

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 59
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AUGUST 2019

2019 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 July 7, 2019 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by president Sherm at 2:18 PM. Richard B. gave the invocation, and everyone joined in with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Doris made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Kathy Boyers. The motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Doris paid the clubhouse rent, utilities, dealer refunds, raffle expenses, ink and mail from newsletter related expenses. She outlined income from the show, including admissions, dealers, raffle, donations, kitchen profits and dues collection. She also thanked all club members and volunteers who worked so hard to make our show another success. She noted that many of our members are not as young as we used to be and the long hours we all put in are not going to be sustainable indefinitely. We are thankful for our younger members who step in to help where needed. Henry made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jan and passed with all in favor.

Old Business – Show updates. Sherm reported that we got our security deposit back this year. Linda Kardatzke stated that she thought the walk through before and after was a good idea. Sherm took picture of some of the paint damage on some of the walls and said he was told that a wedding party who booked the building before us put lots of tape on the walls and the maintenance person had to do some paint touch up in several places. There was discussion about the post cards Glenda and Kathy worked on for advertising. Richard B. stated that he thought the post cards were really effective and that he delivered some to a local gas station where the attendant said someone else had dropped some off, but they had all been distributed and he was out, so he was happy to receive more for his customers. Bill Schultz brought some sample post cards he got from Oregon and thought we might be able to incorporate some of our field trips on our post cards. Glenda said that Allen Dean suggested that we open an Instagram Account to promote our show on line. Glenda said she also put \$75.00 on Facebook to promote our show. Kathy Boyers volunteered to help with some of the computer stuff.

Scholarship Update – Glenda reported that we received several applications, none of which had less than a 3.8 GPA. The recipient chosen by the committee had to work at the time of our show, so it seemed counterproductive to have her take off work to accept the scholarship check at meeting. There was discussion about having a dinner to present the check but without knowing her schedule that might present a problem. Glenda made a motion to mail the check to the recipient, seconded by Henry and passed with all in favor.

Doris noted that this year's set up was particularly hard on the few able bodied members who performed the task. She suggested that there may be the possibility of getting volunteers from local schools who want to earn community service credit to help with set up. This was a popular idea and well worth exploring for next year's show.

Secretary's Scoop

Cont. from page 2

New Business – Doris reminded us that many of our members may be off on field trips for the August meeting, so it would be good to set up a work schedule for the Fulton County Fair booth. Bill Schultz said we were good on Indiana geodes. Jan said we needed more grab bags sewn and stuffed to meet the demands at the fair. After some discussion, it was decided that some members who wanted to help worked and could only help in the late afternoon/evening, others preferred an earlier start/stop time. The result was that we would have a work day on Tuesday July 16th starting at 2:00 PM lasting to 7:00 PM (or whenever necessary) to sew and fill grab bags. If we needed more bags after this work day, we could set another work day for Tuesday July 30th from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM to be decided at the July 16th date. The early birds can leave as early as they want.

Glenda stated that she, Carl and Sherm were again getting their own booths at the fair and there would be extra tickets available for volunteers to come help. Doris made a motion for the club to buy the extra available tickets for a total of \$40.00, seconded by Carl and passed with all in favor.

Fair set up schedule will include volunteers to show up at the club house at 10:00 AM on Thursday August 28th to help load tables and supplies for the fair. Once loaded we will head down to Wauseon to unload everything and set up the club booth. Volunteers included Richard B and Doris, Richard S and Judy, Ray and Henry.

Glenda pointed out that our next normally scheduled meeting would have most of our members in Wauseon working the fair, so she made a motion to postpone the September meeting to Sept 8th. Henry seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Fair hours will be 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM Friday Saturday and Monday.

11:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday

12:00 AM to 10:00 PM Sunday Tuesday Thursday.

Field Trips – Glenda announced the next field trip to Flint Ridge to collect Ohio Flint is scheduled for August. 24th and 25th. Doris mentioned that discussion at our last meeting showed concern for how much money members spent in gas to haul geodes back for club use. She calculated the distances members traveled to all the club events they did and found that even though the distance from Adrian to Bedford Indiana is 299 miles each way, making the round trip around 600 miles, the local events where members travel such as Wauseon, Tecumseh and Clinton averaged out to 830 miles each for Bill and Phyllis as well as Richard and Judy. Bill Schultz averaged around 1300 miles to attend the various club activities. Henry didn't think the gas should be reimbursed but thought the club could authorize a voluntary set amount per bucket for geodes to be transported from Indiana. Bill Schultz made a motion to have the club pay \$5.00 per bucket for Indiana geodes to be transported for club use, seconded by Doris. The vote was by show of hands with 5 no votes and 6 yes votes, the motion passed. It was understood that if you transported buckets of geodes from Indiana for club use you did not have to claim the per bucket reimbursement but you should write out a statement of how many buckets you transported for the club and the amount you are claiming and give that statement to the treasurer for your reimbursement. Glenda stressed that we should not pressure any members to do more than they want to do.

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Secretary's Scoop

Cont. from page 3

Doris reported that she received a message from Phil Donovan from World of Rocks, stating he wants to buy lapidary machines for resale. She thought if the club had any extra machines we are not using we might want to sell them. Sherm said he will check and answer Phil's request. There was discussion about club machinery needing maintenance and Doris reminded us that our budget has approval for normal maintenance charges.

We were contacted by the Girl Scouts to give a program on rocks. Glenda will contact Sherri to see if she is interested in putting on such a program.

Glenda made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathy and passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Brzezicki



What Is Grape Agate?



Grape Agate gemstone is a relatively new find. Although the trade name is Grape Agate, these are actually Botryoidal Purple Chalcedony. Botryoidal means that round tiny sphere shaped crystals that have naturally formed together. Grape agate is a tranquil and gentle stone.

Chalcedony is not scientifically its own mineral species, but rather a form of Quartz in microcrystalline form. Chalcedony is a cryptocrystalline form of silica, composed of very fine intergrowths of quartz and moganite.

Chalcedony has a waxy luster, and may be semitransparent or translucent. It can assume a wide range of colors, but those most commonly seen are white to gray, grayish-blue or a shade of brown ranging from pale to nearly black.

Chalcedony is quite varied in its formation habits. It sometimes occurs in geodes, lining the cavity with mammillary blobs. Its Agate variety is also found in geodes, commonly lining the outer layer underneath the larger Quartz crystals. Chalcedony also forms pseudomorphs after organic material.

A well-known example is petrified wood, in which the wood has been completely transformed into Chalcedony. In the Petrified Forest National Monument in Arizona, an entire forest was transformed into petrified wood. Remains of this ancient forest can be seen in the huge silicified logs that are found in the area.

For most of time, chalcedony was thought to be a 'fibrous' variety of cryptocrystalline quartz, but more recently, it was actually discovered to be a combination of quartz and another silicate mineral; moganite (a polymorph of quartz). Both quartz and moganite share the same silicon dioxide chemical composition, but they have varying crystal structures. Moganite is monoclinic, while traditional quartz belongs to the trigonal crystal system. Chalcedony forms with a hexagonal crystal structure. The fraction, by mass, of moganite within a typical chalcedony sample may vary from less than 5% to over 20%.

As the defining mineral for 7 on the Mohs scale, chalcedony quartz is known to set the standard when it comes to gemstone hardness for jewelry gemstones. The actual name 'chalcedony' originated from the latin word 'Chalcedonius', which is thought to be derived from 'Chalcedon', an ancient seaport of Asia Minor, now Kadikoy, Turkey.



Chalcedony is compact silica most often found in sedimentary and volcanic environments. Formation occurs over a long period of time, as minerals are slowly deposited into a pocket of another type of rock, such as granite. Areas that host volcanic activity frequently harbor the most abundant chalcedonic deposits. In many cases, silicon dioxide forms in sometimes readily visible and parallel bands, as seen in banded agate. However, with most materials, the separate deposits appear blended or cloudy to the eye, as with carnelian, moss agate and 'actual chalcedony'.

Chalcedony occurs in a wide range of varieties. Many semi-precious gemstones are in fact forms of chalcedony. The more notable varieties of chalcedony are: Agate, Iris Agate, Binghamite, Bloodstone, Carnelian, Chrome-Chalcedony, Chrysocolla Chalcedony, Chrysoprase, Jasper, Dallasite, Orbicular Jasper, Plasma, Onyx, Sardonyx, Petrified Wood, Pietersite, Sard.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

FINISHING PIERCED PATTERNS

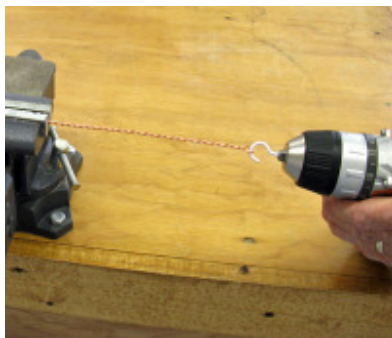
After sawing patterns there's always a little cleanup to do, and the smaller cutouts can be a challenge. Needle files (7-8 inches) can get into the larger areas, and escapement files (4 inches) can get into some of the corners.



But I often find myself wanting even smaller files. I couldn't find them even at a watchmaker tools supply company, so I had to try something else. I ended up grinding down the tip of a 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in the Dremel or Foredom.

Be sure to wear your safety glasses when using this tool. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.

MAKING FILIGREE WIRE



Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here's a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.

Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other.

I like to use a screw gun, although a Foredom also works well. You'll need a small hook in the spindle, either a cup hook from the hardware store or a nail that has been bent into the shape.

Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite stiff at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.



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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Aug 4, 2019

State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting
201 W. Main St.,
Morenci, MI 49256

August 5-11

Keeweenaw Peninsula, MI.

Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club's
Annual Keeweenaw Week

August 5-9 features 4 collecting field trips, metal
detector
training, lectures, banquet and live auction
followed August 9-11
by the club's annual show and silent auction
in Houghton, MI.

August 9-11

Grand Rapids, MI.

Midwest Faceters Guild Faceting Seminar.
Seminars Sat. 8:30-5:30 & Sun. 8:30-5.
Tallmadge Township Hall
O-1451 Leonard St

August 16-18

South Bend, IN.

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society show
Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5
County Fairgrounds
5112 S. Ironwood

Aug 29 - Sept 5

Fulton County Fair
Wauseon, OH
Set up Aug 28

Sept 20 - 21

Art-A-Licious
Downtown Adrian, MI

Sept 27, 28, 29

Clinton Fall Festival
Clinton, MI
Set up Sept 26

Oct 12 - 14

Appleumpkin Festival
Tecumseh, MI
Set up Oct 11



Ongoing -

Richard Brzezicki is at the clubhouse on Thurs-
days 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm. It is best to check with
him first before you go. Cell (269) 267-7666

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

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