

The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

January 2010

President's Message

Happy New Year to All! As we start 2010, we also look back on 2009. We lost a couple great members who usually helped us through the year - and they still did. They were there through our thoughts, they were talked about, they brought laughter to our conversations - we miss them but they're always with us.

As usual, we had 4H students and Legacy students use our shop during 2009 and they will be doing that again this year. Our members went to a lot of gem and mineral shows, a few of us went on field trips and we had some wonderful picnics for the club meetings. Thanks to all who opened their homes to us. We had a great club show this year - one of our best. (Not bad for not being sure we were going to have one at all a month before it was scheduled.) Again, thanks to all the volunteers who stepped forward and helped. We could not have done it without you. We had a nice Annual Banquet; then in December we had our Christmas gathering meeting and voted in the new directors, Ken Blake and John Petito. 46 members attended the Christmas party meeting. In spite of the weather, we still had time to talk about stones and minerals.. We had a great time.

Now 2010 is upon us and we have no idea what's in front of us but with our club background, I see good times. With everybody's help 2010 will be great.

Happy New Year to All,



Next LGMS Meeting

January 19, 2010

1 p.m.

At the shop

Marv

**Official Minutes of the
Livingston Gem and Mineral Society**
December 15, 2009

Marvin called the pre-Christmas Party meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Peggy gave the **treasurer's report** indicating that during the last month we have purchased supplies, paid our insurance and paid our rent. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Bob gave the **shop report** stating that all is well. He recently sent an order to Kingsley North.

Marv reminded the members that 2010 dues are due. As the year ends, we have a total of 129 club members.

Marv reviewed the dates that the building will be closed for holiday vacation. Our shop will reopen on January 4, 2010.

Marv stated that at our last meeting John Petito and Ken Blake were unanimously voted in as **new directors**. Marv introduced them to the group and installed them, expressing gratitude for their willingness to help the club.

Marv then concluded the meeting and invited everyone to enjoy the food and fellowship of our Annual Christmas Party.

Respectfully submitted,
Isla Mitchell, secretary pro tem

LGMS Workshop Hours

Monday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday 2:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Reminder:
2010 Dues are due!**

Officers and Chairpersons

President: Marv Martin, 517-521-3135

Vice President: Bryant Hiiter, 248-889-3974

Secretary: Violet Porritt, 810-235-6286

Treasurer: Peggy Petito, 248-887-8847

Second year Directors:

David Riggs, 810-632-7146

Bill Barnett, 734-449-2907

First year Directors:

Ken Blake,

John Petito, 248-887-8847

Sunshine and Hospitality: Mary Barnett, 734-449-2907

Shop Chairpersons:

Bob Krautheim, 810-701-3776

Chuck Amberger, 248-446-0818

Marv Martin, 517-521-3135

Newsletter and Membership:

Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804

Chuck Amberger, 248-446-0818

Library: Bryant Hiiter 248-889-3974

General Membership Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 6 p.m. (Except in January and February when they are held in the shop at 1 p.m.)



Pickles 6-35-09

Coming Shows

38th Annual Special Auction of Mineral and Lapidary Material

The Roamin Club

Schoolcraft College

February 27-28, 2010

Information: 248-969-2196 or 734-421-8159

"Treasures and Gems in 2010"

Michigan Gem and Mineral Society of Jackson

Jackson County Fair Grounds

March 19, 20, 21, 2010

Information: toll free 1-877-872-8471 or www.mgmsrockclub.com

Tear off and mail

2010 Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Dues

Name _____

_____ adult member \$15

_____ family membership\$15

_____ annual workshop fee\$10
(each member who uses the shop must pay this fee)

_____ total payment

Please note any changes in address, email address or phone number _____

newsletter preference: _____ printed, _____ email

Till Dermatitis Do Us Part

Excerpts from a 12/15/09 Wall Street Journal report by Melinda Beck
(Copy of entire article available from Isla Mitchell)

Dermatologists say there are two common causes of wedding-ring dermatitis. One is an allergic reaction to the metal, generally nickel, which can be present in small quantities even in expensive gold and platinum rings. The other is a surface irritation from moisture and soap trapped under the ring, which can occur with any kind. Both cause similar red, scaly welts, and it can be tricky to tell them apart. Yet it's also important to know the cause before you spend thousands of dollars on a replacement ring.

Nickel allergies have been on the rise in North America in recent years and now affect 24% to 36% of women and 7% to 15% of men, according to the North American Contact Dermatitis Group, which named nickel the 2008 Allergen of the Year." Women are more likely to have pierced ears, which can facilitate a sensitivity to nickel if earrings containing the metal contact broken skin. But men are closing the gap due to the popularity of body piercing.

As with other allergies, a reaction to nickel can develop seemingly out of the blue, even years after a person's first exposure. Once the allergy is triggered, it will persist lifelong. A reaction to a particular piece of jewelry may occur suddenly because nickel salts tend to come to the surface years later, or after protective coating has worn away. "You get more exposure to nickel the older the piece of jewelry is," says Jeffrey Benabio, a dermatologist with Kaiser Permanente in San Diego. "That's why you can wear a ring for 20 years and suddenly it starts causing problems."

Nickel is even used in some cellphones and has been known to cause irritations on users' ears and faces - a phenomenon dubbed "mobile-phone dermatitis." In a study published last year in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, researchers at Brown University tested 22 mobile-phone models and found nickel in 10 of them, mostly on menu buttons and company logos.

To cut down on allergic reactions, the European Union severely restricted the use of nickel in jewelry in 2001 and cellphones last year.

Suggestions by some dermatologists to follow suit in the U.S., have gone nowhere - in part because nickel is so prevalent, particularly among imports.

Many gold and silver-plated jewelry pieces use nickel bases, or small quantities of nickel used in hardening alloys. Nickel is what makes white gold white, and it's frequently added to gold that's less than 14-carat. "This can lead to the dreaded 'He-got-me-a-cheap-wedding-ring-that-turned-my-finger-black' syndrome", says Eric Larsen, editor of Nickelfreelife.com, which provides allergy information and links to nickel-free jewelry and tools. But he adds that some jewelers aren't even aware that their products contain nickel. "Many suppliers I have spoken to have not even thought of asking the question of their suppliers. It is very important to use a jeweler that is involved in the sourcing of their product," he says.

Even jewelry that is billed "nickel-free" may merely have a nickel-free coating over a nickel base.....

A dermatologist can perform a patch test to determine whether you are allergic to nickel. Mr. Dow says you can also do it at home by taping a nickel coin (which is 25% nickel) to the inside of your arm for 48 hours. If you are allergic, a red rash will appear 8 to 24 hours after you remove it, he says.

The rash from a nickel allergy can be treated with a topical steroid cream and by avoiding contact with the material again.

The Livingston Gem and Mineral Society is a nonprofit organization and member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Our purpose is to promote, through educational means, public interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, archaeology, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. This society was established in 1970. Annual dues are \$15 per person or family. Annual shop fees are \$10.00 per person. There is an additional fee of \$1.00 per day for workshop use. Annual dues and annual shop fees are due on January 1 of each year. The Livingston Gem and Mineral Society publishes *The Living Stones*. Non copyrighted articles may be reprinted provided that they are properly attributed. Newsletter deadline is the 1st of each month. Articles or correspondence can be sent to LGMS, Hartland Consolidated Schools, 9525 E. Highland Rd. Howell, Michigan 48843-9098.