

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 56
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AUGUST 2016

2016 Officers and Directors

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Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310
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Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
First Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971
Second Year Director: Carl Mulholland, 517 539-2037
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Publicity: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
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In This Issue:

- 1 Officers and Directors**
- 2 -3 Secretary's Scoop**
- 4 - 5 What is Sand Made Of?**
- 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



Secretary's Scoop

July 10, 2016

President Sherm Kardatzki called the meeting to order, with Glenda giving the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

We had a new member present, Becky, and introductions were made.

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

Sherm gave the Treasurer's report in Doris' absence. He listed the month's expenses, including the rent, the Consumers bill, cost of advertising, as well as the payment to Marilyn. He also reported the deposits that had been made, most of which were earnings from our annual show. Shirley made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, it was seconded by Bill, and passed with all in favor.

Possible improvements for our next annual show were brought to the table. It was commented on that the road signs had incorrect information listed on them. Asking the fair board if we could display a banner on the barn facing the freeway was also suggested, as well as the idea for yard signs.

Glenda brought up that she has already started advertising online, has posted the new flyer on our Facebook page, and has made changes to the raffle tickets to sell at other shows.

It was also brought up that at the Kid's Table, the games and activities for the kids should be out in front, instead of club/members items.

Next year, two soapstone carvers to give demonstrations and classes will be possible, as both Sandy and Jon want to attend.

It was mentioned that many members from other clubs had attended our show and that attendance was up for the Mine Safety classes as well.

Upcoming fundraisers were brought up, including Art-a-licious, Clinton Fall Festival, Appleumpkin, and Fulton Co. Fair. Many members volunteered for working the booth at the Fulton County Fair. Members also volunteered to help set up as well.

Glenda and Sherm will attend the Midwest Federation Convention on August 20th in South Bend, IN. Jan made a motion to have the club pay for lodgings and it was seconded by Phyllis. It was passed with all in favor.

Our supply of Mexican geodes was brought up and Sherm informed us that we would be cutting it close for Fulton Co. Fair. Carl made a motion to order the same amount and variety as we did last time because the quality was fantastic and so many customers were impressed with them. Phyllis seconded Carl's motion and it passed with all in favor.



continued on page 3

Jan had her list of trinkets to order for the grab bags and wanted to know how many she was supposed to order. Many members present felt that we put too many trinkets into the grab bags and it was decided that Jan should choose fewer trinkets, but also ones of nicer quality. Jan had an idea to get mini magnifying glasses and finger traps and Glenda volunteered to help her pick out more prizes. It was also a popular opinion that we should include more rock specimens, but also make sure that they are labeled and have some information about that specimen.

It was also brought up that Geo the lion still needs a new box and some tender loving care. Carl volunteered to take measurements and make him a box.

Jan made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Carl. It passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
~Heidi Storehalder~

Please add these new members to your list of members:

William A. Schultz 12921 Co. Rd. H Wasuseon, OH 43567 (419)335-6791
Maswas@embarqmail.com

Jena & Trent McClain 5524 Forrister Rd Adrian, MI 49221 (419)572-9920
Jenahibbard@Hotmail.com

Editor's Note:

I will not be putting out a newsletter next month (for September). I am going to be traveling in Canada from Aug. 19th to the 30th and won't be back to get it put together in time. There WILL be a newsletter at the end of September (Lord willing).

Sandy

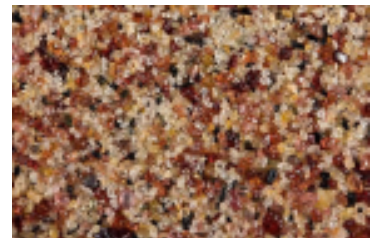


What is Sand Made Of?

Sand is usually composed of mineral grains. Sand itself is not a mineral. It is a sediment just like clay, gravel and silt. The most common sand-forming mineral is quartz. There are two good reasons for that: First, quartz is a very important rock-forming mineral. It occurs in many igneous rocks, especially granite. It is also a very common component of many metamorphic rocks. And finally, quartz is a major component of sedimentary rocks, especially sandstone. As these rocks weather and disintegrate, quartz crystals are liberated as sand grains. Another reason why quartz is so widespread in sand is its extreme resistance to weathering. Weakly acidic rain water does not dissolve it effectively and it is also fairly resistant to abrasion.

Despite all of this, quartz is very rarely a sole component of sand. It is accompanied by very many mineral species. The first group of them are in sand because they are simply very abundant in rocks. The second group of sand-forming minerals are almost never abundant as rock-formers, but they are, just like quartz, very resistant and therefore their concentration in sand slowly rises as time goes by. The first group contains such widespread minerals as feldspar (more than 50% of the Earth's crust is composed of feldspars), pyroxene (11% of the crust), and amphibole (5%). They are all mineral groups with a varying chemical composition, unlike quartz, which is a single mineral with definite and very simple chemical composition (SiO₂). These minerals, when attacked by weathering agents, relatively quickly disintegrate and they mostly become particles of clay. If we imagine granite, a typical and widespread igneous rock, roughly one third of it is composed of quartz and two thirds is feldspar. When granite disintegrates, quartz becomes sand grains and feldspars are turned to clay. That is the very reason why we have so much of these two sediments and their usually unpleasant mixture with water which we call mud.

The second group consists of sand minerals that are quite unimportant in rocks but remain in sand fraction for a very long time. Such minerals are for example zircon, tourmaline and rutile. Some sand-forming minerals are: olivine (least resistant), pyroxene, andalusite, sillimanite, amphibole, epidote, sphene (titanite), kyanite, staurolite, chlorite, spinel, garnet, apatite, rutile, tourmaline, and zircon. Olivine disintegrates so quickly that we don't know consolidated sediments older than Quaternary (last few million years) that contain it while zircon grains are the oldest minerals ever found on Earth. Some are almost as old as the Earth itself.



Sand made of different minerals.



Sand composed of volcanic glass.

Sand is a very versatile mixture. We have much more than mineral grains in its composition. The third large and versatile group are lithic fragments. They are simply stones that have the size of sand grains. Common rock particles in sand are basalt, granite, schist, sandstone, and limestone which are all very common rock types as well. Therefore we can conclude that stone or rock fragments are an indication that the particular sand sample is not very mature. Otherwise, rocks would have had enough time to disintegrate into single minerals.

Sand

Continued from page 4



Coral sand, including mollusks and echinoids

The fourth important component of many sand types are biogenic fragments. Many marine organisms build hard shells or tests which become sand particles after these organisms die. Most common sand producers are foraminifers, bivalves (clams), gastropods (snails), corals, sea urchins, etc. They are common in low latitude warm sea water, but many species exist in colder water too. In some regions they are so widespread that most beaches are almost entirely composed of these biogenic fragments.

And the fifth component of sand are artificial or manmade objects like glass and concrete fragments and plastic pebbles. Definitely we don't like the growing presence of such sand types although I have to say that some glass sands from former garbage dumps are pretty beautiful and definitely valued as a curiosity by many sand collectors.

<http://www.sandatlas.org/what-is-sand-made-of/>



Sand with rounded pieces of colorful glass



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 a while 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.



"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, August 7, 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 13

Clio, MI

Flint Rock and Gem Club's
Annual Rock, Craft and Rummage Sale
11350 North Saginaw
Clio, MI

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

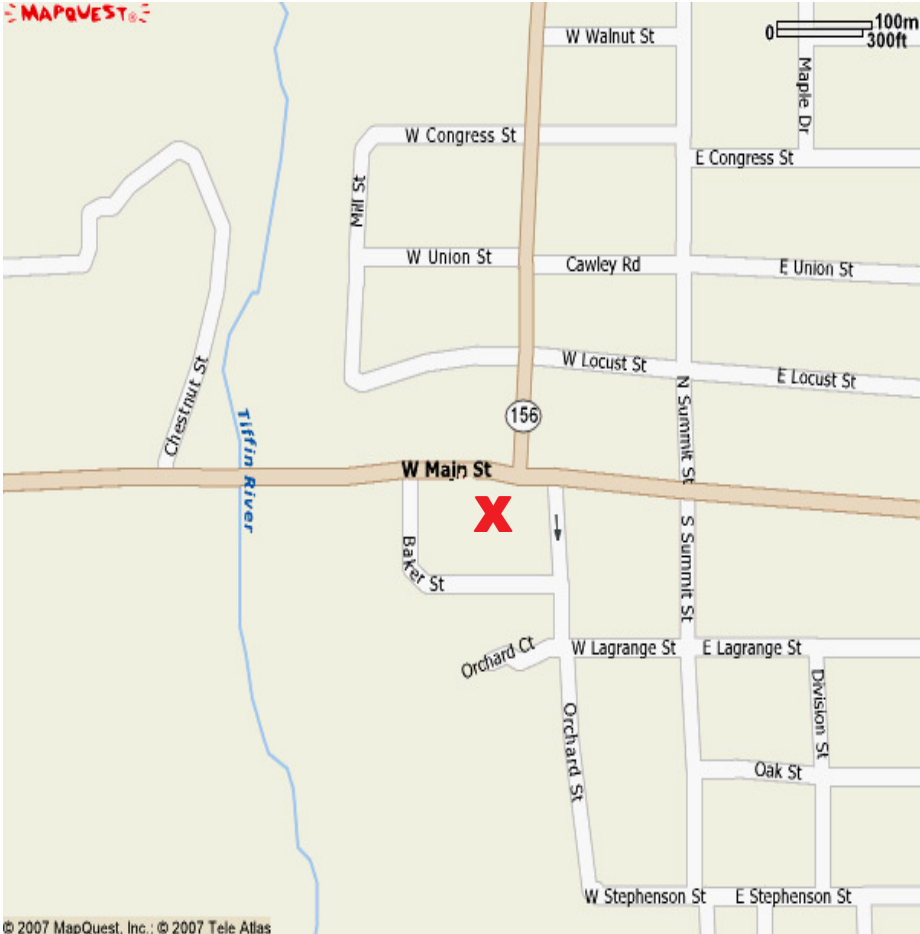




Rock Trails

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