

# ROCK TRAILS



## Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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### 2020 Officers and Directors

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Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310  
Secretary: Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666  
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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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## *Taken from the club's Facebook page:*

Hello Everyone!

We have decided as a club to gather for a meeting. The meeting will be on July 5th at 2:00pm in Island Park, Adrian, MI. **Please bring your own meal and chair.** We feel it is necessary to practice social distancing while we are there. It will be great to see you all but we still want everyone to stay safe. Wearing a mask is at your discretion. We will be discussing field trips among other things.

Please attend if you can and feel comfortable getting out



## *President's Tidings*

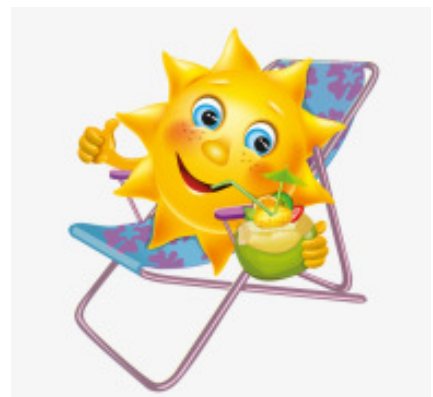
Another month at home just doing the normal stuff, but think about it, what was normal is not normal now! It has gotten better here but other places have not. So that eliminates shows and larger group field trips should not happen. There was a small group that went to Lake Superior and stayed in a cabin and didn't go to restaurant. Trips like that will work.

There was another show canceled this week, the South Bend IN show.. For those of you that didn't know, Fulton County Fair has been canceled also.

It is still not safe to have any meetings at the club house, but we can meet outside, so we will have a get-together at Island Park in Adrian on July 5 at 2:00 pm. We will have a short meeting and get together just to swap stories and don't forget to bring your show and tell!

See everyone July 5 at the park! If you want food, bring what you want to eat.

Sherm



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## *The City of Chicago Is Sinking. Here's Why*

Ice sheets that receded 10,000 years ago are responsible for the Windy City dropping at least four inches over the last century

By Jason Daley  
smithsonianmag.com  
March 6, 2019

The city of Chicago is sinking, geologically speaking.

Tony Briscoe at The Chicago Tribune reports that the Windy City and all of the towering structures built on its iconic skyline are at least four inches lower than they were a century ago. In the next 100 years, the city will continue sinking at the same rate.

While that might seem like a small drop compared to the height of the city's skyline, it's enough to redraw flood plains and interfere with the flow of sewer lines, among other issues. The sinking amounts to just a fraction of an inch per year, but eventually, that adds up. In fact, Chicago is sinking at the same rate as the city of Venice, Italy, which has concerned city planners there for years.

"[O]ver a decade that's a centimeter. Over 50 years, now, you're talking several inches," Daniel Roman, chief geodesist at NOAA, tells Briscoe. "It's a slow process, but it's a persistent one."

So why exactly is the Windy City also the Sinking City? Blame it on the glaciers. The sinking is a belated effect from the massive ice sheets that once covered much of North America, the last of which, a two-mile thick monster, receded 10,000 years ago. The Earth's crust isn't quite as rigid as one might infer. Resting on layer of molten mantle, extra weight, like a lake, ocean or megatons of ice, can warp the crust. When that weight is lifted, the crust springs back and reorients itself in a process that can take thousands of years.

Soon after the ice sheets lifted, the geographic area that is now Chicago experienced a rebound. But more recently, the land is sinking as the subterranean mantle flows back to parts of Canada, where the ice sheet was heaviest and the mantle thinned out the most. This has created a line across the northern portion of North America. North of that line, the land is rising. South of that line, the land is sinking.

That line passes through the northern third of Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. meaning the northern lake beds are slowly rising and therefore, getting shallower, while the southern parts are sinking, giving the lakes a tilt that make water levels rise. Because of this, Milwaukee is expected to see lake levels rise 5.5 inches over the next century and Cleveland could experience 4.4 more inches along its lakefront.

Chicago is not alone in having that sinking feeling. The post-glacial rising and falling of the Earth's crust, called isostatic adjustment, is happening along huge swathes of the Midwest and Eastern United States, especially along what was once the southern edge of those massive, heavy glaciers. That's due to something called the forebulge. By the latest estimates, Washi-gto-, D.C. a-d the Chesapeake Bay are expected to subside about six i-ches due to this forebulge collapse.

Continued on page 4

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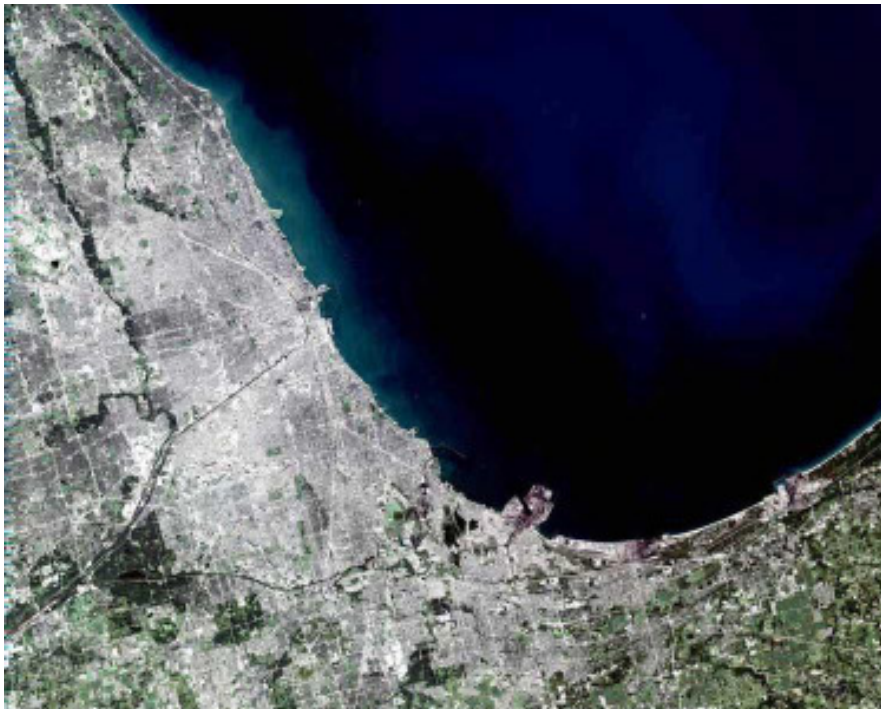
## Chicago

Continued from page 3

As glaciers in some parts of the world melt, this is playing out in real time and that's causing parts of Alaska, Russia, Iceland and Sweden to lift up as well, reports Jenny Chen for Smithsonian.com. It's also possible, Chen reports, that the shifting caused by the long-gone ice sheets could lead to more volcanic activity and earthquakes in some parts of the world.

For Chicago, there's not much the city can do to stop the Earth's crust from doing its thing. But if any city can engineer its way out of trouble it's Chi-Town, which was built on land just a few feet above the water table. In the 1850s and 1860s, city planners literally jacked it up by about 4 to 14 feet to make a new street level that would allow builders to add stormwater drains and a sewage system. Ironically, that sewage system, which was cutting edge in its day, led to another massive project. Beginning in 1900, the city reversed the flow of the Chicago River so that it would carry the city's wastewater away from the Lake Michigan shore and its drinking supply, a project that some people now recognize as an environmental boondoggle. And then there's the Tunnel and Reservoir project, which has been ongoing since 1975 and has created 109 miles of massive sewers beneath the region to deal with billions of gallons of waste and floodwaters.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/chicago-can-blame-glaciers-sinking-city-180971643/>



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## *Obituary to Common Sense*

OBITUARY---Today we mourn the passing of an old friend, by the name of Common Sense.

Common Sense lived a long life but died in the United States from heart failure on the brink of the new millennium. No one really knows how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories, and helping people get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness. For decades, petty rules, silly laws, and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense. He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, and that life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable time-tested parenting strategies (the parents are in charge, not the kids), and it is O.K. to come in second.

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends, including body piercing, whole language, and "new math." But his health declined when he became infected with the "If-it-helps-only-one-person-it's-worth-it" virus.

In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of well-intentioned but overbearing regulations.

He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero-tolerance policies.

Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, a teen suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

It declined even further when schools had to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but could not inform the parents when a female student was pregnant or wanted an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and Federal judges stuck their noses into everything from the Boy Scouts to professional sports. Finally, when a woman, too stupid to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, was awarded a huge settlement, Common Sense threw in the towel.

As the end neared, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments regarding questionable regulations such as those for low-flow toilets, rocking chairs, and step ladders.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by two step-brothers, My Rights and Ima Whiner.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

Submitted by Richard B

# Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

## SHEET & WIRE STORAGE

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire was in separate coils.

Few were marked, so it often took me awhile to locate that piece of 26 ga fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes.

A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.



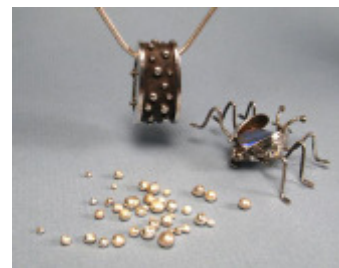
The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop, and it's colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop!

## LITTLE BALLS

I often use little balls of silver and gold as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Cut the scrap into little pieces, put them on a solder pad and melt them with a torch. Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.

If you need to make all the balls the same size, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time. The best way to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.

But there's an easier way to get a good supply of balls. Some casting grain comes in near perfect ball form. Just grab your tweezers and pick out the ones you need. When you need larger quantities of balls, pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit, and let all the round pieces roll to the bottom. Bag the good ones, and pour the rest back into your bag for casting. Balls can be sorted into different sizes using multiple screens.



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

# Upcoming Events

## Meeting July 5, 2020

Island Park, Adrian, MI

2:00 p.m.

Please bring your own meal and chair.

We will be practicing social distancing while there.

Wearing a mask is at your discretion.

Please attend if you can and feel comfortable getting out.



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 cabbng 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

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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

