



ROCK TRAILS

Vol 48 Issue XI
Nov 2008



Presidential Ponderings

Hello. I hope everyone is doing well. At the last meeting, we decided to wait until November to schedule more work days. It would be nice to clear all the debris off the concrete slab out back before the snow flies. We also need to remove the old fuel oil tank out front. I think its disappearance would greatly improve the appearance of the front of the building. I believe, however, that our true focus should be lowering the new conveyor down into the pit so that we can finish removing all the brick and dirt. Not all the work that has to be done is hard physical labor. There is a whole lot of cleaning that can be done. We also need to continue setting up work stations with rock equipment.

Our new members seem to be ambitious and eager to do things... **AND I THINK THAT'S AWESOME!!!** I think we should do our best to make them feel welcome and needed. It would be **SUPER TERRIFIC** if joining the State Line was such a great experience that they told their friends about it... and they joined, and then their friends told some other friends... and they joined, and then... Oh I think you get the picture. The club is growing and that is exciting. We need to continue changing things and continue to try and make ourselves noticed in the community and participate in community events.

Speaking of being noticed in the community, I think we need to break out the Windex and clean the windows in the ticket office. After the windows are clean, I think we should put displays in them. Lights, garland... little decorations to go with the season. But, what I think would look truly spectacular would be to set up a large cornucopia in the bay window and fill it with rocks and minerals pertinent to the season and pertinent to the club. So, if someone has an extra cornucopia lying around and wouldn't mind letting the club borrow it for a month, please bring it to the next meeting. **DON'T FORGET! Bring your favorite rock to the next meeting** and be prepared to tell a little bit about it, as that was the program agreed upon at last month's meeting for the November meeting. I would like to see decorations and programs discussed at every monthly meeting... **AND DECIDED UPON!** That way everyone could have input on everything... every time. ☺

Can't wait to see everyone at the next meeting!

Steve Nichols



Treasurer's Addition

Membership list update:
Our newest member is

Stanley Stong Telephone (808)275-0215
66 Queen St #3004
Honolulu, HI 96813-4417

Stanley has the unique distinction of being the member who lives the farthest distance from Morenci, MI and also of having lived in our club house. His father, Ross D. Stong was station agent of the Toledo & Western Railway at Morenci from 1919 - 1933. Upon demise of the T & W he became General Superintendent of the Ohio & Morenci Railroad, a position he held until his death in November, 1949. The O & M was abandoned in 1951. State Line Gem and Mineral Society has a copy of "Working on the Railroad A Biography of my father" by Stanley Stong. It was very helpful in providing information on the history of the depot in our various funding requests.

Also we have an update for Charles Swanson. His current address is

Charles Swanson Telephone (517) 436-9299
3121 W. Weston Rd.
Sand Creek MI 49279

The information on our other new members is

Camille G and John W. Myers 419) 350-3905
13180 Co Rd 14-2
Wauseon, OH 43567 yadahmomma@yahoo.com

Elle Lyons (419) 343-7890
416 Swanton
Metamora, OH 43540 3113@rock.com

Donna Murphy and John Rodela (517) 431-2858
1201 Taylor Rd
Tecumseh, MI 49286-8710 dmurphy@lni.net

The Yunker Family(Larry II, Rita,Larry III & Victor) (419) 877-0007
6950 Queensmark Ln
Whitehouse, OH 43571 ritz@cbcast.com

Please add this information to your current membership list.

Field Trip: October 12-13, 2008 Several of our members were able to meet Dale Fordyce in Bedford, Indiana to collect geodes. Charles Swanson, Richard and I drove down Saturday afternoon and met up with Dale and Bob and Pat Husband. Liz and Pilar Victor-Cie joined us at breakfast the next morning. We were very successful at two different sites. We took a break for lunch and were fortunate to hook up with the Yunker family. It is amazing that here we were in the middle of nowhere, and thank goodness Dale had cell phone reception. We took them back to the last site and I enjoyed watching all the fun everyone was having. The weather was wonderful and the scenery beautiful. Dale will lead another field trip to this area in the spring.
Doris



The Secretary's Words

The October 5, 2008 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order.

The Secretary's report was accepted as printed in the monthly newsletter. The treasurer's report was given and accepted. Twenty three people were in attendance.

Future field trips were discussed. There will be one October 10, 2008 to the area of Bedford, Indiana. Accommodations are available. Those able to attend will be able to collect geodes.

Discussed was the fact that there are several rock shows coming in the near future to the general area.

Nancy made a motion to have programs monthly within the club which would include decorating for the month. Many members would be able to enlighten us with their knowledge. This perhaps will encourage others to look further into the workmanship possible in lapidary or other related crafts.

Old business: There was no old business addressed.

New business: Nancy made a proposal to renew our contract for the depot for two more years. Richard B. gave a second and the vote was to accept as made.

We have Petoskey stones given from the Davis family collection. We have also received some display cases from them. Steve made a suggestion to contact a club from each state to possibly do an exchange of a sample of their state rock in the rough and one finished. This would allow us to do a display for all states. We would send them a sample of Petoskey. Some states have a state stone which is a rare gem or mineral.

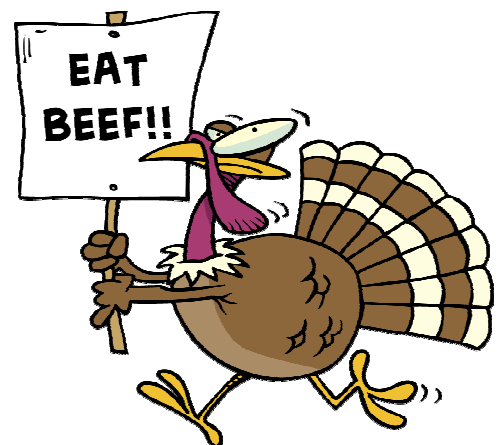
Doris will be contacting Citizens Gas to have our gas connected and a meter at the depot. Richard made a motion to purchase a vent-free wall heater for approximately \$200.00. Donna gave a second recommendation and the vote passed.

A work day is proposed for the meeting next month. It is to begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. in time for the meeting. We will possibly work more after the meeting.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Richard giving a second to the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Thelma Jo Waycaster





Editor's Notes

I would like to apologize for the lateness of this month's newsletter. You may have noticed that there is a bit of a different look to this month's newsletter, and that it is somewhat shorter than usual. Unfortunately, I have had a major meltdown of my computer, which holds all my files and programs for compiling the newsletter and the person that I rely on to fix it has not had time to come over and work on it.

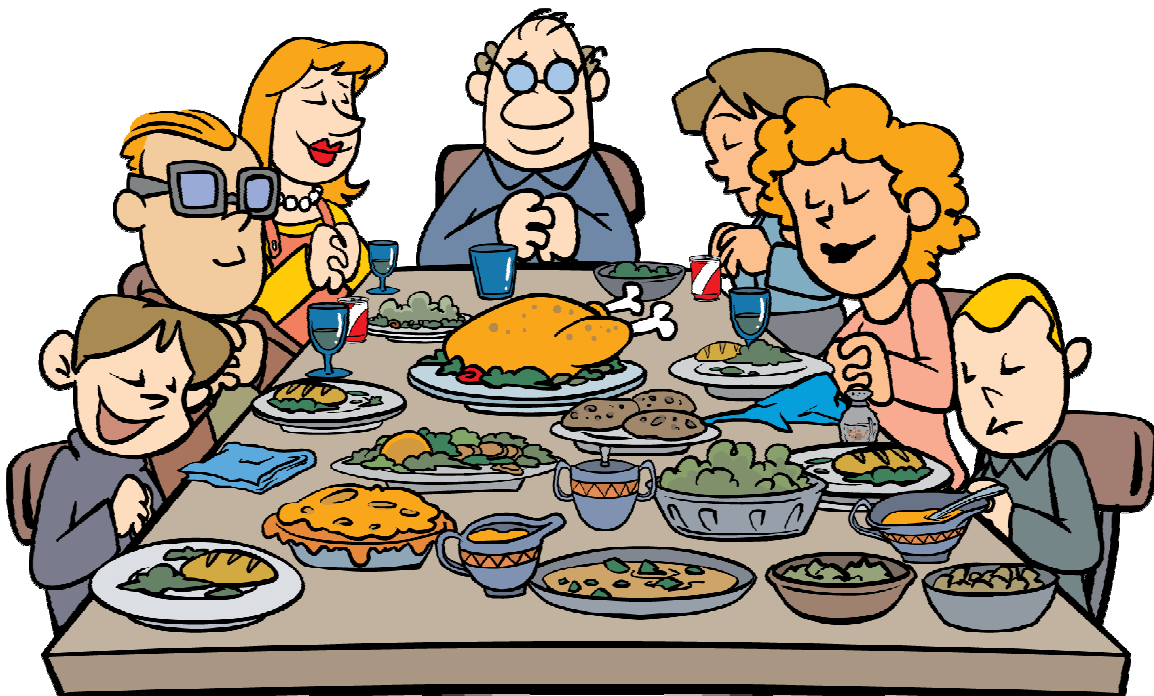
So, in the meantime, I am reduced to using a word processing program for this month's issue instead of the desktop publishing program that I usually use. I am also having to use Hanni's laptop (thanks, Hanni!) and I have to say that I just don't care for typing on this thing. Ha ha.

But, I am committed to getting out some sort of newsletter for you and hopefully, when it comes time to do next month's, I'll have my own computer back up and running.

Thanks for your patience and understanding!

Sandy

P.S. I've run out of Member of the Month questionnaires. It sure would be nice to have a few filled out and sent to me in time for next month! If you need a new copy of the questionnaire, just let Doris or Steve know and we'll see that one gets sent to you or you can request one by emailing stateline1961@yahoo.com





The Topaz

It is a fluorine aluminum silicate and comes in yellow, yellow-brown, honey-yellow, flax, brown, green, blue, light blue, red and pink ... and sometimes it has no color at all. The topaz.

The topaz has been known for at least 2000 years and is one of the gemstones which form the foundations of the twelve gates to the Holy City of the New Jerusalem. These so-called apocalyptic stones are intended to serve in protection against enemies and as a symbol of beauty and splendor. It cannot be proved conclusively whether the name of the topaz comes from the Sanskrit or the Greek, though the Greek name 'topazos' means 'green gemstone'. The Romans dedicated the topaz to Jupiter.

The color in which the topaz is most commonly found is yellow, and that is the color in which it occurs in one of the major German gemstone rocks, the Schneckenstein (a topaz-bearing rock said to resemble a snail) in Saxony. In the 18th century, it was mined there during a period of over 60 years. However, most of the crystals were hardly a centimeter in diameter. You had to go to Siberia or Brazil to find crystals as large as your fist. Having said that, anyone who is interested can convince himself of the beauty of cut specimens in the topaz set in Dresden's Grünes Gewölbe (Green Vault). The enormous and magnificent topaz from the Portuguese crown, the Braganza, was for a long time thought to be a diamond. It weighs 1680 ct..



In mysticism, the topaz is attributed with a cooling, styptic and appetizing effect. It is said to dispel sadness, anger and nocturnal fears, to warn its wearer of poisons and protect him or her from sudden death. It is reputed to make men handsome and intelligent and sterile women fertile and happy. However, it is probably better not to rely too much on its magical powers, since it was also claimed that you could immerse your hand in boiling water after a topaz had been thrown into it and retract it again unharmed! It is the stone of the month for November.

In the Empire style, the topaz was still widespread, but then the more reasonably priced citrine took over from it and even usurped its name - gold topaz. Since then, the topaz has been a rather exotic figure in the jewelry trade, and has been given the additional predicate 'pure' to make it clear that the topaz, not the quartz topaz, is meant. And it is still waiting for its well deserved comeback to this day.

Upcoming Events

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.

Nov 1 – 2, 2008

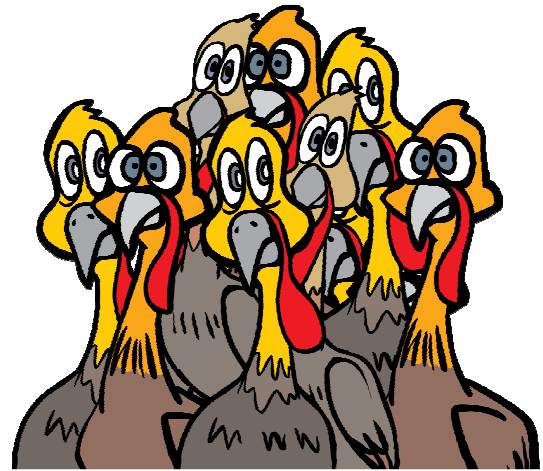
STURTEVANT (RACINE), WI.
Racine Geological Society ANNUAL SHOW.
Knights of Columbus Hall,
13249 Washington Avenue
(I-94 and WI Hwy 20).
Sat. 10:00-5:00, Sun. 10:00-4:00.

Nov 2, 2008

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

Nov 2, 2008

Turn clocks back at 2:00 a.m.
(Turn back before going to bed the night
before)



Nov 8-9, 2008

FREEPORT, IL.

Northwest Illinois Rock Club
ANNUAL GEM, FOSSIL, AND
MINERAL SHOW.

Highland Community College
Student Conference Center
2998 West Pearl City Road
Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun. 10:00-4:00

Nov 21-23, 2008

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Saint Louis Mineral and Gem Society
51ST ANNUAL FALL MINERAL, GEM, AND
FOSSIL SHOW AND SALE.

NEW LOCATION, NEW DATES!

Viking Conference Center
Holiday Inn Motel
10709 Watson Road
Fri. 4:00-8:00, Sat. 10:00-7:00,
Sun. 10:00-5:00

Nov 22-23, 2008

MADISON, WI.

Madison Gem and Mineral Club
46TH ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW.
Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Sat. 9:30-5:00, Sun. 10:00-5:00

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

President	Steve Nichols	10480 Wesch Rd	Brooklyn MI 49230	517 403-6722
Vice President	Nancy Lewis	5400 S. M 52	Adrian MI 49221	517 263-3651
Treasurer	Doris Brzezicki	419 N. Broad St.	Adrian MI 49221	517 263-1669
Secretary	Jo Waycaster	5426 Shady Lane Dr.	Adrian MI 49221	517 265-2665

DIRECTORS

Past President	Edmund Jarzembksi	26984 US 20	Fayette OH 43521	419 237-2000
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Second Year	Charles Swanson	12434 Pence Hwy.	Jasper MI 49248	517 443-5528
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Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart
210 Chestnut St.
Adrian, MI 49221

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