

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 55
ISSUE IX
SEPTEMBER 2015

2015 Officers and Directors

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Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 451-2079
Secretary: Patricia Baier-Hay, 517 263-8585
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 517 263-1669
Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
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Second Year Director: Kelly Cleveland, 419 882-8515
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Show Chairman: Doris Brzezicki, 517 263-1669
Publicity: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
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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 summer has gone too fast! Has everyone had a good summer? There have been several very good shows, several long trips to shows, and a good time. Coming up we have a very busy month, starting with the Fulton county fair. This is one of the big events that fund the club expenses. We will be there for the full week and thanks to everyone who has volunteered. If anyone who has not volunteered but can come and help, they would be appreciated! We will have passes to get in.

A few of us went up to Linda Sharkey's and the Demerly rock sale and most of us came back with some very nice things.

We have been getting together several times to do training and just to get together at the club house. That's always a good time, being with all our good friends.

Sherm

Treasurer's Statement



We are all busy preparing for the upcoming events. The Fulton County Fair is September 4-10. Set up is on Thursday, Sept. 3rd. Members will meet at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM and load up the vehicles with items needed for the booth. Then we will head down to the fairgrounds and set things up. State Line has one booth and we need members to work when possible, especially during our busy times. We covered a schedule at the meeting, but basically that provided minimal coverage. We plan to have passes available for members if they are able to volunteer. Saturday is free admission for veterans and their spouses and Wednesday is Senior Citizens Day.



We do not have an event chairperson for our fundraisers, but if you have questions you can contact me on my cell phone (269) 267-1123. Richard B, Charlie and I plan on being there every morning shift and then will be relieved by Judy and Richard S. in the afternoon. The weekend is the busiest time and we have several members coming down. We keep pretty busy, but still manage to have a lot of fun. Hope you can join us!

Our September meeting has been postponed until Sept. 13. We will discuss Art-A-Licious, Sept 18-19 and the Clinton Fall Festival, Sept 25-27.

Please add these new members to your membership list.

Anita Anderson	23490 Norwood	Oak Park, MI	48237	
Tamara & Kevin Doolittle	18101 Rome Rd	Hudson, MI	49247	(517) 306-3136
tamidoolittle@gmail.com				

Doris

Secretary's Scoop

The State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting was called to order by president Sherm Kardatzke on August 2, 2015. Club member Richard B. gave the invocation and the pledge of allegiance followed. Doris made a motion to accept last month's secretary's report as printed in the newsletter. Phyllis seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's report: The rent, consumer's bill and non-profit status bills have all been paid. Income from the Lenawee County Fair from geode and member sales including grab bags was approximately \$400.00. Richard B. motioned to accept the treasurer's report seconded by Phyllis. The motion passed with all in favor.



Old Business: Doris said we will need more of our popular grab bags for the Fulton County Fair. She mentioned that the grab bag lion was a big draw and attention getter and suggested the club should invest in more trinkets to add to the rock samples in the bags. She said we also need volunteers to sew more cloth bags. Phyllis said she could make more bags. Doris mentioned that Linda Sharkey has donated bags and rock samples to the club in the past. Doris felt she may be able to get Richard B. to make some more bags. Judy said she could make some bags too. Richard made a motion to authorize Doris to spend up to \$400.00 maximum on trinkets/toys needed to stuff the cloth bags. Jan H. seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

Fulton County Fair Participation: Volunteers can meet at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM on Thurs., September 3rd to help load and transport what is needed at the fair booth. We can also use volunteers to help set up the booth at the fair. The fair will last from September 4th until September 10th (take down will be at 9:00 PM on September 10th). The club will purchase passes for volunteers who want to work the booth. Those who volunteered at the meeting include; Pat Baier-Hay, Judy & Richard Snyder, Linda Hutchins, Phyllis & Bill Sipes, Ed, Shirly (and whoever he can get to assist him), Jan Hauter, Richard and Doris Brzezicki and Charlie Swanson.

Glenda said the field trip to Alpena has been postponed to the 3rd or 4th weekend in October. It is a 6 hour trip and some folks plan to leave after work.

Phyllis asked if we would have the club meeting before or after the fair? There was some discussion and Sherm thought that having the meeting during the fair would be too hectic. Sherm suggested that we have the meeting the second Sunday on September 13th instead. Bill made a motion to have the club meeting changed to September 13th, seconded by Frank and passed with all in favor.

Glenda thought it would be a good idea to have a diamond blade saw at the fair with the option to cut the geodes instead of cracking them. She said the Mexican geodes would need to be weighed too.

Linda H. asked if any members could contribute towards the Humane Society fundraiser scheduled for August 17th.

There was discussion of the various other events with club participation. The consensus was that we could discuss specifics at the next club meeting.

There were a couple of visitors considering membership and two new members who came to crack some geodes they had purchased.

Ed made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Frank and passed with all in favor.

History of The Detroit Salt Mine

Genesis of a Salt Mine

Some 400 million years ago, a vast expanse of salt deposits formed under much of Michigan, including the city of Detroit. Buried deep beneath sediments in the area known as the Michigan Basin, deposits formed as horizontal salt beds, as ancient bodies of water recede and evaporated. The basin was an arid area of Michigan's lower peninsula separated from the ocean by a natural bar of land. As the basin continued to sink lower into the earth, salt-laden ocean water repeatedly poured into the depression, where it gradually evaporated, forming miles of salt beds.

Since its earliest days, the mine's underground city of salt has held the fascination of many and has evolved into a modern day engineering marvel.



The existence of rock salt in the Detroit area was discovered in 1895. By 1906, the Detroit Salt and Manufacturing Company was ready to tackle the chore of creating a local rock salt mine. The struggle down to the salt beds is one of the most impressive engineering accomplishments of its time.

From the sinking of the first shaft, construction crews were faced with daunting challenges. Hydrogen sulfide gas and hundreds of feet of stone and glacial drift proved to be large impediments to their progress. Sinking the shaft also was a costly undertaking, causing the Detroit Salt and Manufacturing Company to go bankrupt before ever reaching the prize of its efforts - salt.

Following a business reorganization, the new Detroit Salt Company completed the 1,060-foot shaft in 1910. Just two years later, the mine changed hands again following an acquisition by the Watkins Salt Company, which incorporated the new organization under the name Detroit Rock Salt Company. After sinking the shaft another 100 feet, miners began working a second salt bed. The new operation improved productivity and delivered higher purity rock salt. The success of the Detroit mine quickly caught the attention of a competitor, the International Salt Company. Strategizing to maintain its hold on the Midwestern market, International Salt purchased the mine.



By 1914, the Detroit mine was producing 8,000 tons of rock salt each month, mainly for the leather and food processing industries. An increase in manpower, money and equipment was paying off in a big way. Workers turned electric locomotives, mechanical shovels and electric power to help alleviate the physical demands of mining. These advancements in technology pushed the Detroit mine to even greater productivity.

In 1922, the company began to dig a larger, second shaft to increase the rate of hoisting rock salt to the surface. Within three years, the second shaft was in operation, leaving the first shaft to haul men
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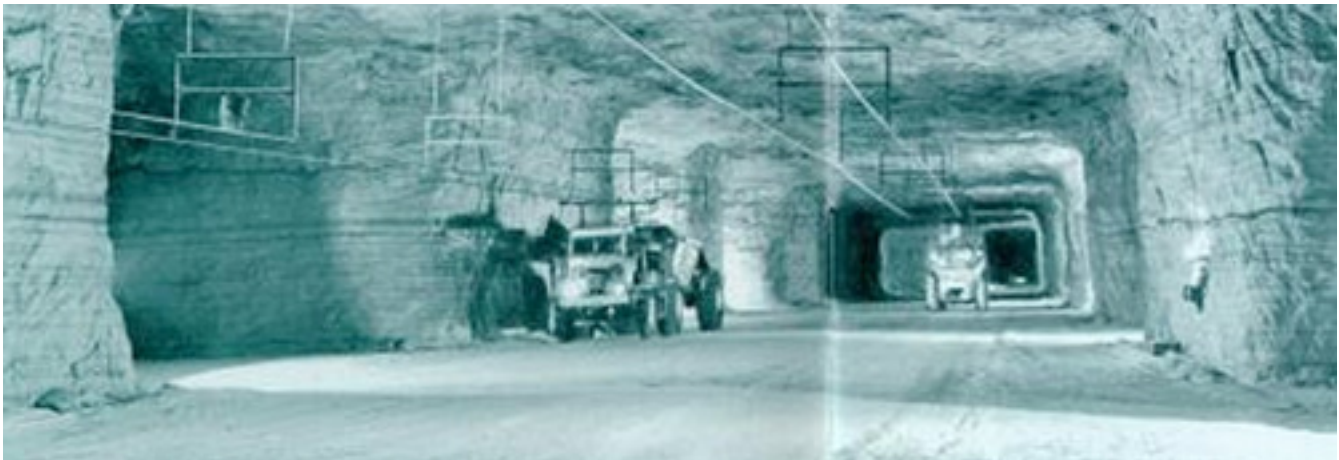
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and materials. Every piece of equipment used today has been lowered down the second shaft. Due to the shaft's narrow openings, most equipment is disassembled and lowered piece by piece, then reassembled in a machine shop below.

In 1983, International Salt closed the mine's operations. Two years after the closure, Crystal Mines, Inc., purchased the mine as a potential storage site. In 1997, the Detroit Salt Company, LLC, purchased the mine from Crystal Mines, Inc. and began salt production in the fall of 1998. Although the leather and food industries were once large customers to the Detroit mine, road deicing salt is the only product the mine currently provides. The Detroit Salt Company, LLC, employs the latest mining techniques, making it one of the safest, most modern and efficient mine in the world.

In 2010, The Kissner Group purchased the Detroit Salt Company, LLC, along with ownership of the mine. Today, the two companies work synergistically together to provide North America with a full line of ice melter products ranging from bulk rock salt to bagged rock salt and premium blended formulations.

<http://detroitsalt.com/history/>



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

SMOOTHING EARWIRES

Any time you make your own earwires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Foredom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy, and none are as fast as I'd like.



Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip. I find it's worth practicing the maneuver a couple times on some scrap wire before trying it on completed earrings.

BALL BURS

I use ball burs quite a bit for carving and for cleaning up bits of solder that need to be removed. The ball shape seems to be more controllable than other cutting burs. They're less apt to grab and walk over your piece.

As to sizes I've found that 8 mm is a very useful size for carving while a half mm or smaller at high speed works great for signing your name on the back of your work.



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

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon
www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/

Upcoming Events

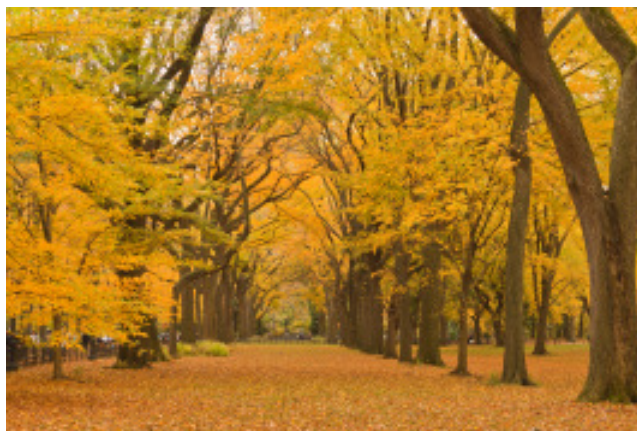
Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015
State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting
2:00 p.m.
201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

September 11-13
Toledo, OH
TOLEDO GEM & ROCKHOUND CLUB
ANNUAL SHOW
Stranahan Great Hall
Toledo, OH
Fri-2-8pm, Sat 10am-6 pm,
Sun 11am-5pm

Sept. 19th & 20th
HOWELL, MI.
GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW
LIVINGSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm.
Hartland Consolidated School
9525 Highland Rd.
Howell, MI

Sept. 18, 19, 20
Holland, MI.
46th ANNUAL ROCK, GEM,
FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW
"MASTODON: MICHIGAN'S STATE FOSSIL"
TULIP CITY GEM & MINERAL CLUB
FRI 9am-8pm, SAT 9am-7pm, SUN 11am-5pm.
Holland Civic Center
150 West 8th St.

Oct 9-11
Warren, MI
MICHIGAN MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL SHOW
McComb Community College
South Campus Expo Center Building P
14500 E. 12 Mile & Hayes
Warren, MI 48088





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

