

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 53
ISSUE XI
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

2013 Officers and Directors

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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



Captain's Log

Sweet and Not Too Sour

The December meeting will feature our annual cookie exchange. Be sure to bring cookies or other holiday treats to share. This should sweeten the club's business of the day including the election of officers for 2014. Be sure to bring your latest work to share as well.



We have a lot of machines that are out of service. Some of them are at my shop requiring parts and improvements. Our north room at the Clubhouse has a few as well. The club can decide what to do with these. As usual, manpower to put them back into order is lacking. Maybe some members would like some of these machines for their own studios. Since our treasury is in better shape, we can consider improving our equipment needs.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best regards,

Eddie



The Treasurer's Addition



This will be a combined report for October and November. I had the best intentions of sending my October report in, however was unexpectedly hospitalized and time passed. November is the month of Thanksgiving. I have much to be thankful for with Richard at the top of the list. State Line Gem & Mineral Society and it's members are also on my thank you list. As the year draws to a close we need to look at our plans for the next year. I prepare a budget outlining our anticipated income and expenses. Because we have a few more funds to work with this year we should consider carefully how to use them in accordance with our mission statement. This year's budget included expenses of mortgage payments and taxes that were not appropriate as we are no longer purchasing property. It did not include a line item for Scholarship funds, but I know that this is something club members would like to see included in next year's budget. The club will need someone to be in charge of researching a candidate for these funds. Actually the club needs everyone to look at possibilities that interest them within the club and step forward. It really won't be that hard and I have complete confidence that YOU can do it.

It was great to have so many members attend the field trip to collect geodes in Southern Indiana. We all had a wonderful time and met some very generous members of the Shoals Rock Club that meets in Bedford. Henry thought he had about 900 pounds of geodes in his truck. I am not certain how many geodes were brought back in Glenda & Dave's van or JoAnn & Kelly's car, but I think we are in excellent shape for cracking geodes next year.

Dues for 2014 are now due. They are \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family. Several members paid at the last meeting and we have had some new members join as well. Please welcome:

George Walter	1298 Laberde Rd, Adrian, MI 49221 comstock.lode.1859@gmail.com	(517) 215-8582
Tim, Kellie & Conner Spangler	15899 Co Rd 14, Lyons, OH 43533 dragonsfire@fulton-net.com	(419) 452-6151
Sherman, Sam and Sidney Kardatzke	438 Beachwood Dr., Adrian, MI 49221 sakardatzke@mcom.com	(517) 673-5487

Also Jo-Ann and Kelly Cleveland have a new e-mail address:
KellyCleveland@YourStateBank.com

Our December meeting will be fun with a cookie exchange. We will be voting for our 2014 officers and discussing club plans for the upcoming years. Think about what you would like to see happen within the club in the future and bring your ideas for discussion.

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer



The Secretary's Notes

October 2013 meeting:

The State Line Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting came to order at 2:10 P.M. with Vice-President Cletus giving the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Treasurer's Report: The facility rent and electricity have been paid for October. Richard made a motion to have the club reimburse Doris for the items she purchased to go into the club's grab bags. Judy seconded and the motion passed with all in favor. Discussion revealed that club members wanted to start paying Marilyn back for the interest-free loan she had made to the club when we were trying to purchase the previous facility. Cletus suggested that a \$1,000.00 installment would be a good start in paying off the loan. Henry made a motion to pay Marilyn \$1000.00 as a partial repayment for the loan, seconded by Richard. The motion passed with all in favor.



Field Trip Information: Doris has been gathering information regarding a field trip. She has tried contacting Dale Fordyce who has helped us in the past. She has not heard back from him so she telephoned the local club in Indiana and spoke with Wanda who was very helpful in suggesting one of her club members who could take us to a good geode collecting site. The property owner was also a club member, so we would have her permission to collect. Doris and Richard will go early to scout out the locations. Cletus feels there should be a field trip committee. Frank expressed interest in helping, but not heading it. Doris said it is not a difficult thing to do. Anyone with a computer and internet access can look up information and call people about potential sites. Doris looked up some motels and mentioned them to the group. Doris said most locations are generally easy to get to. Some fossils may also be found. Doris had a field trip sign up sheet passed around so that we would know how many members were going on the trip.

There have been two different benefactors who made donations of rocks and/or equipment to the club recently. Cletus suggested that the secretary write up some thank you notes to mail out to the donors.

Show Information: Judy made a motion to use "Discovering our Legacy" as our 2014 show title, seconded by Richard. The motion passed with all in favor.

Cletus has located a new person for making name tags for the club. He was unsure of the pricing at this time, but agreed to get the information for club approval. We may consider ordering 20 to 25 to start. Doris showed a T-shirt with the club logo embroidered on the front. She had it done by a local business just three doors away from our clubhouse. The T's would cost \$10.00 each and they also have shirts with collars or other items such as hats at different prices.

Judy asked if we could get a banner made but Doris thought Eddie already had one made and it may be with the silent auction items. Doris said we may want to consider fitted table covers for future uses and have a more professional look for our tables at the show.

The Secretary's Notes

continued

Equipment/Clubhouse: Some club members have been trying to de-clutter the working spaces at the clubhouse. We may want to consider acquiring other machines, similar to the Genie so more members could work on cabochoons at the same time. Frank said he could work on some machines, mainly to sharpen blades.

Doris noted that we need a nominating committee to elect officers for the coming year. Typically we have one person who has served on the committee in the past and 2 other members to serve on the committee. Cletus asked for volunteers and Richard stated he had been on such a committee in the past. Kelly and Henry "volunteered" to help Richard on the nominating committee.

Cletus asked for clarification of what fund raisers we have scheduled for 2014. Doris outlined the following: Jackson Show – Heritage Festival – Our June Gem Show – Fulton County Fair – Art-a-licious – Hidden Lake Gardens

Some additional suggestions are: Clinton Fall Festival and the Appleumpkin Festival. The Morenci Church Sale is in December. It would be nice to have the club's gift shop open for that event. Frank also suggested the Town and Country Days in Morenci which is usually in June.

Our rental contract is coming up soon. Doris will be negotiating with our landlord about the rent and the possibility of getting a larger front window so that we would look more like a gift shop from the street. The snow removal should be taken care of by the landlord also. Glenda mentioned there is another space on the ground floor that would be good for club meetings when we get more active members.

Richard received an e-mail from Sandy Gerhart. She bought a new printer and needs help taking out the old one. Judy suggested her grandson could help and can take it to good will. Judy said she will e-mail Sandy to make arrangements.

Richard made a motion to adjourn and Frank seconded. The meeting was adjourned with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Baier-Hay



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

MARKING YOUR TOOLS

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.

But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.



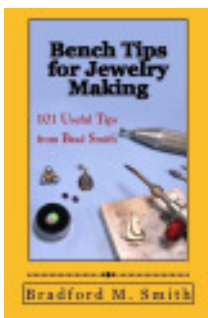
I formed my initials from a couple 4mm strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.

If you find these monthly tips useful, then think how nice it'd be to have the full bench tips reference guide for your shop or as a present for a jewelry friend. Between now and Thanksgiving I'm offering a Holiday Special that includes a free bonus pack of jewelry articles with every copy purchased.

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" contains 101 of the most popular and useful bench tips organized into ten main problem areas. It's filled with close-up photos and has a detailed index to help find the solution you need by key word.

Get your copy by going directly to my printer at <http://CreateSpace.com/3976439>

Upon ordering the book, you will receive a confirmation email. This is your proof of purchase. Forward a copy of this to me at <benchtips@yahoo.com> to receive your free bonus pack.



The articles include:

1. Cuttlebone Casting - Get wonderful textures quickly and easily
2. Bezel Basics - Hints for making a perfect bezel every time
3. Make Your Own Wax Pen - You'll love this \$20 electric wax tool
4. Depletion Gilding - An easy way to avoid tarnish on your pieces
5. Setting Up A Home Shop - Tool tips and safety considerations
6. Building a Jewelry Web Site - Develop a plan to save money

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

Adventures of a Rockhound

It had been several years since I last went out looking for geodes until October 11, 2013, when Henry drove me to Bedford, Indiana. Our mission was to find suitable geode collecting sites where additional club members could descend on the unsuspecting geodes like hoards of locust – wait.... I mean like kind benevolent individuals who are willing to take the geodes out of the cold Indiana creeks and bring them to Michigan to show off to friends and neighbors.

Henry was a bit skeptical about just how many geodes we would find as he had never been on such an adventure. However, he was willing to give me the benefit of the doubt when I told him there would be more geodes than he could carry. We arrived at the motel around lunch time, so I suggested we eat lunch before we start to look for geodes. I was sure we would need the sustenance once we found a likely spot. We drove down country roads looking for streams or creeks and trying to spot the round rocks lining the banks. Some of the banks were extremely steep and I knew some of our weaker members (like myself) might not be able to climb back up once we got down. We drove and drove until I finally recognized a road from our last trip for geodes. I directed Henry to Tony's house and we stopped and chatted with Tony for a while. He still remembered me from last time and we caught up on local happenings. Tony said we could come pick geodes in his back yard creek any time we wanted, so we said good bye and headed off to look for more possible collecting sites. At lunch, I had asked a local gentleman if he knew where we might collect some of those "round rocks" that have crystals in them. He said "Oh, you mean geodes?" I said yes. He said they were close by and gave me directions. Henry and I found the site and decided it would also be an acceptable site for collecting. Just to make sure, I brought a couple of empty kitty litter buckets and we filled them up. Of course, a kitty litter bucket filled with geodes weighs more than kitty litter, so we shared the load and carried the one bucket together. We then continued our search for other sites until it started getting dark. Then we headed back to the motel to wait for the rest of the members. The next morning we all met at the Golden Corral Restaurant for breakfast. After a wonderful meal, we headed out to another site where we were going to ask permission to collect, and got permission, but then we got a phone call from Louise, who said she was ready to take us to a really nice collecting site at the home of another of the local rock club members whose name was Denise. So we followed Louise's directions and found her at the intersection she mentioned and followed her to a nice creek filled with geodes. Our caravan included Henry in his truck, Dave, Glenda, Isaac, Emma and Doris in their van, and Kelley and Jo-Ann in their car. Everyone seemed very happy to be filling buckets of geodes and setting them at the side of the water so the younger men could carry them up to Henry's truck and Dave and Glenda's van. Denise came out to meet us and walked in the creek with us and chatted while we picked up geodes. After we had pretty much filled Henry's truck with geodes, Denise asked if we would like to come up to her house to see her garden and some of us took her up on the offer. She showed us some of her prize garden rocks and special geodes. She also shared some special rocks with us. She is such a nice lady. Henry expressed his opinion and everyone agreed that we should do something nice for both of the ladies who showed us so much hospitality. We had lunch at a snack shop not far from our collecting site and treated Louise to her lunch. After lunch, I wanted to go back to Tony's house because he had some wonderful hickory nut trees in his back yard and they had lots of nuts which had fallen to the ground. We all went there and picked up hickory nuts. Then it was time to head for home with smiles on our faces.

Submitted by Richard Brzezicki

Photos on next page!



This is a photo of the group having breakfast



Here is a photo of Kelly, Jo-Ann and Dave.



Mineral Properties Radioactivity

Radioactivity is an attribute of minerals that contain radioactive elements. Radioactive elements are elements that contain disintegrating nuclei, emitting alpha rays, beta rays, and gamma rays. Uranium and thorium are the best known radioactive elements. Minerals that contain these elements in their chemical structure will be radioactive.

Radioactive minerals are unstable, meaning the elements in their structure continually break down. This destroys the mineral's crystal lattice, causing it lose its crystal shape. When this happens, its crystal edges become rounded, and the mineral eventually becomes amorphous. During this process, it also becomes opaque and develops a pitchy luster. Minerals that have gone through this breakdown process are known as metamict. This process is very slow, and one need not worry about a crystallized radioactive mineral breaking down in his lifetime.

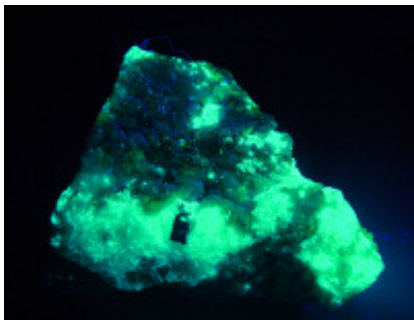
Radioactive minerals can be identified with special instruments that detect radiation. The device used to measure this is the Geiger counter. Electric charges develop in a Geiger counter when it is placed near radioactive material; this can measure the presence and intensity of radiation. Geiger counters are normally used by scientists and specialists, but collectors may also obtain inexpensive Geiger counters.



Radioactive minerals are often similar in appearance, and it may be difficult to distinguish them without x-ray analysis. There are, generally speaking, two appearances of radioactive minerals:

Those that are bright neon yellow or green.

Those with the typical metamict appearance: opaque and dull with a pitchy luster and rounded crystal edges (or amorphous).



Radioactive minerals emit various forms of radiation, including harmful gamma rays. Many collectors avoid radioactive minerals because of their hazards, but if proper safeguards and precautions are followed, the dangers are minimized and even amateur collectors can collect without concern.

Some guidelines for radioactive minerals:

Do not collect specimens larger than 2 inches (about 4 cm), unless they will be properly shielded with special x-ray shielding.

Handle specimens as little as possible; if they are touched wash hands

with soap.

Never store specimens, even the smallest of size, in an inhabited room.

Keep all specimens out of children's reach.

Never eat, drink, smoke, or sleep near a radioactive mineral.

Label all radioactive specimens as radioactive.

Some mineral collectors specialize in radioactive minerals. They are very careful and take all necessary precautions. It is best not to collect radioactive minerals unless one is fully knowledgeable about these facts and obeys them.

<http://www.minerals.net/resource/property/radioact.aspx>



Rock Trails

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first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM
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