

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 56
ISSUE VII
JULY 2016

2016 Officers and Directors

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Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
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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



Boy, time flies! It has been a busy month with our show and field trips. Alpena was fun - we had 12 members that were there to do the 2 mile walk back to the pit along with Steve from the Toledo club and Ed from the Flint club. After coming out of the pit, we had lunch and then went on a hunt for a beach and ended up south of Alpena at an assisted ed beach which went through the woods on a one track dirt road for over 4 miles! What an adventure!

Thanks to all that helped with our show! Everyone put in a lot of effort. Thanks, Lends, Carl, Heidi, Linda Miller. Off to Kentucky and having alot of fun finding a lot of different minerals. Then off to Bedford, Indiana, where Richard and Doris and myself are meeting up with others.

Our normal meeting has been put off to the the following week, July 10. Hope everyone has a happy 4 th and see you the 10 th

Secretary's Scoop

President Sherm Kardatzki called the meeting to order and Richard B. gave the invocation. The pledge of Allegiance followed.

Richard B. made a motion to accept the Secretary's report and was seconded by Carl. It passed with all in favor.

Doris gave her Treasurer's report, including bills that have been paid as well as expenses for our show. She also reported deposits that she had made and that our show earned more than ever this year. She also brought up the suggestion of transferring some of the club's earnings throughout the year into a club saving account. Richard made a motion to accept the Secretary's report, which was seconded by Linda M. and passed with all in favor.



Doris also proposed that the club pay off Marilyn for her generous loan to the club a few years previous. Carl made a motion to accept this and was seconded by Phyllis. It passed with all in favor.

The upcoming Alpena trip was discussed and several members would be attending. Many would leave on Friday the 10th and stay overnight at the cabin that Glenda had arranged. A meeting time at the Rockport quarry was agreed on.

The Bedford trip at the end of the month was also discussed and several members would travel to Kentucky the weekend before and then meet up with other members in Bedford on the 22nd.

We have not heard back from the Morenci Sportsman Club concerning the Kid's Day on July 9th.

It was suggested that the club should plan more kid's activities during the year to keep them interested. I volunteered to help with the planning.

Secretary's Scoop

Continued from page 2

Next year will be our 56th annual show. Glenda suggested we order posters for next year as the fliers and sign are already finished. Admission will stay the same at \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students, and all kids 12 and under will still have free admittance. Suggestions were made concerning advertising on the radio stations and getting an ATM for customers to use during the show.

It was brought up that the club website needed updating and that it might be a good idea to add more administrators to our Facebook page. Glenda, Pat's son Eddie, and myself all volunteered.

Glenda informed all members that were interested in Miner Al's shirts to let her know. Many did after the meeting adjourned.

Inventory was taken of our remaining grab bags and we will need many more before the Fulton Co. Fair rolls around. We also need to order new items to place in them as we are running low. Jan had many suggestions for items she thought would do well for grab bags including little magnifying glasses. Glenda suggested we make a list of items needed and bring this back up at the next meeting. Many members also feel that we need to add more rocks to the grab bags and label them so the kids know what they are getting. It was also brought up that Geo the Lion needs a new wooden box as his current cardboard box is getting rather worn.

It was decided that July's meeting will be on the 10th instead of during the holiday weekend.

Glenda made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Phyllis. It passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
~Heidi Storehalder~



Natural Bridge State Park, Massachusetts

Natural Bridge State Park is a Massachusetts state park located in the city of North Adams in the northwestern part of the state. The park's chief feature, for which it is named, is the only natural white marble arch/bridge in North America. Visitors can also view the remains of an abandoned marble quarry.

History



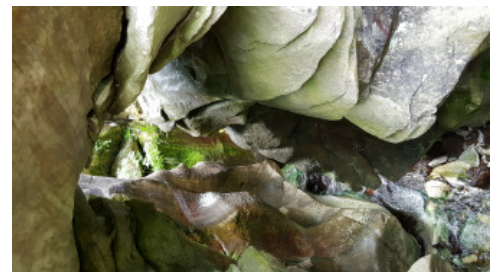
The bedrock marble from which the natural bridge was created is estimated to be some 550 million years old. Water from glacial runoff began carving the arch after the last Ice Age, 13,000 years ago.

The site of a marble quarry from 1810 to 1947 and a privately owned tourist attraction from 1950 to 1983, the site became a state park in 1985. The arch and associated quarry have long attracted attention from hikers, including author Nathaniel Hawthorne who visited in 1838.

Hudson Brook

The Mohawk Indians that lived, hunted, and fished in the area possibly saw no gain in naming the small brook, but when an explorer for the Massachusetts fort stumbled upon the many caves and rock formations he took it upon himself to aptly name Hudson Brook; forever paying homage to himself. Lieutenant Seth Hudson was stationed at Fort Massachusetts in 1759 and discovered what is today known as Hudson Brook around 1760 when he relocated out to the Western Massachusetts/Vermont border. Hudson was later one of the founders of the southern Vermont town of Pownal.

Hudson Brook is responsible for many of the marble formations that can be seen at the Natural Bridge. The brook cascades down a marble maze and eventually makes its way through a cave known as Hudson Cave. This natural wonder was one of several locations in the Berkshires noted in the journal of Nathaniel Hawthorn which was eventually published under the title *The American Note-books*.



The mills

The Natural Bridge site is rich in a multitude of minerals, including calcite, muscovite, feldspar, pyrite, and quartz—but it is mostly known for its rich deposits of marble rock. This quarry brought great wealth to the community. North Adams saw a boom in its economy and culture for well over one hundred years because of the mill located there, while marble cutting brought a wealth of aesthetic greatness.

Natural Bridge State Park

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Stone cutting in North Adams started at first in an inexperienced, coarse manner. Amateur workers cut marble for gravestones, stone facings, underpinnings, and mantle pieces for the wealthier class in town. The earliest stone cutting was unorganized and generally unregulated until around 1810.

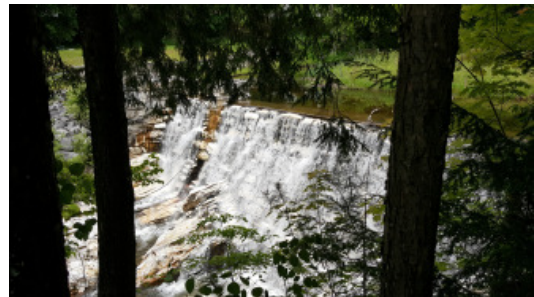
In 1810, Solomon Sherman, who was a man of “high reputation”, commenced his business at the natural bridge site. His operation was based on home trade. Operations were continued and taken over by his heir, Manson Sherman. It was in 1830 that Elijah Pike decided to start his own operation, opening up a shop on Eagle Street.



In 1830, Elijah Pike opened up his shop on the main strip of town. As the quality and quantity of the marble became known, a wider market opened up and Pike saw a chance to commence his operation with capital from one Dr. E.S. Hawkes. The men pooled their resources in improving the grounds, laying out a road, and putting up the mills. All of this was at a cost of 1,800 dollars. In 1837, Mr. Blackinton, a local man, bought in with Mr. Pike and the operation continued until it was sold to W.M. McAuley for 7,000 dollars in 1838. From this point on, it was owned by a joint stock company and the annual product (marble, lime, etc.) was estimated at 56,000, which was quite a nice amount of cash.

Preservation efforts started early when in 1835, two gentleman known as Messrs. Dwight and Denny bought the marble ledge for 150 dollars for the purposes of preserving the area. Five acres of surrounding land was purchased by one John Page for 217 dollars, whom entered into a perpetual lease from the town, who then owned thirty acres of land.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_Bridge_State_Park_\(Massachusetts\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_Bridge_State_Park_(Massachusetts))



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howlite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress on the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.

STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16ga.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.



"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://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/)
or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 10, 2016

State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting & induction of officers

2:00 p.m

201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

August 6

Ishpeming, MI

41st Annual Upper Peninsula
Gem and Mineral Show
Elk's Club Hall
597 Lake Shore Dr.
Ishpeming, MI
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m

August 12-14

Houghton, MI.

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

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

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





Rock Trails

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first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM
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Morenci, MI 49256

