The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society September 2010

President's Message

We had our last club picnic at Paul and Sue McEwen's home. The food was delicious and a great time was had by all! Captain Paul took whoever wanted to ride on the pontoon around the lake. McEwen's had organized a scavenger hunt to challenge each guest. Thank you Paul and Sue! And thank you to all the homes we invaded for the picnics this summer. Everyone has special memories for us.

When this newsletter reaches you, there will be only a couple of weeks left before our annual show. Besides cleaning, how are those showcases going? I haven't heard too much so I am looking forward to seeing them all.

As always donations for the club table are needed. They are coming in but we always need more so please think about some even if they are small. We appreciate every donation. Thank you!

September means it's time to begin thinking of new officers for next year. Please let us know if you are interested in serving as a director, or officer or chairperson.

Hope to see you at the show.

Marv

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It's Show Time!

September 18 and 19, 2010
Volunteer!
Contribute!
Support your Club!

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Many thanks to the hosts of our summer potluck gatherings

Bill and Mary Barnett

Dita Albert and Family

Sue and Paul McEwen

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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Tip for Cleaning Brass and Copper Wire

from Sandy Breckenridge via Preston Reuther
www.wirejewelrybootcamp.com

I thought this tip may help others who are working with copper and brass wire. In a world of toxic chemicals, it is wonderful to find ways to keep ourselves as toxic free as we can. Since our skin is also an organ that absorbs whatever we put on it, I like to find alternatives for harsher products that come into contact with my skin. Since copper wire and brass wire begin to tarnish so quickly, you might find this tip really helpful. Try putting a couple of tablespoons of lemon or lime juice in a small container and add a teaspoon of regular table salt to the juice. Now drop in your item and swirl it around. The tarnish is gone instantly and your jewelry is bright and shiny. Be sure to rinse the jewelry well or clean off the salt with some gentle cleanser and then rinse it. Your jewelry will sparkle. This solution isn't hard to get out of wire wrapped areas either. Your beads are left with a shine as well. I have tried this also with sterling silver wire. It takes a little longer to remove the tarnish but it does work.

From Madeline and Beverly

We wanted to thank our friends for stopping at our Milford Memories booth in August. It was so refreshing to see familiar faces on those very hot, humid days.
Your support is appreciated!

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

Our Mission

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.

Coming Shows and Sales

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society's
Gem and Mineral Show
September 18 and 19, 2010
Hartland Education Support Service Center
9525 E. Highland Road, Howell, MI
Information: Chuck Amberger, 248-446-0818 or Bryant Hiiter, 248-889-3974

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Super-Mega Lapidary Garage Sale
Saturday, September 25, 2010
Amvets Post #57
19730 Harper Ave, HarperWoods, MI
Information: 810-488-1804 or 313-527-7001

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Huge Rock and Mineral Sale
September 25-26, 2010
Marve and Ketty Starbuck
7636 East V Avenue, Vicksburg, Michigan
Information: 269-649-1991 or 231-740-5512

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Earth's Natural Wonders
Flint Rock and Gem Club
October 16 and 17, 2010
Carter Middle School
Clio, Michigan
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About crystals

C.E. Johnson

Nearly any mineral can crystalize, and can occur in any of the three main classes of rock formations. Some crystalize more often and more easily than others, and are better quality than others.

Quartz and calcite crystalize more often than most, partly because they are common, but also because their composition and internal structure make them versatile. They also occur in environments favorable to higher quality crystals, such as open spaces to "grow" in and slow cooling in the igneous environment. Crystals form most characteristically in "pegmatites" and in the upper levels of mineral veins. The best and largest quartz crystals usually occur in cavities in the pegmatites. Calcite crystals normally don't occur in pegmatites but in their own characteristic environment. Calcite has a tendency to form large crystals and large clusters of crystals when it does crystalize, and it crystalizes in cavities in sedimentary rock formations as well as in mineral veins in any other rock formation.

Both the quartz and the calcite crystalize into many different forms; but of course, only in their own characteristic crystal habits. They often occur in attractive clusters of well-formed crystals, and whether large or small, they make very attractive cabinet specimens. Rockhounds usually become familiar with these minerals' crystal habits very quickly, probably because they are seen more often.

Some of the quartz that occurs in cavities in basalt volcanic formations forms as clusters of the well known amethyst quartz crystals; and minerals known as zeolites often form spectacular crystals in basalt cavities, and even the smallest ones are very much worth collecting.

As you probably know, the pegmatites form a happy-hunting-ground for crystals and other minerals, some of them much more valuable than quartz crystals. There are topaz, beryl (aquamarine and emerald are varieties of beryl), tourmaline, zircon, garnet, apatite, and a considerable number of others.

The intrusive igneous environment, which breeds the pegmatites and veins mentioned above, also produces crystals or masses of minerals in "skarn" deposits in the contact zones of the magmas' intrusions, producing minerals such as diopside, garnets, fluorite, epidote, sometimes corundum (varieties of which are ruby and sapphire), and very appealing crystalline clusters of various metal ores, most likely iron, copper, and tungsten. Also, the contact zones hornfels environments frequently provide crystalized specimens of minerals like andalusite and perhaps staurolite.

The Metamorphic rock formations often contain garnets of a few kinds, especially in the rocks known as schist. These schists are also noted for kyanite, sillimanite, staurolite and andalusite, all of which appeal to many rockhounds. Crystallized specimens of minerals such as rutile, zircon, monazite, tourmaline, and spessartite and andradite garnets, are characteristic of the metamorphic rocks known as gneiss.

A minor class of crystalized minerals usually occur in lower-grade metamorphic rocks like phyllite, which may contain crystals of pyrite and garnets, needles of tourmaline, and perhaps crystalline calcite and epidote. Argillite rocks may contain unique crystals of marcasite, and often gypsum, barite and calcite, any of which often occur in peculiar forms or nicely crystalized, and sometimes occur in geode form.

Some sedimentary-limestone rock formations also offer very nice crystals of calcite and gypsum in "solution" cavities, and geodes of those minerals and others such as barite, are fairly common. There are also aragonite crystals and various forms and colors of chalcedony and more.

Even the oxidized zones at the top of weathered mineral deposits may offer nicely crystalized specimens, especially from the alteration of any metals present, particularly copper, lead, zinc, uranium, and chromium ores. So you can see that many substances crystalize under many different conditions, which increases our chances and gives us choices when we know what occurs where.

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society
9529 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI 48843-9098

Next General Meeting
6 P.M.
September 21, 2010
at the shop

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Final Show Preparation Meeting
Tuesday, 1 o'clock, September 14, 2010
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