

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 55
ISSUE X
OCTOBER 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
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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



Treasurer's Statement



The club members have been working hard to raise funds to realize some of our long dreamed of goals. We do have a nice place to meet- although a little small for when we all get together. We have machinery to teach our new members lapidary arts, a gift shop to display our members' beautiful craftsmanship, a library, an office to keep our records and store some items, and a basement full of rocks. Hopefully over the winter months we will find time to improve the organization of a few of these areas. As for now, let's take a deep breath- one more show to do- Apple-Umpkin Festival in Tecumseh, MI. This event will be held Oct 11 & 12. More information will be discussed at the meeting on Sunday, Oct. 4th.

I mentioned that club members have been working hard at the different events we have scheduled throughout the year. Such a few words come nowhere near explaining all the hard work they have done. Thank you is such a small word to express the appreciation I personally feel for all their efforts. There have been some serious health issues to deal with and yet the members are there to support the club in whatever way they are able. THANK YOU! We did good. I think we need to party.

We had several new members join this past month. Please add their contact information to your membership list.

Amber Heaps 333 West Main St Metamora OH (419) 283-5080
 amber1315@gmail.com

Heidi Storehalder 11800 Camden Rd Waldron MI 49288 (517) 286-6450
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Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer



Doris and Richard at Art-A-Licious

Secretary's Scoop

The State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting was brought to order by president Sherm Kardatzki with Richard B. giving the invocation and the pledge of allegiance followed.

Richard B. made a motion to accept last month's secretary's report and Linda M. seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report- Doris reported that she paid the clubhouse rent for September and Consumers Power bill for August. She also paid \$40.00 for member volunteer tickets at the Fulton County Fair. Doris used her own charge card to order the Mexican geodes but will have to wait until she gets the invoice to see what the exact amount would be once shipping had been added. She will then reimburse the account as authorized by the club last month. Doris also paid \$294.00 to the State of Ohio for taxes on our Ohio earnings. We have had income from the members' participation at the Lenawee County Fair and Doris reported that we had a \$630.00 donation from the Lenawee County Heritage Festival Committee.



Bill asked for a clarification about the Ohio tax payment. He understood that our club had a 501(c) 3 tax exempt status. Doris said that Ohio considers us a business and requires us to maintain an Ohio tax license for any sales in Ohio. Therefore we are subject to sales tax in Ohio. Judy asked if we should be charging tax for our sales in Ohio and Doris said that with our limited resources it is much simpler to just pay our taxes after the sale to avoid dealing with small change and the different tax percentages for different areas of Ohio.

Phyllis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report with a second from Jan H. and the motion passed with all in favor.

Doris also advised of expenses which will be due for next month, such as rent, Consumers Energy, web page, and repayment of the loan to Marilyn. She also suggested that club members should feel free to contact Sandy Cline by email and send him any photos or information on club activities to post on the club's web page (sandy@sandycline.com). Judy felt we should make Sandy and Rita honorary club members since they do so much to help the club.

Old Business- Doris had a question as to why the admission for our show had been raised. She said she missed last month's meeting but thought it was excessive to charge kids 12 and under for admission. After some discussion, Doris made a motion to officially have the general admission raised to \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors and students and free for children 12 and under. Richard B. seconded and the motion passed with all in favor. Doris also stated that we should still include the \$1.00 discount on our flyers. Discussion supported the flyer discount and the consensus of opinion seemed to be that the flyers brought in more customers.

The club had opted to participate in Art-A-Licious on September 18th and 19th. Set up will be Friday from 10:30 until finished and the show hours will be 4:00 to 8:00 pm on Friday and 10:00 am to 8 pm on Saturday. Glenda wrote down a list of various members who said they would be helping.

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Judy briefly brought up the “geode lady” from the Fulton County Fair who brought in so many geodes for us to crack for free. She wondered if it might be too much on us to do all those extra geodes. Discussion brought out that our policy of cracking geodes for people who come in was a good public relations move. Richard B. stated that the lady in question actually shared some of her geodes with the crowd that gathered and encouraged them to buy our geodes. Any time we crack geodes it draws a crowd and promotes business but it is always up to the members who are working the geode cracker to determine whether and how many outside geodes we will crack.

Doris acknowledged that we had new members and guests at the meeting. They were invited to introduce themselves and we all said hello and welcomed them to the club meeting.

Mexican Geodes – Glenda suggested that we need to replenish our Mexican geode supply. There was discussion about types and amounts including the fact that we need a new saw blade for the 10 inch saw. Ed suggested that we do an inventory of what geodes are left and then get some more. More discussion centered around that fact that we have more show coming up and would need more of the Mexican geodes anyway. Ed motioned to have the club get more geodes if we needed them. He thought the higher end ones were a good idea but thought we should drop the size down a bit to make them more affordable. Doris amended the motion to purchase the same amount as we did for the Fulton County Fair or \$1500.00 worth. Glenda amended the motion to get 100 lbs. of the same quality as previously ordered and then get 50 lbs. of the lesser quality ones. The estimate would be around \$1375.00 plus shipping charges. Judy seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Clinton Fall Festival – Set up for the festival will be Thursday morning on September 24th. The show runs from September 25th through the 27th.

Linda H. asked if any club members could donate items to the Humane Society fundraiser on October 17th. She said she would be glad to take any donations to the society so please let her know.

Linda S. asked why we were paying for carnival items instead of putting stone samples into our grab bags? She noted that we were a rock club, not a carnival. Doris said that with being a committee of one, she made that choice and had it approved by the club. She also was running out of stone samples so she only put one stone into each grab bag. Phyllis and Judy both mentioned that the kids really love the carnival items in their grab bags and it was a good PR tool. Glenda said that we are trying to get back into the educational aspect of the club, but do not have enough people to help identify specific stones. Doris asked Linda S. if she knew where the club could purchase small stones to add to the grab bags so that we could have more than just one. Linda S. suggested Donna Kuszbaugh would have suitable materials. Frank said he will start supplying the club with polished stones for the grab bags. Linda S. thought kids could make up their own grab bags, but members felt it would be too busy and hectic to keep up with. Ed felt that tumbling stones ourselves would be too expensive and labor intensive. The commercial ones are done much more efficiently and would therefore be less expensive. Doris asked for approval to reimburse the \$50.00 entry fee that Sherm paid out of his own pocket for the club to participate at the Appleumpkin festival. Doris made a motion to return \$50.00 to Sherm, seconded by Frank and passed with all in favor.

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Glenda said the Alpena trip will have to be tabled until the next meeting. She is considering the 3rd or 4th week in October.

Jan H. asked if the club had considered doing the Hillsdale fair. Frank said he thought it was not worth it. Glenda said we could look into it.

One of our new members, Brenda, mentioned a show called "New Healings" and thought our geodes would sell good there.

Richard B. noted that with more members attending meetings we were running short of folding chairs. If anyone comes across some folding chairs at yard sales he would appreciate if they would purchase them for the club.

Carl stated that the club has a lot of buckets of stones in the basement that need to be sorted and worked on, so we might want to think about a work week soon.

Glenda called for approval for the club to purchase two new saw blades (a 10 inch and 6 inch). Carl made a motion for the club to purchase the two saw blades for a total of approximately \$350.00 seconded by Bill passing with all in favor.

Richard B. made a motion to adjourn and Doris second. The motion passed with all in favor and the meeting ended.



The club booth at Art-A-Licious



Rocks As Gems

You will sometimes hear gemstones referred to idiomatically as "rocks", as in "Did you see the size of the rock on her finger?" But while gemstones and rocks both come out of the ground, gemstones are not rocks. There are, however, a few exceptions.

Most gemstones are minerals, each defined by a specific crystal structure and chemical composition. A few gem types, such as amber, pearl and coral, have an organic origin. But none of these are rocks, even the ones that are obviously stones. That's because the term rock has a special meaning in the world of mineralogy.

A rock, in mineralogical parlance, is an aggregate of two or more minerals. So a rock, unlike a mineral, need not have a specific chemical composition. Some rocks, such as limestone, are made almost entirely of one mineral (calcite in the case of limestone). Other rocks, such as granite, are more complex; granite typically contains quartz, alkali feldspar and plagioclase feldspar, as well as traces of mica.

The interesting fact about rocks and gemstones is that a few rocks have been accepted as gemstones, due to their unique color or distinctive patterns. Usually shaped as cabochons and then highly polished, these valuable rocks make very attractive jewelry and decorative objects. Here are some of the best known "gemrocks":



Lapis Lazuli

One of the oldest of all gemstone materials, lapis lazuli has been mined in Northern Afghanistan for over 6,000 years. Lapis is made up of 3 different minerals; lazurite, calcite and pyrite. Lazurite, a complex mineral containing sulfur, is the essential ingredient of lapis and gives it a vivid blue color. Calcite is calcium carbonate, a white mineral responsible for the white streaks in many specimens of lapis. Pyrite is iron sulfide, which is white-gold in color and lends lapis its distinctive glitter.



Jasper

Jasper is usually considered to be a type of chalcedony, but mineralogists place it in a special class because of its grainy structure. Finely-grained, dense jasper contains up to 20% of foreign materials that determine its color, streak and appearance. Uniform jasper is rare. It is usually multicolored, striped, spotted or flamed.



Maw-Sit-Sit

Maw-sit-sit is one of the most unusual gemstones in the world, due to its curious name and variable chemical composition. It is a recent find that was first identified in 1963 by the late Swiss gemologist, Dr. Edward Gubelin. Maw-sit-sit is considered to be a rock rather than a mineral, since it is composed of a number of different minerals, including kosmochlor (a mineral related to jadeite) and varying amounts of jadeite and albite feldspar. It is often classified as a member of the jade family but it is not really a variety of jadeite.

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Ruby-Zoisite

Also known as anyolite, ruby-zoisite (or ruby-in-zoisite) is a combination of green zoisite and pink red ruby with black streaks of hornblende. It is one of the most colorful ornamental stones found in the world. It was first discovered in 1949 at Longido in Northeast Tanzania at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Longido location is still the only source for this fascinating rock.



Obsidian

Obsidian is a type of naturally occurring glass that forms when volcanic lava cools without crystallizing. Due to its lack of crystal structure, obsidian blade edges can reach almost molecular thinness, leading to its ancient use as arrowheads, and its modern use as surgical scalpel blades. Obsidian was used in antiquity for amulets and necklaces and continues to be popular as a gemstone.



Chrysocolla

Chrysocolla is actually a mineral - hydrous copper silicate - rather than a rock, but it is often found mixed with other secondary copper minerals such as malachite, azurite and turquoise, or with quartz. These mixtures provide interesting patterns and textures, and also make the final product harder and more durable than pure chrysocolla.

<http://www.gemselect.com/other-info/rocks-as-gems.php>

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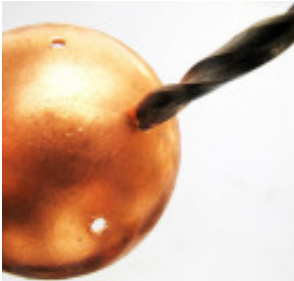
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Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

DEBURRING A HOLE



When you drill a hole, there's usually a burr produced on the underside of the metal. Typically, burrs are removed by filing or sanding the area smooth, but doing it this way will put scratches on your piece that will have to be polished off.

A quick way to remove the burr is to grab a drill that's two or three times larger than your hole. Simply twist it in the hole to cut off the burr. I usually do this twisting by hand, but if you have many holes to do, it's easier on your fingers to put the drill into a holder like a pin vice.

CLEANING STEEL SHOT

Steel shot in a vibratory or rotary tumbler works great to burnish and shine your finished silver pieces. But a common problem is how keep the shot clean. Carbon steel shot can get rusty if exposed to the air, and even stainless steel shot can sometimes develop a blackish coating that's hard to remove.

My solution of choice to clean the shot is Classic Coke. Just pour an ounce or two over the shot and let the tumbler run for an hour or so. A bad case might require a second cleaning. Some folks like to let the bubbles in the Coke dissipate before using it so that gas pressure doesn't build up in the tumbler barrel. I've heard that it's the phosphoric acid in Coke that does the trick.

While you're waiting for the shot to clean up, just settle back and enjoy the rest of the Coke.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at 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, Oct. 4, 2015

State Line Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting

2:00 p.m.

201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

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

Oct. 16-18

Fort Wayne, IN.

Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society show
Allen Co. Fairgrounds
2726 Car-roll Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN.
Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5.

Oct. 10 - 11

Tecumseh, MI

AppleUmpkin Festival

Oct. 24-25

Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Akron Mineral Society show
Emidio's & Sons Expo Center
48 E. Bath Rd.
Cuyahoga Falls
Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5





Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor
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Adrian, MI 49221

Meetings are held the
first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM
at 201 W. Main St.,
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