

# ROCK TRAILS



## **Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society**

VOLUME 61  
ISSUE VI  
JUNE 2021

### **2021 Officers and Directors**

President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310  
Vice-President: Charlene Hacker, 517 270-8061  
Secretary: Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666  
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123  
Past President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
First Year Director: Heidi Storehalder, 517 403-7626  
Second Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971  
Third Year Director: Bill Schultz, 419 335-6791  
Show Chairman: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Co-Show Chair: Glenda Gafner, 517 451-2079  
Publicity: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
Sunshine & Membership: Jan Hauter, Judy Snyder,  
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](mailto: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

## Secretary's Scoop



The May 2, 2021 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by president Glenda Gafner at 2:17 PM. There were 21 members present at the Riverside park in Adrian.

Glenda led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance and Richard B. gave the invocation. Glenda reported on the passing of club member Carl Mulholland and another friend of the club, Archie and asked the club to observe a moment of silence in their honor.

Glenda granted a request from our member Lisa to explain her frustration with communication problems obtaining a booth at our annual show. Ray made a suggestion to have the club help Lisa set up a booth outside to guarantee that she would be able to attend the show, and if there was a cancellation by one of the vendors prior to the show, she would be able to move her booth inside. That seemed to resolve the problem.

Linda W. made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Emma and the motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Doris paid the clubhouse rent, electric, donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memory of Carl Mulholland and bill for posters and postcards . Sherm made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Bud. The motion passed with all in favor.

Show Report – Sherm reported that one dealer, Dayle, cancelled but due to COVID-19 restrictions, he needed to expand the distance between booths from four to six feet, so there would not be enough room for any replacement dealers. We will also be limited to no more than 300 people at the show at any one time. We will not have any demonstrators or instructors at this year's show. Sherm asked for volunteers to help with set up and tear down at the show. Bill Schultz, Steve, Ray, Henry, Eddie, Curt and Bud volunteered. Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> volunteers will meet at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM to start loading up. Other volunteers will meet them at the Fulton County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building at 11:00 AM to help unload and set up tables and chairs. Vendors will be arriving at 9:00 AM on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tear down will occur before the club meeting. Henry can help with geode cracking except for Sunday.

Show hours will be:

Friday June 4 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 Noon	to 6:00 PM
Saturday June 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM	to 6:00 PM
Sunday June 6 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 AM	to 4:00 PM

Linda Miller circulated a sign-up sheet for kitchen volunteers. If you would like to volunteer or want to donate some baked goods, please let her know. Glenda agreed to bring condiments and an electric fry pan. Linda W. will bring an electric fry pan and Bill Schultz will bring a griddle.

There will not be a vendor dinner this year and no after party at Bill's house due to COVID-19. We encourage masks be worn and social distancing to be observed at the show.

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**Secretary's Report**

Cont. from page 2

Since the fourth of July is on the first Sunday of the month, our club meeting will be held at 1:00 PM at Linda and Curt Miller's house on July 11<sup>th</sup> the following Sunday. This can be a fun pot-luck event.

Glenda reported that there will be no Bedford show this year. She still plans to go down to Indiana the week-end of June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> to collect geodes. Please remember our friend Denise in your prayers, who lets us collect on her property. She is scheduled for a medical procedure. If you would like to join Glenda in Indiana please give her a call for more information. She is also working on a Flint Ridge field trip to collect Ohio flint.

Steve reported that the Toledo show has moved from the Stranahan Theater to the Wood County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Rd., Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

Sherm made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bud. The motion passed with all in favor.



SOME  
Super Heroes  
Don't have  
CAPES...  
They are  
called DAD

# Treasurer's Statement

Please add these new members to your Membership List:

Curtis & Linda Miller  
15277 St Hwy 109  
Lyons, OH 43533  
millerlake2525@embarqmail.com  
(419) 923-2090

Pat Rockey & Becky Wilson  
1632 Terrawendq  
Defiance, OH 43512  
rockman614@live.com  
(419) 439-1556



**60th ANNUAL  
GEM, JEWELRY, BEAD, ROCK &  
MINERAL SHOW**

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**JUNE 4, 5, 6, 2021**

Friday	Noon - 6 pm		Fulton County Fairgrounds
Saturday	10 am - 6 pm		Junior Fair Building
Sunday	11 am - 4 pm		1814 SR 108 Wauseon, Ohio

Admission  
Adults \$4, Seniors & Students \$3  
Children under 12 Free

North of the Ohio Turnpike  
Exit 34

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**GEODES!** State Line Gem & Mineral Society Website <http://statelinegms.com> **CLASSES!**

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## Bench Tips

by Brad Smith



### DRILL PRESS VISE

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the of risks of working with high power motors, using larger drill bits, and dealing with heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like micromark.com mscdirect.com/enco smallparts.com grizzly.com

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### DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small lots.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. It turns out the trace metals in dental gold make it a good material in your mouth but cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. They ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold.

If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use for accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture.



Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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## *The Curse of the Petrified Forest*

When visiting, the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona, folks are enamored by the beauty and uniqueness of the petrified wood. It has been that way for centuries since the first explorers came through the area, the first routes were blazed through the region in the mid-1800s, and up until today. Travelers have long carried off pieces as keepsakes, and in the past, wagons and trucks were filled to the brim and hauled away to be sold.

But, since the time the Petrified Forest became a National Monument, it has been illegal to remove any specimens of petrified wood from the park. Today, theft of petrified wood can result in a fine. But, does that stop people from removing a piece of history from the park? No!

However, many who thought no one would notice that one little rock missing, or were absolutely sure they hadn't been seen, often find out later, it really wasn't a good idea.

Evidently, they were unaware of the Curse of the Petrified Forest.



More than 200 million years ago, large trees and rich vegetation flourished in northeast Arizona. At that time, the region was a tropical wetland with abundant streams and rivers. During heavy rains, the waterways would flood, sweeping fallen trees into the sandy floodplains. Later, volcanic lava destroyed the forest, and the remains were embedded into sediment comprised of volcanic ash, mud, and water. Trees are transitioned to stone by the process of permineralization, a process of fossilization in which the organic materials are replaced with minerals, such as quartz, making a

“cast” of the original organism. Millions of years later, the petrified logs were revealed by erosion.

The Petrified Forest area was designated a National Monument on December 8, 1906. The Painted Desert was added later, and on December 9, 1962, the whole monument received National Park status. Today, the park covers 93,533 acres.

In the 1930s, visitors to the Petrified Forest began to report that after taking a piece of petrified wood from the park, they were seemingly cursed with bad luck. This curse continues today, and is now a part of the park's history.

In fact, there is a room dedicated to these hundreds of cursed thieves in the Rainbow Forest Museum at Petrified Forest National Park. From divorce to being jailed, medical conditions to car problems, unemployment to generally terrible lives, and even death, the Petrified Forest National Park has received bucket loads of confessions, tales of tragedy, and returned petrified wood from those who lived to regret it. Like the curse of the Hope Diamond or the allegedly ruined lives of those who have tampered with Egyptian Pharaohs, bad luck comes to those who possess stolen petrified wood from the park, prompting thousands to send it back.

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## Petrified Forest

Cont. from page 6

For decades, the Petrified Forest has received pilfered samples in the mail, returned by visitors who regret having stolen them. Notes included with the fragments describe lives wrought with misfortune since the rocks' theft. In the letters, filchers plead with park officials to return the pieces to their rightful place.

One visitor described a piece of petrified wood he had taken more than 10 years earlier. "It was a great challenge sneaking it out of the park," he wrote. "Since that time, though, nothing in my life has gone right."

Another pleaded, "My life has been totally destroyed since we've been back from vacation. Please put these back so my life can get back to normal! Let me start over again!"

And another says, "Take these miserable rocks and put them back, they have caused pure havoc in my love life."

At the southern entrance to the park is a pile of conscience rocks, and it is not the only one. There are other piles throughout the park. Unfortunately once the rocks are moved, they cannot be put back in the park because they are out of "scientific context". The park is a thriving site for archaeological, geological, and paleontological research. Moving rocks and other artifacts affects the value of the scientific study.



In the Rainbow Forest Museum, the display is called "Mystery of the Conscience Wood." A large piece of petrified wood sits on a bench. It was returned by a man who said he had stolen it 66 years ago. A three-ring binder sits beneath the display, that contains letters from all over the world. Comprising some 1,200 pages of guilt-ridden letters, the oldest "conscience letter" dates back to 1935.

The letters describe the feelings and bad luck many have experienced:

"You're right, it's a curse to take wood from the forest. My girlfriend of three years finished with me on the drive home. So here's your damn wood back."

"These miserable rocks have caused pure havoc in my love life. By the time these rocks reach you, things should be back to normal. If not, I give up. Dateless and Desperate."

"Believe me, if I would have known the curse went with any of the rocks, I never would have taken these. My life has been totally destroyed since we've been back from vacation. Please take these so my life will get back to normal. Let me start over again. Forgive me for ever taking these."

"When we were there, we read the letters of the many people who had returned wood to you with tales of bad luck, ruined marriages as well as other stories of misfortune. At first, we did not believe

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## Petrified Forest

Cont. from page 7

the ramblings of such obviously superstitious persons, but upon a review of the life a-d lack of luck that our family member had these past 30 years, we have begun to wonder if possibly the legend could have some truth to it.”

“I picked up this petrified rock about 13 years ago when I visited the national park. I came across it today and decided I should send it back to you. I am sorry that I took it and wish for you to have it back. Thank you. P.S. It has been bad luck to me.”

It's truly a sad state of affairs, as tourists can purchase petrified wood collected legally from private land in a number of nearby businesses. These pieces are generally inexpensive, and, the curse doesn't come with them.

Attention Would Be Thieves!! — Head on down the road, shell out a couple of bucks for your souvenir, and avoid the curse!

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/az-petrifiedcurse/>



Photos taken by Sandy Gerhart, Mar 2021



# Upcoming Events

## Meeting:

June 6, 2021

After tear-down of the show

**June 4 - 6**

### **WAUSEON, OH**

State Line Gem & Mineral Society  
Annual Show.

Fri Noon-6; Sat 10-6; Sun 11-4.

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

**June 12**

### **GRAND RAPIDS, MI**

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club  
Rock Swap  
9-noon.

Woodland Drive-In Church,  
2600 Breton SE,  
Grand Rapids.

**June 12 - 13**

### **MANSFIELD, OH**

Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club  
Rock Swap.

Sat 10-6; Sun 11-5  
Mansfield Fairgrounds,  
Fairhaven Hall,  
750 Home Rd.,  
Mansfield

### **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)

**June 25-27:**

### **BEDFORD, IN**

Lawrence County Rock Club  
Annual Show.

Fri 10-6:30; Sat 9-6:30; Sun 10-4.

Lawrence County Fairgrounds,  
US Highway 50,  
Bedford

**Aug 7**

### **ISHPEMING, MI**

Ishpeming Rock &  
Mineral Club Annual Show  
9:30-4:30.

Ishpeming Elk's Club  
597 Lakeshore Dr.  
Ishpeming

**Aug 13-15:**

### **HOUGHTON, MI**

Copper Country Rock &  
Mineral Club Rock Swap  
Fri 1-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 11-3.

Houghton Middle School  
1603 Gundlach Rd.  
Houghton

### **Livingston County**

has cancelled their Rock Show this year,  
normally in September



# 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

