

# ROCK TRAILS



## No June Meeting

### Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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#### 2020 Officers and Directors

President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310  
Secretary: Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666  
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123  
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Shirley McGovern  
Library: Curt and Linda Miller.  
Education & Lapidary:  
Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666  
Newsletter Editor: Sandy Gerhart,  
734 347-4796, s\_gerhart@yahoo.com  
Website: <http://statelinegms.com/index.html>



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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



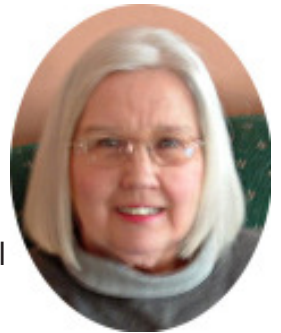
Well, another month at home. No shows and more being canceled. So far, Art-A-Licious, Clinton and the Midwest convention, which this year would have been the Livingston show (for those of you that didn't know). The Bedford Indians show was also canceled. For myself, all of my shows have been canceled except South Bend Indiana which will probably be canceled also. So what do we do? I guess sit tight until this mess is over with and be as safe as we can, do things around the house and make pretty things, cut more rocks. What have you been doing? I have been cutting more rock and grinding a few cabs. The other day I cut some Chinese script stone that Glenda brought back last year and some cobra jasper, some fire jasper and not last, the old stand-by Mexican lace. It has been nice to be in the saw room again!

Have been in touch with the Toledo club and their club house is coming along - drywall is up and painted, heat, air and electric in. Still a long way to go but will be nice when done. Well, everyone stay safe and hope this stuff ends soon!

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## Treasurer's Statement

I wanted to give everyone an update on our financial health. In January I handed out our proposed budget with projected income and expenses. Many of the expenses have continued, however the income has not. Michigan Gem & Mineral Society, our show and Art-a-licious have been cancelled. We have not heard if other shows in September and October will be cancelled. It is much more important for everyone to stay safe.



We have returned funds to the dealers who had already paid for the 2020 Show and did not opt to have the payment go towards space at the 2021 Show. State Line Gem & Mineral Society is very fortunate that thanks to the efforts of its members, we have a savings account that will cover our expenses for the next year. I will continue to pay our rent and utilities and any other approved expenses that may arise. We are OK. I really miss seeing everyone and look forward to the time we can safely get together again.

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer

## *New Mexico Trip 2020*

by Richard Brzezicki

It all started at the Fulton County Fair in Wauseon Ohio last year. Henry and I cracked geodes outside and Doris was manning the grab bag lion under the big merchant's tent. Business was a little slow, but we had one lady who stopped by to inquire about our geodes. She was impressed with the variety and quantity of our geodes and asked if we had ever been to the big rock show in Deming, New Mexico? I said that I didn't know they had a show there and could she tell us more about it. It had been many years since we had visited New Mexico, and her description started to intrigue me just a little. I could tell that Henry was also all ears. She explained that the Deming rock club had an annual show and that they allowed non-members to go on field trips once a year to their special collecting sites. After the lady left, there were no more geode customers, so Henry, usually a man of few words, started talking about how he might be interested in going to that rock show. I of course had visions of rattlesnakes and desert areas with 100 degree heat. But, wouldn't it be fun to experience something new and exciting? So, I went inside the tent to tell Doris that Henry and I wanted to go to New Mexico on a rock hunting field trip. Doris, being the organized and planning type of person, went on line with her cell phone to research this lame idea. She found that there was indeed a Deming rock show, and they did have guided field trips and she thought she might like to go on such a trip. She could always just sit in the car if she got tired. I went back to cracking geodes and Bill Schultz stopped by as a relief cracker. Henry told him about the Deming rock club and our desire to attend their show. Bill said he might like to go on that trip too and we all went back to cracking geodes. Bill had the grand idea of sitting on one of the kitty litter buckets to set the geodes in the cracker and I adopted that method to save wear and tear on my knees.

When Doris and I got home, Doris got on the computer to do some research on what it would take to go to Deming, New Mexico. It would require a 25 hour drive to get there from Adrian. She thought that was doable, so she made motel reservations in Deming – a single for Henry and a double for the two of us. Guess I forgot to let her know Bill also wanted to go, so she canceled the single for Henry and reserved a double for Henry and Bill. Several months later she had plenty of time to think things over and decided that there was no way she was going to survive a 25 hour drive even if it was broken down to two days. She also didn't think sitting in a car while the guys were out (for who knows how long) was something she was up for. This prompted her to cancel the previous reservations and book a reservation for three beds and one room in Deming. The guys were on their own.

As departure time grew near, I had done some of my own research. The temperatures in Deming in mid-March tended to be reasonable ranging between 50's and 60's during the day and 40's and 50's at night. That would keep any smart rattlesnake from coming out into the open and the temps would be great for collecting rocks. I originally thought I would be driving my Prius with 40 mpg but Henry had a really big pickup truck which could carry a lot more rocks. It also had a lot more passenger space. I think we averaged around 20 mpg in his truck, so that wasn't bad. The night before we left, Henry spent the night in Adrian with us, and then he and I left early the next morning to pick Bill up in Wauseon. We took turns driving so the 13 hour trip was not too bad on any one person. We did have to put up with a little rain most of the way down, but the up side was we didn't have to have the sun in our eyes. We found a motel in El Reno, Oklahoma, just past



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Oklahoma City with room for all three of us. Bill got to sleep on a roll away bed, while Henry and I had our own beds. (Sorry Bill). The next day, and 12 hours later, we arrived in Deming, New Mexico. It sure was not the way I had expected it to be, even though I really didn't know what to expect. We passed the White Sands testing site and there were lots of mountains around. However, the mountains all seemed to have an awful lot of erosion going on. There were super sized cracks going down those mountains. The flat lands had some small bush type plants scattered all over. I expected to see some armadillos but didn't see any road-kill anywhere. I did see several pistachio farms in that area. The trees had not started to leaf out yet.



We found our motel and checked in. By that time, everyone was very aware of the covid-19 virus hitting the USA. Henry and Bill kept us well supplied with hand sanitizer and Bill wiped down all flat surfaces with sanitizing wipes before we brought our gear in. I also informed the check-in desk that we would not need anyone to come in the room to clean and if we needed extra towels I would come down to get them. Our room was on the second floor, so we

avoided using the hand rails navigating the steps.

The show was held at the fairgrounds so we checked out the set up and registered for the field trip the next morning. One of the club members had some cabs glued to a board of some of the types of rocks we would be looking for at the various sites. Our first choice was the site with agates. I think the gal explaining the field trips must have taken a shine to Henry, because she really talked to him for a long time. It started getting late so we found an Italian restaurant and had supper then went back to the room, watched some TV and went to bed. The next morning, we got up at 5:30 to get ready for breakfast which was included with our room. The restaurant opened at 6:00 and we were there at 5:59 with smiles on our faces. The restaurant seemed fancy/plain but they had a menu with several nice choices.

We finished our meal and headed for the fairgrounds to wait for the field trip to start. Henry learned that it was a good idea to get there early because there were limits on how many vehicles would be allowed to any given site. We were 3rd in line for the agate trip. There were some bumpy



roads getting to the site but once there, we had plenty of parking places. The club had brought in some heavy equipment to dig up a large mound of dirt with agate material inside. Apparently, they take several core samples, and then decide where to dig up the area for agates. You got to collect 25 pounds of agates and one large agate of any size. I tried to pick out relatively small chunks that would fit in our club's saw. I also got a nice sized chunk which I have not yet washed off. Henry and Bill were off looking for the choice collecting sites. I got tired of collecting so I went back to the truck and noticed some wild flowers and a cactus in bloom just right for a photo op.



When Bill and Henry finished collecting, we went back to the fairgrounds to check out the show. The first building had three double rows of dealers

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with many beautiful displays including rocks, beads, jewelry etc. The outside had enormous amounts of rough and finished items. They even had a man cracking geodes. The second building had a few dealers and a couple of saws set up by club members to cut Mexican geodes. They had an interesting way to price their geodes which consisted of different colored paints to indicate the price. A red splotch = \$5.00 a blue splotch = \$8 and a yellow splotch = \$15.00. The colors didn't seem to make any sense to me, since one of the \$15.00 geodes seemed smaller than an \$8.00 one. I think our system of weighing geodes is more efficient.



The second day started off with breakfast again then off to the road trip at the fluorite mine and a bit of rhyolite. It looked kind of cloudy so I brought my raincoat. The rain was very light but the wind made it feel cool. I was glad the raincoat blocked the wind. I found lots of small pieces of fluorite but Henry found some nicer specimens. We returned to the show after the field trip and learned that the show was going to have to close because of the Covid-19 arriving in New Mexico. The field trip for the next day was still going to happen. We returned to the motel, and I still had leftovers from the previous supper so I

stayed in the room while Henry and Bill went out for supper.

The third day was similar to the first two. Our field trip took us over some pretty bumpy roads. The erosion I mentioned earlier was really serious on this trip. I think my little Prius would have been swallowed up in some of the ruts. It sure was nice to be in a really big pickup. We found some very nice rhyolite specimens at this site. Some of the rhyolite is banded, most is just a solid color. We all brought extra buckets and there was a lady at the Rhyolite site who asked if we had any kitty litter buckets she could buy. Henry gave her several of his buckets for free and she was elated. It seemed that all directions for good sized rocks required climbing up hill but I did find lots of small chunks we can put in our grab bags. On our return to town, we found a Mexican restaurant where Henry and Bill ate the night before. The food was good and plentiful. Then it was time to start packing up to head home.



The next day it was finally time to start the long road home. We were ready to get back and check out all the rocks we were able to collect and see what wonderful things were contained inside our treasures. The road home always seems shorter. But, 25 hours on the road is still a lot of driving. We found another motel about half-way then got to Wauseon at about 9:00 PM and to Adrian close to 10:00 PM. Henry decided he would just head home instead of spending the night in Adrian. Mary took our picture in Wauseon. Henry and I really looked beat. Bill seemed to maintain his Santa Claus smile even though he drove most of the way home that night.

The trip was somewhat exhausting for this old man, but it might be worth doing again when this Covid-19 pandemic subsides. Henry pointed out that there are lots of other places in New Mexico and Arizona where wonderful rocks can be found and collected. Bill also wants to visit Oregon and other western locations.



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# 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.



## 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. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small underpowered motor? Not 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 friends arm. There was no way to get a hand on the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man. Only when someone nearby could grab the 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 the little motors for granted.

Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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## *What are the Minerals and Gems that are found in the Sedimentary rocks?*

### **What is Sedimentary rock?**

Sedimentary rocks are types of rock that are formed by the deposition and subsequent cementation of mineral or organic particles on the floor of oceans or other bodies of water at the Earth's surface. Sedimentation is the collective name for processes that cause these particles to settle in place. The particles that form a sedimentary rock are called sediment, and may be composed of geological detritus (minerals) or biological detritus (organic matter). Before being deposited, the geological detritus was formed by weathering and erosion from the source area, and then transported to the place of deposition by water, wind, ice, mass movement or glaciers, which are called agents of denudation. Biological detritus was formed by bodies and parts (mainly shells) of dead aquatic organisms, as well as their fecal mass, suspended in water and slowly piling up on the floor of water bodies (marine snow). Sedimentation may also occur as dissolved minerals precipitate from water solution.

The sedimentary rock cover of the continents of the Earth's crust is extensive (73% of the Earth's current land surface), but the total contribution of sedimentary rocks is estimated to be only 8% of the total volume of the crust. Sedimentary rocks are only a thin veneer over a crust consisting mainly of igneous and metamorphic rocks. Sedimentary rocks are deposited in layers as strata, forming a structure called bedding. The study of sedimentary rocks and rock strata provides information about the subsurface that is useful for civil engineering, for example in the construction of roads, houses, tunnels, canals or other structures. Sedimentary rocks are also important sources of natural resources like coal, fossil fuels, drinking water or ores.

The study of the sequence of sedimentary rock strata is the main source for an understanding of the Earth's history, including palaeogeography, paleoclimatology and the history of life. The scientific discipline that studies the properties and origin of sedimentary rocks is called sedimentology. Sedimentology is part of both geology and physical geography and overlaps partly with other disciplines in the Earth sciences, such as pedology, geomorphology, geochemistry and structural geology. Sedimentary rocks have also been found on Mars.

### **Sedimentary Cycle**

The sedimentary cycle is the second largest cycle in mineral and rock formation. Sedimentary rocks are formed by erosion, transport in rivers, ice etc. and involve the decay and disintegration of a preexisting rock mass. Usually there are no new minerals formed, only found.

When these particles eventually settle, they form alluvial gravels, sands or clays. When they are either cemented or compressed, then they form sedimentary rocks such as conglomerations, sandstones and limestones.

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Chemical action in the environment leads to some material dissolving in water. Eventually the water may evaporate and deposits of borax and other salt “evaporates” may form this way.

Plant and animal remains are commonly incorporated among the rock fragments and these may be preserved as fossils.

Many gemstones are found in “alluvial deposits”. These deposits have their origin in the destruction of the original rocks and the resulting materials by rivers, floods and glacial movement. During this movement the heavier minerals tend to remain relatively close to the source, whilst lighter minerals are carried further away.

The heavier and harder materials do not wear as much as the lighter ones and tend to retain more of their crystal shape. Stones such as sapphire and topaz do not show as much abrasion as softer minerals like quartz.

However, due to the continuous grinding and tumbling over a period of time, a large number of gem minerals are found as rounded “water-worn” pebbles. The gem gravels in Sri Lanka contain a wide variety of such minerals.

Because of their supreme hardness and density many diamonds survive the sedimentary processes and are frequently found in alluvial deposits.

Minerals found in sedimentary rocks:

Beryl  
Opal  
Quartz  
Turquoise  
Malachite  
Azurite  
Chrysoprase  
Chrysocolla



<http://www.geologypage.com/2019/03/what-are-the-minerals-and-gems-that-found-in-the-sedimentary-rocks.html>



# Upcoming Events

## No June Meeting

State Line Gem & Mineral Society  
monthly meeting  
201 W. Main St.,  
Morenci, MI 49256

Because of the Corona Virus, all upcoming shows scheduled for the next month have been canceled.



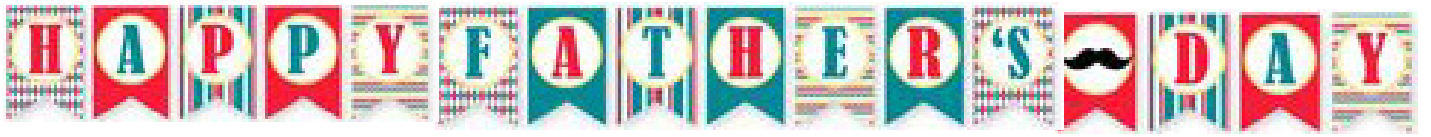
### Ongoing - **Currently canceled**

Richard Brzezicki is at the clubhouse on Thursdays 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm. It is best to check with him first before you go. Cell (269) 267-7666

Sherm Kardatzke will be holding cabbing classes on Thursday evenings, 6:00 pm - 9 pm.

Wire Wrapping Sessions at Hobby Lobby in Adrian on Fridays 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Linda Miller (419) 923-2090 and  
Judy Snyder (517) 902-3990  
(check to verify there will be someone there)



# 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

