

# ROCK TRAILS



Bill Schultz and Richard Brzezicki presented a program about rocks, highlighting geodes, to the Wauseon Senior Center on Thursday, November 16.

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## **2022 Officers and Directors**

**President:** Edmund Jarzembksi, 419 237-2000  
**Vice President:** Charlene Hacker, 517 270-8061  
**Secretary:**  
**Treasurer:** Doris Brzezicki, 269 267-1123  
**Past President:** Glenda Gafner, 517 403-6310  
**First Year Director:** Kurt Miller  
**Second Year Director:** Sherman Kardatzke  
**Third Year Director:** Jan Hauter  
**Show Chairman:** Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
**Co-Show Chair:**  
**Publicity:** Edmund Jarzembksi, 419 237-2000  
**Sunshine and Membership:** Judy Snyder, Kathy Boyers  
**Library:** Curt and Linda Miller  
**Education and Lapidary:**  
Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487  
Richard Brzezicki, 269 267-7666  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kathy Boyers,  
517 917-5036, kboyers@mail.com  
**Website:** <http://statelinegms.com/index.html>

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

## **President's Letter**

Come One, Come All

I encourage all members to come to the next meeting on December 3, at the home of Bill and Mary Schultz at 12921 Co Rd H, Wauseon, Ohio at 1:PM. Bill and Mary are great hosts and are very generous to the club. We will discuss our mission and interests of the club for 2024.

What is the value of club membership? Does it fulfill the goals of each member? When I first joined the club my goal was to learn stone cutting and make bolo ties. Club membership helped me accomplish my goal. That wasn't the end though. One interest leads to another because the rock hound hobby is never ending. The interesting people you meet along the way are full of encouragement and knowledge. You will be able to get the most out of this club by attending meetings and making your voice heard. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting and hearing what your goals are and why you joined. We are all here to inspire and encourage each other.

Remember we are having tacos and a cookie exchange too. So be part of the fun at the next meeting December 3, at Bill and Mary's home.

Best Regards,  
Eddie

## **Secretary's Report**

The November 5, 2023 meeting of the Stateline Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at about 2:15 with Richard Brzezicki leading in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. There were seven members present. The secretary report as published in "Rock Trails" was approved. The treasurer report presented by Richard Brzezicki on behalf of his wife, Doris. was also approved.

Some of the business of the meeting included the scholarship committee needing additional members. Bill Schultz and Bill Barr agreed to fill those positions.

It was agreed to have our annual Christmas party on December 16, 2023 at 6 PM at the China Buffet in Adrian, Michigan.

Bill and Mary Schultz agreed to host our December 3 monthly meeting with a dinner at 1 pm and the meeting following. A taco bar will be served. Our annual cookie exchange will take place at the meeting.

Bill Schultz drafted a calendar of events for 2024 that we participate in with times for the membership to volunteer. The purpose is to determine our continuation with these events. "Rock Trails" editorship is open beginning in January 2024 as Kathy Boyers is stepping down. Thank you for your service to the club, Kathy.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15. Richard Brzezicki won the door prize. It was a calcite crystal specimen from an old collection. Congratulations, Richard.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edmund Jarzembki,  
Secretary ProTem

## **Treasurer's Statement**

2024 Dues for membership in the State Line Gem & Mineral Society are now due. The Dues are: Family Membership (Husband and Wife and Children under 18 years of age, all living under one roof)- \$15.00, Individual Adult Membership (All individuals over 18 years of age) - \$10.00. The above memberships are defined in Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution.

After the regular February meeting, all members whose dues remain unpaid shall receive a statement from the Treasurer. A Delinquent Member shall be that member whose dues are not paid by March 15th of the current year. Thereupon, voting privileges shall be revoked and publications discontinued. Full privileges shall be restored immediately upon payment of delinquent dues.

So, simply stated, what all the above information says is: Please pay your dues by February 04, 2024 so I don't have to remind you to pay them, and if you don't pay them by March 15, you will be delinquent and won't receive the newsletter or be allowed to vote until you do pay dues. Please pay your dues by checks made payable to State Line Gem & Mineral Society and mailed to Doris Brzezicki, 419 N Broad St, Adrian, MI 49221

## 2024 Show and Festival Sign Up Sheet

Dear State Line Gem & Mineral Society members,  
Our club participates in a number of shows and festivals throughout the year, and each event requires several volunteers.

Enclosed, please find a sign-up sheet to help ensure that we have adequate coverage for 2024 shows and festivals. While it is difficult to plan so far ahead, the events require the club to register/ and pay for booths in advance, so it is important to know if we have enough volunteers to participate in each show and festival.

If you are signing up and cannot do a full day, that is o.k. Please indicate the hours you can volunteer beside your signature.

**\*PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED SIGN-UP SHEET(S) AT THE DECEMBER 3 MEETING TO BE HELD AT:**

Bill and Mary Schultz's house  
12921 County Road H  
Wauseon, Ohio 43567

"Build your own tacos" at 1:00 p.m. Everything for the meal is provided.  
Meeting following lunch at 2:00 p.m.

**\*IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE MAIL THE COMPLETED FORMS TO THE ADDRESS, ABOVE, BY DECEMBER 10.**

**\*IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO COMMIT TO VOLUNTEERING, PLEASE INDICATE THIS AND RETURN YOUR SIGN-UP SHEET SO WE HEAR FROM EVERYONE.**

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
State Line Gem & Mineral Society

Michigan Gem & Mineral Society Show, Jackson, Michigan

March 15-17, 2024

Set up Thursday, March 14 at 4:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday, March 15, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday, March 17, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

State Line Gem & Mineral Society Show, Fulton County Fairgrounds,  
Wauseon, Ohio

May 31 and June 1-2, 2024

Set up tables, Wednesday, May 29 at 11:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Set up geode area, Thursday, May 30, at 11:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday, May 31, 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday, June 2, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Fulton County Fair, Wauseon, Ohio

August 30 – September 5, 2024

Set up Thursday, August 29 at 11:00 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday, August 30, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday, August 31, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday, September 1, 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Monday, September 2, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tuesday, September 3, 12:00 noon – 9:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Wednesday, September 4, 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Thursday, September 5, 12:00 noon – 9:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Artalicious, Adrian, Michigan

September 14-15, 2024

Set up Friday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday, September 14, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday, September 15, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Clinton Fall Festival, Clinton, Michigan

September 20-22, 2024

Set up Thursday, September 19 at 4:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday, September 20, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday, September 21, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday, September 22, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Morenci Fall Festival, Morenci, Michigan

October 5, 2024

Set up Saturday, October 5 at 3:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, October 5, 4:00-7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Appleumpkin, Tecumseh, Michigan

October 12-13, 2024

Set up Friday, October 11 at 3:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, October 12, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, October 13, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

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I am unable to volunteer. \_\_\_\_\_

# Bench Tips

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



## TEMPLATES

**Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.**

**Art stores or online sources like [cooltools.us/](http://cooltools.us/) and [kingsleynorth.com/](http://kingsleynorth.com/) sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.**

**One example is the brass template in the pic below that let's me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.**

## TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces of metal in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry that is not hallmarked. Is it silver or is it 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 - apply a small drop and watch 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.

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.

# Tips For Better Rock and Mineral Photography

Taking decent pictures is something everyone can do. We all have a camera in our hands most of the day, so it doesn't cost us anything either! (Bonus!)

So I just wanted to share a few tips that I've learned that can go a long way in helping you take great pictures of your rocks and minerals.

## Your Background

Choose something that will help the specimen pop. Don't use loud colors or patterns that distract from the stone. A few good backgrounds to consider are white paper, tissue paper, cardboard, paper towel, etc.

## What's in the Foreground?

Note what's in the foreground, or in front of the mineral. Because that's what your camera, and people, are going to want to focus on. Are you holding the stone? Make sure your fingers are not in front and that they're neat and clean!

## Angle of Attack

Photograph your specimen at a 45 degree angle to get the best refraction of light. Don't take a picture from directly above or directly beside your specimen. You might have to adjust this a little in order to reduce reflections.

## Size Reference

It can be difficult to tell just how big, or small, a rock is when looking at a picture. Place something in the photo that everyone else is familiar with to reference the size. A penny or quarter works well. Have a large object? Use a banana for scale. 😊

## The Right Kind of Lighting

Use natural daylight as much as possible. Stay away from direct sunlight. Take pictures near a window with filtered natural light. If you don't have natural daylight available, you can use a **full spectrum** light bulb.

## **Avoid Reflections**

**When photographing highly polished rocks or reflective crystals, reflections of light can be a pain. Try filtering/diffusing the light by placing a sheet of paper in front of it. Also keep in mind that even your clothes or appliances in your house can cause a reflection in your specimen.****Focus First Then Zoom**

If you're wanting to take a close-up of your rock or mineral, try setting up the image for a normal picture, at a regular distance and make sure it's in focus. After it's in focus, then zoom in and take the picture.

### **Wet or not?**

Everyone likes to see a rock when it's wet. It brings out so much more detail. But wet stones can create a reflection making it a little more difficult to get a good shot. If you can't get rid of the reflection, use a thin sheet of paper/tissue paper to diffuse the light and reduce the reflection.

Hopefully these tips help if you're trying to take better pictures of your finds!

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Stateline Gem & Mineral Society Meeting At Bill and Mary Schutlz's 1 PM	4	5	6	7	8 Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Expo 11355 Chester Rd. Sharonville, OH	9 Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Expo 11355 Chester Rd. Sharonville, OH
10 Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Expo 11355 Chester Rd. Sharonville, OH	11	12	13	14	15	16 Stateline Annual Christmas Party China Buffet 6 PM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month at 2 PM, at 201 West Main St, Morenci, MI 49256

