

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 57
ISSUE VIII
AUGUST 2017

2017 Officers and Directors

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Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310
Secretary: Heidi Storehalder, 419 261-6451
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123
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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Co-Show Chair: Glenda Gafner, (517) 451-2079
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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 the last two months have been crazy. Starting out the month of June with our show which started out with a mess. We had three dealers cancel, making us scramble to fill the space. We let Doris and Richard have a table and the other leftover went to the club and Kids Crossing. That took one booth, Sandy got a larger space and I took the last 5 tables. That was another thing - we were short 25 tables which we rented.

The next week there were 17 of us that went to Calumet in the UP. What a great trip and it sounds like there is interest in going next year!

Then the last week there was a trip to Kentucky for Kentucky Agates, followed by a trip to Bedford. I went to Bedford, but was a dealer at the show. It was nice just to get things done at the house.

Coming up we have to get ready for Fulton Co fair. Grab bags have to be stuffed, so we will talk about that at the meeting and other things that need to be done.

Was talking to Judy and she has put the wire wrapping class on hold till the end of summer since attendance has been low. It will start back up this fall. Also, there are several other shows that we do that are coming up.

There was a problem with the grinder but it has been taken care of. Richard has the 6 inch trim saw back working again.

Sherm

Secretary's Scoop

President Sherm Kardatzki called the meeting to order and it was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report:

Bill Schultz made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as it was printed in the newsletter and it was seconded by Carl. It passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Sherm gave the report in Doris' absence. It included expenses for our show; online advertising, paying back vendors, the raffle prize, next year's deposit for the building, postage to send out the raffle prizes, as well as monthly expenses such as Consumer's and the rent. Phyllis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Nancy and it passed with all in favor.



Old Business:

The online advertising did raise attendance to our show, but not as much as we had hoped. It is

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Secretary's Scoop

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estimated that we had around 175 more people attending than previous years.

Sherm informed us that the show went well this year, the only bump in the road being when a few vendors didn't show.

The trips in June, including the trip to the Keweenaw Peninsula went very well. Members who attended agreed that it was a wonderful trip even though not many found agates and would like to plan another for next year. The annual trip to Bedford, Indiana went well too, though we were not able to collect as many geodes as we had in previous years due to losing a day because of heavy rainfall. Henry and a few other members had traveled to Kentucky before Bedford in hopes of collecting some Kentucky agates, but Henry informed the club that the creeks had been picked over for the last couple decades, resulting in slim pickings.

Future trips for this year like Flint Ridge are still in the planning stage.

Upcoming Fundraisers:

At Fulton Co. Fair, Glenda, Sherm, and Carl will once again have booths alongside State Line's. The fair will be Labor Day weekend from September 1-7th. Setup will be on Thursday, August 31st and we will need volunteers for setup as well as for working the booth during the week. It was brought to everyone's attention that we will require more grab bags to sell. Henry stated that he had brought fabric to make grab bags and Phyllis said that she will sew some. A work day was suggested for filling the grab bags.

New Business:

Judy found inspiration up in the Keweenaw Peninsula and informed the club that she had got some diamond drill bits for her drill press in order to drill some of the medium sized rocks that had been collected in order to make stone and wire stands for the club to sell.

Bill Sipes brought in some rocks to be identified.

Pat made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Jan. It passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
~Heidi Storehalder



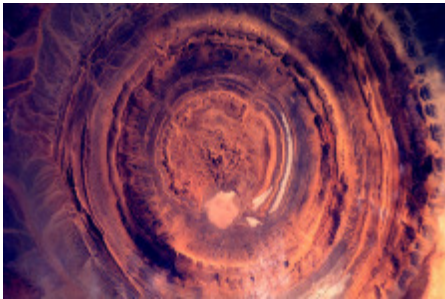
Weird Geology

The remnants of a 2-billion-year-old nuclear reactor and a cave of house-sized crystals might seem too strange to be natural, but the world is apparently full of such bizarre natural phenomena. Here are 10 of the weirdest geological structures on the planet.



Cave of the Crystals, Mexico

The otherworldly crystals in [the Cave of the Crystals](#) in Mexico can reach sizes larger than houses, by far the largest such crystals known on the planet. They apparently grow at incredibly slow rates, gypsum formations that take as long as a million years to reach more than two stories tall. Researchers speculate that microscopic pockets of liquid within these giant crystals might hold microbes.



Eye of the Sahara, Mauritania

The [Eye of the Sahara](#) in Mauritania, also known as the Richat Structure, resembles a bull's-eye 30 miles wide. The mysterious formation is large enough for early space missions to have used it as a landmark. Scientists think it is the result of uplifted earth worn down over time by wind and water, with different rates of erosion on the varying rock types forming concentric ridges.



Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland

The Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland consists of more than 40,000 interlocking volcanic rock pillars, most of which are hexagonal, although some have fewer or more sides. Legend has it that the giant Finn McCool fashioned the Giant's Causeway to walk across the sea to Scotland and face his great rival Benandonner.

Researchers say it was created by lava traveling out of cracks in the earth 60 million years ago, which cooled over time into a honeycomb pattern, with some pillars standing as tall as 36 feet.



Sailing Stones of the Racetrack Playa in Death Valley, Calif.

The [sailing stones of the Racetrack Playa in Death Valley](#) seem to strangely move on their own, leaving long trails behind them in the cracked clay. NASA research suggests that during the winter months, ice forms around the rocks, perhaps allowing them to slip across the frozen surface of the playa.

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Weird Geology

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Ice Towers of Mount Erebus, Antarctica

Antarctica's [Mount Erebus](#), an active volcano that rises 12,448 feet above the Earth's surface, is home to giant, hollow towers of ice. These form when fumaroles (cracks in the Earth's crust) that vent hot gas spew steam into the open air, which is so cold in the Antarctic that it freezes the steam in place, creating chimneys up to 30 feet tall.



The remnants of the Oklo natural nuclear reactor, Gabon

Not all nuclear reactors on Earth are manmade - some arise naturally. The [Oklo mine in the West African nation of Gabon](#) was once home to a natural nuclear reactor that apparently spontaneously turned on 2 billion years ago, running on uranium fuel. It seems to have lasted about 150,000 years with an average power output of 100 kilowatts, radiating the energy equivalent of 100 megaton bombs over its lifetime.



The Eisriesenwelt ice cave, Austria

The Eisriesenwelt (German for "world of the ice giants") is the largest known ice cave in the world. The limestone cavern stays cold enough year-round to freeze any water inside. This leads to gigantic ice formations growing within.



The Tessellated Pavement of Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania

One might easily wonder if the unusual grid of the Tessellated Pavement of Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania, is completely unnatural. Apparently, this rare geological feature formed when the underlying siltstone cracked in blocks resembling tiles, possibly between 60 million and 160 million years ago. When seawater covers the platform, sand and wave action erodes the rock. The surface of the stone can erode faster between the rims of the tiles than on the rims themselves.



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Weird Geology

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Pamukkale, Turkey

Pamukkale, which means “cotton castle” in Turkish, is found in the mountains of Turkey. It may resemble a glacier, but the site is actually bathed in hot water. The mineral-rich waters of the area’s hot springs have over time formed dazzling white limestone terraces.



Fingal's Cave, Scotland

Fingal's Cave is a cathedral-like sea cave that stretches about 250 feet into the rock on the island of Staffa off the west coast of Scotland, with a roof about 70 feet above the sea. It formed within lava flows that cooled to form hexagonal columns. The cavern inspired Mendelssohn's Hebrides overture and attracted celebrity tourists of the Victorian era such as Jules Verne, William Wordsworth, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Queen Victoria herself.

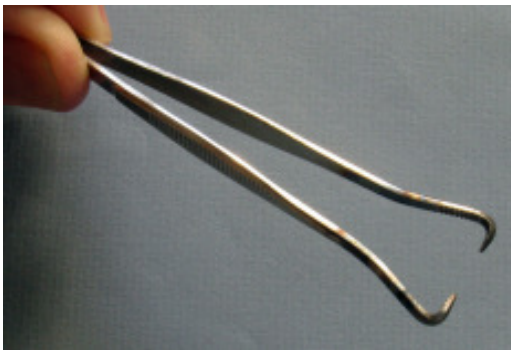


Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.



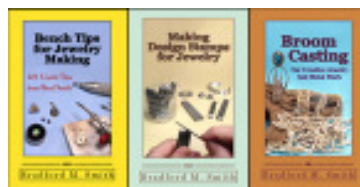
DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

See all Brad's jewelry books at
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 6, 2017

State Line Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting

2:00 p.m.

201 W. Main St.

Morenci, MI 49256

August 5, 2017

Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club

42nd Annual Upper Peninsula

Gem and Mineral Show

Ishpeming Elks Club

597 Lakeshore Dr.

Ishpeming MI

August 11-13, 2017

Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Annual
Show

Houghton Elementary School

302 W Jacker Ave

Houghton, MI

August 12, 2017

Flint Rock & Gem Club Rock Swap

11350 N. Saginaw Rd.

Clio, MI

August 11-13, 2017

Midwest Faceters Guild Seminar

Tallmade Township Hall

1451 Leonard NW

Grand Rapids, MI

August 12, 2017

Tulip City Rock & Gem Club Annual Tailgate

Swap-n-Sell

Sam's Club Parking Lot

2190 N. Park Dr.

Holland, MI

August 18-20, 2017

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society Show

Esther Singer Bldg.

4-H Fairgrounds

5117 S. Ironwood Rd.

Fri noon- 7, Sat 10-6, Sun. 11-5

South Bend, IN





Rock Trails

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

