

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 53
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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

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Captain's Log

The Rebound

What a difference one year makes. Last year we were throwing our last punch in the fight to keep the depot as our clubhouse. Our treasury was depleted and our membership exhausted from efforts that produced little fruit toward our mission statement. After hitting "rock bottom" we started the rebound up. With a new clubhouse, our expenses were lower, weekly classes were started, our scholarship fund reinstated, and our treasury became healthy. Though our annual Gem and Mineral Show after Memorial Day is a much expected community event, the Fulton County Fair, during Labor Day Weekend is hard to beat for public relations, profitability and fun. Our display was eye catching and inviting, well lighted, comfortable, with good traffic flow. Everything about that event exceeded our expectations. Art-A-Licious, the Adrian Arts Fair, did proportionally well for a two-day event. It was suggested a few times by visitors to our booth that we participate at the Clinton Fall Fest, the last weekend in September. It is something to consider if we could have the participation from members two weekends in a row.



Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, Michigan is our next fundraiser. Help will be needed there. Details will be worked out at the club meeting. Also a field trip is planned for October 11 and 12 to southern Indiana for geodes. The weather has been wonderful; the hunting should be good. Get on board and have some fun.

Best regards,

Eddie



The Treasurer's Addition



It is wonderful that the club is doing so well financially due to the hard work so many members have put in on the show and at the Fulton County Fair. We will have two events before the next meeting which hopefully will generate additional exposure for State Line Gem & Mineral Society, as well as funds. Art-A-Licious is Sept. 20 & 21 in downtown Adrian and the Fall Festival will be at Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, MI on Sat. Oct. 5. Several members have already volunteered to help at these events, but it is always nice to see more member participation.

I heard there is some interest in a field trip this fall to collect geodes. I contacted the rock club in Bedford, Indiana and hope they will be able to suggest some collecting sites for us. Tentative date is the weekend of Oct. 11-13. I will have more information at the time of the October meeting.

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer

The Secretary's Notes

The State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting started at 2:10 PM with Ed giving the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance. President Ed had the group do roll call and introductions since there were some new individuals.

Kelly made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in last month's newsletter and Cindy seconded. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Doris was unable to attend and left the report for Ed to read.

Some of the expenses paid for the month included rent, utilities, Art-A-Licious entry fee, a refrigerator and microwave for the clubhouse, display shelves, and kitchen storage totes.

The Fulton County Fair did well overall, with the busiest days being Labor Day weekend. Geode, the grab-bag lion, was sold out. Henry made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Charlie seconded and with all in favor, the motion passed.

A brief discussion came up about geodes, since that was the big money maker at the fair. Charlie mentioned that every dollar made from geodes counts. It all adds up in the end. There was a couple from the Toledo gem club, who mentioned that there was some potential for our club to crack our geodes at their show next year.

Joann asked when was the best time for geode hunting? Ed felt that it was about this time of year. He also said that we need to engage in introducing ourselves to owners of private property for permission to collect geodes there. A member asked if collecting was open to non-members? Ed felt that it was probably not a problem. People are at their own risk anyways. A waiver may have to be signed, but he was not sure.



The Secretary's Notes

continued

Fundraisers: The club will have a booth at the Art-A-Licious in Adrian. Any help with it would be appreciated. Mike and Cindy expressed an interest in helping with packing up on closing day. The festival will be September 20th and 21st.

Hidden Lake Gardens will be October 5th around the Tipton area. Again, any help with this fundraising opportunity will be appreciated.

New Business: Henry asked for some help for getting some equipment in better shape. He wanted a cover for one of the saws, masks, and repair of one of the flat laps. Ed said we need some parts and has personally used his own funding in the past. Besides money, time is an issue in making parts and repairs. Cletus asked about oil type and said if you use the right type of oil, you just let it settle and scrape it out. He suggested Ambisol. He thought it would be a good idea to clean out the old oil and use new oil to see if that would help the misting problem. Ed said he would try to help Henry with a lid and told Henry to put in a request for parts/materials for the machines.

The Toledo rock club is promoting an event on Sunday, September 22nd in Sylvania Ohio, called the Fossil Fest.

Henry was going to crack a couple of geodes for our landlord so that he could see how beautiful they are.

Ed briefly mentioned that we should work towards getting a geode field trip organized soon, maybe even at next month's meeting.

Mike made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Henry. With all in favor, the meeting ended.



HALLOWEEN
HALLOWEEN

MAGNETIC PROPERTIES

Several minerals react when placed within a magnetic field. Some minerals are strongly attracted to the magnet, others are weakly attracted, and one mineral is actually repelled. There are also several minerals that are attracted to magnetic fields only when heated.

A magnetic field is an area encompassing a magnet or electrical current that has the ability to attract or repel certain objects placed in the field. The closer the object is to the magnet or electrical current, the more powerful the magnetic effect. In virtually all cases, the presence of the element iron as a component of the mineral's chemical structure is responsible for its magnetic properties.

Magnetic properties of minerals are defined as follows:

Ferromagnetism describes strong attraction to magnetic fields. This property is exhibited in few minerals, notably Magnetite and Pyrrhotite.

Paramagnetism is weak attraction to magnetic fields. The attraction is usually discernible, but it may be so weak that it is undetectable. Most paramagnetic minerals become strongly magnetic when heated. A small number of paramagnetic minerals, such as Platinum, are not essentially paramagnetic, but contain iron impurities which are responsible for the paramagnetism. However, some specimens lacking iron also exist, and these are not paramagnetic. Some examples of paramagnetic minerals are Hematite and Franklinite.

Diamagnetism. Only one mineral, Bismuth, is diamagnetic, meaning it is repelled from magnetic fields.

Another property, which is unnamed, is **attraction to magnetic fields when heated**. Some iron sulfides and oxides become ferromagnetic after heating, as a result of combined sulfur or oxygen ions freeing themselves from the iron. Some minerals may even act as magnets when heated.

Magnetism. Only a variety of one mineral acts as a magnet, generating magnetic fields on its own. This mineral is Lodestone, the magnetic variety of Magnetite, which is found in only a few deposits throughout the world. Although it is only weakly magnetic, its magnetism is definitely discernible.

Magnetic properties are useful for identifying a mineral, for if observed it can pinpoint a mineral. The most effective testing results are obtained with the use of a powerful magnet. The only minerals that possibly respond to magnets without heating are opaque, metallic-looking minerals.

NOTE: Most mineral guides list minerals attracted to magnetic fields as "magnetic". This may lead to confusion, for there is a difference between "magnetic" (acts as a magnetic field) and "attracted to magnetic fields" (drawn toward magnetic fields). To avoid this confusion, this guide makes a distinction between "magnetic" and "attracted to magnetic fields".



Lodestone:
The magnetism of this magnetic variety of Magnetite is clearly visible

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

JUST SAY NO TO OPTIVISORS

During his annual vision-check, a jeweler friend of mine wondered why not have his reading glasses made with bifocals that would magnify the same as the Optivisors? So he asked the ophthalmologist if he could add around +2.00 diopters into bifocals.

The doctor checked with his supervisor and came back all excited. They all agreed that it was a great idea and even gave him a special device to measure how far he holds a jewelry piece from his eye, to get the focal distance exactly right. So if all goes well, no more sweaty, bulky optivisors! Anyone else tried this?

MANDRELS

Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire. Frequently we choose a round rod for winding jump rings. Common sources for different sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels and clothes hangers. Metal rods can also be found in hardware stores and hobby shops.

But to get the right "look" in chain maile designs, you must have just the right size mandrel, and often they are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is from Harbor Freight. They have a set of 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, for under ten bucks. It's called a Transfer Punch Set. The catalog number is #3577, and the price is \$9.95 Plus, look for the 20% off coupon on any one item in their advertising circular. That cuts your cost to around eight bucks. I've bought four of these over the last couple years.

www.harborfreight.com



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

Did You Know

... that coral reefs are the largest structures ever built on planet Earth by any animal, including man.

... that a pearl has a life expectancy of only 100 years, or 150 at the most.

... that one ounce of gold can be beaten or flattened into a sheet of 100 square feet, or drawn into a wire almost a mile long, or made into a foil that is less than five millionths of an inch thick and virtually transparent.

... that your turquoise ring could change its color if you wash your hands without removing it and even become smelly if you immerse it in dishwater or oily liquid.

...that two flints, or a flint and steel, will strike a spark that can be used to start a fire, but also that two quartz stones will serve the same purpose.

...that some gem materials come from strange sources. One is grown on trees (amber – formerly tree sap). Some start as an irritant inside the shell of a mollusk (pearls) or grow in the mouths of animals (ivory). One begins as an “apartment complex for a colony of sea creatures (coral). One comes from volcanoes and is the product of stone so hot that it melts (obsidian). One is even thought to be formed of rock which has melted after being hit by a meteorite falling from outer space.

... that what determines the hardness graduation in lead pencils, which, by the way, range from 9H (hard) to 9B (extra soft), is achieved through the addition of varying amounts of clay to the graphite. Graphite is the “lead” in lead pencils.

...that when held in your hand up to your ear, sulphur sizzles and pops. This is caused by cracking inside due to the expansion caused by the heat of the hand.

...that the polishing agent known as “jeweler’s rouge” is made of powdered hematite.

(via Livingstones 9/13 via the Rock Rattler 4/10)



HALLOWEEN SURPRISE BROWNIES

These brownies have a little treat inside!
15 min. prep time 1:05 total time
25 brownies



1/2 cup Land O Lakes® Butter
2 (1-ounce) squares unsweetened baking chocolate
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
2 Land O Lakes® All-Natural Eggs
12 chocolate sandwich cookies with orange crème centers, each cut into quarters

Frosting:

1/3 cup Land O Lakes® Butter, softened
2 cups powdered sugar
2 (1-ounce) squares unsweetened baking chocolate, melted, cooled slightly
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 to 2 tablespoons milk

Decorations

Orange and black Halloween non-pareils or sprinkles

Directions

Heat oven to 350°F. Spray or grease bottom only of 8- or 9-inch baking pan; set aside.

Combine 1/2 cup butter and 2 ounces chocolate in 2-quart saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, 4-6 minutes or until smooth. Stir in all remaining brownie ingredients except cookies; mix well. Stir in cookie pieces.

Spread batter into prepared pan. Bake 18-23 minutes or until brownies begin to pull away from sides of pan. Cool completely.

Place 1/3 cup butter in large bowl; beat at medium speed until creamy. Reduce speed to low; add 1 cup powdered sugar. Beat until well mixed. Add melted chocolate and vanilla; continue beating until well mixed. Add remaining powdered sugar and enough milk for desired frosting consistency. Spread frosting over cooled brownies. Sprinkle with Halloween decorator sprinkles.

<http://www.landolakes.com/recipe/3601/halloween-surprise-brownies>

CHOCOLATE CAULDRON CUPS

A chocolate cookie crumb crust is filled with minty pudding in this unique quick-to-make treat.
20 min. prep time 1:20 total time
12 servings



12 foil cupcake liners
24 chocolate sandwich cookies (2 3/4 cups), crushed into crumbs
1/2 cup Land O Lakes® Butter, melted
1 cup milk
3/4 cup whipping cream
1 (3.3-ounce) package white chocolate instant pudding and pie filling mix
10 drops green food color
1/2 cup real semi-sweet mini chocolate chips*
12 pretzel sticks

Directions

Line muffin cups with foil cupcake liners. Combine cookie crumbs and melted butter in medium bowl; mix well. Spoon 2 heaping tablespoons into each cupcake liner. Press onto bottom and up sides of liner to form cauldron cups.

Combine milk, whipping cream, pudding mix, and food color in medium bowl. Beat at high speed 1 minute. Stir in chocolate chips. Spoon filling into muffin cups. Refrigerate until set (at least 1 hour).

At serving time, place 1 pretzel stick into each cauldron for stirring spoon.

*Substitute creme de menth baking chips.

Recipe Tip

For easy cleanup, use a large plastic resealable food bag to mix the cookie crumbs and butter. Seal tightly; toss until mixed.

<http://www.landolakes.com/recipe/1548/chocolate-cauldron-cups>

Upcoming Events

Oct. 6, 2013

StateLine Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting
2:00 p.m.
201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

October 11 - 13

Detroit MI

Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry
Show

Macomb Community College
Sports & Expo Center

in Warren on Hayes Rd. between 11 1/2 & 12 Mile.

Museum and university exhibits, a replica
Tarbosaur (Chinese T-Rex), a Triceratops skull
courtesy of show sponsor Cranbrook Institute of
Science,

and the jaws of Megalodon.

Hours: Fri. 9-6, Sat 10-7, Sun. 11-5

Prices: Adults: \$8 Seniors: \$5

Children: \$4 Scouts in Uniform: \$3

October 18 - 20

Ft. Wayne IN

Three Rivers 52nd Annual
Gem, Mineral, Fossil,

Lapidary & Jewelry Show and Sale
Allen County Fairgrounds

2726 Carroll Rd.

Ft. Wayne IN 46818

Hours: Fri. 10 - 7, Sat. 10 -6, Sun. 11-5

Prices: Adults \$5, Seniors 55+ \$3,

Students \$1, Under 12 FREE w/ Paying Adult

Scouts in Uniform FREE (up to 18 yrs. old)

October 19 - 20

Clio MI

The Flint Rock and Gem Club's Annual Show

Carter Middle School

Rogers Lodge Drive

Clio, MI

Information: Ed Hern 810-687-2339 or

www.flintrockandgem.org

October 25 - 27

Mason MI

Central Michigan's 48th Annual
Gem, Mineral, Fossil,

Lapidary & Jewelry Show

"Main Arena" Ingham County Fairgrounds
700 E. Ash St.

Mason, MI

Hours Fri. 6 - 9, Sat. 10 - 7, Sun. 11 - 5

Prices: Adults: \$3, Teens: \$1

Children under 12 FREE with Paying Adult

November 2 - 3

Mid-Michigan Rock Club Annual Show
Midland Resort and Convention Center

1500 W. Wackerly St.

Midland, MI

Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 4

Adults: \$1, Youth 12 - 17 50 cents,
scouts and military in uniform & children
11 and under w/ adult, free





Rock Trails

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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

