

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 58
ISSUE IX
SEPTEMBER 2018

2018 Officers and Directors

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Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123
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First Year Director: Kurt Miller, (419) 923-2090
Second Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971
Third Year Director: Carl Mulholland, 517 539-2037
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, and Nance Clarke
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Uncannily Spherical
Boulders
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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



Vice president Glenda Gafner opened the August 5, 2018 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society at 2:10 PM. Ed Jarzembki gave the invocation and all present joined in with the pledge of allegiance.

Doris Brzezicki made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Henry and passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's report: Doris paid the rent and utilities for the clubhouse, Ohio sales tax on the club's income in Ohio, the payment for our fair space at the Fulton County Fair and the payments for our scholarship recipients. Phyllis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jan. The motion passed with all in favor.

The Secretary (Richard) read a thank you note from one of our scholarship recipients (Stephanie) where she thanked the club for the scholarship and indicated that it helped with some of her school expenses and she is now ready to start classes.

Glenda mentioned that we tabled the discussion on sending a representative to the Midwest Federation Convention in our last two club meetings and that she or Sherm would not be able to attend. She asked for a volunteer to represent our club at the convention. She explained that more than one club member could attend but only one would be able to vote as our clubs representative. After some discussion, Ed thought he might be able to attend. He would have to check and see if he had any conflicting commitments.

Glenda reported that she and Carl each purchased two spaces at this year's Fulton County Fair. Each booth is allowed to purchase two extra seasonal passes at a reduced rate. There was some discussion about how many tickets the club should purchase for volunteer members to man our club booth. Ed made a motion to have the club purchase the maximum number of reduced rate tickets to accommodate the maximum number of volunteers. The motion was seconded by Judy and passed with all in favor. Glenda noted that we could set up for the Fulton County Fair on Thursday August 30th. In the past we have met at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM to load geodes and other things we need for the fair booth. Glenda asked for volunteers to help with set up and was successful in recruiting Ed, Bill Sipes, Bill Shultz, Richard Snyder, Richard and Doris Brzezicki and whoever can make it at 10:00 AM on Thursday. We will probably see the same folks for tear-down on September 6th. Additional discussion revealed that we also need to sew and fill more grab bags. Jan suggested that we have another work day before the fair. The consensus was that Thursday August 9th would be a good day to have such a work day. The best time for all who volunteered would be 10:00 AM and that would also be a good time to sort geodes and arrange things for transport. Glenda expressed her view that we put too many small items such as erasers, stickers, and such, in our grab bags. She said that she thought the club had agreed to only put larger trinkets in the bags and concentrate on rocks instead of toys, since we were indeed a rock club. There was discussion expressing other points of view, such as the kids and parents who purchase the grab bags have always been very happy with the small items in addition to the rocks. Individuals who have worked with and observed

Secretary's Scoop

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kids indicated that most kids prefer quantity over quality when it comes to receiving lots of toys. It was also pointed out that some of the larger trinkets were no longer available so we had to make do with smaller items. Doris made a motion to leave the contents of our grab bags as they are and leave it to the discretion of the grab bag chairperson. Carl seconded the motion and the motion passed with all but one dissenting vote from Glenda.

Richard B. reported that Bill and Phyllis Sipes were able to procure some slabs and rough from Mr. Craig Demlow, who taught geology in the Clinton schools. Mr. Demlow also had a 6 inch flat lap available for sale at \$50.00. Richard estimated that the slabs and rocks Mr. Demlow was donating were worth more than the \$50.00 he wanted for the machine. It would also allow us to teach more of our members to do lapidary work. Richard made a motion to have the club pay Bill the \$50.00 he told Mr. Demlow he would give for the machine. The motion was seconded by Carl and passed with all in favor.

Glenda posed the question of do we have enough Mexican geodes? Discussion revealed that we would probably not have enough for the rest of the season but we would have to do a count on our work day (August 9th) to see for sure. Krista made a motion to pre-approve ordering the Mexican geodes once the need is established. The motion was seconded by Henry and passed with all in favor.

Glenda reported that the graduation party at Linda and Curt Miller's house was well attended and the weather was great. She thanked all who participated.

September meeting is postponed to **September 9th** at 2:00 PM since the first Sunday in September is the Labor Day weekend.

The next event in which our club is involved will be Art-A-Licious, September 21st and 22nd. The Clinton Fall Festival will be the following week-end, September 29th and 30th.

Doris reported that she researched different types of table covers for the food tables and silent auction tables at our show. Glenda tabled the discussion to continue at the work date on August 9th since there were some unresolved issues at this time.

Glenda revealed that she spoke with Mr. Wyrick about a field trip for Ohio flint on Sunday August 26th. The group must arrive together and there will be a \$6.00/person charge to go to the field where Ohio flint can be collected. Then there will be a \$4.00/ 5gal. bucket charge for each bucket collected. Mr. Wyrick told Glenda that he would dig a new hole anywhere she indicated she wanted to have one dug. Members could also visit the Nethers farm to collect Ohio flint, but she would not be available for that trip. It is close to the Wyrick farm and Mrs. Nethers allows campers in the woods where the flint is found, although there are no facilities of any kind at the site.

Glenda also plans a trip to Arizona leaving Michigan on January 25th, 2019 and returning on February 3rd or 4th. She has researched renting a house and there are motels available. Make arrangements with Glenda if you want to go on any of the above mentioned trips.

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

How Nature Creates Uncannily Spherical Boulders

There's a geological phenomenon behind exceptionally round rocks.

Large boulders shaped like nearly perfect spheres can be found in a handful of places around the world. Perched amid craggy, sandy landscapes, these curious orbs have been confounding onlookers for centuries. Some are so superbly round they appear to defy nature, which has led to wild speculation as to their origins: Ancient gods? Alien eggs? Evidence of giants?



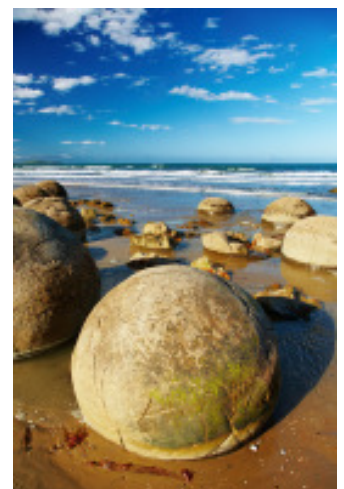
In fact, spherical boulders are molded over millions or even billions of years by a natural but long-misunderstood geological phenomenon called concretion. The concretion process occurs when sediment that has not yet hardened into rock accumulates around some sort of hard nucleus, such as a fossil or shell, and then binds together with a cementing mineral such as calcite. A natural concrete then forms in the space between sediment grains, banding the layers of sand together around the core, often in a spherical shape.

These balls of bounded sediment can later become embedded in a rock of a different composition, such as sandstone or shale. But since the cemented material is often harder and more resistant to weathering than the host rock, over millions of years the surrounding rock is eroded away, leaving just the concretion exposed, standing on its own like an otherworldly orb.

Naturally occurring balls of rock can vary drastically in size. In the “Valley of Balls,” or Torysh Valley in western Kazakhstan, a stretch of semi-desert landscape is covered in concretions ranging from tiny marbles to huge boulders nearly the size of a car. The larger concretions still originate with a small nucleus such as a shell, leaf, fossil, or marine skeleton. But if conditions are just right, the binding phenomenon can occur for extra-long periods of time, resulting in giant spheres sometimes called “cannonball concretions.”

Some of the biggest examples can be found at Rock City, part of a Kansas state park featuring nearly 200 large sandstone concretions (claimed to be the largest such collection on Earth). Here, the roughly spherical boulders have grown to nearly 30 feet across.

Before geologists understood the concretion phenomenon, these remarkably round rocks led to a number of theories and legends across different cultures. According to local Maori lore, the Moeraki Boulders on the Otago Coast of New Zealand's South Island are the remains of a legendary shipwreck long ago. As the story goes, a canoe called the Arai-Te-Uru wrecked on the shore after returning from a voyage to a mythical land to collect potatoes and gourds, and the baskets of goods magically turned into boulders gathered at the shore.



Spherical Boulders

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In the Australian Outback, a crop of iconic concretions known as the Devils Marbles, or Karlu Karlu (which literally translates to “round boulders”), are connected to a variety of ancient legends, and they hold great spiritual significance for many of the Aboriginal peoples. Many of these stories are passed down through generations and said to be kept secret from non-Aboriginal visitors.

Mysterious rock balls have unsurprisingly inspired more than one alien conspiracy theory over the years as well. The rare geologic makeup of the tiny, extremely hard, 3 billion-year-old Klerksdorp Spheres found in South Africa led some to claim they must be products of another planet, perhaps even proof of ancient aliens. The truth, though lacking spiritual magic or extraterrestrial life, is no less delightful. These natural spheres are very much an Earthly wonder, just another trick up Mother Nature’s sleeve.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/concretion-spherical-rocks>



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

SETTING A RIVET



Riveting is usually done with a cross peen hammer, but I've found it's a lot easier for me to hit the rivet wire when using a small ball peen - and the smaller the better. Shown here is one I typically use. It's about 3/8 inch diameter on the back of a chasing hammer, but I've been thinking that a 3/16 inch ball might be even better. Look for a yard sale hammer you can modify to work.

SHEET WAX WITH ADHESIVE

While shopping in the Los Angeles jewelry district for supplies for our class, I found a new product that may interest some of you. Often before casting, I want to increase the thickness of a model by adding a layer of wax on the back side. For instance, models like a leaf or a flower petal do not cast well unless you add a little extra thickness. The problem is trying to apply a coating of wax that's smooth and even.

The new product I found is an easily moldable sheet wax with an adhesive coating. This lets me easily add thickness to a very thin model. With a leaf, just press it onto the wax, trim excess wax around the outer edges, and then gently bend the sandwich to the contour you would like. The wax is available in a number of different thicknesses from about 26 ga to 14 ga.

If interested, my supplier is

Jewelry Tools & Supplies
412 W. 6th Street #1011
Los Angeles, CA 90014
213 624-8224
jtstech@sbcglobal.net



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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Sept 9, 2018

State Line Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting

2:00 p.m.

201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

Sept. 7-9, 2018

Toledo, OH

Fri 2-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5
Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club
Stranahan Exhibit Hall
4645 Heatherdowns
Toledo, OH

Sept. 14-16, 2018

Holland, MI

Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club
Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5
Soccer Stop Sportsplex
5 River Hills Drive
Holland, MI

Sept. 15-16, 2018

Howell, MI

Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Livingston Gem & Mineral Society
Hartland Educational Support Center
9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI

Sept 29-30, 2018

Traverse City, MI

Grand Traverse Area
Rock & Mineral Club
Cherryland VFW Hall
3400 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI

Oct. 12-14

Warren, MI

Michigan Mineralogical Society
Fri 9-6, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5
Macomb Sports & Expo Center, Bldg. P
14500 E. 12 Mile Road
Warren, MI

Oct. 19-21

Mason, MI

Central Michigan Lapidary &
Mineral Society
Friday 6-9, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5
Main Arena
County Fairgrounds
700 Ash Street
Mason, MI

Oct. 19-21

Ft. Wayne, IN

Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society
Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5
County Fairgrounds
2726 Carroll Road
Fort Wayne, IN

Oct. 20-21

Clio, MI

Flint Rock & Gem Club
Sat & Sun, 10-5
Carter Middle School
300 Rogers Lodge Drive
Clio, MI





Rock Trails

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Adrian, MI 49221

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

