diamond deposit.

<http://geology.com/gemstones/gems-from-space/>

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS

I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops.

My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They cannot be used after their expiration date, and are thrown out.

On my last doctors visit, I asked the nurse if they had any expired vials. She replied "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400 of them. (We settled on 200).

The ones I have are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They are clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.



TRY A TOOTHPICK

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, and with Zam for polishing in tight spots. Toothpicks are also handy for holding the stone while stone setting. Just break off the sharp tip, mold a little beeswax over it, and press it onto the table of your stone.

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

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon
www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/



Oreo Cookie Popcorn Recipe (Also called Rock Dig Popcorn)

Prep time
15 mins
Total time
15 mins

Popped Popcorn (I used 2 bags of microwave popcorn)
2 cups White Chocolate Candy Melts (or you could use white chocolate chips)
20 Oreo Cookies

Instructions

Pop your popcorn by using your favorite method. I just used the super easy microwaveable kind – Smart Pop by Orville Redenbacher is my favorite and doesn't have very much butter.
Lay out popcorn on a parchment or wax paper-lined cookie sheet.
Smash up the OREO cookies into little pieces.
Melt the chocolate candy melts in the microwave on high for 2-3 minutes. Stir.
Pour melted chocolate on top of popcorn and sprinkle the OREO cookie pieces on top.
Mix all together while chocolate is still hot! Let sit for 45 minutes!

Rock Cookies



3/4 cup butter, softened
1 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon almond extract
2 and 1/4 cups of flour
1/4 teaspoon of salt

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Mix all the ingredients together until the dough is well incorporated. Form into rock shaped cookies with clean hands (makes about eight 3-4" cookies).

Bake on a greased cookie sheet for 10 minutes or until they begin to brown. Remove from the oven and cool completely.

Combine 1 cup powdered sugar, 1 tablespoon milk, 1 drop of black food coloring, and a tiny drop of green food coloring together until you have reached your desired color and consistency...add more powdered sugar or milk if needed. Using a basting brush, paint glaze onto cooled cookies until evenly spread.



Upcoming Events

May 29 - 31, 2015

Wauseon, OH

54th Annual Rock, Gem and Mineral Show

StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

Fulton County Fairgrounds

Junior Fair Building

8514 SR 108

North of the Ohio Turnpike exit 34

A short monthly meeting will be held after the show closes on Sunday, May 31.

June 13, 2015

Wyoming, MI

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club

Tailgate Sale

Wesley Park U.M. Church

1150 32nd St.

Sat. 9 - noon

June 26 - 28, 2015

Bedford, IN

50th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show/Swap

Lawrence County Rock Club

Lawrence County Fairgrounds,

South of Bedford, IN





Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor
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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

