

ROCK TRAILS

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Presidential Ponderings

Hello, I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. Doris and I went to Morenci on the 10th of November to meet with the Porters and the Richardsons to sign a new contract. We now have an additional two years to raise the necessary funds to purchase the depot.

I am still trying to figure out the best way to have our bricks personalized. I think it would be in our best interest to buy all the bricks we need for our fundraiser project plus extras and either purchase the equipment and personalize them ourselves or hire someone to do it for us. With the way the program is set up at the company we are intending to do business with, there is no possibility of purchasing the bricks all at once, because of the expense of shipping bricks back and forth. Their intention is to sell us the bricks only as we have sold them for personalization. This makes it very difficult to promote our brick program because of the length of time it will take to see any progress. If we buy all the bricks at the same time, we can lay them, so that everyone will have the opportunity to see the finished product. Then as we sell more and more bricks, we can just personalize the extra bricks we purchased and then trade them for the plain bricks that have already been laid. I believe having the bricks laid out for people to see will help generate excitement and entice people to “buy” their own brick to have it personalized.

By the time you read this, most of you will probably have already filled your tummies with wonderful Thanksgiving dinners. I hope everyone will have an opportunity to slow down and actually **take** the time to enjoy the holidays with their family and friends. I realize that sometimes it seems as though things might be less than perfect and it might be difficult to find things to truly be thankful for, but there are, I promise you, you just need to take the time to really look. Myself, I’m thankful that we have a holiday that helps us to remember to be thankful. The other day I passed a church with a sign out front that read, “Thanksgiving is good, Thanksliving is better.” That made me smile!!!

I am sorry I was unable to attend last month’s meeting, but I was working on my roof. It seems as though every time it rained I had my very own Niagara Falls and as you can imagine that is only novel for a very short time. Well, I have every intention of making it to the next meeting...hope to see you there.

Treasurer's Addition

Dues for 2009 are payable . We have several members who joined late in 2008 and it is club policy that those dues count towards 2009, so your 2009 dues are already paid. Check with me if you have any questions. Your dues are used primarily towards the cost of the newsletter.

I will present a proposed 2009 Budget for approval at the December meeting.
Doris Brzezicki



Merry Christmas!



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The Secretary's Words



The November, 2008 meeting was called to order by our Vice-President Nancy. We had twenty three members present. The pledge to the flag was then given.

Doris moved to accept the secretary's report as given in the Rock Trails Newsletter with one exception being that the name of one member was given incorrectly. There was a second by Joan.

The treasurer's report was presented and a motion to approve was given by Brian and a second by Joan.

Committee Reports:

The show report was given by Doris. She stated that she will be sending out information to the vendors. It would be appreciated if members would let Doris know if you are interested in doing the same job at the show.

We had looked into having a ventless heater in the building. It will not be possible to have one without having a working furnace.

Old business:

Do we want to meet in the ticket office for the winter meetings and activities? What kind of heat do we propose? Doris made a motion that we use up to \$400.00 to purchase a heater to let for the building. Eddie suggests that we get a hanging furnace. The motion carried.

We will be proceeding with the signing of the contract with the Porters.

Wal-Mart will be contacted regarding the matching grant money raised by sales at the Wal-Mart stores in the summer.

Camille will be in charge of removing the fuel tank from in front of the building.

The nominating committee has contacted several members regarding the possibility of running for office for the next year. The following people are suggested: President Steve N. , Vice President Nancy L., Donna D. as secretary, and Doris as treasurer. Pat Husband is willing to serve as Director.

Linda Sharkey has contacted Doris as to offering faceting classes at the depot.

It has been decided to have the installation at the China Wong buffet on January 4, 2009. It will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Eddie mentioned having our club participate in the holiday parade in Morenci. It is to be the first Saturday in December. **We will be meeting about one in the afternoon of that day to decorate the building and prepare for the parade.**

Nancy suggested that we have a rock related gift exchange (value under \$5.00) for the December program. This would be non gender specific.

Brian made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Nancy L. Meeting adjourned

Thelma Jo Waycaster

The Vice President's Spot



Topaz



For the month of November and also December
The stone is a beauty to remember.
Golden for month eleven,
Blue is the twelfth month's heaven.
'Tis fairly hard as these stones run,
Just a step under corundum.
Said to give wisdom, courage and strength,
To possess one some would go to any length.
Many is the myth and fanciful jazz
That accompany the story of the Topaz.

Editor's Note: The Blue Topaz is also considered a birthstone for the month of December. Since the Topaz was featured in the newsletter last month, this month's featured stone is Turquoise.

What Gives Christmas Lights Their Color?

Mineral products are the secret to colorful Christmas lights! Colored lights have been used as Christmas decorations for over one hundred years and billions of colorful Christmas lights are purchased every year. Each of these brightly colored bulbs is produced using a number of different minerals. The glass bulbs are made from quartz sand with small amounts of sodium carbonate, calcium oxide, magnesium oxide and aluminum oxide added. The metal fitting is often made of brass, an alloy of copper and zinc. The filament within the bulb is typically made of tungsten.



Colored lights are made by adding small amounts of special mineral materials to the glass or placing a thin mineral coating on the inside of the bulb. Yellow light can be produced using cadmium sulfide, ruby red from gold chloride, blue-violet from cobalt oxide, amethyst purple from manganese dioxide, violet from nickel oxide, yellow-amber from sulfur, and emerald green from chromic oxide. Fluorescent yellows and greens have been produced using uranium. These are just a few examples of the mineral materials that can be used to color the glass.

Taken from Glacial Groove, Nov. 2008

Christmas Word Puzzle



Angel

Boxes

Camel

Candle

December

Donkey

Gifts

Infant

Jesus

Joseph

Lights

Magi

Manger

Mary

Noel

Ribbon

Santa

Sheep

Shepherd

Snow

Stable

Star

Stocking

Tree

Wreath

Member of the Month Questionnaire (please fill out and bring to next meeting, or send to addresses listed at end).

Please fill out the questions below with as much detail as possible.

If you prefer not to answer a question, leave it blank.

Full Name:

Nickname(s):

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

What made you decide to become a member and in what year did you join?

Other club or society affiliations:

Favorite thing about the State Line:

Least favorite thing about the State Line:

Is your significant other in the hobby or do they humor you?

Current or past occupation:

What is your dream job?

Date of birth:

Where were you born?

What languages can you speak?

How many states have you visited?

How many countries have you visited? (Name them)

How many times have you moved?

What is the farthest you have traveled from home?

If you could go anywhere, where would it be and why?

Interests / Hobbies:

Do you have any kids / grandkids?

Do you have any pets?

Magazines you like to read:

Favorite TV shows:

Favorite movies:

Favorite songs:

Favorite color:

Favorite food / drink:

Favorite holiday:

Favorite animal:

Favorite Rock / Gem / Mineral:

Favorite Tool:

Do you have a workshop?

Weirdest thing in your home:

Things you like to collect:

Biggest collection in your home:

One thing you still have from your childhood:

How many cars have you had and what was your first one?

Have you met any famous people? (Name them)

Name one thing that you have never done, but would like to do:

One thing that almost no one knows about you:

Personal motto:

Favorite rock collecting story:

Are there any other interesting facts you would like to tell us about yourself?

Completed questionnaires can be returned by mail to

Sandy Gerhart
210 Chestnut St.
Adrian, MI 49221

Or you can email them to me at s_gerhart@yahoo.com
or
stateline1961@yahoo.com

Turquoise

The turquoise is ancient, yet again and again it finds itself back in fashion. Its shining sky blue is one of the most popular trend colors in the world of jewelry and fashion.

In many cultures of the Old and New Worlds, this gemstone has been esteemed for thousands of years as a holy stone, a bringer of good fortune or a talisman. It really does have the right to be called a 'gemstone of the peoples'. The oldest evidence for this claim was found in Egypt, where grave furnishings with turquoise inlay were discovered, dating from approximately 3000 B.C.. In the ancient Persian kingdom, the sky-blue gemstones were earlier worn round the neck or wrist as protection against unnatural death. If they changed color, the wearer was thought to have reason to fear the approach of doom. Meanwhile, it has been discovered that the turquoise certainly can change color, but that this is not necessarily a sign of impending danger. The change can be caused by the light, or by a chemical reaction brought about by cosmetics, dust or the acidity of the skin.

Turquoise affords protection and joie de vivre

At all times and over the world, turquoises have been worn as natural protection against the powers of darkness. In earlier times they were thought to preserved horse and rider from unexpected falls, and are regarded today as the protective stone of pilots, air crews and other occupational groups who are exposed to an especially high degree of risk.

In modern gemstone therapy, those suffering from depression are

recommended to wear a turquoise or a chain with turquoise beads. The turquoise's cheerful color is said to endow reticent personalities with more confidence. It is also often given as a gift, a stone of friendship, for the turquoise is said to be responsible for faithfulness and constancy in relationships.

The blue comes from copper, the green from iron

Turquoise is a copper aluminum phosphate with a hardness of 6, i.e. considerably softer than quartz. In Nature, it occurs in the whole range of hues from sky blue to grey-green, and it is mostly found in places where there is a high concentration of copper in the soil. However, turquoise is only really turquoise in the very best quality; mostly, the color is paler, or bluish-green or greenish. The blue color is created by copper, the green by bivalent iron and a certain amount of chrome. Often, the material has veins or blotches running through it, which are brown, light grey or black depending on where it was found. These lively, more or less regular patterns are known as 'turquoise matrix'. The crystals are microscopically small and can hardly ever be recognized with the naked eye. As a rule, turquoise occurs as a filling in veins or crevices, or in the form of nuggets. Turquoise is rarely faceted. Usually, it is cut into cabochons or beads, or into some more imaginative shape.

Wax makes turquoise more resistant

Being relatively soft, turquoises are sensitive. As the color may pale when the stone has been worn for a long time, even high-quality stones today are



treated with wax and subsequently hardened. This treatment makes the sensitive gemstone more resistant. In the trade, there are a large number of reasonably priced turquoises sealed with synthetic resin. They have a fresh color and good durability. However, many of them are dipped in a coloring medium before being subjected to durability treatment - a process that must, according to the rules of the ICA, be drawn to the attention of the prospective purchaser. And there is also such a thing as a 'reconstructed turquoise', which is made from pulverized turquoise.

Because of their sensitivity, turquoises are almost always subjected to treatment of one kind or another, though this may take any of a number of different forms. For this reason, turquoises which have a good natural color and are simply hardened with colorless wax or synthetic resin have a much higher value than stones whose color has been 'improved'. So it is more advisable to purchase valuable turquoise jewelry at a jeweler's.

Heaven on Earth

The best quality turquoises are of a pure, radiant sky blue, a color which is highly esteemed with or without its fine, regular matrix. The more strongly the color tends toward green and the more blotchy and more irregular the matrix, the lower the estimate of the stone's quality.

Turquoise should be protected from cosmetics, heat and bright light. It is not a gemstone to take with you when you go sunbathing. It is best to give it a clean from time to time with a soft cloth.

The color of the turquoise makes us feel happy and cheerful, for in it the light blue of the sky and the stimulating green of the sea are combined. Indeed it is such an inimitable color that we have coined a term specifically for it in our languages: turquoise. Anyone choosing a turquoise is sure to enjoy a piece of Heaven ... on Earth.

<http://www.gemstone.org/gem-by-gem/english/turquoise.html>



Upcoming Events

Dec 7, 2008

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

Dec 13-14, 2008

Glacial Drifters Geologic Society's
4th annual Rock, Fossil,
Mineral, And Jewelry Show
Municipal Building
375 Buffalo Street
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

Dec 13-14, 2008

Anoka County Gem and Mineral Club
Winter Show
Eisenhower Community Center
1001 Highway 7
Hopkins, MN.
(Hopkins is a Minneapolis suburb.)

Dec 25, 2008 **CHRISTMAS!**

Recipe for Rock Candy

Ingredients:

- * 2 cups water
- * 4 cups granulated sugar
- * 1/2-1 tsp flavoring extract or oil (optional)
- * food coloring (optional)
- * glass jar
- * skewer or thread (see below)

Preparation:

1. Prepare your materials: wash a glass jar thoroughly with hot water to clean it. Cut a length of thick cotton thread a few inches longer than the height of the jar, and tape it to a pencil. Place the pencil across the lip of the jar, and wind it until the thread is hanging about 1 inch from the bottom of the jar. Attach a paper clip to the bottom of the thread to weight it and ensure it hangs straight down. Alternately, you can use a wooden skewer as the base of your rock candy, and use clothespins balanced across the top of the jar to clip it into place.

2. Wet your thread or wooden skewer, and roll it in granulated sugar. This base layer will give the sugar crystals something to "grab" when they start forming. Set the thread or skewer aside to dry while you prepare your sugar syrup.

3. Place the water in a medium-sized pan and bring it to a boil. Begin adding the sugar, one cup at a time, stirring after each addition. You will notice that it takes longer for the sugar to dissolve after each addition. Continue to stir and boil the syrup until all of the sugar has been added and it is all

dissolved. Remove the pan from the heat.

4. If you are using colors or flavorings, add them at this point. If you are using an extract, add 1 tsp of extract, but if you are using flavoring oils, only add ½ tsp, and make sure you don't stand right in front of the pan—the scent can be very strong as it rises in the steam. Add 2-3 drops of food coloring and stir to ensure even, smooth color.

5. Allow the sugar syrup to cool for approximately 10 minutes, then pour it into the prepared jar. Lower the sugared string or skewer until it hangs about 1 inch from the bottom.

6. Carefully place your jar in a cool place, away from harsh lights, where it can sit undisturbed. Cover the top loosely with plastic wrap or paper towel.

7. You should start to see sugar crystals forming within 2-4 hours. If you have seen no change to your skewer or thread after 24 hours, try boiling the sugar syrup again and dissolve another cup of sugar into it, then pour it back into the jar and insert the string or skewer again.

8. Allow the rock candy to grow until it is the size you want. Don't let it grow too large, otherwise it might start growing into the sides of your jar! Once it has reached the size you want, remove it and allow it to dry for a few minutes, then enjoy or wrap in plastic wrap to save it for later.

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 Jarzembski	26984 US 20	Fayette OH 43521	419 237-2000
First Year	Kay Dickerson	7515 W. Yankee Rd.	Morenci MI 49256	517 231-0915
Second Year	Charles Swanson	12434 Pence Hwy.	Jasper MI 49248	517 443-5528
Third Year	Hanni Nichols	121 Clinton St.	Adrian MI 49221	517 263-0420

COMMITTEES

Editor	Sandy Gerhart	210 Chestnut St.	Adrian MI 49221	517 265-6553	
	email: <i>s_gerhart@yahoo.com</i> or <i>stateline1961@yahoo.com</i>				
Show Chairman	Doris Brzezicki	419 N. Broad St.	Adrian MI 49221	517 263-1669	
Publicity	Jo Waycaster	5426 Shady Lane Dr.	Adrian MI 49221	517 265-2665	
Exhibits Show	Richard Brzezicki	419 N. Broad St.	Adrian MI 49221	517 263-1669	
Building	Steve Nichols	10480 Wesch Rd	Brooklyn MI 49230	517 403-6722	
Library	Bon Duritsky	4206 Gilhouse Rd.	Toledo OH 43623	419 535-7342	
Hospitality	Joan Duritsky	4206 Gilhouse Rd.	Toledo OH 43623	419 535-7342	
Sunshine	Catherine Choske	707 Wenonah St.	Tecumseh MI 49286	517 423-3572	
Field Trips	Steve Nichols	10480 Wesch Rd	Brooklyn MI 49230	517 403-6722	
Historian	Donna Dahlke	2411 Occidental Hwy	Adrian MI 49221	517 263-0561	
Education & Lapidary	{	Edmund Jarzembski	26984 US 20	Fayette OH 43521	419 237-2000
		Richard Brzezicki	419 N. Broad St.	Adrian MI 49221	517 263-1669

Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor
210 Chestnut St.
Adrian, MI 49221

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