

# *The Living Stones*

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

March 2010

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## **Vice President's Message**

It's March already, and time for the Gem & Mineral shows to start up again. There will be a good one in Taylor later this month.

The vice-president's message will be short this month, I just want to talk about a couple of things. First, we are well into our teaching of the 4-H children on Monday nights. It is so rewarding to see the look on their faces when that hunk of rock on a stick becomes a piece of shiny jewelry. Please, if you are free on Monday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M., come experience it for yourself. You only need to know the fundamentals of cabachon making. You do not need to be an expert.

Next, our first silent auction was great! Bob Balistieri was the high bidder, and won some nice Botswana Agate, Lapis Lazuli, Quartz, and a number of Jasper and agate slabs. We will start our next auction this Tuesday, and another one next Tuesday. Please look and bid. The money goes towards a new blue saw. Remember our first evening meeting of the year is the third Tuesday at 6:00 P.M. That's all folks. See you at the grinders.

-Bryant



## **Next General Meeting**

March 16, 2010

6 o'clock at the shop

Please consider volunteering  
to bring refreshments.  
See Marv or Bryant.

**Official Minutes of the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society**  
February 16, 2010

Marv called a board meeting at 11:40. The meeting was to discuss the Cranbrook trip. John P said he is needing to get the number of people going and the exact date so he can begin to make the arrangements. Responses are still coming in.

Bryant has been talking to people who have not paid their membership dues yet. Final notice was in the last newsletter.

There was discussion regarding school closures and how members can check to know about snow days and holidays. Marv will get the contact phone number and let membership know.

Meeting ended at 11:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Violet Porritt, Secretary

**Information on building closures for  
Snow days/ holidays**

**Hartland Community Education  
810-626-2150**

**LGMS Mission Statement**

Our purpose is to promote, through educational means, public interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, archaeology, paleontology, and the lapidary arts.

For Sale  
**Pirimatic Facet Machine**  
\$350.00  
Complete  
David Riggs, 810-632-7146

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**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.**

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**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, 810-750-6078  
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 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tuesday at 6 p.m. (Except in January and February when  
they are held in the shop at 1 p.m.)

## Coming Shows

### **Michigan Gem and Mineral Society of Jackson "Treasures and Gems in 2010"**

Jackson County Fair Grounds

March 19, 20, 21, 2010

Information: toll free 1-877-872-8471 or [www.mgmsrockclub.com](http://www.mgmsrockclub.com)

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### **Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society, Metro Rock Swap**

Democratic Club of Taylor

March 27, 2010

Information: 734-525-1684

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### **Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society, Fantastical Fossil, Gem and Mineral Show**

April 30 - May 2, 2010

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

Information: 269-649-1991 or 269-375-5678

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### **Huge Rock and Mineral Sale**

May 22-23, 2010

Marve and Kitty Starbuck, 7636 East V Avenue, Vicksburg, MI

1-269-649-1991 or 1-231-740-5512

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### **M.G.A.G.S. Rockhound Seminar**

Webberville High/Middle School

June 12 & 13, 2010

Information: [www.mgags.org](http://www.mgags.org), or [webmaster@mgags.org](mailto:webmaster@mgags.org), or 313-421-8159

## **Cranbrook Field Trip Response**

Date preference: April 11, 2010 (Sunday)\_\_\_\_\_ May 11, 2010 (Tuesday)\_\_\_\_\_

April 13, 2010 (Tuesday)\_\_\_\_\_ May 16, 2010 (Sunday)\_\_\_\_\_

Time of day preference: Daytime\_\_\_\_\_ Evening\_\_\_\_\_

Transportation preference: Bus\_\_\_\_\_ Car pool\_\_\_\_\_

How many would attend\_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Priceless advice: Know the value before you sell gold

John Schneider

reported in the *Lansing State Journal*, January 7, 2010

You couldn't miss the mid-Michigan gold rush if you tried.

Everybody it seems, wants to buy your gold. Any day now, you might see a sign on a country road that says: "SWEET CORN! NIGHTCRAWLERS! WE BUY GOLD!"

The trigger for the buying frenzy is no mystery. The price of gold is sky-high - it closed at \$1,118.70 an ounce Tuesday in trading in New York - as is the desperation factor.

There is in these hills, a substantial vein of unemployed people with bills to pay and groceries to buy. Their bling is the first thing to go.

Robert Sweet, owner of Premier Coins and Collectibles in Delta Township, says local gold sellers are being swindled.

And this isn't just speculation on Sweet's part. He said he has dropped in "incognito" on some gold buyers and witnessed the con.

In a recent e-mail to me, Sweet wrote "Here in Mid-Michigan, it seems like everywhere we look someone is telling us 'We Buy Gold!' Or 'Cash For Your Gold' or 'Let us Steal Your Gold' (Well, I guess they don't say that but it seems more like the truth).

"Individuals looking to turn their gold into cash can easily know exactly how much their items are worth before walking into any buyer's establishment. We feel... people should be able to get a fair price for their gold..."

Figuring out how much your gold is really worth really isn't that complicated, Sweet said.

As a gift to *State Journal* readers who are considering raiding their jewelry boxes, Sweet provided a formula.

## Do the math

Ready?

OK, the first thing you'll need to know is the purity of your gold. If for example, your ring is stamped "10k" it's .417 pure, 14k gold is .585 pure, 18k gold is .750 pure; 24k gold is pure gold.

This applies to white and yellow gold. If your item is not stamped it can be tested by any reputable gold dealer.

The second thing you'll need to know is the "spot," or current price of gold, which is available 24/7 on the Internet (at [www.coininfo.com](http://www.coininfo.com), for example).

The third thing you'll need to know is the weight of your jewelry in grams. Again, if you don't have a scale, any reputable dealer will weigh your item for you. \_\_\_\_\_

## Square deal

Sweet offered this example: "Let's say the gold spot is \$1,150 per (troy) ounce. There are 31.1 grams in an ounce. Simply divide the spot price, \$1,150 by 31.1 to get the gram value, which in this example is \$36.98." Then multiply the gram value by the gold purity to get melt value. For 10k gold, it's 36.98 times .417 which equals \$15.42, which is the per gram value."

Of course, you won't get the whole shot. The buyers want to cover their expenses and make a profit. But Sweet believes you should get something approaching 80 percent of the melt value, rather than the 40 percent some buyers pay.

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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Articles or correspondence can be sent to LGMS, Hartland Consolidated Schools, 9525 E. Highland Rd. Howell, Michigan 48843-9098.