

# ROCK TRAILS



## **Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society**

**VOLUME 60  
ISSUE VIII  
AUGUST 2020**

### **2020 Officers and Directors**

President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310  
Secretary: Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666  
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123  
Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
First Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971  
Second Year Director: Bill Schultz, 419 335-6791  
Third Year Director: Curt Miller, 419 923-2090  
Show Chairman: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Co-Show Chair: Glenda Gafner, 517 451-2079  
Publicity: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
Sunshine & Membership: Jan Hauter, Judy Snyder,  
Shirley McGovern  
Library: Curt and Linda Miller.  
Education & Lapidary:  
Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666  
Newsletter Editor: Sandy Gerhart,  
734 347-4796, s\_gerhart@yahoo.com  
Website: <http://statelinegms.com/index.html>



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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

### 7-5-2020 Secretary's Report

The 7-5-2020 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by president Sherm at 2:56 PM. This month's meeting was held at the Island Park in Adrian Michigan instead of the clubhouse in Morenci because of Covid-19 concerns. All members adhered to social distancing guidelines and wore masks.

There was no secretary's report from June as we did not hold a meeting in April, May, or June, again due to the Covid-19 situation. Doris made a motion to accept the secretary's report from the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as printed in the newsletter. Linda Miller seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Doris explained income and expenditures and assured members, that due to the hard work of active members who worked so hard in past years, we have enough in the treasury to see us through the rest of the year even though we did not have our annual show this year. Our silent auction netted \$100.00. Doris paid four month's rent and utilities. She also transferred funds from savings to checking so that we will have sufficient funds to keep up with our bills.

Doris said that the Fulton County Fairgrounds has applied our down payment for the fair to next year, since they have cancelled this year's fair with the exception of the 4-H activities on a limited basis. Sherm reported that he has returned some of the dealer's checks and about half of the dealers have opted to apply their payments to next year's show. Sherm previously asked Doris to refund one dealer's payment since it was already deposited. Doris has already sent the refund. Doris stated that she had to file a sales and use tax with Ohio even though our show was cancelled and we had no earnings. In 2018 Michigan decided they would not exempt 501(c)3 organizations from paying tax. Doris found that Consumers Power has decided to refund taxes paid by 501(c)3 organizations retroactively, so she is applying for the refund for our club.

Richard B. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Phyllis and passed with all in favor.

There was discussion centering on use of club equipment. The consensus was that we should raise the suggested donation of \$2.00 for equipment use. Members agreed that if someone plans to use the slab saw for several slabs, that member might feel it right to donate more than the minimal amount. Richard B. made a motion to raise the suggested minimal donation amount to \$3.00. The motion was seconded by Linda Miller and passed with all in favor.

Glenda brought some of the rocks she found on field trips. She said she talked to Denise in Indiana who said we are welcome to come and collect geodes but Denise would not be interacting with us due to the Covid-19 concerns. Sherm asked if we had enough geodes, and Bill Shultz said that we have plenty for next year's show. Sherm then suggested that we did not need to make the trip to

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## Secretary's Scoop

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Bedford this year. Glenda asked if there was any interest in a field trip to Flint Ridge. It seemed that most of the members present had enough flint and did not need to acquire more at this time. Glenda said she has made reservations for January 9, 2021 for a trip to Arizona. All are welcome to go with her but you will have to contact her if you are interested.

Doris noted that in order to assure we had enough space to meet and keep the social distancing guidelines at the park, we needed to reserve the pavilion through the city of Adrian at a cost of \$55.00. The club paid that amount so we could have the July meeting and that membership authorized that expenditure. Linda H. made a motion to authorize the rental of the pavilion, seconded by Phyllis and passed with all in favor.

There was discussion as to whether we even needed to have meetings in view of the dangers associated with Covid-19. All of our shows, with the exception of Apple-umpkin, have been cancelled and there are no pressing problems to address. If we do have a show at Apple-umpkin, we can notify members to have a meeting on October 4, 2020.

Glenda stated that there were 8 or 9 applicants for the scholarship. Most had impressive grade point averages. We had applicants from Ohio and Michigan. Glenda, Sherm and Cathy reviewed the applications and decided the winner was Courtney from Addison, Michigan. Glenda will send Doris Courtney's contact information so that Doris can send her a \$500.00 check from the club.

Linda Miller made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Henry and approved by all. The meeting was adjourned and members stayed around to chat.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Brzezicki

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Congratulations to Courtney Flaws who graduated from Addison High School. She is the recipient of State Line Gem and Mineral Society's 2020 Scholarship.

# Thunderegg:

## *Ordinary Rocks With Crystal Surprise Inside!*



A thunderegg (or thunder egg) is a nodule-like rock, similar to a filled geode, that is formed within rhyolitic volcanic ash layers.

Thundereggs are rough spheres, most about the size of a baseball—though they can range from a little more than a centimeter to over a meter across. They usually contain centres of chalcedony which may have been fractured followed by deposition of agate, jasper or opal, either uniquely or in combination.

Thundereggs usually look like ordinary rocks on the outside, but slicing them in half and polishing them may reveal intricate patterns and colours. A characteristic feature of thundereggs is that (like other agates) the individual beds they come from can vary in appearance, though they can maintain a certain specific identity within them.

### **Thunderegg Vs. Geode**

Thunderegg is not synonymous with either geode or agate. A geode is a simple term for a rock with a hollow in it, often with crystal formation/growth. A thunderegg on the other hand is a specific geological structure. A thunderegg may be referred to as a geode if it has a hollow in it, but not all geodes are thundereggs because there are many different ways for a hollow to form. Similarly, a thunderegg is just one of the forms that agate can assume.

### **Formation**

Thundereggs are found in flows of rhyolite lava. They form in gas pockets in the lava, which act as molds, from the action of water percolating through the porous rock carrying silica in solution. The cooled bubbles were gradually filled by water percolating through the porous rock carrying rich quantities of silica (quartz).

The deposits lined and filled the cavity, first with a darker matrix material, then an inner core of agate or chalcedony. The various colors come from differences in the minerals found in the soil and rock that the water has moved through.

The agate, chalcedony, and quartz veins and open-space-fillings within voids in the spherulites formed later by multiple cycles of hydrothermal fluids. Hydrothermal fluids are a mixture of late-stage fluids escaping the magma and local ground water.

The fluids contain some elements from the original magma and also dissolved minerals from the country rock. The amount of ions that the fluid can dissolve depends upon pH, temperature, pressure, and composition of the fluid. The hydrothermal fluids move through fractures in the rocks, which crosscut the igneous textures, and form veins or banded agate, chalcedony, and quartz.

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Some of these fluids seep through microscopic pores and into spherulites and gas pockets in the volcanic rocks, and they precipitate crystals along the walls of the cavity, forming geodes and geode-like spherulites. Other fluids seep through fractures and gas and other void spaces in the spherulites. Because of their formation by multiple hydrothermal events, each thunderegg provides clues as to its unique formation.

### **How to Spot Thundereggs?**

Though thundereggs appear as rocks, they can be easily identifiable by the abnormally round and bumpy brown-gray exteriors. Usually, thundereggs lie relatively close to the Earth's surface, embedded in the clay of the tuff, where they were formed. During the time, the tuff has been decayed to soft mud and clay, making rock-like thundereggs noticeable.

### **Where to Find Thundereggs?**

Thundereggs are found globally where conditions are optimal. In the US, Oregon is one of the most famous thunderegg locations. The regions of Central and Eastern Oregon are the most popular in the world for thundereggs hunting. The best productive areas are located in the high desert of Central Oregon near Prineville, Madras and in the Ochoco National Forest (Central Oregon). Also, thundereggs can be collected in Succor Creek Canyon (Eastern Oregon)

<http://www.geologyin.com/2020/05/thunderegg-ordinary-rocks-with-crystal.html>



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# *Bench Tips*

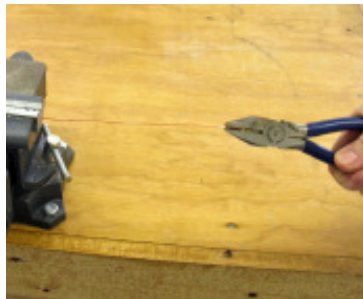
by Brad Smith

## **STRAIGHTENING WIRE**

Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.



## **DO BEZELS SHRINK**

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

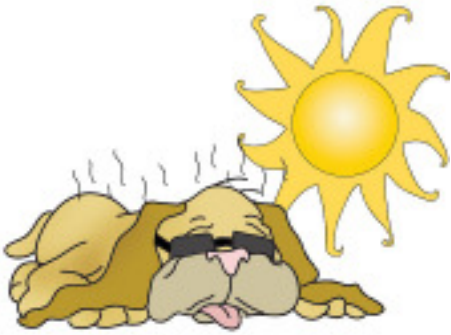
If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or Howelite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone.

Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress on the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.

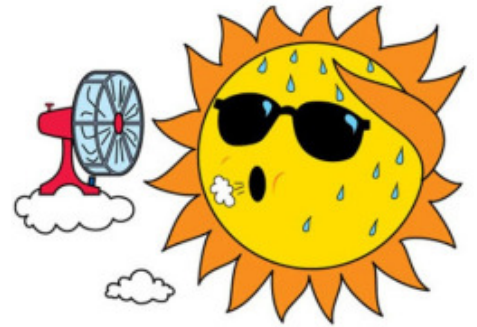
Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

# Upcoming Events



## No August Meeting

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



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 cabbing 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

Sandy Gerhart, Editor  
 704 W. US Hwy 223, #205  
 Adrian, MI 49221

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 first Sunday of each month  
 at 2:00 PM  
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