

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 58
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JUNE 2018

2018 Officers and Directors

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Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310
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Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123
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First Year Director: Kurt Miller, (419) 923-2090
Second Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971
Third Year Director: Carl Mulholland, 517 539-2037
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Co-Show Chair: Glenda Gafner, (517) 451-2079
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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

Secretary's Scoop



The May 6th State Line Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting was called to order by president Sherm at 2:18 PM. Eddie gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance by all present. Sherm reported that our secretary Heidi stepped down as secretary due to additional responsibilities at home. He asked for volunteers to take over the position and Richard B. volunteered to fill the opening. Heidi was asked to hand write any reports she may have missed and give them to Richard B. to include in his secretary report. Doris acknowledged Heidi's past service as secretary and expressed the club's appreciation for all she has done and continues to do in support of the club. Thank you, Heidi.

Treasurer's Report: Doris paid the rent and utilities along with ordering and paying for the 200 pounds of Mexican geodes that the club approved in last month's meeting. She also reimbursed Jan for the grab bag expenses approved by the club in last month's meeting. Doris reported that our \$250.00 deposit for last year's rental of the Junior Fair building was not returned because the fair officials noticed damage to some of the ceiling tiles and damage to the new paint from tape on the walls. She reminded all members to be vigilant and report any observation of such damage to her or Sherm if they do not feel comfortable approaching dealers causing such damage. Jan made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Henry and approved by all with an aye vote.

Doris noted that we need to make some corrections on our member list. She asks that anyone who has moved or changed their email address let the secretary <Richard Brzezicki (517) 263-1669> know so that he can include the correction in the newsletter. Current corrections include; Ray Hall's new email address is hallringo@gmail.com , Henry Porter's new email address is henryporter9804@comcast.net , Robert and Deb Benn's new email address is bennexpress@comcast.net and Carl Mulholland's new mailing address is 1103 Nature Trail, Manchester MI 48158.

Sherm mentioned that we were not able to send a delegate to the Midwest Federation last year but thought we could table any discussion or nominations until after our show.

Judy had some questions about the scholarship application process. Doris stated that the 2017 application on the club's website should still be valid for a 2018 application. After some discussion it was revealed that Glenda has recused herself from being in charge of the scholarship selection since her daughter has applied for the scholarship. Linda Wielfaert volunteered to work with the applications. (Thank you, Linda).

Show details – Eddie agreed to call the Ohio Department of Transportation for permission to set out the large yellow marquee signs advertising our show. He plans to set the signs up around Mother's Day weekend. Doris looked up rock clubs in the Michigan, Ohio and Indiana area and sent reminders about our Mine Safety Class on Saturday June 2, 2018. We are fortunate to have Joel Vicary, the author of the mine safety book to teach our class. Henry stated that the other rock club he belongs to

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Secretary's Scoop

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received the reminder and discussed the Mine Safety Class. You need to have (*and show*) the certification which you receive by attending said class in order to get into some sites for collecting. Richard B. passed around a list for members who wanted to sign up for the mine safety class. So far we have 8 members signed up.

There was discussion about the fact that the Jackson club did not pay any money for advertising, but still had a wonderful turnout of customers. Sally stated that they used the free community events sections of newspapers and radio stations but most of their success was attributed to social media like Facebook. Richard B. stated that Facebook could be very time consuming so it pays to post and repost info about the show often. That way if your friends miss it the first time around, they might see it on the third or fourth posting.

We plan to have a dinner to welcome the dealers and volunteers at 6:00 PM on Thursday May 31st. Linda Miller passed around a list for donations of pies and food. Set up will begin on Wednesday May 30th and we will meet at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM to start loading. We should be to the fairgrounds by 12 noon. Linda will get the food license in Wauseon. Jan called for another work day for Saturday May 12th at 10:00 AM to sew and stuff more grab bags. Eddie will work on silent auction materials. Judy reported that Anita Anderson was surprised that she no longer received the printed copy of our newsletter. Doris mentioned that the honorary membership the club has traditionally awarded was only for one year. Discussions debated the pros and cons of such memberships and the consensus was we should award such memberships where the potential recipient is likely to help the club in some way. It would not be considered a "life time membership" if he/she does not attend meetings or otherwise participate in club activities. Linda Hutchins made a motion to award an honorary membership to Anita Anderson and Pat Baier-Hay for the remainder of this year and half of next year to encourage participation in the shows. The motion was seconded by Doris and passed with all in favor.

Questions about club shirts and name badges were addressed by Sherm. He sent around a list of who wanted what kind and size shirt and the name desired on the new name tag.

Henry made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Richard B. and passed with an aye vote.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Brzezicki



State Line Work Party

Rock hounds are always up for having some fun.

Bill Sipes is a man of action. He came to my house on Friday with his granddaughter Mandy and all three of us loaded the geodes onto Bill's truck. Then on Saturday, he got the dolly from the clubhouse and transported them from his truck to the weighing table. He and I weighed all 200 pounds of Mexican geodes, priced them and Bill hauled them away to make room for more geodes.

You can always count on Phyllis Sipes and Linda Miller to bring their sewing machines to the clubhouse to sew up some cloth grab bags for our grab bag lion. Phyllis and Linda completed around 350 grab bags with the help of Richard and Judy Snyder and Bill and Mary Schultz. As Phyllis and Linda finished the sewing, the rest of the crew turned the bags right side out and put the draw strings inside to get them ready to fill with sample rocks and trinkets for the kids to enjoy from our grab bag lion. Jan Hauter and Doris Brzezicki coordinated the filling process and Dottie Pickell, our newest member, helped with the filling. Eddie Jarzembksi came to organize the items he will put on the silent auction table but he also helped with the grab bags.

Eddie mentioned that the Fire Station was having their chicken dinner and it was very tasty so some of the crew walked down and bought the dinners. Others just went next door to the Subway Restaurant and got subs.

I think we got a lot accomplished in a relatively short period of time, and had fun preparing for our show on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd. A big THANK YOU to all who participated at this and previous work parties.

Richard Brzezicki



Crater of Diamonds State Park

Murfreesboro, Arkansas

The most well-known iteration of the story starts in 1906: Huddleston, an illiterate, middle-aged farmer, was working the soil of his turnip field on his 243-acre farm when he uncovered two strange, shiny yellow and clear stones. Not knowing what they were, Huddleston tested them on his grinding wheel, which he was told could shape anything but diamonds. As he worked the stones against the wheel, he saw that they left impressions in the wheel, and sent them off to be appraised by a jeweler in Little Rock.



Today, the site of his discovery, Crater of Diamonds State Park, is the only diamond mine in the world that's open to the public, and you can keep what you find.

The park is the remnant of a series of dramatic geologic shifts and vicious volcanic activity dating back 3 billion years ago. High temperatures and pressures between 60 and 100 miles below the Earth's crust crystallize carbon into diamonds. Then an explosion of gas and fragments during the formation of the volcanic vent known as the Prairie Creek diatreme brought these rocks and minerals up from deep in the earth.

The 83-acre funneled crater was left behind where the airborne material settled, preserving precious diamond stones in the soil. There the jewels remained for centuries, until Huddleston, lucky "Diamond John," found the first stones.

Huddleston became nationally famous for his discovery. The two diamonds he found were appraised by the jeweler, who determined that the diamonds weighed 2-½ carats and 1-¼ carats. Originally purchasing the land for \$1,000 and a mule, Huddleston made a nice profit when he sold his farm for \$36,000 to Little Rock investors who turned the area into a commercial diamond mining site. The news of the diamond mine brought many fortune seekers to Murfreesboro — reports and newspapers indicated that hotels in the area had to turn visitors away because they were overbooked.

Since Huddleston, hundreds of diamonds have been found in the crater. In 1999, officials reported the count at 471 of the precious stones. Many historical diamond discoveries have also come from the site: The 1.09-carat Strawn-Wagner diamond that received the highest, Triple Zero grade (a stone that has perfect symmetry, polish, and proportions), the 4.25-carat Kahn Canary diamond worn by Hillary Clinton during her husband's presidential inaugural gala, and the 40.23-carat white Uncle Sam Diamond, the largest diamond ever found in the United States.



Crater of Diamonds State Park

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(Most recently, the park was the site where the 8.53-carat Esperanza diamond was found in June 2015. After it was cut into a 4.6-carat triolette shape, the Esperanza was valued at approximately \$500,000.)

The land has been handed over to many different owners, until it was purchased by the state for \$750,000 in 1972 and turned into the 911-acre Crater of Diamonds State Park. About 37 of those acres are open to the public to dig for diamonds.

On average, two diamonds are found per day at the park. It's common to see children digging for diamonds and visitors sifting through the soil. But there are a number of diamonds that go unaccounted for. Among the kids and tourists, there is a group of regular, local diamond hunters that don't report their findings. They can be spotted digging deep holes and donning neoprene gloves and boots.

As for Huddleston, unfortunately, his luck quickly ran dry. He spent most all of his money on bad investments and he died very poor around 1936. Today, the farmer's discovery is honored by the state park, which marked off the site where he found the crater's very first diamond.



Know Before You Go

If the dirt in the search area is wet, you will need some old shoes or boots because the field will be very muddy. In the summer, a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Tools are not necessary for diamond seeking, and a good way to search is to walk up and down the rows looking for diamonds lying on top of the ground, but if you want to dig, you have the options of bringing your own tools from home, or you may buy buckets and trowels or rent buckets, shovels, screens, and other tools at the park. At the Diamond Discovery Center, buy or rent tools and watch the instructional diamond mining video or one of the diamond searching demonstrations by a park interpreter for tips to improve your chances. Take the time to tour the exhibits, which demonstrate the appearance of diamonds in the rough and the three different search methods used at the park. If you find a diamond, they will certify it onsite. Tickets to search for diamonds are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. Note: Dogs on leashes are allowed in most places at the park, including the mine area. Sun shelters and coolers stocked with non-alcoholic drinks are also allowed; however, battery-powered or motorized pieces of equipment (including flashlights and metal detectors) are not allowed in the mine area. The park does have a café and a small water park, which are generally open seasonally between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Call the park or visit the park's website for exact dates. Call the park office for information on programs showing diamond-hunting methods.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/crater-of-diamonds>

Upcoming Events

June 1-3, 2018

Wauseon, OH

Stateline Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show.

Fri noon - 6 pm; Sat 10 am - 6 pm;

Sun 11 am - 4 pm.

Fulton County Fairgrounds

8514 SR-108

Wauseon, OH

June 22-24, 2018

Bedford, IN

Lawrence County Rock Club Annual Show.

Fri 10 am - 6:30 pm; Sat 9 am - 6:30 pm;

Sun 10 am - 4 pm.

Lawrence County Fairgrounds

US Hwy 50

Bedford IN

June 9-10, 2018

Mansfield, OH

Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society

Annual Show

Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 5 pm

Arts & Crafts Building

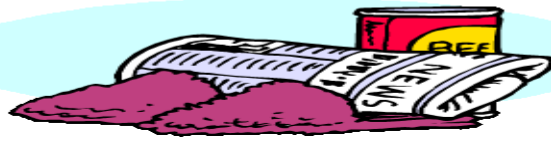
Richland County Fairgrounds

750 N Home Rd.

Mansfield OH



Happy Father's Day



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

