

# ROCK TRAILS



## Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 55  
ISSUE XII  
DECEMBER 2015

### 2015 Officers and Directors

President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 451-2079  
Secretary: Patricia Baier-Hay, 517 263-8585  
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 517 263-1669  
Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
First Year Director: Carl Mulholland, 734 428-1009  
Second Year Director: Kelly Cleveland, 419 882-8515  
Third Year Director: Charles Swanson, 517 759-0337  
Show Chairman: Doris Brzezicki, 517 263-1669  
Publicity: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000  
Sunshine: Catherine Choske, 517 423-3572  
Education & Lapidary:  
Frank Karmic 517 458-7191  
Richard 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

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## President's Tidings



Boy, time does slip away! Another month has gone by.

I hear that there has been quite a bit of action at the club house. Frank is doing some training on the grinder and Judy and Carl are doing some wire wrapping classes. The rumor going around is there was too much fun being had; laughing and a lot of giggling from a couple of our members! Way too much fun! Keep it up, that's what makes a great get together.

On another note, this is the month for the cookie exchange and the voting of officers. This meeting I would like to set up a date for a get-together at one of our many restaurants, so think about this and we can discuss it at the meeting (time, date and place).

This will be out after Thanksgiving and I hope everyone had a nice turkey day and hope you didn't eat too much of those yummy goodies.

Sherm

## Treasurer's Statement

Dues are now payable for 2016. Many members have paid at the meetings, and that is great. You can also mail me a check made out to State Line Gem & Mineral Society.

My address is

Doris Brzezicki, 419 N Broad St, Adrian, MI 49221.

If I do not hear from you by February, I will contact you to let you know your status. If you do not pay your dues by March 15, you will be considered delinquent, you will not be included in the membership list, and will no longer receive the newsletter. If you have questions, you can telephone me at (517) 263-1669 or e-mail me at [rychard@tc3net.com](mailto:rychard@tc3net.com).



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 which I will present at the January meeting.



Our December meeting will be fun with a cookie exchange. We will be voting for our 2016 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

## Secretary's Scoop

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, president Sherm Kardatzky brought the State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting to order with Richard B. giving the invocation. The pledge of allegiance followed.

Introductions were done around the room including the newbies; Dave and Pat, Nancy and Karen.

Richard B. made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in last month's newsletter and Phyllis seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.



Treasurer's report – Doris noted income and deposits from the AppleUmpkin Festival. She paid the utilities, rent and the Netcom website for the club. Projected expenses include rent, federation dues, and heat to make sure water pipes don't freeze in the winter. Sherm noted that he expected the dealers to start sending in donations for the show. Phyllis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jan H. and it passed with all in favor.

Frank asked to have the correct information about his lapidary classes put on the web site. He felt that the information was not accurate.

Old Business – Glenda reported that the Alpena trip was cancelled for this year and hopefully will be rescheduled some time in 2016. Sherm reported that he had not had a chance to look into a trip to Kentucky to collect geodes. Doris suggested that checking on line with Bob's Rocks for rock clubs in the area to see if there would be someone available to help us. Judy mentioned that the source she has said they look for arrowheads but there are geodes in the same area. Jan H. thought we should still consider participating at the Hillsdale county fair. Discussion revealed that we have another show at the same time.

Richard B. stated he was planning on building some shelving units for the work area so that we would have accessible places to store the member's rocks and cabs. Glenda had already procured some plastic show boxes but there was really no place to put them where they could be easily accessed.

Doris suggested that if we are done with shows for a while ('till spring and the Fairy Festival in Jackson), some unneeded items could be taken downstairs to make more room upstairs. Phyllis and Judy agreed that we should also have some work days. Our lion is in dire need of some TLC. Discussion included a marble or wooden base, and Bill mentioned that he noticed a child pulling whiskers off our lion at one of the shows. Emma thought lion roaring sounds would be fun, but it seems that was tried and it tended to scare many of the kids too much.

Doris asked if members would consider coming down on this Thursday for work days from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Judy said we now have enough of a supply of specimens to put 2 to 3 in each grab bag.

New Business – Sherm reported that the new saw blade for the 10 inch saw was not working as well as expected. Richard B. noted that some time ago when he was researching saw blades, he found that different blades are used for different hardness of stones. Discussion supported the suggestion that we have two saws, one for hard and one for softer stones. Sherm said he would have to talk to Frank about that.

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Glenda asked Judy about the wire wrapping classes. Judy thought perhaps Sunday afternoons but week days could be arranged. Carl asked about class sizes and suggested around seven-ish. The consensus of opinion was that cabochons would be best to start with and other supplies could be purchased at Hobby Lobby, Michaels or Crafts 1000 (now known as Pat Catan's).

Doris asked about the gift shop being open but when the response was low, she felt that maybe everyone may be too tapped out from the Fall fund raisers. Judy asked members to donate cabochons to make up for member jewelry items to sell to enhance club funds. Phyllis also mentioned it would be helpful to advertise if and when we do open the shop. Discussion revealed that the cost of ads in local newspapers would probably outweigh the possible sales potential. Judy thanked Ed for some stones he gave to the club for members to use any way they wanted.

Sherm noted that it was time for officer nominations for next year. At this time, I asked to step down as secretary due to family responsibilities and asked if there was anyone interested in taking over my position as secretary. Heidi volunteered to be secretary and said she would give it a try (Thank you Heidi). Judy asked about a possible co-treasurer for Doris as she felt pressures building on Doris' duties. Discussion suggested perhaps Judy or Linda Hutchinson could be co-treasurer but nothing was finalized. Doris also stated that she felt her written reports in the newsletter were just repeats of the president's reports so she will not be submitting written reports for the newsletter any more.

Sherm called for nominations of officers and the results were as follows:

President – Sherm Kardatzky

Vice President – Glenda Gafner

Secretary – Heidi Storehalter

Treasurer – Doris Brzezicki

Board of Directors

First year - Jan Hauter

Second year - Carl Mulholland

Third year - Frank Kramic, Jan Hauter



Voting for officers will be at the December meeting. Glenda made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Phyllis and with all in favor the meeting ended. Bill related a story about his rock in his yard for years being stolen.

New member's information is as follows:

Name	Address	Phone	Email
Karin Taylor	PO Box 1180, Belleville MI. 48112	(734) 652-3545	<a href="mailto:ktaylor2550@yahoo.com">ktaylor2550@yahoo.com</a>
Nancy Clarke	10380 Smith Rd., Britton MI. 49339	(734) 223-6656	<a href="mailto:nclarke97@hotmail.com">nclarke97@hotmail.com</a>

Please welcome our new members and add them to your member list.

## *A Diversity of U.S. Gemstones*

A surprising diversity of gemstones are produced within the United States. Did you know that Montana is the home of world-famous sapphire localities, and that emeralds, rubies, and sapphires are all found in North Carolina? Have you ever seen an "Oregon sunstone" that flashes with a copper aventurescence or a cultured freshwater pearl with a golden luster produced in Tennessee? These are just a few of the unique gemstones produced in the United States.

The United States Geological Survey reports that notable quantities of gem-quality beryl, coral, garnet, feldspar, opal, quartz, sapphire, ruby, shell, pearls, peridot, topaz, tourmaline, turquoise, and other gem materials are currently produced in the United States.

Ten states with a long history and nice diversity of gemstone production include: Arizona, North Carolina, Oregon, California, Utah, Tennessee, Montana, Colorado, Arkansas, and Idaho.



### **Small Mines and Recreational Miners**

Although the United States produces a diversity of gemstone varieties, the quantity produced is very small. In calendar year 2011 the total gemstone production of the United States was only \$11 million. That amount is very very small compared to the \$23.5 billion in gemstones that were imported. The United States has greater than a 99.9 percent dependence on foreign gemstone supplies.

Most of the gemstone production in the United States comes from very small mines with just two or three employees who are often part-time or seasonal workers. Very few of the mines have more than a dozen employees and operate during all four seasons of the year. In 2011 only about 1000 to 1200 people in the United States worked in the gemstone mining industry.

**Did You Know?** If you attend the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (held every February) you can purchase rough or cut stones from most of the important gemstone mines in the United States - and often purchase directly from the person who did the mining. Don't be afraid to ask - they usually enjoy telling you all about their operation. Sometimes the same person mines, cuts and markets the stones!

Much of the gemstone mining in the United States is done by rockhounds (amateurs who search for rocks, minerals, gemstones and fossils as a hobby). Many of them do their rockhounding on public land (areas owned by the government where individuals can collect if they observe the rules). Others go to fee mining sites. These are proven gemstone deposits where visitors can pay a fee, look for gemstones, and keep any that they find.

### **Why Is Production So Low?**

Some of the gemstone deposits in the United States have been associated with major metal deposits which are much more valuable. The gemstone deposits, which are generally very slow to mine, were removed because the disruption that they cause is more costly than the value of the gem materials.

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Other gemstone deposits are not operated because they are extremely labor intensive. They would be mined in countries where labor rates are very low - but they can not be operated at a profit at United States labor rates. Other deposits are not mined because environmental or safety concerns make mining unattractive.

### Patronage for Domestic Gemstones



Many people really enjoy gemstones produced from domestic deposits. Some mineral collectors favor certain localities and some gemstone buyers (especially tourists) have a strong desire to purchase a “Montana Sapphire” or an “Oregon Sunstone” when they visit those states. This patronage strongly supports the price of stones from certain localities - far above the price of similar-size, similar-quality stones from anywhere else in the world. This patronage also supports a small domestic lapidary industry.

Many people who visit Arizona want to bring home a piece of petrified wood and many people who visit upstate New York want to find a “Herkimer Diamond.” There is even one location in Arkansas, Crater of Diamonds, where anyone can become a diamond miner by paying a small fee. These are fun activities, many people enjoy them, and they support the small gemstone industry of the United States.

<http://geology.com/gemstones/states/>



## Word Search

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.  
Solution on page 9.

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T J Y T I L A U Q D T K Q N D S Q
D D Y G P D T K W D E F L L D E V
O N L M Y J E E N S E T G X J N T
M O M M N R R I D Y G P R M T I J
E M V G N I T N F E J N O O R M L
S A W F H B U M O I G P P S P T Q
T I N P D O M L J L R M G E I M K
I D P V H I O Y Y U T T M K A T I
C A B K N G R M T S D W E F M R S
S T C E I T J T I T Q P W P L H L
T O R C S T Q Q S E N O T S M E G
R A A U T K R K R R C M Z D Z Z T
L L D V G W H C E L J K M R H R K
T N R D L D Z M V T Y T Q T N K H
I P R O D U C T I O N P R N K Z L
C G R P Q T V H D M Q F N Z K J J
R X X X N S U N S T O N E Z M K B

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[www.WordSearchMaker.com](http://www.WordSearchMaker.com)

deposits	mineral
diamond	mines
diversity	pearl
domestic	petrified
gemstone	production
geological	quality
imported	rockhounds
industry	sapphire
luster	sunstone

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## *Bench Tips*

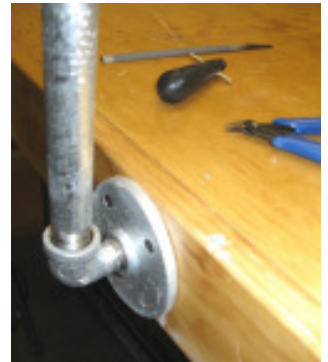
by Brad Smith

### FOREDOM STAND

A quick and easy way to suspend a flexshaft over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from your local hardware store. It attaches with a couple screws and only costs about \$10

I use 1/2 inch galvanized pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a thirty inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe, three foot, a flange, and a 90 degree "street elle".

Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coathanger wire or 1/8 steel rod from the hardware store.



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### BROKEN DRILLS

Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, a quick fix is to dissolve the steel in a solution of alum or fresh pickle. The solution will not affect your silver or gold piece.

Alum is typically available from a food store. It's used to preserve some foods. Use about a tablespoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up to let the bubbles float free and not block the hole.

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and  
"Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry"  
are available on Amazon

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon  
[www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/)





## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015**

**State Line Gem & Mineral Society**

monthly meeting

**2:00 p.m.**

201 W. Main St.  
Morenci, MI 49256

**March 18 - 20, 2016**

**Jackson, MI**

Michigan Gem & Mineral Society  
Annual Show

"May the Quartz Be With You"

Jackson County Fairgrounds

American One Event Center

200 W. Ganson

Jackson, MI

**April 29, 30, May 1, 2016**

**Kalamazoo, MI**

Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society  
57th Annual

Rock, Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show

"Dinosaurs Will Rule"

Kalamazoo Expo Center

2900 Lake St.

Kalamazoo, MI

## Puzzle Solution

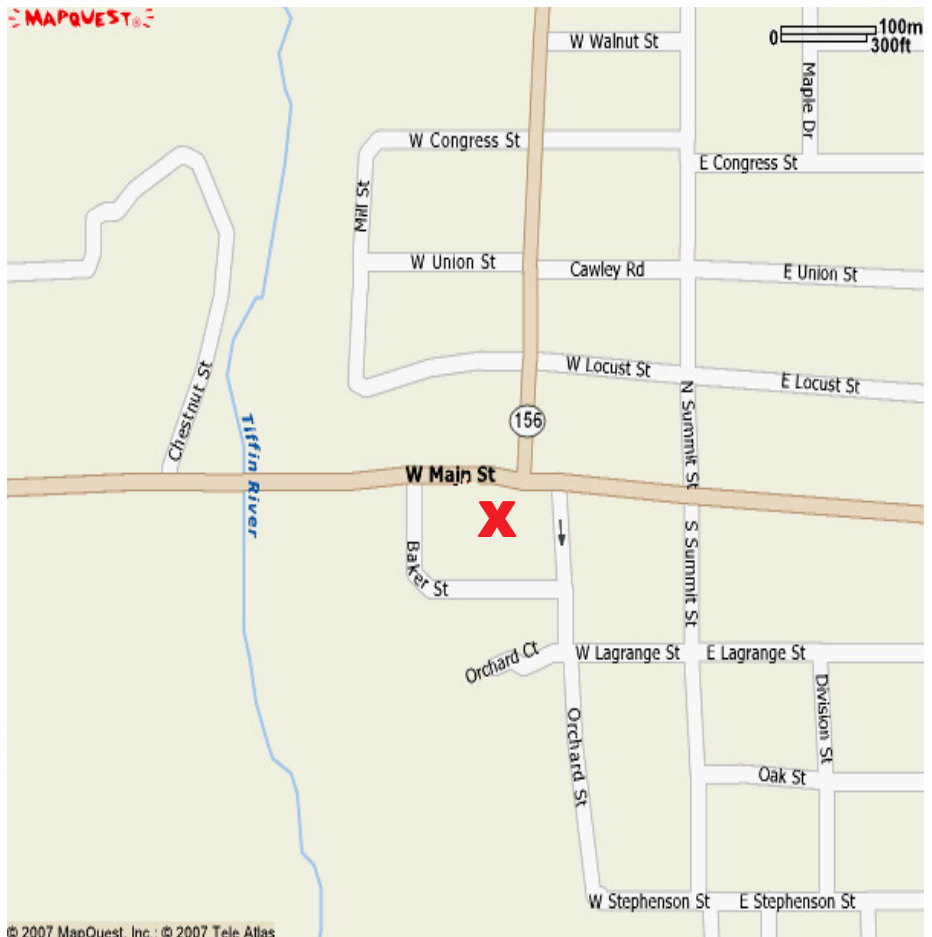
T J Y T I L A U Q D T K Q N D S Q  
D D Y G P D T K W D E F L L D E V  
O N L M Y J E E N S E T G X J N T  
M O M M N R R I D Y G P R M T I J  
E M V G N I T N F E J N O O R M L  
S A W F H B U M O I G P P S P T Q  
T I N P D O M L J L R M G E I M K  
I D P V H I O Y Y U T T M K A T I  
C A B K N G R M T S D W E F M R S  
S T C E I T J T I T Q P W P L H L  
T O R C S T Q Q S E N O T S M E G  
R A A U T K R K R R C M Z D Z Z T  
L L D V G W H C E L J K M R H R K  
T N R D L D Z M V T Y T Q T N K H  
I P R O D U C T I O N P R N K Z L  
C G R P Q T V H D M Q F N Z K J J  
R X X X N S U N S T O N E Z M K B

# happy holidays

## Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor  
704 W. US 223, #205  
Adrian, MI 49221

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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