

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 57
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DECEMBER 2017

2017 Officers and Directors

President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487
Vice President: Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310
Secretary: Heidi Storehalder, 419 261-6451
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123
Past President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
First Year Director: Jan Hauter, 517 286-6971
Second Year Director: Carl Mulholland, 517 539-2037
Third Year Director: Frank Kramic, 517 458-7191
Show Chairman: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487
Co-Show Chair: Glenda Gafner, (517) 451-2079
Publicity: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
Sunshine:
Education & Lapidary:
Frank Karmic 517 458-7191
Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666
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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 November 5th, 2017 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by president Sherm at 2:22 PM. Ed gave the invocation followed by the members and guests reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Richard B. made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Doris and approved by the members present.

Treasurer's report - Doris paid the rent and Consumers Power bills. She congratulated all the members who worked at the Clinton Fall Festival to make it such a wonderful success. She ordered extra Mexican geodes, the Moroccan geodes and noted they were still sitting in her driveway. She ordered the jewelry displays, more table covers and the book on Michigan copper called for in last month's meeting. She procured postage stamps for Judy to mail the newsletters she is printing and mailing to members without internet access. She purchased stamps for the treasurer's use. Doris also provided receipt books for Sherm to write receipts to dealers when they order booth spaces. She ordered flowers from the club for Catherine and Jimmy's funerals. Doris noted that club attendance at the Appleumpkin festival was great but there was really not enough room for everyone in one space. She and other members ended up setting up chairs in the middle of the street so that potential customers could see what the club had to offer. Discussion indicated a consensus that we should try to get two spaces there next year. Our club did well on Saturday but the inclement weather forced the cancellation of the festival on Sunday. Phyllis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Shirley with an affirmative vote by the members.

Old Business – Judy presented a list of candidates for the election of officers to be completed at the December meeting. They include the following: President – Sherman Kardatzke, Vice President – Glenda Gafner, Secretary – Heidi Storehalder, Treasurer – Doris Brzezicki, First year Board of directors – Kurt Miller.

After some discussion a question arose concerning the duties and responsibilities of some of the unfilled committee appointments which needed to be filled. Doris read the descriptions from the club's bylaws and noted which positions needed volunteers to fill them. Further discussion lead to the decision to combine the Sunshine committee with the Membership committee. Volunteers for those committees included; Jan Hauter, Nancy Clarke, Judy Snyder, and Shirley McGovern. Kurt and Linda Miller volunteered to take charge of the club library. Doris noted that although we had a show chair and co-chair person for the club's annual show, our club has been doing a lot of additional shows. She suggested that it would be advantageous to have a special person to take charge of registering for (filling out paperwork) and coordinating the additional shows. Linda Hutchins volunteered to fill that position.

Doris read the thank you card from Bill and Mary Schultz which showed their appreciation for the support received from club members after the passing of Bill's son Jimmy.

New business – Judy will resume wire wrapping classes on Fridays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. She asks that members who plan to attend the classes call, text or let her know on Facebook whether

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Secretary's Scoop

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they plan to attend or if they can not make it to any specific class. It is not fun to do all the preparation for a class and then have no one show up.

Linda Miller made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl and everyone agreed so that we could get to our silent auction and the goodies provided by Charlie.

Please welcome our newest club members, Ray and Debra Hall, and add them to you club member list. 3034 E. Valley Rd., Adrian, MI 49221 phone (734) 649-4263 e-mail rayhall316@gmail.com



Wire Wrapping Class

Almost every Friday, a few members meet at Hobby lobby from 11 am to 3 pm (in their meeting room back by the restrooms). There we teach basic wire wrapping. there is no cost for this opportunity to learn, we do ask that you occasionally donate a piece to the club to build up the club's jewelry department. You do not have to wire wrap to join us. Doris B. does a great job beading and we have learned a lot from her as well. We have made bracelets, rings, pendants and much more, so come join us .
Questions? call 517-902-3990 ask for Judy



Carl teaching newest member Ray Hall how to wire wrap a cabochon



Linda Miller & Richard B. making a wire cage for a bead (project of the day)



Wire wrapping class at Hobby Lobby

Devils Postpile

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devils_Postpile_National_Monument

The name “Devils Postpile” refers to a dark cliff of columnar basalt. Radiometric dating indicates the formation was created by a lava flow at some time less than 100,000 years ago. The source of the lava is thought to have been somewhere near Upper Soda Springs campground at the north end of Pumice Flat on the floor of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River, from where it flowed to the site of the Postpile. Estimates of the formations thickness range from 400 feet to 600 feet. The lava that now makes up the Postpile was near the bottom of this mass.

Because of its great thickness, much of the mass of pooled lava cooled slowly and evenly, which is why the columns are so long and so symmetrical. Columnar jointing occurs when certain types of lava contract while cooling.

A glacier later removed much of this mass of rock and left a polished surface on top of the columns with very noticeable glacial striations and glacial polish.

The Postpile’s columns average 2 feet in diameter, the largest being 3.5 feet, and many are up to 60 feet long. Together they look like tall posts stacked in a pile, hence the feature’s name. If the lava had cooled perfectly evenly, all of the columns would be expected to be hexagonal, but some of the columns have different polygonal cross-sections due to variations in cooling. A survey of 400 of the Postpile’s columns found that 44.5% were 6-sided, 37.5% 5-sided, 9.5% 4-sided, 8.0% 7-sided, and 0.5% 3-sided. Compared with other examples of columnar jointing, the Postpile has more hexagonal columns. Another feature that places the Postpile in a special category is the lack of horizontal jointing. Several stones from the Devils Postpile can be seen at the entrance to the United States Geological Survey headquarters lot in Reston, Virginia.



Devils Postpile National Monument is located near Mammoth Mountain in eastern California. The national monument protects Devils Postpile. Devils Postpile National Monument encompasses 798 acres and includes two main tourist attractions: the Devils Postpile formation and Rainbow Falls, a waterfall on the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River. In addition, the John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail merge into one trail as they pass through the monument. Excluding a small developed area containing the monument headquarters, visitor center and a campground; the National Monument lies within the borders of the Ansel Adams Wilderness.

Devils Postpile

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It was created in 1911 as Devil Postpile National Monument, and has forever been widely referred to as Devils Postpile National Monument; but it has been officially styled as plural without the apostrophe since the 1930s. The monument was once part of Yosemite National Park, but discovery of gold in 1905 near Mammoth Lakes prompted a boundary change that left the Postpile on adjacent public land. Later, a proposal to build a hydroelectric dam called for blasting the Postpile into the river. Influential Californians, including John Muir, persuaded the federal government to stop the demolition and, in 1911, President William Howard Taft protected the area as a National Monument.

The flora and fauna at Devils Postpile are typical of the Sierra Nevada. The monument contains animals and plants such as black bears, pine martens, mule deer, coyotes, quaking aspen, black cottonwood, alder, and willows, as well as many wildflowers, such as cinquefoil and alpine shooting star. Dark-eyed juncos and white-crowned sparrows are common in the summer.

The most common method for accessing Devils Postpile is via the mandatory shuttle bus operated by Eastern Sierra Transit Authority in the summer months, followed by a 1/4 mile walk. The shuttle route begins at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area's Adventure Center and makes several stops throughout the valley and begins operating when the Reds Meadow Road opens in the summer, and continues through Labor Day weekend.

Devils Postpile is also accessible on foot from Mammoth Lakes by hiking over Mammoth Pass and into the Reds Meadow Valley. During the winter months, there are no services available, but adventurers can visit the site via cross-country ski or snowshoe.



Although the basaltic columns are impressive, they are not unique. Basalt columns are a common volcanic feature, and they occur on many scales (faster cooling produces smaller columns). Other notable sites include Svartifoss in Vatnajökull National Park in Iceland, Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland, Fingal's Cave in Scotland, Titan's Piazza of the Mount Holyoke Range in Massachusetts, the Garni Gorge in Armenia, the Cyclopean Isles near Sicily, Sheepeater Cliff at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Prismas Basálticos in Huasca de Ocampo, Mexico, the "Organ Pipes" formation on Mount Cargill in New Zealand, Gilbert Hill in Mumbai, Organ Pipes National Park in Australia and the "Column Cape" on Kunashir Island, the southernmost of the Kuril Islands. Columnar basalt can also be seen in a high desert dry river falls area just north of Lajitas, Texas. The much more massive Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming is superficially similar but consists of a phonolite porphyry, formed by the intrusion of igneous rock.

The Rockhound's 10 Commandments:

1. Thou shall not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hands.
2. Thou shall not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing or biting.
3. Thou shall not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shall not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shall not collect at a neighbor's land unless unless thy neighbor knowst he's there.
6. Thou shall not argue names of minerals too violently; for sometimes thou couldst be wrong.
7. Thou shall not climb above thy neighbor's head when on a field trip, lest thou art willing to spend the rest of the day digging him out.
8. Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.
9. Thou shall not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggin's, lest thy neighbor's hammer be dropped upon thee.
10. Thou shall not break uncollectable specimens.



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 wide 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.

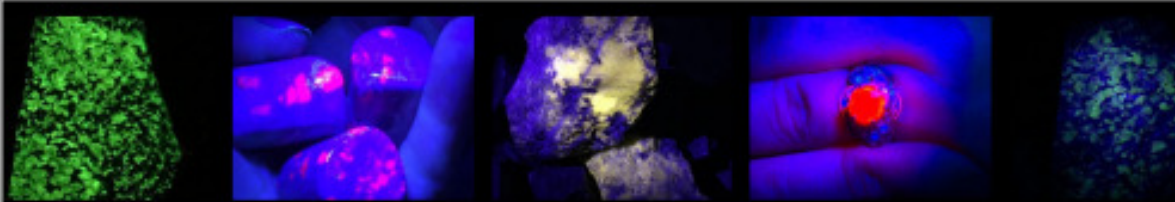


With the holidays upon us soon, we're all making our lists. If you need a present for someone who does jewelry, consider a book that teaches new skills. See a selection at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 3, 2017
State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting
2:00 p.m.
201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256



NIGHT IN THE MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

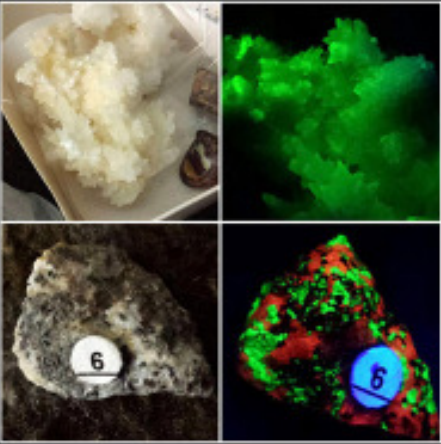
What: After-hours exploration at the Langsdon Mineral Collection

Who: Open to members of the Richmond, Troy, Fort Wayne & State Line gem & mineral societies and their families.

Date: December 9, 4-7 p.m.
Please go to eiggs.weebly.com to register for this free event.

Where: Mercer County District Library, 303 N. Main St.; Celina, OH 45822

Why: The chance to view over 900 mineral specimens in 27 cases with many more in storage. We will use incandescent light as well as long wave, short wave and mid wave UV to find fluorescent minerals.



More information can be found at
<http://eiggs.weebly.com/>

Merry Christmas

Rock Trails

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

