

ROCK
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Presidential Ponderings

Hello to everyone and **WELCOME** to our newest members. We had an awesome turnout at last month's meeting. We cleared out the engine house enough to have our September meeting in there, which is good because it turns out we needed the room. We would like to continue cleaning and organizing the engine house so that we can set up machinery to work on cutting and polishing rocks, as well as having room for additional projects.

I spoke with Kenneth Richardson regarding an extension on our contract with the Porter's. He told me that they have agreed to extend our contract for two years. He also said that in order for it to be official, the club will have to vote on it.

Interest has been shown for a return trip to southern Indiana for geodes. October 10th, 11th, and 12th are the days that have been chosen for the fieldtrip. Please contact Steve Nichols (517) 403-6722 or Doris Brzezicki (517) 263-1669 for more information.

It would be terrific to see the depot decorated every month and to have rocks on display in the front window. Also, it has been mentioned that it would be nice to start having programs after the meetings again. These two particular items will be brought up at the next meeting and discussed.

We need more submissions for the "member of the month" column unless you would like to see it go the way of the Dodo. Please send pictures with your completed "member of the month" questionnaire to Sandy Gerhart at s_gerhart@yahoo.com and stateline1961@yahoo.com.
©

Donna Dahlke and Pat Husband are working on compiling a complete list of past and current members. That is quite an undertaking and it will be exciting to make that list a permanent "expanding" display.

Please... please... please remember that this is **YOUR** club and **YOUR** newsletter and that it takes participation from **ALL** members to make things the best that they can be. When more people participate, it lessens the burden on all who are involved.

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Steve Nichols

Treasurer's Addition

Our membership is growing . We all wish to extend a warm welcome to the following families:



Camille G and John W. Myers
Elle Lyons
Donna Murphy and John Rodela
The Yunker Family (Larry II, Rita, Larry III & Victor)

We started out this month with a fun field trip up to Stone Crafters, just south of Jackson, MI. Richard, Charles Swanson and I were the first to arrive, followed shortly by Brian Duncan, Nancy Lewis, Devin Wild and Steve Nichols. It was a little damp, but we all had a great time. I have been to this business a few times before and am continually amazed by the variety of stone countertops they have available and they are all beautiful. I thought I had collected enough of the smaller pieces and was taking a little break when I spotted some activity going on at the dumpster set up outside the building. Sure enough, Steve had jumped inside and was digging for more hidden treasure. Nancy had explored this area earlier, but it seems there were more valuable finds waiting to be uncovered. Steve handed out several large pieces of countertop. He pulled out a few pieces for me too! I'm not sure what stone made up the matrix, but there were many little garnet specimens in a white background. Charles was thinking clocks. I was thinking paperweights and cabochons. The opportunities are unlimited.

Members of the Antique Tractor and Engine Association have invited our club to set up a display in the Lost Arts Barn during their fall show, Sept. 20 and 21. Donna Dahlke, Pat and Bob Husband and Catherine Choske have graciously volunteered to represent us. Their enthusiasms about sharing information about State Line Gem and Mineral Society draws people to the booth. This is a nice way for us to gain more exposure in the community, attract new members, and raise funds for the club. Thank you for your support.

Doris Brzezicki

In This Issue:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 - President's Ponderings | 6 - Answers to Facts & Fun |
| 2 - Treasurer's Addition | 7-8 - Gemstone of the Month |
| 3 - The Secretary's Words | 9 - Upcoming Events |
| 4 - Vice President's Spot | 10 - Facts and Fun |
| 5-6 - Member of the Month | 11 - Officers & Directors |

The Secretary's Words



The September 7, 2008 meeting was called to order by President Steve N. There were 27 present (including 5 guests).

We had opening prayer and recited the pledge to the flag.

Doris made a motion to accept the secretary's report as written by Donna D. in the newsletter.

Richard made a motion to have reimbursement made for the cost of some new tables that were necessary to be purchased. This motion was passed.

The treasurer's report was given and a motion to accept it was made by Joan with a second by Bon D.

There was no publicity report. Richard reports that as display chair everything is in good shape.

Additionally a report was given by the show chairperson.

The building chairman Steve explained that the ceiling had been taken out of the ticket office. This meeting was held in the engine room with very good attendance.

Steve's brother purchased a piece of equipment for the club.

Work days suggested are Sept. 14th and Sept. 22 and 29th. These will be from 6-9p.m.

The library case is in the ticket office and anyone is welcome to borrow from it. There is a lot of information in it. Eric VonFang donated some reading material to it.

A field trip was taken by members to Bedford, IN. It was a lengthy trip, but was enjoyed by the members attending.

Joan explained that Ohio Flint, Petoskey Stone and geodes or Herkimer diamonds are a good start for beginners. October 10th, 11th, and 12th are planned days to go on another trip. If you are interested please contact Steve on his cell phone which is 517-403-6722.

A possibility of going on a trip to collect counter top pieces on Friday Sept. 12th. Contact Steve or Doris.

Historian Donna D. suggests in preparation of our fifty year celebration that we have information about past members. Helen has all past monthly reports. Eddie suggests we have a special celebration for our 50th anniversary.

Richard makes a motion to purchase a 300 grit wheel to allow repair of the Genie for the club. A second was given by Joan. Motion passed.

No old business:

New business: Nancy nominates Richard to be on the nominating committee. Steve nominates Eddie to be a part of the committee. Brian will also be on the committee.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Nancy with a second by Devin.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted;

Thelma Jo Waycaster

The VicePresident's Spot

Opal



A funny thing is October's stone,
unrivaled for flash, it stands alone.
Water within is the secret it has,
the cause of it's fiery pizazz.
Most come from the land down under,
but Colorado has it's own bit of thunder.
The Opal is not quite mineral nor is it rock,
but a gem nonetheless (not a shock!)
A prettier rock you'd be hard pressed to find,
whether a beauty from the lab or naturally mined.
The Opal is not hard nor especially rare,
but it definitely has a special flair!

Take a look at our club's website at
<http://www.angelfire.com/mac/rock-club/index.html>

Many thanks to Doug Crew for maintaining the site for us!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Member of the Month

Full Name: Charles Curtis Swanson

Nickname(s): Curt, Charlie, Chuck(just not late for dinner-notify me so I can be there first!)

How did you find out about the State Line Gem & Mineral Society?

Saw the show advertised in the Daily Telegram.

What made you decide to become a member and in what year did you join? I found my neighbors who were already members at the show, Bill and Eleanor Houston, back in the early '70's so I joined.

Other club or society affiliations: Used to belong to Toledo's club

Favorite thing about the State Line: Basically that all the members are very friendly, and information is exchanged readily.

Least favorite thing about the State Line: I just don't have anything bad to say about the club-we're very likable!

Is your significant other in the hobby or do they humor you? When I was married, I didn't even collect rocks.

Current or past occupation: Logging and cutting timber, currently permanently retired and resident story teller!

What is your dream job? I still want to make things out of rocks.

Date of birth: 9/21/1927

Where were you born? Kenova, West Virginia right next to the Ohio river

What languages can you speak? English

How many states have you visited? Pa, Oh, In, Ky, Il, Mo, WV, Ca, Wa, Or, Mi, Co, Wy, Az, Ia, Wi,

How many countries have you visited? (Name them) Canada

How many times have you moved? 3 or 4

What is the farthest you have traveled from home? California or maybe Washington

If you could go anywhere, where would it be and why? Australia to mine my own Opals

Interests / Hobbies: Rock collecting, Clock making, hunting, fishing, woodworking, traveling and sightseeing.

Do you have any kids / grandkids? No

Do you have any pets? Not anymore.

Magazines you like to read: Hunting and Fishing, Lapidary Journal

Favorite TV shows: Nature shows and Travel shows

Favorite movies: Not too interested

Favorite songs: Not too interested in music either

Favorite color: Blue of any shade

Favorite food / drink: A good hamburger and fries with a vanilla milkshake

Favorite holiday: Thanksgiving

Favorite animal: Dogs

Favorite Rock / Gem / Mineral: Opal

Favorite Tool: Hammer and pliers

Do you have a workshop? Yes I do

Weirdest thing in your home: I think maybe there is a spook in my house (sometimes it likes to watch tv and move my chairs around.)

Things you like to collect: Rocks and oddities, old bottles



Member of the Month, continued -
Charles Swanson



Biggest collection in your home: Rocks and minerals

One thing you still have from your childhood: Old elementary school papers and a towel I embroidered for Mom when I was in elementary school.

How many cars have you had and what was your first one? The old gray ghost- a 1948 Mercury Club Coupe

Have you met any famous people? (Name them) Not really-Governor Williams and his opponent

Name one thing that you have never done, but would like to do: Always wanted to go up in a helicopter (almost got a Life Flight - but didn't want my helicopter ride that way!) -the weather got bad and the Life Flight had to turn back so I went in a ambulance.

One thing that almost no one knows about you: ??

Personal motto: Never get in a hurry for anything

Favorite rock collecting story: All of them because each story is unique.

Are there any other interesting facts you would like to tell us about yourself? I guess, that whether hunting, fishing or rock collecting, bringing home the trophy was not the important part, it was the being there and the experience.

Answers to Facts and Fun on page 10

Don't peek till you've seen page 10

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Quartz | 6. Sandstone |
| 2. Gneiss | 7. Marble |
| 3. Talc | 8. Obsidian |
| 4. Calcite | 9. Granite |
| 5. Limestone | 10. Quartzite |

Taken from <http://library.thinkquest.org/J002289/name.html>



Opal

Opal is the world's most popular phenomenal gem. Many cultures have credited opal with supernatural origins and powers. Arabic legends say it falls from the heavens in flashes of lightning. The ancient Greeks believed opals gave their owners the gift of prophecy and guarded them from disease. Europeans have long considered the gem a symbol of hope, purity, and truth.



Opal is one of the US birthstones for October (along with tourmaline). Some people think it's unlucky for anyone born in another month to wear an opal, but that particular superstition comes from a novel written in the 1800s (Anne of Geierstein by Sir Walter Scott) and not from ancient belief or experience. In fact, throughout most of history, opal has been regarded as the luckiest and most magical of all gems because it can show all colors. Once, it was thought to have the power to preserve the life and color of blond hair.

Although experts divide gem opals into many different categories, the main types are:

- * White opal - translucent to semi-translucent with play-of-color against a white or light gray body color.

- * Black opal - translucent to opaque with play-of-color against a black or other dark body color.

- * Fire Opal - transparent to translucent with brown, yellow,

- orange, or red body color. This material, which often does not show play-of-color, is also known as "Mexican opal," "gold opal," or "sun opal."

The market supply of fine black opal is extremely limited, but white and fire opals are generally available in a wide range of sizes. You'll usually see black or white opals fashioned as cabochons and set in rings, pendants, pins, or earrings. Fire opals are used in the same kinds of jewelry, but they're often faceted. All three types occasionally appear as beads and carvings.

Pieces of white or black opal that are too thin to use alone often become part of opal doublets or triplets. In these assembled stones, a sliver of opal is cemented, usually with black adhesive that dramatizes the play-of-color, to a backing such as chalcedony, glass, or plastic. A doublet consists of two pieces (the opal and the backing), while a triplet also has a protective top made of rock crystal quartz or colorless glass.

Explaining Play-of-Color

Play-of-color occurs because opal is made up of sub-microscopic spheres stacked in a grid-like pattern, like layers of ping-pong balls in a box. This structure breaks up light into spectral colors. The colors you see depend on the sizes of the spheres.



Opal
continued from page 7

Those approximately 0.1 micron (one ten-millionth of a meter) in diameter produce violet. Spheres that are about 0.2 microns in size produce red. Those in between produce intermediate hues.

Common trade terms for play-of-color include:

- * Pinfire or pinpoint - small, close-set patches of color
- * Harlequin or mosaic - broad, angular, close-set patches of color
- * Flame - sweeping reddish bands or streaks that shoot across the stone
- * Peacock - mainly blue and green

Sources

Australia	Black and white opal
Brazil	White opal
Mexico	Fire opal

Hardness & Toughness
Hardness 5 to 6½ on Moh's scale
Toughness Very poor to fair

Stability

High heat or sudden temperature change can cause fracturing. Opals are generally stable to light, but heat from intense light can cause fracturing (known as "crazing"). Opals are attacked by hydrofluoric acid and caustic alkalis. Loss of moisture, and crazing, can result from storage in airtight containers, such as safe deposit boxes.

Care and Cleaning

Opals can be cleaned with warm, soapy water. Avoid ultrasonic and steam cleaning.

Imitations and Synthetics

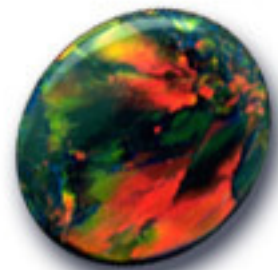
Glass and plastic have been used to imitate opal, and synthetic opals are available in a variety of colors

Alternatives

No gem duplicates opal's unique combination of color and phenomenon. As alternatives, you might suggest stones with similar body colors, or those that show other special optical effects, such as fire agate, and iris agate.

Text from GIA's Essential Colored Stone Reference Guide ©1999

http://www.gia.edu/library/15534/featured_gemstone__opal.cfm



Upcoming Events

Oct 5, 2008

State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting
2:00 p.m.
Morenci Train Depot
325 W. Main St.
Morenci MI 49256

Oct 10 - 12, 2008

Warren, MI
Michigan Mineralogical Society
64th Annual Greater Detroit Gem,
Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show
South Macomb Comm. College
Expo Center
12 Mile & Hayes Rd.
Warren, MI
Fri 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5

Oct 17 - 19, 2008

47th Three Rivers Rock, Mineral,
Fossil, Lapidary and Jewelry Show
Allen County Fairgrounds;
Fort Wayne, IN
Fri. & Sat. 10 AM – 7PM,
Sun. 10 AM – 5PM
Adults \$3, 55+ \$2, students \$1,
under 12 free with paying adult

Oct 18 -19, 2008

41ST GEM JEWELRY MINERAL
ANNUAL SHOW & SALE
Earth's Natural Wonders
Flint Rock & Gem Club
Carter Middle School,
Rogers Lodge Dr, Clio, MI
(175 exit 131, 1.7 miles east)
Contact Ed Hearson 810-687-2339

Oct 24-26, 2008

Mason, MI.
Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral
Society 43rd Annual Gem, Mineral,
Fossil, Lapidary, and Jewelry Show.
Ingham County Fair Grounds,
Main Arena,
700 Ash St.
Mason (Lansing Area).
Fri 6 to 9 pm; Sat 10 am to 7 pm; Sun
11 am to 5 pm. Friday is Children's
Day. Adults \$3, Teens \$1, Children <12
free with paying adult. Free parking.

Oct 26, 2008

Mt. Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society
4th annual Jewel, Gem and Bead Blast
Lakeshore KofC Hall
25003 Little Mack
St. Clair Shores, MI
10am to 4pm.

Nov 1, 2008

Taylor, MI.
Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary
Society Annual Auction.
Democratic Club of Taylor,
23400 Wick Rd., Taylor.
Sat 6 to 10 pm. Admission free.
Parking is free.



Facts and Fun

1. Study the 10 Rocks below.
2. Study the clues.
3. Name that rock.



Clues:
Most common mineral
Used in clocks and watches
Hardness of 7
Choices:
Quartz
Calcite
Pyrite



Clues:
Metamorphic Rock
Is Foliated
Resembles Granite
Choices:
Slate
Gneiss
Marble



Clues:
Mineral
Hardness of 1
Used in baby powder
Choices:
Gypsum
Calcite
Talc



Clues:
Mineral
Hardness of 3
Used in cement
Choices:
Gypsum
Calcite
Feldspar



Clues:
Sedimentary Rock
Can contain fossils
Color ranges from white to gray
Choices:
Limestone
Sandstone
Shale



Clues:
Sedimentary Rock
Usually made of quartz
Visible layers
Choices:
Conglomerate
Shale
Sandstone



Clues:
Metamorphic Rock
Nonfoliated
Used in building the Taj Mahal
Choices:
Slate
Quartzite
Marble



Clues:
Igneous Rock
Looks like glass
Comes from volcanoes
Choices:
Basalt
Obsidian
Scoria



Clues:
Igneous Rock
Large crystals
Used in Buildings and Monuments
Choices:
Granite
Scoria
Pumice



Clues:
Metamorphic Rock
Nonfoliated
Made from sandstone
Choices:
Slate
Pumice
Quartzite

This newsletter is the official publication of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society. It is published and mailed about the 20th of each month. Submissions *must* be in by the 15th. The State Line Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit group. Its purpose is to promote interest and increase knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology and the lapidary arts. Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM at the Morenci Train Depot, 325 W. Main St., Morenci, MI 49256. The June meeting takes place during the annual show/sale. If the first Sunday is a holiday, the meeting will be held one week later.

OFFICERS

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Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor
210 Chestnut St.
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