

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 59
ISSUE X
OCTOBER 2019

2019 Officers and Directors

President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487
Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310
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Second Year Director: Curt Miller, (419) 923-2090
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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 8, 2019 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by president Sherm at 2:03 PM. Richard Brzezicki 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 Linda Miller. The motion passed with all in favor.



Treasurer's report – Doris paid the rent, utilities and fair tickets for volunteers at the Fulton County Fair. She also reimbursed Jan for grab bag ingredients and ordered Mexican geodes. Doris reported that her phone was set up with the Square App so that club purchases would go directly into the club's bank account. She encouraged any members with a "smart phone" to see Richard to get the Square App downloaded on their phone with the club's account number. That would allow credit card sales at events where Richard and Doris were not available. Jan made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Henry. The motion passed with all in favor.

Our newest members were recognized and every club member at the meeting introduced him/her self. Welcome to Willy, Yolanda, Ricky, Jim, Mary, Ruby, Tom and Meg.

Sherm thanked all the volunteers who worked at the Fulton County Fair. It is the hard work and dedication of the members that allow our club to continue its mission of furthering interest in the lapidary arts and the science of geology.

Old business – Doris stated that she needs receipts from our scholarship recipient to verify the funds were spent on school supplies/needs. These receipts are required to keep a record of our scholarship donations and maintain our 501 (c) 3 tax exempt status.

Sherm sought volunteers to help set up at the Art-A-Licious on Thursday September 19th. Loading will start at 5 PM at the clubhouse and we expect to be in Adrian at 6 PM to set up the tents and our booths at the festival. The festival hours will be Friday September 20th from 4 to 8 PM and Saturday September 21st from 10 AM to 7 PM. Bill Schultz, Richard B. and Willy B. all plan to be available to help with set up. Judy and Linda M. plan to coordinate set up activities. The three main areas that will need attention at Art-A-Licious will be geode cracking with help from Bill Schultz, Linda and Curt Miller, Willie and Ricky Beltran and anyone else who shows up. Member sales will be covered by Judy and Richard Snyder and Phyllis Sipes. The Kids activities will be covered by anyone not otherwise occupied.

Secretary's Scoop

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The Clinton Fall Festival will be Friday September 27th from 9 AM to 6 PM, Saturday September 28th from 9 AM to 6 PM and Sunday September 29th from 9 AM to 5 PM. Volunteers include Judy and Richard Snyder, Phyllis and Bill Sipes, Bill Schultz, Henry Porter and Linda Miller. The plan was to save everything from the Art-A-Licious festival at Judy's house and have volunteers meet at Judy's house at 9 AM then set up in Clinton by 10 AM.

The Appleumpkin Festival in Tecumseh will be Saturday October 12th from 9 AM to 6 PM and Sunday October 13th from 10 AM to 5 PM. More details can be obtained at the October club meeting.

New business – Bill Schultz made a motion for the club to obtain a white board to post at the clubhouse so that everyone would have access to information about different show set ups before meetings. Linda M. seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote. Linda said that she might have a white board in her barn and she would check. Glenda said she may also have one in her barn if Linda doesn't.

Doris reminded us that October is the month when the nominating committee selects a slate of potential club officers. She also pointed out that November is typically our club silent auction where many wonderful specimens can be purchased through friendly bidding.

Doris reported that she spoke with Audrey Lehman, whose mom was a club member many years ago, and who brought some rough rocks to donate for our silent auction. We are grateful for donations from past club members. George Pouche who was one of our founding members was also remembered.

Linda Miller mentioned that she is going to Arkansas to look for quartz crystals around the Hot Springs area from October 27th to 31st. Doris said she found some reasonable motels on line at booking.com. Anyone who would like to join in the fun should make their own reservations.

Henry made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Schultz. The motion passed with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Please add our new members to your list of members:

Ricky Beltran	9243 Co Rd 16	Wauseon, OH 43567	(567) 454-7933	RickyBeltran@gmail.com
Willy & Yolanda Beltran	9243 Co Rd 16	Wauseon, OH 43567	(567) 454-7933	WillieBeltran1957@gmail.com
Mary Kaysier	415 S Evans	Tecumseh MI 49286	(808) 443-9863	1phs70@yahoo.com
Ruby Ezines	11205 Shepherd	Onsted MI 49265		rubydoo34@yahoo.com
Tom & Meg Barnhizer	5060 Arbor Way	Sylvania OH 43560	(419) 885-0848	superscouts@bex.net

Hell Will Freeze Over Before We Agree on the World's Hottest Place

by Dan Nosowitz May 27, 2015

Much like the question of where the geographic center of the United States is, the specific point on Earth that reigns as the planet's hottest turns out to be a very complex, loaded question.

For one thing, "hottest" isn't as empirical as it sounds: do we mean the place that reaches the highest temperature? The place with the highest average temperature? Or do we factor in humidity to come up with a place that is the most unpleasant for humans, climate-wise? And where are we getting this data from? Is it even reliable?

Every one of those questions has an answer, and every one of those answers can be argued, although the answer is probably not going to be "my apartment in July" unless you live in one of the world's most remote places. Instead of trying to crown an individual hottest place, we investigated all of the viable contenders.



Settlement in the Lut Desert, Iran

The highest temperature ever recorded was in the Lut Desert, in southeastern Iran, in 2005. But even that is sort of open to interpretation. For one thing, there are no weather stations in the Lut Desert, because why would there be? It is a horrible scorching salt desert. That means that the temperatures were noted with satellites, which have their limitations. They measure what's called "land skin temperature," basically the temperature on the Earth's surface, instead of the air.

Typical weather stations measure the temperature of the air a few feet above the surface, because it's slightly more stable than the ground itself. The temperature of the ground is dependent on factors like color, texture, and windiness. Even the consistency of the surface makes a difference, whether it consists of large rocks or small pebbles or fine sand, or if it has shifted recently. Still, in 2005, satellites recorded the ground temperature in the Lut Desert at 159.3 degrees Fahrenheit.

That shocking temperature pales in comparison with one recorded in 1972, in a part of Death Valley, California known as Furnace Creek. The area experienced the single highest ground temperature of all time: 201 degrees Fahrenheit. However, that's not really considered indicative of the weather there; the Lut Desert measurement was an average over a large geographic area, not an exercise in finding say, the hottest rock, which is basically what happened in Furnace Creek.



Death Valley

Hell Will Freeze Over

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Most sources will tell you that the hottest inhabited place on Earth is Dallol, an Ethiopian settlement in the Danakil Desert, which stretches across three countries in the Horn of Africa. It is, according to all accounts, pretty much hell. Many active volcanoes spurt molten rock without warning. The ground is made up of unearthly colors, yellows and reds and oranges and greens that bring to mind the planet Venus. It is extremely difficult to get to; an excellent Gadling article explains that you need to bring two jeeps (in case one melts) and an armed guard, because the Afar people, who mine salt from the desert, have been known to pose a hazard to visitors, according to the Ethiopian government.

Dallol has the highest average annual temperature of any place on Earth, at 94 degrees Fahrenheit, but to call it a “town” is sort of misleading. At one point there were salt-mining operations there, but it’s now considered a ghost town, visited only by the Afar and the occasional extreme traveler.

For obvious reasons, most inhabited places have more reasonable climates. If we bump our requirements up to the hottest place on Earth with a population of more than 100,000, that, according to Christopher C. Burt of Weather Underground, is Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The holy pilgrimage site, which sees around two million visitors each year, has an average annual temperature of 87.3 degrees Fahrenheit.

Since Mecca is a desert city, it’s a dry heat, so the next contender might feel even hotter thanks to its humidity. The award for the most sweltering major city goes to Bangkok, Thailand, which has over six million residents and an annual average temperature of 86.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Of course, that seems downright cool when compared to temperatures in Death Valley and the Danakil Desert.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/hottest-place-on-the-planet>



Salt formations in Dallol, Ethiopia

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. They're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting sheet metal and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.



TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining.
But

inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Continued on page 7

Brad's Tips

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Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

- . Fine silver Red/Orange
- . Sterling silver Brick Red
- . 80% silver 20% copper . Dark red changing to gray
- . Brass Yellow changing to blue
- . Nickel Gray-green
- . Copper Yellow changing to blue
- . Steel Black
- . Stainless Steel No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.

Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you're done.



Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



"I've changed my mind, Edgar go ahead and buy the facet cutter!"



Upcoming Events



Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019
State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting
201 W. Main St.,
Morenci, MI 49256

Oct. 11-13:
WARREN, MI

Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Show.
Fri 9 am - 6 pm; Sat 10 am - 7 pm;
Sun 11 am - 5 pm.
Macomb Sports & Expo Center,
Bldg P, 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd.,
Warren.

Oct 12 - 14
Appleumpkin Festival
Tecumseh, MI
Set up Oct 11

Oct. 18-20:
FORT WAYNE, IN
Three Rivers Gem &
Mineral Society Annual Show.
Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm;
Sun 10 am - 5 pm
Allen County Fairgrounds
2726 Carroll Rd.
Fort Wayne.

Oct. 18-20:
MASON, MI
Central Michigan Lapidary &
Mineral Society Annual Show.
Fri 6 - 9 pm; Sat 10 am - 6 pm;
Sun 11 am - 5 pm.
Ingham County Fairgrounds
Main Arena
700 Ash St.,
Mason

Oct. 19-20:
CLIO, MI

Flint Rock & Gem Club Annual Show.
Sat & Sun 10 am - 5 pm.
Carter Middle School
Rogers Lodge Dr.,
Clio.

Nov. 2-3:
MIDLAND, MI
Mid Michigan Rock Club Annual Show.
10 am - 5 pm.
Chippewa Nature Center
400 S. Badour Rd.,
Midland.

Nov.11:
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI
Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Auction.
Cranbrook Institute of Science,
39221 Woodward Ave,
Bloomfield Hills

Ongoing -
Richard Brzezicki is at the clubhouse on
Thursdays 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm. It is best to check
with him first before you go. Cell (269) 267-7666

Wire Wrapping Sessions at Hobby Lobby in
Adrian on Fridays 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.
Linda Miller (419) 923-2090 and
Judy Snyder (517) 902-3990
(check to verify there will be someone there)



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Adrian, MI 49221

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first Sunday of each month
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Morenci, MI 49256

