

The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

October 2010

President's Message

Ahhhhhh! That's the sound that the show's over. It was good. It was busy. It was fun. Most of all it WAS fun but now it's time to relax, to review the show and see if we can make our next one even better. I want to thank everybody who helped in the show and had showcases. A special thanks to all who helped with setup and takedown. It was very smooth. We had people helping and stepping up for the ones who couldn't be here. Thanks to the sign committee, kitchen help, security, the custodians at school; the list goes on and on. Even the new members were helping and donating. We had a fairly decent turnout. We had seven vendors and five "art tables". A few sales didn't go well but it was the first year for art tables. The vendors seemed pretty much satisfied and were talking about next year. Hopefully, we can get contracts out to them for next year. We had a lot of donations for the club table from outside people and members. It was a wonderful thing to have everybody coming forward saying, Hey I've got this, I've got this. If anybody out there has any ideas on advertising so we can get started early for next year, please speak up. I know there's been a lot of discussion but I can't give you a lot of guidance on it. I need somebody who knows more about it to at least chug along and think about nonprofit radio, papers and ads. I want to get all directions, north, east, south, and west. It would be nice if we could get all the way to the border and cover a few more counties with our advertising.

On the nominations for president, vice president, and a couple of board members: the nominees don't have to be here on Tuesday. It could be somebody from the other days. If there is somebody who would like to step forward and help with the club, maybe you could start as a board member and then move up. But if we have some nominations please let us know so we can see if they would like to help.

We got a few new members during the show time. It's very nice to have new members. We'll try to introduce them all and make them feel at home, of course, and see what they have to offer as they see what we have to offer them.

Hopefully we'll have some new club badges soon. The LGMS label with the little miner on the side will cost \$2.00 apiece. The personalized name tags will be available as soon as we locate a vendor. When we receive them, we will announce the cost for the name tags which will hang from jump rings.

Marv

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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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**Official Minutes of the
Livingston Gem and Mineral Society
September 14, 2010**

Marv called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Charles Hiiter died and Peg was not present because her Mom is not doing well and she is out of state. Marv asked everyone to pick up their stuff around the shop to help ready the room for the show this weekend. Al mopped and cleaned the mats on the floors last Thursday. Please sign up to work Saturday or Sunday. Show hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,. Marv says the gym will open at 3 p.m.. Be here by 1 p.m. Legacy kids will be here from 3 - 4:30 p.m. to help set up. Vendors will come at 5 p.m. Let the vendors take care of their own setup and takedown. Leave the showcases in room until setup is finished. It was decided to move the silent auction to the front of the gym. Remember Sunday that everything that went up needs to be taken down. Mike McDivett will guard the gym Friday and Saturday nights. Please bring items for the prize drawing. Bill's lamp for the drawing is coming along nicely. Treasurer report: show admission is \$2 for adults, students 12 - 18 are \$.50, children under 12 are free. Mary will bring dessert and AnnMarie, Sharon, George will bring snacks for Tuesday night's meeting at the shop. Meeting ended at 1:55 p.m.

Bryant Hiiter, Recorder

September 21, 2010

Marv called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Motion to approve minutes was passed. Shop report: Al and Ken put new wheels on last week and ordered a couple of new ones. They also cleaned all the saws. Dave recommended we start putting money away to pay for a new large saw because ours is old and will wear out soon. There was much discussion on this. Margaret says she has a contact who makes belt guards and she may be able to get a discount. Preparations are being made for our next series of 4-H classes.

Anna announced that the banquet will be October 19 at 6 p.m. in the Senior Center. Cost is \$14 per person. Some of the silent auction items that didn't sell will be used for banquet prizes. There was discussion about next year's show. There was agreement that we need more advertising. Al and Dave volunteered to start checking now to compile a list of names and places to advertise. It was felt there should be more information on our show flyer such as vendors and cost. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the size of future shows. Should we increase vendors before increasing attendance? Venus suggested that we consider doing this in stages, working on increasing attendance while we slowly increase the number of vendors. Al moved that we bring this discussion regarding whether to grow the show or leave it as is to a later meeting (amended to be November) and Margaret seconded. Passed. Sue suggested this debate be announced in the newsletter.

New Business: LGMS badges are available for \$2.00. We will be working on prices for personalizing them. Dave has been writing a history of our club but needs help to polish it for publication. AnnMarie and John H volunteered to help. There is general interest in compiling the history of some of the founding members. Several nominations were made for next years' officers: Bryant Hiiter for president, Ken Blake for vice president, Peg Petito to continue as treasurer for an additional year, Al Zielinski for shop chairman. Nominations will continue to be accepted and will be brought to the November meeting for vote. At 7:30 Sharon made motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted, Violet Poritt, Secretary

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.) _____

Your input is needed!

Please consider this agenda item for the November meeting: **Next Steps for the Annual Show???**

Option 1: Do what we're doing but do it better. Approximately the same number of vendors using half the gym

- concentrate on more publicity
- more attendance results in more sales and happier vendors
- manage with approximately the same number of volunteers

Option 2: Contract with as many vendors as possible, using the entire gym for the show

- concentrate on more publicity
- it would be essential to have more attendance in order to ensure adequate sales per vendor
- can we recruit more volunteers to handle a bigger show i.e. setup, take down, admission people, club and children's table coverage?

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

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### **Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, Fossil and jewelry Show**

October 8,9, and 10, 2010

Macomb Community College, South Campus, Expo Center, Bldg P

Fri 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5

contact [www.michmin.org](http://www.michmin.org) or 248-887-3906

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Earth's Natural Wonders

Flint Rock and Gem Club

October 16 and 17, 2010

Sat 10-5, Sun 10-5

Carter Middle School, 300 Upland Dr.

Clio, Michigan

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### **Central Michigan's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Lapidary and jewelry Show**

October 22, 23, and 24

Fri 6-9, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5

"Main Arena" Ingham county Fairgrounds

contact 517-641-6125 or [facetman60@yahoo.com](mailto:facetman60@yahoo.com)

## **Treasure Hunting For Fire Agates**

**by David Cowley\_\_\_\_\_**

Fire Agate is a layered stone that is formed when water that is saturated with colloidal silica and iron oxide enters a cavity in a rock and the mineral in the water starts to form new rock. When cutting, the stone's layers are ground or polished off following the natural contours of the stone until the desired color is all that is left. Grind off one too many layers and the stone is ruined.

Searching for fire agates is considered hard rock mining. The agates are usually found embedded in layers of dense limonite and rhyolite rock. Removing these gemstones from the underlying bedrock without breaking the gemstones takes time and experience.

Tools required will consist of several different sizes of chisels, a screwdriver, a stiff bristle paint brush, a heavy hammer, goggles and a spray bottle to clean your specimens. After you have found a suitable claim site brush off the area with the paint brush. This will reveal the gemstones embedded in the bedrock. Very carefully chip around the gem with the chisel. Chip too close and the gem will break into pieces. This is where the experience will show.

If you are lucky you will find a seam or even a pocket full of agates. Size and shape of the gemstones have created its own language to describe them. Flowers, dog-tooth crystals and castles are just a few of the names applied to them. Dog-tooth usually is applied to the gemstones that grow from the sides of the pockets and the castles grow from the bottom. Pockets can range from the size of an orange to the size of a football.

The Opal Hill Fire Agate Mine is the only mine that I know of that allows the public to mine for fire agates. It is located in the Mule Mountains not far from Palo Verde, California. Normally when you think of a mine you think of a long tunnel you have to traverse deep into the mountain to find the mineral deposits. The Opal Hill mine is more of an open pit where you can spend \$15 to stake your three-foot square claim for the day.

The mine owners will take you by the hand and show you what to look for and how to extract the precious gemstones. Once you have mastered the process they will remain in the area for any additional questions or advice. If chipping at rock sounds like too much work you are free to search the tailing area of the mine in your quest for these elusive stones.

Another area that has become quite popular with the rock hounds is the Black Hills Rock-hound area in Arizona. It is open to the public without fees or permits. For more information contact the Stanford district, Bureau of Land Management.

Many of the finished fire agate gemstones do not look like the traditional gemstones that you find mounted in jewelry. Agates are beautifully textured and come in very odd shapes and sizes. Once you see one of these unique gemstones you will see why they have become so popular.

Fire Agates have only been discovered within the last 60 years making them the newest and rarest gemstones on the market today. Fire agates have also been found in Kingman and Golden Valley, Arizona; Needles, California; Mexico; and areas around the Colorado River. I strongly suggest that you visit the Opal Hill mine prior to hunting in any other area. This will allow you to see the type of bedrock to look for and what the embedded Fire Agates look like in their natural form.

Happy Treasure Hunting.

David Cowley has created numerous articles on Treasure Hunting. He has also created a Web Site dedicated to Treasure Hunting.

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.

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

9529 E. Highland Road

Howell, MI 48843-9098



*Livingston Gem and Mineral Society*

*Annual Banquet*

*6 p.m. Tuesday*

*October 19, 2010*

*Hartland Senior Center*

*Jeffrey Anderson will give a presentation on Agates*

*Call Anna Pernicano for reservations*

*248-486-4048*

*\$14.00 per person*