

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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2018 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

Secretary's Scoop



The June 3rd 2018 State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Sherm Kardatzke. Eddie Jarzembksi gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Secretary's Report: Doris Brzezicki made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Linda Miller. The motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Doris paid the rent and utilities for the clubhouse. She also paid the bills associated with the show including kitchen expenses such as pies and other food purchases to insure a successful profit from the kitchen. The paid expenses also included table rental so that we could have more dealers attend our show. A cursory check of the different areas of income indicated that the kitchen profits were up from last year's show. Attendance (*at 513*) was down from last year as were raffle tickets sales. Geodes, kitchen, member sales, and children's activities were up and the silent auction made almost twice as much as last year. A big thank you to all committee and department chair persons and volunteers for the time and effort spent to make our show a success. Carl made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Heidi and passed with all in favor.

Doris reported that one of the dealers made some suggestions to improve our show. Ken Poore observed that having plastic table covers in the dining area would make it a lot easier to clean up after potential spills or crumbs. The covers could be inexpensive and would not have to be laundered after each use. He also noted that the bathroom doors could be closed during the show to afford more privacy. Ken noted that other shows he has been to as a dealer would have dealers boost their shows on Facebook or Twitter. It seems that you can pay something like \$50.00 to Facebook to boost a specific area such as Toledo, for example, and it helps bring in potential customers from the urban areas. Ken said that it would be efficient to include a short note when sending out the dealer contracts to suggest dealers boost their social media before their shows. Sherm agreed that this was a good idea. He also said that since he has started to receive contracts as a dealer, he noticed that the club's contracts are somewhat out of date. He plans to make some changes in next year's contracts.

Carl reported that he spent \$30.00 on supplies for the kid's table and would like to be reimbursed by the club. Linda Miller made a motion to reimburse Carl the \$30.00, seconded by Eddie. The motion passed with all in favor.

Sherm affirmed that our next club meeting will be on July 1, 2018 in Morenci. He also reminded us that the rock show in Bedford, Indiana will be June 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. Sherm stated that we probably have enough Indiana geodes but we might want to collect a few more just for fun. A

Secretary's Scoop

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question arose about the status of our Mexican geodes and Heidi will check to see if we need to order any more geodes.

Eddie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Heidi with all in favor.

We had a number of people join the club during the show. Please add their information to your membership list.

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Also, there are some e-mail corrections for

Ray Hall hallringo1@gmail.com

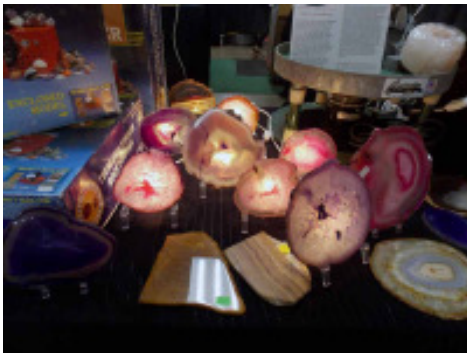
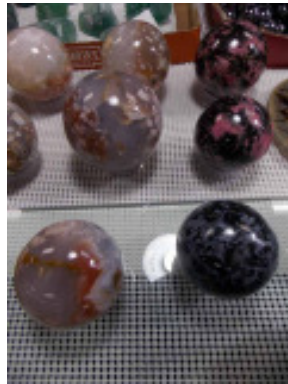
Robert & Deb Benn bennexpres@comcast.net

Respectfull submitted,

Richard Brzezicki, Secretarty



A Few Photos From the Show



Top Ten Signs You Might Be A Lapidarian

1. You have ever had to respond “yes” to the question, “What have you got in here, rocks?”
2. You have ever taken a 22-passenger van over “roads” that were really intended only for cattle.
3. You have ever found yourself trying to explain to airport security that a rock hammer isn’t really a weapon.
4. Your rock garden is located inside your house.
5. You have ever hung a picture using a Brunton as a level, and your rock hammer as your hammer.
6. Your collection of beer cans and/or bottles rivals the size of your rock collection.
7. You consider a “recent event” to be anything that has happened in the last hundred thousand years.
8. Your photos include people only for scale and you have more pictures of your rock hammer and lens cap than of your family.
9. You have ever been on a field trip that included scheduled stops at a gravel pit and/or a mullock heap.

And the #1 sign you might be a lapidarian:

10. You have ever uttered the phrase “have you tried licking it” with no innuendos intended.

Geologist Jokes

Q. Why did the geologist take his girlfriend to the quarry?

A. He wanted to get a little boulder.

Q. What did the boy volcano say to the girl volcano?

A. I lava you!

Q: What do you do with dead geologists?

A: Barium.

Q: Why shouldn't you let a geologist drive your car?

A: Because they get hammered and stoned.

Q: What do you call a can of soft drink found in a conglomerate?

A: Coca-Cola Clastic.

Q: Why wasn't the geologist hungry?

A: He lost his apatite.



How Do Desert Roses Form?



A gypsum rosette is not a rose at all, it is a mineral which crystalizes in a unique rosette growth pattern.

Desert rose is the colloquial name given to rose-like formations of crystal clusters of gypsum or baryte which include abundant sand grains. The 'petals' are crystals flattened on the c crystallographic axis, fanning open in radiating flattened crystal clusters.

Gypsum is an evaporite, which means its crystals form during the evaporation of water. The crystals are shaped like prisms or flat plates, and can grow up to 1 meter. Gypsum can appear as transparent crystals (selenite); fibrous, elongated crystals (satin spar); granular and compact masses (alabaster); and in rosette-shaped aggregates called desert roses.

Some even form large clusters comprised of many small rosette crystals which are the color of sand and usually brown. In order for gypsum rosettes to form they must have an arid environment, a large source of CaSO_4 (calcium sulfate), and a seasonal fluctuation of water. In terms of geological time gypsum rosettes form very rapidly in that they form in tens to hundreds of years. This would explain their abundance across the world.

The rosette crystal habit tends to occur when the crystals form in arid sandy conditions, such as the evaporation of a shallow salt basin. The crystals form a circular array of flat plates, giving the rock a shape similar to a rose blossom. Gypsum roses usually have better defined, sharper edges than baryte roses. Celestine and other bladed evaporite minerals may also form rosette clusters. They can appear either as a single rose-like bloom or as clusters of blooms, with most sizes ranging from pea sized to 4 inches (10 cm) in diameter.

There are two typical forms of rosettes found.

In more shallow regions an amber colored compact ball of intergrown crystals with small, thin blades pointing out from the core seems to be the standard.. Sometimes large transparent amber blades protrude out of this core producing spectacular specimens.

In deeper layers, the crystals in the rosette are larger, more distinct and blocky. The color in these specimens are typically yellow, but can also be colorless. Large blades protruding from these rosettes are also blocky.



In both forms, some of the large blades may have clay or a rock included. All the crystals are fluorescent and phosphorescent, glowing a pale white under ultraviolet light.

<http://www.geologyi-.com/2017/06/how-do-desert-roses-form.html>

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

SAVE WHEN BUYING SILVER

Silver products like sheet, wire, and casting shot are sold by the Troy ounce at what is called the spot price. That's what companies pay for the pure metal on the commodities market, and the spot price changes daily.

But in addition to the spot price, there is also a cost to fabricate the metal into wire or sheet, so the price of the item you buy is the cost of the metal plus the cost to make it. Different products have different fabrication charges because each takes a different amount of labor. Also, different companies will have different fabrication charges because of local labor rates and their desired profit margin.

You can save money by finding a company with a lower fabrication charge. Also, note that the fabrication charge per ounce is less on larger orders, so you can save more by buying more. Find a friend to place a joint order and split the shipping charges.

But for casting purposes, there's an even better way to save. Buy your silver at a coin store. They sell bars and rounds in pure and Sterling for the spot price plus about a dollar per ounce.

The local coin shop adds only a small profit over the spot price. So I save about \$3 per ounce, pay no shipping charges, don't have to wait for mail order, and support a local business.



SAWING JUMP RINGS

The difficult part of making jump rings for me has always been holding the coil while cutting off the individual rings. I use a saw to get the best fit when closing the rings later. I've seen all sorts of suggestions for ways to hold the coil, but the one that works best for me is this little jig made from scrap wood.



It's about 2 inches wide and 4-5 inches long with a groove cut down its length to cradle the coil of wire and a thin stop attached to the front end.

To cut the rings, thread your saw blade through the coil, hold the coil down in the groove and against the front stop, and saw through the bottom of the coil at about a 40 degree angle.

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Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

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Don't forget to use some wax or cutting lube. It really does make a difference. If you don't believe me, do an experiment while you're cutting a lot of rings. Count how many rings can be cut before the blade breaks. First, do the test without lube, and then do it again while adding some lube to the blade after cutting every 8-10 rings.

It's the best way I've ever found to hold the coils easily and securely. If the coil doesn't move, you break fewer blades. And it is safer than some other techniques because you are cutting away from the fingers.



For more tips or to learn new jewelry skills see
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 1, 2018

State Line Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting

2:00 p.m.

201 W. Main St.

Morenci, MI 49256

July 14, 2018

Clio, MI

Flint Rock and Gem Club Rock Swap

Flint Rock and Gem Club Classroom

10350 N. Saginaw Rd

Clio, MI

Sept. 7-9, 2018

Toledo, OH

Fri 2-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

Stranahan Exhibit Hall

4645 Heatherdowns

Toledo, OH

Aug. 10-12, 2018

Houghton, MI

Fri 1-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-3

Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club

Houghton Elementary School,

302 W. Jacker Ave.

Houghton, MI

Sept. 14-16, 2018

Holland, MI

Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club

Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5

Soccer Stop Sportsplex

5 River Hills Drive

Holland, MI

Aug. 17-19, 2018

South Bend, IN

Fri 12-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Esther Singer Bldg.

4-H Fairgrounds

5117 S. Ironwood Road

South Bend, IN

Sept. 15-16, 2018

Howell, MI

Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

Livingston Gem & Mineral Society

Hartland Educational Support Center

9525 E. Highland Road

Howell, MI





Rock Trails

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first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM
at 201 W. Main St.,
Morenci, MI 49256

