## NEWSLETTER NAME

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## FRONT PAGE

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

I am sure most of you have heard by now that Sandy Gerhardt is stepping down as editor of Rock Trails due to health concerns. I have volunteered to take over her job.

First of all, I want to reiterate that Sandy did an amazing job as editor for many years, and it will be hard to follow in her footsteps. I also want to thank her for being generous in her help with the transition. I greatly appreciate it. I hope all goes well for you, Sandy. You are a valued member of the club.

I want to say also that I welcome any feedback any of you have as far as anything you may want to see included in the newsletter. I would also like to hear from you in regards to what you enjoy most about the newsletter. I want it to continue to be informative and enjoyable.

Kathy Boyers

**PRESIDENT’S NOTE**

Thank you to all who were able to make the meeting. We were able to get loads done, the weather was nice, and it was nice to visit.

We need to plan some work days to make and stuff grab bags. I think if we put the bags in a clear bowl or jar, the kids can pick a color and with a gloved hand we will grab that color bag for them. This way we will not disappoint the kids who look forward to them, and will not spread germs. We need to get grab bags made & stuffed. Please let me know of a time that works for everyone. We will not get together unless several people can participate.

We are going to be busy the next 2 months! We have the Jackson Rock Swap August 14th. Field trip to Flint Ridge is August 21st. Please let me know if you wish to attend.

We are having our next meeting on August 29th, so we will have time to finalize plans for our shows in September. The meeting will be held at Island Park.

The set up for the Fulton County Fair is September 2, and break down is the 9th. The fair runs the 3rd through the 9th. We are light on volunteers, so please if you are available at all, let one of the board members know.

We are invited to join the Kalamazoo Club at the Cheney Quarry on Saturday,

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September 11th. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

We will have 2 booths at Artilicious in Adrian September 18th. It is a one day show this year. We will set up Saturday morning between 6AM & 10 AM. The show runs from 11-7, and then breakdown.

September 23rd is set-up for the Clinton Fall Festival. The festival is September 24-26th. We will only have one tent there this year. We will need volunteers for loading, set-up, manning the booth, and then break down.

Our last show commitment is the Appleumpkin in Tecumseh, MI. Set-up is October 8th with the fair being the 9th-10th. We will also need volunteers for that.

I know this is a lot of work we’re asking you to do. We do make the large majority of our money from these events. We appreciate all your time and participation.

Take Care,  
Glenda Gafner

**SECRETARY’S SCOOP**

The August 1, 2021 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Glenda at 2:23 PM. There were 14 members present. Glenda led the members in the pledge of allegiance. Richard B. gave the invocation. There was no secretary’s report, since the July meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

Glenda thanked Linda and Curt for the prep work they did for the proposed July meeting. She also thanked all who collected geodes in Indiana. The club was able to get a lot of geodes due to the efforts of everyone who volunteered to help. She also thanked Sherm and Henry for donating cabs they made and thanked Judy for accepting the geodes for wire wrapping to put in club sales. Judy and Linda M. plan to get together for the wrapping fun.

Judy said she noticed that items she wrapped with Sterling silver sold better than items wrapped in copper or brass. There was discussion about the cost of silver, and suggestions about the club purchasing some silver wire to use for club sales. Richard B. made a motion to authorize Judy to order up to $350.00 in silver wire (some square and some half round) for club use. Doris seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

Glenda asked for an update on the August 14th Jackson club swap in Michigan Center. Richard B. reported that Bill Schultz agreed to bring the geode cracker, tent and two tables. Doris and Richard will be setting up their own booth at the swap, but Doris

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will bring change for the club to use at the swap. She will also bring any wire wrapped items Judy and Linda M. will be able to complete before the 14th. Henry and Bud will meet Kathy, Linda and Curt at Michigan Center.

Glenda noted the need for set up at the Fulton County Fair. This year, set up will be Thursday, September 2nd at 10:00 AM at the clubhouse to load up everything needed for the club’s booth. Glenda stated the she and Sherm will each have two booth spaces of their own, next to the club’s booth. Charlene said she would be available Saturday, Sunday and Monday to help out, but had to work at her job after that. Linda and Curt will help when they can. We are still looking for volunteers for the whole week. Doris and Richard will not be attending the fair this year due to health concerns. Bill and Phyllis and Richard and Judy also will be unable to work at the fair.

There was discussion about the club purchasing passes for volunteers at $5.00 each. There will be 8 passes available and Glenda will get the club’s when she picks up her tickets.

This year, Artalicious in Adrian will be a one day event without the ability to set up in advance. Set up will be the morning of September 18th and the non-profit booths cost $15.00 each. The club decided on two booths. Charlene said she would work all day Saturday with Linda and Curt volunteering when they can get there. More volunteers are needed.

Glenda asked when the club wanted to meet in September since the first Sunday includes the Fulton County Fair commitment. After some discussion, Sherm made a motion to meet on August 29th for the September meeting, seconded by Kathy and passed with all in favor. Glenda said she would check with the Family Kitchen restaurant to see if we could hold the meeting there, and advise what she finds on the club’s facebook page on line.

Doris reported that she checked with the Clinton Fall Festival folks and found that one booth will be free for a non-profit organization, but a second booth would cost $150.00. The discussion revealed that it probably wouldn’t be worth the $150 to get a second booth. We will need volunteers to man the club’s booth.

Doris asked Glenda if she planned to represent the club at the Midwest Federation meeting at the Toledo club in Bowling Green Ohio on September 11th. Glenda had not had a chance to call Charlene yet, so she asked if Charlene would like to attend as a club representative. Charlene agreed, and the paperwork was filled out. Doris agreed to send in the forms to reserve a seat for Charlene.

Glenda reported that our club has been invited to go on a field trip with the Kalamazoo club to the Belleview Cheney Query on September 9th from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Let Glenda know if you are interested.

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The Flint Ridge field trip is still on for August 21st. There is a maximum of 10 persons and the cost is $100.00. So far there are 6 individuals going, so the individual cost will be prorated for the number of people who attend. The flint collected will cost $8.00 a bucket.

Glenda reported that our editor, Sandy Gerhart will no longer be able to do our newsletter due to health concerns. Glenda said she sent Sandy a thank you for all the years of service she has given the club, and the wonderful job she has done as editor. Glenda asked if anyone would like to take over the editor’s position and Kathy Boyers volunteered. (THANK YOU KATHY!)

Doris reported that our club member, Ed Reynolds passed away, and the club usually provides a $50.00 remembrance in their honor. Doris made a motion to authorize the $50.00, seconded by Sherm, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Glenda adjourned the meeting at 3:51 PM

Respectfully submitted by Richard Brzezicki, secretary.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Receipts of income from dealers, dues, geode sales, kitchen sales, raffle proceeds and the silent auction. Expenses included Consumers Power, clubhouse rent, show kitchen expenses, Ohio tax, scholarship, and miscellaneous expenses. She also ordered the Mexican geodes per Bill Schultz’s instructions as approved by the club in a previous meeting. Sherm made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Phyllis, The motion passed with all in favor.

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## Top 10 Rock Collecting Sites In The US

Becoming a rockhound can start innocently enough. One day while hiking, I found an unusual rock. I was thrilled to later discover it was petrified wood. Then came an animal fossil, rose quartz, and pyrite. I started researching and searching for more and found that while I’m out there digging in the dirt, I have the opportunity to learn more about the history and make-up of planet earth.

Rock collecting can be a family endeavor or a solitary retreat. It can draw you away across the country or just down the street. A variety of field guides are available to help you recognize a good find. And a bit of online research can supply you with a list of easy tools to help you handle whatever terrain you’ll be searching in.

The U.S. Forest Service has a site with rock collecting sites in each state to help you plan your next rockhound adventure. Always verify the dates and times a particular site is open and any safety requirements of that state. And here are ten of the highest-rated sites in the country to help you make an informed decision. Happy hunting!

### 1. Emerald Hollow Mine, Hiddenite, North Carolina

Emerald Hollow is the only publicly-accessible emerald mine in the world. It is located about 87 miles west of Greensboro and is open 7 days a week so long as the weather allows. There are campsite and hotels nearby for travelers. They also have military and senior discounts.

This site features dozens of naturally occurring gemstones for endless new discoveries. The rough gems travel from the mine down one of three sluiceways. Your bucket may contain emeralds, amethyst, topaz, or other gemstones. The staff is on hand to answer questions about your finds. There’s even a shop available for cutting and setting your newfound treasures.

### 2. Crater of Diamonds State Park, Murfreesboro, Arkansas

Located about 120 miles southwest of Little Rock, this site limits rock-hunters to 800 per day, so planning ahead is a good idea. Visit the site for current safety restrictions. The site is located atop an eroded volcano crater and features a variety of gemstones and minerals free for the taking.

The park’s visitor center displays examples of what you can expect to find in the area and there are interpretive programs for beginners. Three colors of diamonds are

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found at this site: white, yellow, and brown. Walking trails, picnic sites, and campsites are also available.

### 3. Jade Cove Trail (Big Sur, California)

Jade Cove Trail is located near the southern end of the central California coastline known as Big Sur. The trail is somewhat steep and popular for its colorful blue-green cliff walls. Visitors are allowed to hunt for jade in areas below the high-tide line. The stones wash up from the ocean floor, so the best time for hunting is at low tide or after a storm.

For the sake of preservation, strict rules are enforced regarding areas from which rocks may be taken. The area is beautiful in its own right and worth seeing for the spectacular cliff deposits. Make sure everyone in your party is able to handle the steep climb, and feel free to stuff your pockets with any stones in plain sight. If you are a diver, the greater part of the jade deposits are located offshore. You’ll need to research permissions and restrictions.

### 4. Gold Prospecting Adventure, Jamestown, CA

Every rockhound’s adventures should include panning for gold. There are many possible sites to pan across the country, but none have the same appeal as gold hunting in California. This particular site is about 3 hours east of San Fransisco and is great for all ages. Visitors have been experiencing the excitement of finding their own nuggets here for 40 years.

Staff in period dress are on hand to instruct and assist groups and individuals in how to choose a location and effectively use available tools to find your own treasure. Along with your search for gold, the site offers insights into the history and challenges of the California gold rush. The skills you learn here can help you be successful at other locations as you continue to add notches to your rockhound experience.

### 5. Fossil Butte National Monument, Kemmerer, WY

For a well-rounded rockhound experience, you’ll want to add a variety of fossils to your collection. If you live in the western U.S., fossil sites are plentiful, including Fossil Butte, in Wyoming’s southwestern desert region. Fossils of all kinds may be found in the area–from fish to mammals to plant specimens.

Sturdy hiking shoes and sun protection are recommended. The park is open year-round but hours may vary with the seasons. Check the website for special activities for children. There is no entrance fee and pets are welcome on a leash. Also, expect cell phone reception to be intermittent in the park.

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### 6. Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine, Virgin Valley, Nevada

There are numerous opal mines in Nevada, several of them located in the southeastern part of the state, near the Virgin River. This is rough, deserted country, so plan to take plenty of drinking water and other necessities with you, as there are few facilities. Opals are fairly rare, valuable gems. Visitors can expect to pay $100 per person to peruse the mine’s tailings, half that for kids aged 10-15.

The mine is open from the end of May to mid-September. The opals are particularly fine grade and may be either wet or dry, depending on the age of the tailings. It is recommended that you bring a container of water for storing wet stones and self-sealing baggies for dry stones. Plan to bring tools for breaking up clods and a rake. This is an adventure for dedicated rockhounds. It requires some patience, but the results can be spectacular.

As an FYI, though mining may seem costly, Virgin Valley also has free camping and other outdoor activities that may help make the investment worthwhile, especially for families. The sites are also about 70 miles [from Las Vegas](https://www.rockseeker.com/rockhounding-near-las-vegas/) for a fuller vacation expedition.

### 7. Herkimer Diamond Mines, New York

Try your hand at mining along with a resort-style camping experience. The “diamonds” found at these ground-level mines are actually a hard, two-point clear quartz crystal. They have been given their moniker because of their diamond-like shape. The hardness of Herkimer diamonds is around 7.5 on the Moh’s scale, compared to 10 for a real diamond.

Still, the natural, eighteen-facet gems are beautiful and can be made into jewelry on site. The site also offers camping, cabins, fishing, water sports, and other family activities. This could be a great way to encourage young rockhounds to develop skills for future excavations.

### 8. Spectrum Sunstone Mine, Oregon

For dedicated rockhounds looking for the unusual, Oregon’s sunstones can make a lovely addition to your collection. These colorful stones were declared a gemstone by the federal government in the ’70s, and can only be found in Oregon. The gems are clear with various color striations, including blue, red, green, and even some color-changing variations.

Some parts of the mine are open year-round, and others just a few months, so check the website to ensure you’ll be able to mine as you like. The fee is $75 for adults,

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free for children 12 and under. Besides sunstone, there are trilobite and Himalayan tourmaline gems to be found at the site.

### 9. Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine, Philipsburg, Montana

Gem Mountain is a great outing for children and seniors, as there is not really a lot of physical labor involved. The mine is extremely large and has been producing

sapphires for around 120 years. Visitors sift through buckets of sapphire “gravel” for various quality natural stones.

Sapphires require heat treating to bring out their full color, and Gem Mountain is one of only two locations with the facilities to perform this operation, along with faceting if you desire. The site is open just four days a week. Reservations are not required but are recommended. There are very limited camping facilities. Well-behaved pets are allowed.

### 10. Trilobyte Me! Quarry, Utah

Trilobites are a favorite among collectors. This site, located near Delta in western Utah, is one of the most prolific trilobite quarries in the world. The site is open from April to mid-October. Basic collecting costs $50 for adults, $35 for children aged 8-14, and free for 7 and under. There are several more expensive options for higher-quality finds. There are also some discounts for larger groups.

There is free camping and several nearby hotels. Bring your own bucket, gloves, and safety glasses. You may also need protection from sun and insects, as well as plenty of hydration. Check for possible adverse weather conditions before any rock hunting expedition. Pets are welcome at this site on a leash. Trilobites and other sea fossils can be found in abundance here.

[](https://www.rockseeker.com/)

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Livingston County Rock Show - cancelled**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | August 2021 | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |
| Sunday | | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | Saturday | |
| **1** |  | **2** |  | **3** |  | **4** |  | **5** |  | **6** |  | **7** |  |
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| **8** |  | **9** |  | **10** |  | **11** |  | **12** |  | **13** |  | **14** |  |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | Copper Country | | Copper Country | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | Rock Swap | | Rock Swap | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | 1 PM-8 PM | | 10 AM-6 PM | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | Houghton | | Houghton | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | Middle School | | Middle School | |
| **15** |  | **16** |  | **17** |  | **18** |  | **19** |  | **20** |  | **21** |  |
| Copper Country | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | Flint | |
| Rock Swap | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | Ridge | |
| 11 AM-3 PM | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | Field | |
| Houghton | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | Trip | |
| Middle School | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| **22** |  | **23** |  | **24** |  | **25** |  | **26** |  | **27** |  | **28** |  |
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| **29** |  | **30** |  | **31** |  | 1 |  | 2 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  |
| Meeting | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 2 PM | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Island | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Park | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

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|  |  | September 2021 | | | | | | | | |  | |  | |  |
| Sunday | | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | | Saturday | | |
| 29 |  | 30 |  | 31 |  | **1** |  | **2** |  | **3** | |  | **4** |  | |
| Meetling | |  | |  | |  | | Set-Up | | Fulton | | | Fulton | | |
| 2 PM | |  | |  | |  | | Fulton | | County | | | County | | |
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| **5** |  | **6** |  | **7** |  | **8** |  | **9** |  | **10** | |  | **11** | Cheney | |
| Fulton | | Fulton | | Fulton | | Fulton | | Fulton | | Toledo | | | Quarry with | | |
| County | | County | | County | | County | | County | | Gem Club | | | Kalamazoo/ | | |
| Fair | | Fair | | Fair | | Fair | | Fair | | Show | | | Toledo | | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | | Gem Club | | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | | Show | | |
| **12** |  | **13** |  | **14** |  | **15** |  | **16** |  | **17** | |  | **18** |  | |
| Toledo | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | | Artilicious | | |
| Gem Club | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Show | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | |
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| **19** |  | **20** |  | **21** |  | **22** |  | **23** |  | **24** | |  | **25** |  | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | | Set-Up | | Clinton | | | Clinton | | |
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| Clinton | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Fall | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | |
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**October**

8: Set-up for Appleumpkin

9-10: Appleumpkin Show

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**Ongoing: currently cancelled**

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

Sherm Kardatzke will be holding cabbing classes on Thursday evenings, 6 PM - 9 PM

Wire wrapping sessions at Hobby Lobby in Adrian on Fridays 11 AM - 3 PM

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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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