

# ROCK TRAILS



## Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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### 2016 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

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## President's Tidings



Boy, time seems to fly by. This month some of us members went to the Kalamazoo show, which was great, and some went to the Parma show in Cleveland. Finally found a piece of Melli blue flint and picked up some moo kite in a couple different colors.

As for the show, things are going great; a lot of interest in the mine safety class and a lot of vendors that want space. You all know your jobs for the show, so I don't have to go over that. We will meet at the club house at 10:00 on Wed. to load up things to take to the fairgrounds. Fri., Sat. and Sun., everyone who is working that have shirts should wear them. Anyone that hasn't volunteered - all your help can be used.

The June meeting will be held at the end of the show on Sunday.  
See you all there!

## Secretary's Scoop

May 1, 2016

President Sherm Kardatzki called the meeting to order and was followed by Richard B. giving the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We had three potential new members join us, two of which joined before they departed.

Doris made a motion to accept the Secretary's report for April. It was seconded by Jan and passed with all in favor.

Doris reported the club's balance, as well as the fact that she had paid for the new shipment of Mexican geodes, the rent, as well as the Consumer's bill for the main level of the clubhouse. Our landlord will be paying for the Consumer's bill in the basement. Doris informed us of projected expenses and that she had made deposits from the Heritage Festival, from dealers, from new members, as well as donations from the Weber's Center at Siena Heights. Phyllis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and it was seconded by Jan. It passed with all in favor.

The classes and demonstrations at Siena Heights in April were very well done and the participants really enjoyed them. We gained some new members and others were curious if the classes would continue. Many club members were also interested in doing demonstrations again if our club is invited back, though it was believed to be a one-time thing. Glenda suggested going once a month to bring people back to the clubhouse who are interested in continuing lessons.

There was a great deal of discussion about our upcoming show because it's right around the corner. Volunteers to help with loading and setup will meet at the clubhouse on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am. Dealer's setup times will be on June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12pm to 6 or 7 pm, followed by an Appreciation Dinner. All available spaces have been filled and there were many more dealers who were interested.

Assignments for volunteers were discussed and many will have stations and assignments that they had from years previous. Many members will be donating food and drinks for both the dinner and for the show.

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## Secretary's Scoop

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If there are no applicants for our annual scholarship before the deadline, Doris suggested that we give it to last year's recipient as they have done very well academically and would be deserving of it. Carl made a motion to accept this and was seconded by Judy. It passed with all in favor.

The new shipments of lovely Mexican geodes had arrived and a date and time was decided upon to meet up at the clubhouse and weigh them.

The trip to Alpena, MI is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> and those who are going are welcome to leave after work that day and drive to the cabin and stay the night before continuing on to Alpena in the morning. The trip will include a chance to collect fossils, calcite and daisy stones. It was suggested that we invite some members from the Brown Co. club as well. Glenda reminded everyone that a vehicle sticker will be needed for any vehicle entering the state park during the trip.

Our annual geode hunting trip to Bedford, Indiana is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, but members are welcome to head down early. The Bedford show will be the 24<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup>. Contact Glenda if you would like to make hotel reservations.

The Midwest Federation is having a council meeting in August and we are looking for volunteers who would like to go.

Richard B. made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Carl. It passed with all in favor.

Please add these new members to your lists of members:

Nancy S. Erni                      1401 Lakewood Ln. Adrian, MI    49221                      (419)344-5839  
[nsusanerni@g-mail.com](mailto:nsusanerni@g-mail.com)

Rosemary Nichols    1221 S. Main St. Apt.712    Adrian, MI    49221                      (517)918-6301

And please make these changes to your lists as well:

Doris Brzezicki            (269)267-1123  
 Richard Brzezicki        (269)267-7666  
 Glenda Gafner            (517)403-6310  
 Sandy Gerhart            (734)347-4796  
 Carl Mulholland          (517)539-2037  
 Linda Sharkey            (517)918-3814  
 Heidi Storehalder        (419)261-6451

Respectfully submitted,  
 ~Heidi Storehalder~



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# What Is A Geode?

Geologists have long been challenged to explain how geodes, those mysterious spherical rocks, are formed. Geodes are a variable phenomenon, which means that they may be created in various different ways. The term geode is derived from the Greek word Geoides which means “earthlike.”

A geode is a round rock which contains a hollow cavity lined with crystals. Rocks which are completely filled with small compact crystal formations such as agate, jasper or chalcedony are called nodules. The only difference between a geode and a nodule is that a geode has a hollow cavity, and a nodule is solid.

## How Are Geodes Created?

Geodes begin as bubbles in volcanic rock or as animal burrows, tree roots or mud balls in sedimentary rock. Over time, the outer shell of the spherical shape hardens, and water containing silica precipitation forms on the inner walls of the hollow cavity within the geode. The silica precipitation can contain any variety of dissolved minerals, the most common being quartz, but amethyst and calcite are also found.



Over a period of thousands of years, layers of silica cool, forming crystals of different minerals within the cavity. Different types of silica cool at varying temperatures, thus creating layers of different types of mineral crystals.

Each geode is unique in its composition which can only be truly discovered when it is cracked open or cut with a rock saw. The size and formation of the crystals and different shades of color within the crystals make each geode special. The rough exterior of the geode gives no indication of the secrets held within its core. The anticipation never fades for those who curiously collect buckets full of round geodes and eagerly expose the secrets of each individual sphere-shaped rock. The most prized contain rare amethyst crystals or black calcite.

## Where Can You Find Geodes?

Geodes are found throughout the world, but the most concentrated areas are located in the deserts. Volcanic ash beds, or regions containing limestone, are common geode locations.

There are many easily accessible geode collecting sites in the western United States, including in California, Arizona, Utah and Nevada. The state of Iowa also has geodes, in fact, the geode is their state rock.

The finest concentration of geode sites in Southern California is in Riverside and Imperial counties. The most famous of these sites is called the Hauser Geode Beds, which are located at Wiley Well in the northern region of Imperial Valley, CA. In the same area there are also the North Black Hills Geode Beds and the Cinnamon Geode Beds.

<http://www.desertusa.com/desert-prospecting/geode.html>

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## Rockhounding Improves Family Communication

By Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge, Nebraska State Director



Family rock collecting is an underappreciated recreational activity and is more than just fun. Families who rockhound together experience better mental health and improved communication with each other.

All leisure activities contain elements which may be more or less helpful to families. Playing video games or watching television add little value to a family's communication. They are passive individualized interactions and can have negative results. A parent or parents taking their children to a ballgame is usually a more positive experience. In this situation, the family members communicate and interact more, although as spectators, their level of activity is limited.

During family rock collecting, there are a number of positive factors that make it, in my opinion, one of the best shared recreational activities. Rockhounding offers an opportunity for family members to have a positive influence on each other, while offering a chance to be alone without being lonely. Finding a spot to hunt away from the other family members can provide a sense of separateness, while maintaining a sense of others being close by. The development of boundaries is an important element in our psycho-social development. Rock collecting reinforces the establishment of personal boundaries. A person, for example, should not cross another person's line of sight while searching for specimens. It is inappropriate in rockhounding to crowd into another person's spot.

Watching someone, especially kids, playing video games, as well as many other leisure activities, I get concerned about the high level of competition. In rock collecting there can be healthy competition on the size, quality, number or even smallest specimen found. As the atmosphere of competition focuses on doing the best you can, rather than beating someone else, valuable lessons are learned.

While people rock collect for a wide range of reasons, increased cooperation and communication can be developed during the hunt. When rockhounding, people, even strangers, tend to share information about locations where rocks are located and what techniques work to find them. Collecting encourages children to gain independence through building their own collections, choosing their own collecting spots, accepting or rejecting advice, and taking responsibility for their own equipment, displays and collections.

Most people find rockhounding to be relaxing. Locations in nature have been recognized through the ages as areas for reflection and tranquility. It is often a welcome relief to get away from the fast pace of urban life and the day to day problems that work, school, or even home life brings to us all. This year make a plan to take your family rockhounding. You deserve it!

- via MWF News 9/13 via Glacial Groove 5/16



# Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

## QUICK CLOSE-UPS

Often when trying to get a close-up photo with your iPhone or Android, you end up with a fuzzy, out-of-focus image. Next time try using your loupe over the camera lens. It works quickly and easily.



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## LITTLE THINGS CAN BITE

Most jewelers treat motorized equipment with caution. We've all heard stories about workpieces coming loose in the drill press or about getting long hair or clothing caught in the polishing machine. It stands to reason that a machine with a motor of a half horsepower or so is going to win out over its operator. We all know that, and I'm not going to harp on it. That's not the point of this story.

I want to talk about the smaller motor powered machines we often use, the ones with little 3 inch diameter motors. For instance, these small motors are used in flexshafts and micro buffers. They're so small that many of us forget caution when using them. I'm guilty of it myself sometimes, and believe me it can get you in trouble. Here's what happened to two people I know.

One friend had a polishing bur bend in the handpiece and then whack the thumb that was holding the workpiece so badly that it seemed the bone might be broken. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small underpowered motor? I don't think so.

Another friend was using one of the small buffing machines, the kind you can stop when you apply too much pressure to the wheel. Not to worry about such an underpowered beast, you say. Wrong, it literally jumped up and bit the hand that feeds it !

Buffer was set on a low table to do a quick polish, so was not mounted or clamped. A buff was installed on the right spindle, no buff on the left. Friend was wearing a tight-fitting, long-sleeved sweater. While buffing on the right wheel, the left tapered spindle caught a thread on the friend's left sleeve and started grabbing more and more threads and sleeve.

Rather than pulling the arm into the machine, the light buffer quickly lifted off the table and started climbing up the underside of the friend's arm. There was no way to get a hand of the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man. Only when my friend could grab the gyrating power cord and yank it from the wall did the mayhem stop.

So when you're in the shop, please think safety. Don't take even those little motors for granted.

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and  
"Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry"  
are available on Amazon

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://facebook.com/BenchTips/)  
or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

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## *The Rockhound's Ten Commandments*

1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hands.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing or biting.
3. Thou shalt not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shalt not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shalt not collect at a neighbor's unless thy neighbor knowst you're there.
6. Thou shalt not argue names of minerals too violently; for sometimes thou could be wrong.
7. Thou shalt not climb above thy neighbor's head when on a field trip, lest thou art willing to spend the rest of the day digging him out.
8. Thou shalt protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they may enjoy many future field trips.
9. Thou shalt not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggin's, lest thy neighbor's hammer be dropped upon thee.
10. Thou shalt not break uncollectable specimens.

From The Rockpile, newsletter of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society, April 2016



## *Safety Tips for Family Collecting:*

- \* Use common sense
- \* Check the weather before you leave and dress appropriately
- \* Depending on where and how long you'll be collecting, take along heavier jackets or rain gear in case the weather changes
- \* Wear long pants to protect your legs, a hat to ward off the sun, and the sturdiest shoes you have
- \* Rubber boots are good for creek collecting
- \* A bicycle helmet can double as a hard hat
- \* Carry plenty of water with you and make sure the kids are drinking even if they don't feel thirsty
- \* Pack some nutritious snacks
- \* Always take insect repellent and sunscreen and apply them as needed
- \* Set safety rules as soon as you arrive at the site
- \* Keep your children in sight
- \* Carry a cell phone and first aid kit for emergencies
- \* Set a good example and have fun!

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## Moonrocks



### Ingredients

- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
  
- 1 1/2 cups packed light brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Melt chocolate in the top of a double boiler. Let cool.

In a mixing bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, cream butter and sugar together. Blend eggs into the butter mixture one at a time. Stir the vanilla, flour mixture, water and chocolate into the butter and eggs; beat well. Stir in marshmallows. Fill paper-lined cupcake pans half full.

Bake in a preheated 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) oven for 20 minutes. Cool on a wire rack before serving.



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## Upcoming Events

**June 3 - 5, 2016**

**Wauseon, OH**

**StateLine Gem and Mineral Society  
52nd Annual Show**

Fulton County Fairgrounds  
Junior Fair Building  
8514 SR 108  
Wauseon, OH

**June 4-5**

**Mansfield, OH**

Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society annual show  
Richland Co. Fairgrounds  
Arts & Crafts Bldg.  
750 N. Home Rd.  
Mansfield, OH  
Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5

**August 19-21**

**South Bend, IN.**

Midwest Minerals  
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
53rd Annual Show and  
76th Midwest Federation Convention  
St. Joseph Co. 4-H Fairgrounds  
Esther Singer Bldg.  
5117 S. Ironwood Rd. (Ironwood & Jackson)  
South Bend, IN  
Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5

**June 11, 2016**

**Wyoming, MI**

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club  
Annual Tailgate Sale  
Sat. 9 - noon  
Wesley Park United Methodist Church  
parking lot  
1150 32nd St.  
Wyoming, MI

**Sept. 9-11**

**Toledo, OH**

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club annual show  
Stranahan Theatre Complex  
4645 Heatherdowns  
Toledo, OH  
Fri. 2-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5

**August 12-14**

**Houghton, MI.**

Copper Country Gem & Mineral Show  
Houghton Elementary School  
Houghton, MI  
Fri. 1-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11- 3





# Rock Trails

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first Sunday of each month  
at 2:00 PM  
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