

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

**VOLUME 58
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OCTOBER 2018**

2018 Officers and Directors

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Second Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971
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Co-Show Chair: Glenda Gafner, (517) 451-2079
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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



The September 9, 2018 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by president Sherm at 2:00 PM. Eddie gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance. Doris made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Bill Sipes and passed with an aye vote.

Treasurer's report: Doris reported that she paid the rent and utilities, booth rent and passes for the Fulton County Fair, Convention expenses, State of Michigan Non-profit fees, and a bill submitted by Carl for batteries for some watches he donated for Kids activities. She also ordered, paid for and received the Mexican geodes the club authorized at last month's meeting. She also reimbursed Jan for grab bag items and thanked all who participated in the sewing and filling of grab bags in our work days prior to the Fulton County Fair. Doris mentioned that we earned slightly less in geode and grab bag sales this year than last year but we still did quite well in sales. Phyllis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report seconded by Jan and passed with an aye vote.

Old business: Sherm reminded us that Glenda encourages us to participate in the St. Vincent toys for tots drive coming up soon. The toys need to be new and unwrapped so that the volunteers can determine what goes where. There was some discussion asking if they also accepted cash donations and the answer was yes.

Doris stated that she still needs receipts from our scholarship recipients showing that they spent at least \$250.00 for school needs to comply with our 501(c) 3 status as a club. She also showed a print out showing last year's recipient, Hanna Mage made the dean's list at Jackson Community College.

Doris also asked Sherm if he knew if the annual audit had been completed yet as she has not heard of any results. Sherm was going to check into it.

She also related her experience at a show in Manchester, where a stranger talked to her after seeing our show flyer and said that he was taking classes from Frank (who has not renewed his club membership) and that Frank would give him the keys to the club house so that he could use the club equipment any time he wanted. The consensus of opinion was that only club members should be given access to the clubhouse. Sherm was going to get the key back from Frank.

There was some discussion about the video posted on facebook showing Eddie and Henry cracking geodes at the Fulton County Fair. Doris thanked all the volunteers and especially Eddie and Henry for the marvelous job they did selling geodes.

Further discussion revealed that October was the month for the Nominating Committee to come up with candidates for election of officers in December. Eddie and Bill Schultz volunteered to be members of the committee.

Secretary's Scoop

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Doris expressed the need to organize efforts for the Art-A-Licious festival on September 21st and 22nd in downtown Adrian. Set up could begin at 6PM on Thursday, September 20th. The hours of operation will be 4:00PM to 8:00 PM on Friday, and 10:00AM to 7:00 PM on Saturday. The Clinton Fall Festival will be held September 28, 29 and 30. Set up is Thursday morning from 9:00AM to 3:30PM. The hours of the show are 10AM- 5PM all three days. She passed around sign-up sheets so that we would have enough help on hand for set up and tear downs. Up coming events include Apple-umpkin in October. We can have more discussion at our October club meeting.

Linda S suggested we could use a program on the internet - SignUpGenius.com to schedule volunteers for different events. People could sign up on line or report if they would not be able to fulfill their commitment. It sounds very interesting and she felt it would simplify scheduling for us.

Judy thanked all who helped her with set up at the Fulton County Fair. She also noted that the club booth really looked nice especially with the LED lights Richard brought. Carl made a motion for the club to purchase the LED lights for future set ups, seconded by Linda Miller and passed with an aye vote.

Doris said that she saw the Facebook promotion Glenda paid for on line, but Glenda has not been able to obtain a receipt for the \$50.00 the ad cost her. Carl made a motion to pay Glenda the \$50.00 she spent on advertising on Facebook, seconded by Bill Sipes and passed with an aye vote.

Judy said that we needed more tall racks to make our club displays look more professional. Doris said that we should give club members the tools they need to represent the club. She made a motion to spend up to \$200.00 for new racks, seconded by Ray and passed with an aye vote. Linda Miller will check on the best prices for racks.

Doris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl and passed with an aye vote.

Happy HaLLOWeen!



Legend of the Fairy Stones

Hundreds of years before Pocahontas father, Chief Powhatan, reined over the land that is now Virginia, fairies danced and played around springs of water with naiads and wood nymphs. One day an elfin messenger arrived from a city far away and brought news of the death of Christ. When the fairies heard the story of the crucifixion, they wept and as their tears fell upon the ground, they crystallized to form beautiful crosses.

Historic superstitions held that possessing one of these rare stones would protect its owner from illness, accidents, and even warding off a witch's curse.

And so goes the legend of how these unique mineral formations came to be. In truth, they are brown staurolite, a combination of silica, iron, and aluminum. Together these minerals crystallize in twin form creating a cross-shaped formation.

They are found only in rocks that have been subject to great heat and pressure such as was found millions of years ago in the geological history of the formation of the Allegheny Mountains.



While various formations of fairy stones may be found around the world, nowhere are they more perfectly cross-shaped or abundant than in the area in and around Virginia's Fairy Stone State Park near the town of Bassett.

What are fairy stones?

Fairy Stones are Staurolite crystals (especially Staurolite pseudomorph) found in only a few places around the world. Besides Virginia, which has the most abundance of them, they can also be found in Georgia, New Mexico, Brazil, and Switzerland.

Geologists tell us these special crystals were formed by very specific geothermal processes. In this article for the DailyPress.com, Fairy Stone State Park (near Bassett, Virginia) explains:

“Originally, this stuff was formed about seven miles underground. As the mountains began to rise up, it brought the fairy stones to the surface.” She's referring to the Blue Ridge Mountains that run along Virginia's western border.

The crystals form into little tiny 'bricks' that, under pressure, twist in 60 degree or 90 degree angles, forming crosses. Technically, geologists describe it like this (in an article for Geology.com) “The mineral commonly occurs as twinned, six-sided crystals that sometimes intersect at 90 degrees to form a cross. (An intersection angle of 60 degrees is more common.)

Once above ground the action of wind and rain dissolved the softer surrounding stone called schist to reveal the precious cross-shaped minerals within.”

Fairy Stones

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Fairy Stones come in three varieties: the Roman Cross, the St. Andrew's cross, and the Maltese cross. The most rare and coveted fairy stone is the Maltese shape. You will also find quite a few single "brick" shaped fairy stones that do not intersect.

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/blog/legend-of-the-fairy-stone>



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

SPOT SANDING BRUSH

Sometimes you have a little discoloration or debris to clean from the bottom of a pocket, from an area of coarse textured surface, or from a small space between two soldered objects. Finding something to get into those close areas is always an effort in creativity.

One tool I have for these special occasions is a glass fiber spot sanding brush. It's great for cleaning a small area and doesn't leave deep scratches, only a faint satin finish.

There are probably several manufacturers of these pens, but one is the PrepPen Adjustable Sanding Pen selling for US\$ 10.95 from Amazon. You can see it at <http://www.amazon.com/Prep-Pen-PrepPen-Adjustable-Sanding/dp/B000J18RT6/>



SILVER SOLDER FROM SCRAP

Sometimes you need a lot of silver solder to complete a piece the way you want it to be. For me it was when I was trying to join several castings. But silver solder is expensive, so I found a way to make my own from scrap with a little help from a penny.

First step is finding out what's in a solder. A search through the reference books (Tim McCreight or Erhard Brepohl) or a Google search will turn up recipes like:

- * Hard - AG 80% CU 13% ZN 7%
- * Medium - AG 70% CU 20% ZN 5%
- * Easy - AG 63% CU 30% ZN 7%

The silver (AG) and the copper (CU) are easy to come by, but finding some zinc (ZN) has always been my problem until I found out that our pennies are almost all zinc. According to Wikipedia a US

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Bench Tips

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penny minted after 1982 weighs 2.5 grams and is 97.5% ZN and 2.5% CU. So all I had to do is add a penny to some copper and a pile of silver scrap.

I chose to use Sterling scrap so I adjusted for the amount of copper in it as well as the amount of copper from the penny. Here's what I used for components of Medium solder:

- * Sterling - 36.90 grams
- * Copper - 9.35
- * Penny - 2.50

Melt the silver and copper first in a melting dish, mix well with a carbon rod or titanium solder pick, add the zinc (penny) last, mix again, and pour into a small mold. The zinc is added last because melting it causes some to vaporize, and the fumes are a safety problem (They're a gray-green color). Be sure to have good ventilation.

To check the solder's melting temperature is correct (medium), I put a sample of the homemade solder on a piece of copper sheet along with a known sample of hard, medium and easy solders. I then heated the plate from the bottom and watched as the easy first melted, the medium melted, the homemade melted, and finally the hard.

Additional notes on converting the ingot to sheet, strip or wire form - If you have access to a rolling mill, that will be the fastest way to proceed. Either roll out the ingot into a sheet and cut strips or roll it out as wire if your mill has the grooves. If you don't have a mill, all you have to do is forge out the ingot into a rough sheet of the gauge you'd like and then cut thin strips with bench shears. Be sure to anneal the sheet every so often as you forge it.



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

Lit'l Smokies® Mummy Dogs

30 min 8 servings 246 cal



Ingredients:

32 Hillshire Farm Lit'l Smokies®

1 (8 ounce) can refrigerated crescent dough rolls

Mustard or ketchup, if desired

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Unroll dough, separate at perforations, creating 4 rectangles. Press perforations to seal.

With a knife or pizza cutter cut each rectangle lengthwise into 8 strips making a total of 32 strips.

Wrap one strip of dough around each Lit'l Smokies(R) stretching dough slightly to look like bandages, leaving tip exposed to create face. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 12 to 14 minutes or until golden brown. Draw features on tip of Lit'l Smokies(R) to create face.

Serve with mustard or ketchup, if desired.

Nutrition Facts:

Per Serving: 246 calories; 18 g fat; 12.6 g carbohydrates; 6.8 g protein; 24 mg cholesterol; 587 mg sodium.

[https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/204341/litl-smokies-mummy-dogs/
?internalSource=hub%20recipe&referringContentType=Search&clickId=cardslot%201](https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/204341/litl-smokies-mummy-dogs/?internalSource=hub%20recipe&referringContentType=Search&clickId=cardslot%201)

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Sept 9, 2018

State Line Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting

2:00 p.m.

201 W. Main St.

Morenci, MI 49256

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

