

# ROCK TRAILS



## Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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### 2015 Officers and Directors

President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 451-2079  
Secretary: Patricia Baier-Hay, 517 263-8585  
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 517 263-1669  
Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
First Year Director: Carl Mulholland, 734 428-1009  
Second Year Director: Kelly Cleveland, 419 882-8515  
Third Year Director: Charles Swanson, 517 759-0337  
Show Chairman: Doris Brzezicki, 517 263-1669  
Publicity: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
Sunshine: Catherine Choske, 517 423-3572  
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### In This Issue:

- 1 Officers and Directors
- 2 Treasurer's Statement
- 3 Secretary's Scoop
- 4 - 5 Types of Rock Art:  
Petroglyphs and Pictographs
- 6 Bench Tips
- 7 Upcoming Events

Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month  
at 2:00 PM

at 201 W. Main St., Morenci, MI 49256



## *Treasurer's Statement*

### Scheduled Events:

July 26-August 01	Lenawee County Fair
August 02	Monthly Club Meeting
August 22	Huge Rock Garage Sale & Huge Rock Yard Sale- 9 am-5 pm, 29043 Alvin St, Garden City, MI
August 27	Set up for Fulton County Fair
August 28- September 03	Fulton County Fair
September 03	Tear down for the Fulton County Fair
September 18 –19	Art-A-Licious
September 25 -27	Clinton Fall Festival
October 10 –11	Appleumpkin Festival



So, look over your calendar and let us know when you can join the fun.

Oh, yes, since this is the treasurer's report - we are solvent, and with the income from the aforementioned events, should be in good shape for the upcoming year. I did order additional Mexican Geodes as approved by the club and have been notified by the post office that they have arrived in time for the fair. We still need a new saw blade at the club house and trinkets for the lion's grab bags - not to mention the grab bags themselves. And if there are sufficient funds, \$1,000 for Marilyn.

Special thank you to the members who met last week to move the library to the new meeting room and to clear the back hall of buckets of geodes, the geode cracker and miscellaneous items. Shirley was waiting at the door when Richard B and I arrived. Judy and Richard S. and Phyllis and Bill arrived a short time later. Sherm arrived after his work day to share in our celebration. We now have a clear path and the items are easily accessible for upcoming events. We still have some organization to do in the office and also the work area. The basement presents an opportunity that will require input by many of our members working together. We have been in the club house for several years and need more help to optimize our space.



Your Treasurer, Doris Brzezicki

## Secretary's Scoop

The July 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was opened at 2:30 by president Sherm. Ed lead the prayer and all recited the pledge of allegiance.

Glenda made a motion to accept the secretary's report as published in the newsletter. Judy seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Sherm read Doris' treasurer's report. Carl moved to accept the report seconded by Judy and approved by all present.

Old Business – The Bedford Indiana trip was discussed and all who were able to go had fun and hoped to go again.

There was discussion about the scholarship and whether there was a need to change anything. Questions were presented regarding whether to lower the age for free admission and possibly have a student admission price and perhaps use different colored tickets for children and adults. Hours of the show were also discussed.

New Business – The next show where volunteers will be needed is the Lenawee County Fair from July 26<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Frank will be offering Cabochon classes on Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> and again on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM for beginner lapidary.

The club will participate in the Fulton County Fair September 4<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>, Art-A-Licious September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and the Clinton Fall Festival September 25 thru 27<sup>th</sup>. Set up for Clinton Fall Festival will be on September 24<sup>th</sup>. There was also discussion about the Apple-Umpkin Festival for October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.



It was decided to make business cards and future event cards to hand out with flyers and purchases. Carl moved that the club pay Glenda for cards and printing ink. The motion was seconded by Frank and was approved. Glenda made a motion to have the club purchase 150 lbs. of Mexican geodes for the Lenawee County Fair. The motion was seconded by Bill and approved.

Sherm announced a rock and rough yard sale with rocks and equipment in Garden City, 2943 Alrin St. on August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A trip to Flint Ridge is coming up. The date will be determined later. A field trip to Alpena MI. mine and fossil area could possibly be August 15<sup>th</sup>. We can have more discussion on actual dates.

Ed made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill and approved at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Phyllis Sipes.

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## *Types of Rock Art: Petroglyphs and Pictographs*

What is “Rock Art”?

Long before writing was developed, people recorded events, ideas, plans, and feelings by marking them on a rock. Sometimes they carved into the stone. Sometimes they scratched off a surface coating. Sometimes they painted on the rocks. The method that they used was typically determined by the availability of a “paint,” the hardness of the rocks, and the availability of tools that could be used to produce their message.

All of these markings are referred to as “Rock Art.” People worldwide have been producing rock art for thousands of years. Some of their messages, produced thousands of years ago, can still be seen today. The oldest are usually found in rock shelters and caves where they are protected from the elements. However, in arid climates some examples of rock art have persisted for ten to fifteen thousand years, depending upon how the art was produced, the direction that it faces and the type of rock used as a “canvas.”

There are two basic types of rock art: petroglyphs and pictographs. A brief description of each is given below.

What is a Petroglyph?

A petroglyph is an image that is carved into a rock. This “carving” can produce a visible indentation in the rock or it can simply be the scratching away of a weathered surface to reveal unweathered material of a different color below.

The big horn sheep carved into an orange-brown sandstone is a petroglyph. The artist scratched the surface of the rock with a tool. This work produced an indentation in the rock and also exposed an unweathered material of lighter color below.



The petroglyphs on “Newspaper Rock,” shown on the front page, were made by scraping away the thin black coating known as “desert varnish” from the surface of the rock. Both types of petroglyphs are common, but the ones carved into the rock have a better chance to persist through time.

What is a Pictograph?

A pictograph is a drawing or painting that is created on a rock. Because they are merely a surface coating, pictographs tend to be less durable than petroglyphs. The ones that survive are most often found in caves, rock shelters and areas with dry climates.

A variety of pigments have been used to make pictographs. Examples of these pigments include: pieces of charcoal from a campfire; blood from hunted or sacrificed animals; and mineral materials such as chalk, limonite or hematite.

continued on pg 5

continued from pg 4

### Who Are the Artists?

Ancient petroglyphs do not have “signatures” because they were produced before written words were invented. So, they cannot be attributed to a specific person. However, petroglyphs can sometimes be attributed to a specific group of people who inhabited or passed through the area where the petroglyphs occur. Some may have been made by some of the early people to inhabit the area, others could have been made by people who passed through hundreds of years later, or they could have been made recently.

Rock art is very difficult to date. However, some experts can estimate how fast paints fade or how much time has passed since a carving was made into a rock. These methods can be used to place an approximate date on a pictograph or a petroglyph. These tests are infrequently used because they require the work of an expert who has access to specialized equipment and methods of testing.

### Rock Art or Vandalism?

Ancient carvings and paintings on rocks are searched for, considered to be historical treasures, and carefully protected. Modern carvings and paintings on rocks are viewed in an entirely different light. If they are produced on government land or private property without permission, they will be considered an act of vandalism. Once defaced, the rocks can be difficult or impossible to restore to their natural condition. So, if you want to produce some “rock art” be sure you own the property where the rock is located and be sure that the property is not subject to regulations that would prohibit changing the appearance of the rocks!



### Graffiti: Modern “Rock Art”?

Today, many people still have a desire to paint on a wall for communication and personal expression. They produce an art form known as “graffiti” on buildings, walls, railroad cars, trucks and any flat surface they can utilize. Although many types of graffiti are very similar to “rock art” in format and style, producing it is usually defacement of property and vandalism.

Even though some graffiti artists have become famous for their work, they do not enjoy the same freedom of expression that was enjoyed by ancient artists!

Producing graffiti on public or private property is a crime. Some cities spend millions of dollars per year to remove graffiti. If you want to become a graffiti artist, use your own property as a “canvas” or get permission from a property owner who will enjoy your work. Before you start painting, find out if the format of your work and the content of your message are allowed to be displayed where the building is located.

<http://geology.com/articles/petroglyphs.shtml>

# Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

## SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS



I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops.

My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They cannot be used after their expiration date, and are thrown out. On my last doctors visit, I asked the nurse if they had any expired vials. She said "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400 of them. (We settled on 200).

The ones I have are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They are clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

## NEW RELEASE - Broom Casting Book



I'm pleased to announce the publication of "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry and Metal Work", one of the techniques that puts the fun into metal working.

Discover the rush of pouring molten silver into a common straw broom to get marvelous icicle-like shapes that make elegant pendants and earrings.  
Now available on Amazon at [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835/) or search for "Broom Casting"



## TRY A TOOTHPICK

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, and with Zam for polishing in tight spots. Toothpicks are also handy for holding a stone while stone setting. Just break off the sharp tip, mold a little beeswax over it, and press it onto the table of your stone.

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

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/)

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, August 2, 2015**

**State Line Gem & Mineral Society**

monthly meeting

**2:00 p.m.**

201 W. Main St.  
Morenci, MI 49256



**August 1, 2015**

**Ishpeming, MI**

ISHPEMING ROCK & MINERAL CLUB'S  
40th ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

9:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.

Ishpeming Elks Club Hall

597 Lake Shore Dr.

Ishpeming, MI

Free Admission

**August 7 - 9, 2014**

**Houghton, MI**

ANNUAL SHOW,  
COPPER COUNTRY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

Houghton Elementary School,  
corner of Jacker Ave & Bridge St.

Fri. 1pm - 8pm, Sat. 10am - 6pm,

Sun. 11am - 3pm

**Sept. 18, 19, 20**

**Holland, MI.**

46th ANNUAL ROCK, GEM,  
FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW

"MASTODON: MICHIGAN'S STATE FOSSIL"

TULIP CITY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

FRI 9am-8pm, SAT 9am-7pm, SUN 11am-5pm.

Holland Civic Center

150 West 8th St.

**Sept. 19th & 20th**

**HOWELL, MI.**

GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW  
LIVINGSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm.

Hartland Consolidated School

9525 Highland Rd.

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

