

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 61
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AUGUST 2021

2021 Officers and Directors

President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310
Vice-President: Charlene Hacker, 517 270-8061
Secretary: Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123
Past President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487
First Year Director: Heidi Storehalder, 517 403-7626
Second Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971
Third Year Director: Bill Schultz, 419 335-6791
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



Due to the July meeting being cancelled, there is no Secretary's report.

From the Editor

This will be my last issue of Rock Trails.

I am very sorry to have to write this. Due to some health issues, I will no longer be able to edit the newsletter.

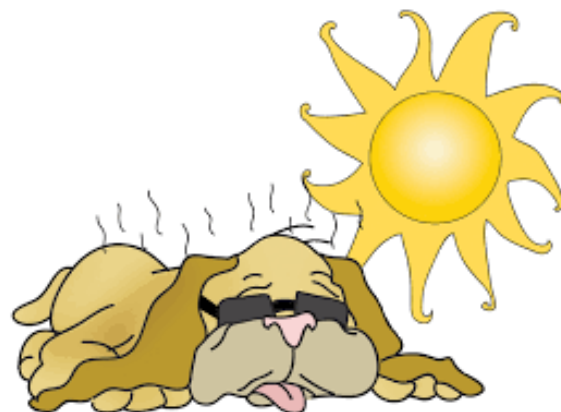
I have appreciated all the nice things that people have said to me about the newsletter and I have enjoyed doing it since Feb. of 2008. But I can no longer do it.

If anyone else wants to take over doing it, I will support you as much as possible. Anyone who thinks they would like to do it has my blessing. You do not have to try to make it look like the way I do it. If you take it over, it will be YOUR newsletter, done the way you wish to do it. I will be happy to send my mailing list to you, just send me an email.

If no one wants to do it, there is still the Facebook page which is available for news and postings. The address for that is <https://www.facebook.com/StateLineGemMineralSociety>

I thank all of you for your support!

Sandy



Treasurer's Statement

Treasurer's Update: June was certainly a busy month for State Line Gem and Mineral Society. Our annual show was a wonderful event. It was great seeing everyone enjoying themselves. Yes, we all worked hard, but it was fun. The end of the month several members traveled to Denise Walker's beautiful home to collect Indiana Geodes. Hopefully we will hear more from the individuals who participated, but I am certain they had a lot of fun. I was told they brought back lots of geodes.



Richard called Charles Swanson to see if he needed a ride to the picnic meeting at Curt and Linda Miller's home. It turned out the meeting was cancelled because of the weather, but it was nice to catch up with Charlie. He said he had seen in the newsletter that there was going to be a Swap in Michigan Center sponsored by the Michigan Gem and Mineral Society. He thought the club should participate and said he would donate the \$20.00 fee for a booth. The deadline for the application is July 31. I contacted Sally Hoskin and she sent me the application form and information about the Swap. The location is at the park adjacent to the Center Lake Boat Launch, 506 5th St, Michigan Center, MI 49254. Set up begins at 7:00 AM, Saturday, August 14, 2021. The swap will be from 9:30 AM- 4:00 PM and will be held rain or shine. 48 hours notice must be given for cancellation refund (by 9:30 am 8/12/21). No shows and late cancellation funds will go to MGMS Scholarship fund. I did check with other Board members and received approval for the club to participate in this event. We can determine who is able to volunteer to help at our August 01 meeting.

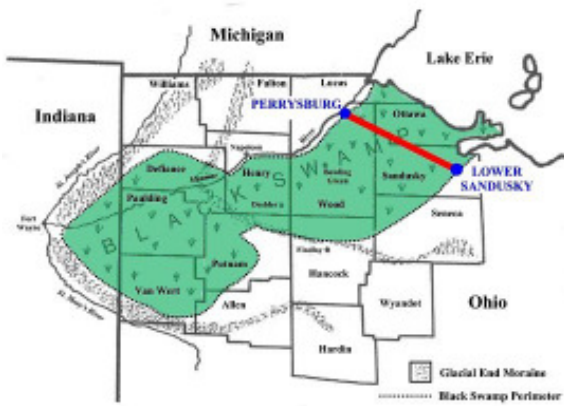
The Fulton County Fair is Friday, September 03-Thursday September 09, Artalicious is Saturday, September 18, Clinton Fall Festival is Friday, September 24-Sunday September 26, and Appleumarkin is Saturday, October 9- Sunday October 10. Many of our long time members are aware of these events, having participated in years past, though they were cancelled for 2020. If our show is any indication of how the public will respond, I think we will be busy.

There is a lot more club business to cover at our August meeting, but I just wanted to give you a heads up alert on the events so you can check your schedule. It will be great to see you then!

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer



The Great Black Swamp



Some 20,000 years ago Northwest Ohio was covered by glaciers. These glaciers melted and formed the Great Lakes. But the Great Lakes aren't the only features left behind by the prehistoric glaciers.

One of the largest natural wetlands in Ohio was once in this area and now it is almost completely gone. Wetlands are an important feature in the environments in any ecosystem. Wetlands help to stop erosion and drainage into the lakes.

A great swamp left by the retreating glaciers covered a huge area of land going as far east as present-day Sandusky, Ohio as far south as Findlay, Ohio, and as far

west as Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was a nearly impenetrable area of thick trees and murky water that sometimes was as deep as chest high.

The area was known as the Great Black Swamp and remnants of it can still be seen today.

If the Great Black Swamp was still more prominently present in Ohio the problem with agricultural runoff wouldn't actually be as prevalent. Right now when there are heavy rains, or if fertilizer is not mixed into the soil properly, the nitrate and phosphorus rich soil drain into the rivers which in turn drains into Lake Erie.

The extra nutrients cause algae to bloom and when that algae dies and sinks to the bottom the bacteria that breaks it down uses up so much oxygen that life is no longer sustainable in that area. This is called hypoxia.

The destruction of the wetlands is not something specific to the Great Black Swamp, but because of its destruction, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio has lost 90% of its wetlands. This is second only to California which has lost 91%. Direct problems associated with the loss of the wetlands include more flood damages, more drought damages, and a decline in the bird population.

"The lake bed sediments are a lot of silt and clay, primarily clay, and water cannot move easily through that. So when the lake sank down to its present size, it left an area that could not drain very well. So water built up in it and it became a swamp," said Associate Professor Sheila Roberts, a professor of geology at Bowling Green State University

The Great Black Swamp held many natural resources, good soil and lots of timber, but for years there wasn't a way for settlers to get at them.

"They would finally get a road wide enough for maybe a wagon to go down, but if one person was coming from the north and another person was coming from the south somebody would have to get off into the swamp and let the other people pass, and they were constantly digging out horses and wagons and everything," Roberts said.

While the Great Black Swamp put the settlement of Northwest Ohio on hold for the settlers of the time, some of the Native American tribes of the area were forced to live there, specifically the Ottawa tribe.

After a long history of dealing with the settlers as trading partners and allies in war, the Ottawa land was shuffled around and after signing the Treaty of Grenville in 1796 the white settlers pushed

into the interior of Ohio and it quickly became a state. The Ottawa Indians were pushed to the Maumee River Valley at the edge of the Great Black Swamp.

While the Ottawa Indians lived only on the edge of the Great Black Swamp they did use the swamp for resources. They hunted in the swamp, something many white settlers would not do. The Ottawa's overcame this by staying on sand ridges while hunting. These elevated areas of land were prehistoric beaches, formed while the glacial lake receded into the modern Lake Erie.

"They would follow the game in there, but they wouldn't live in there because it was too mosquito infested," said Danziger.

The Ottawa Indians overcame their bug problem in several ways. Their housing had a hole cut in the top and a fire that could be lit on the inside. The smoke would keep away insects. They also concocted an insect repelling rub. They did their hunting in the winter months where the insects were less prevalent and wore long sleeves.

The Ottawa Indians began to forfeit their culture to comply with the desires of their white neighbors. They began farming corn and wearing clothing similar to the white settlers, but it wasn't enough for those settlers greedy for land on the Ottawa reservations.

The Ottawa Indians reservations were in the way of the proposed canal system and they were removed. "They were doing exactly what American settlers wanted them to do and they were still forced to go," said Danziger. By 1833 the Ottawa's were relocated to Kansas.

Travel before the swamp was drained forced settlers to detour south into the more central part of Ohio and they were unable to head north again until around Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Great Black Swamp covered a huge area of land and draining the swamp would have been an extremely daunting task.

The idea of draining the swamp began with the construction of a road going from Fremont, Ohio to Detroit, Michigan through the heart of the Great Black Swamp. There was a lot of difficulty building a road through the swamp that wouldn't get washed away by the natural movement of the water. Finally the constructors built a road leveled with rock underneath so it was higher than the surrounding land. They dug two ditches, one on either side of the road, and on top of that they dug culverts. The culverts were dug underneath the road to channel the water and enable it to go in its natural selection.

Draining a small area of the swamp, the workers discovered that the soil underneath the water was very fertile. This led to the widespread draining of the Great Black Swamp starting in the 1850's.

Draining the swamp was not the only thing that needed done in order to get at the rich soil. Since the Great Black Swamp was such a tree rich swamp, the trees also had to go. Timber had become a very useful and sought after commodity, one that was now easy to transport thanks to the canals running from Lake Erie to New York, the canals that cost the Ottawa Indians their land. Oak trees were especially plentiful in the swamp and were in demand worldwide.

"It was basically used for ship's timbers, and they floated it out on rafts of wood all the way to Buffalo down the Erie Canal and all the way to England," Danziger said.

"If you look at all the drainage ditches we have around here now, and digging those with the technology they had, it was quite a feat," Roberts said.



There are still some ways to see the remains of the Great Black Swamp now, even with the drainage ditches. This area is prone to flooding due to the clay that is still in the soil.

“After a big rainstorm, or when the snow starts to melt, you’ll notice there’s water ‘ponded’ in them [fields] and that’s because the water can’t seep into the ground because it’s so impermeable,” Roberts said.

Flooding isn’t the only way to see some of the features of the Great Black Swamp. There are a few state parks that preserved what the Great Black Swamp would have looked like. Crane Creek and Magee Marsh near Oak Harbor, Ohio, are two such areas. Even in Bowling Green, Ohio there are some attributes from the drained swamp such as the Sand Ridges in the Cemetery located on Bowling Green State University campus and on Sand Ridge Road.

State and national governments are beginning to allot money into expanding and replanting some of these wetland areas lost in draining the swamp, in hopes that this will help reduce the harmful agricultural runoff, that would have been prevented had the swamp been preserved.

<https://blogs.bgsu.edu/blackswampjournal/2011/04/14/history-of-the-great-black-swamp/>



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 and/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.



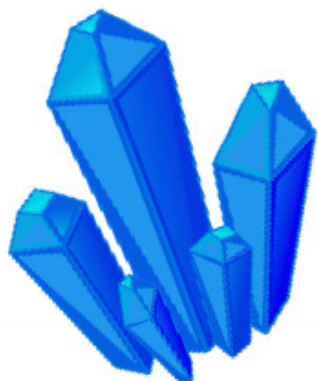
Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

MICHIGAN GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

SWAP

AUGUST 14, 2021
9:30am – 4:00PM

At the Park by
Center Lake Boat Launch
506 5th St
Michigan Center, MI 49254



* GEMS * ROCKS * MINERALS * FOSSILS *

* LAPIDARY SUPPLIES * KIDS TABLE *

* BEADS * JEWELRY *

Free Parking
Free Admission
Family Friendly
Rain or Shine

www.mgmsrockclub.com
info@mgmsrockclub.com
Contact: Sally 517-522-3396

"Michigan Center Lions Club" will be hosting their famous "Chicken Barbecue"

Upcoming Events

Meeting:

Aug 1
2:00 PM
Island Park
Adrian MI

Aug 7
ISHPEMING, MI
Ishpeming Rock &
Mineral Club Annual Show
9:30-4:30.
Ishpeming Elk's Club
597 Lakeshore Dr.
Ishpeming

Aug 13-15:
HOUGHTON, MI
Copper Country Rock &
Mineral Club Rock Swap
Fri 1-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 11-3.
Houghton Middle School
1603 Gundlach Rd.
Houghton

Sept 10 - 12
GREENFIELD, IN
500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis
County Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple St.
Greenfield, IN



Fri Sept 3 - Thurs Sept 9
Fulton County Fair
Wauseon OH

Sat Sept 18
Artlicious
Adrian MI

Fri Sept 24 - Sun Sept 26
Clinton Fall Festival
Clinton MI

Sat Oct 9 - Sun Oct 10
Appleumpkin
Tecumseh MI

Sept 10 - 12
BOWLING GREEN, OH
Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (hosting the
MWFconvention)
Pavilion, County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe Rd.
Bowling Green, OH

Livingston County
has cancelled their Rock Show this year,
normally in September

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

