

# *The Living Stones*

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

May 2011

## **President's Message**

I want to thank Ken for taking over when I was gone. His messages were nice and informative. Hope some of you took advantage of some of the recent shows. The weather is getting nicer so some of us have been out looking for stones on beaches or in the quarries.

The 4-H groups are still coming in on Monday evenings. Overseers are needed for just a couple more weeks. Ken and Chuck and many others have been doing a wonderful job with the groups. Thank you, thank you! These 4-Hers are very excited about the lapidary process. Some have already joined the club and many will be future members.

Some members brought interesting stones into the shop recently. It was great to see them and to buy or trade some. The shop is focusing on safety a bit more lately. Remember when you leave your machine, always turn off your machine and the water. Also, before leaving the shop, please remember to clean one or two machines. That helps out a lot. Are you interested in getting a better understanding of some of the machines and saws in the shop? We're considering brief classes to educate our members on the proper running and maintenance of the machines. That would benefit all of us.

We're pleased with our new website. Hope you've had a chance to check it out. We'd welcome suggestions for future content. Did you read about Dawn's "bead in space"? I hope we can follow that exciting story.

We're looking for a club member who is a tinsmith. We'd like a few things made up at the shop. We'll pay for materials and we'd appreciate someone to volunteer his services as a tinsmith.

Speaking of volunteers brings me to our show preparations. We need help in many different areas. Please see the signup list in the shop. Consider jobs such as hospitality, advertising, banners, and "floaters" at the show to relieve people so they can relieve themselves (ha-ha).

This year we are talking about adding crafts to our show. There are strong opinions pro and con. A committee is working on it and your feedback is needed. More information will be offered at the next general meeting.

In June our picnic meetings will begin again. We're talking about having a swap/trade/sell out of our car trunks at the picnics as the club did years ago. Does that appeal to people? Let me know what you think. We'd also like some members to consider hosting the summer gatherings at their homes. Please get back to me if you're interested.

I hope all of you enjoyed the Easter weekend. My family went rock hunting and the grandkids and son-in-law and I made some beautiful finds. When we got back to the house, we had a show and tell and, of course, each one thought he had the best treasure. It made for a great weekend for us.

Have a good month and happy rock hunting!

*Marv*

## Minutes of the LGMS Meeting

April 19, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Marv Martin. A motion by Al Z to accept the March minutes as written was seconded by Venus S, and approved.

**Shop report:** Please clean the saws when done. Scrape oil and small debris that will go through blade slot, back into the oil reservoir. Cleaning rags are in the bottom drawer of the middle table. Dirty rags are to be placed in the red bucket by the saw room. Remember to be safe in the shop. Turn off all equipment when you leave it.

The **treasurer's** report was read and accepted. Chuck A (our historian) is working on the history project. If you have any information on past club activities, please get to Chuck. We now have 103 members in the club. Ken B, V.P., reported that findings had been purchased and rocks donated for the 4-H. He also requested that members add wax to the new dop pots whenever they are low. We need helpers for the 4-H kids on Monday evenings for 3 more weeks from 6 until 8 p.m. Ken needs your help.

Our new **web site** is up and running thanks to Rhonda Hagerman. You can check it out at [www.livingstongemandmineralsociety.com](http://www.livingstongemandmineralsociety.com). If you have anything for the web site bring to the shop and we will pass it on. Rhonda is monitoring email and directs it to the correct person. The motto on the site is "Polishing the world one rock at a time."

If you want to order a badge, a signup list is posted on the bulletin board. The main piece is \$2.00, name tag is \$4.00.

New business:

Peggy checked on our **insurance** and we have some liability insurance through the Federation that covers members only. Unguided field trips and guests are not covered.

**Show plans:** A volunteer signup sheet for the show is posted by the office. We need help in all areas. We also need ideas for advertising. Venus' daughter, Kayla, will check on buddy ads to go in programs for the drama club.

Many people have asked to have crafts at the show. We are studying whether a section of juried craft booths will help to enlarge our show. Many people want more information and Margaret, Venus and Al are working on this. A presentation will be made at the May meeting to show some of the possible criteria for craft vendors. All input is welcome. Thank you to Al and Peggy and Monica for the delicious snacks. Volunteers for snacks in May are Ann, Venus, Ken and Lavonne. A motion to adjourn was made by Sharon and seconded by Lorelei. Meeting adjourned at 7:40. P.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Edmundson, Secretary

### 2011 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Marv Martin, 517-521-3135

Vice President: Ken Blake, 810-750-6078

Secretary: Margaret Edmundson, 248-634-5046

Treasurer: Peggy Petito, 248-887-8847

Second year Directors: John Petito, 248-887-8847  
Paul Maitre, 248-961-4947

First year Directors: Violet Porritt, 810-235-6286  
Lorelei Hosler, 810-789-3687

Sunshine and Hospitality: Mary Barnett, 734-449-2907  
Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804

Shop Chairperson: Alan Zielinski, 810-632-6616

Newsletter and Membership:

Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804

Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586

Historian: Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586

Library: Bryant Hiiter 248-889-3974

Website: [Livingstongemandmineralsociety.com](http://Livingstongemandmineralsociety.com)

Email: [contact@livingstongemandmineralsociety.com](mailto:contact@livingstongemandmineralsociety.com)

Website managed by Rhonda Hagerman

General Membership Meetings are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6 p.m. (Except in January and February when board meetings are held in the shop at 1 p.m.)

## Historically Speaking

*I recently talked to Marion Short, Bill Horton and Johnny Johnson about the origin of the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society. The stories I heard were very similar but not identical. I figured if I put together a history based on all the points of agreement, well then, that should be a story very close to what really happened. Something like this:*

*In 1970 Johnny Johnson moved from his home town of Caspian, in the western U.P., down to Fowlerville, Michigan. Johnny was a self-taught electrician then and became employed at the Glover Electric Co. in Fowlerville. It was there and then that he met Nelson Short who was also employed with Glover. Both Johnny and Nelson were avidly interested in collecting rocks and minerals. Nelson was already a member of the Lansing Club and persuaded Johnny to join as well. Johnny and Nelson would drive to the meetings that took place once a month in Lansing. The Lansing Club did not have a lapidary shop, so the members would just come there to discuss their common interest in the lapidary arts.*

*It was a long way to Lansing so Johnny and Nelson would take turns driving there. On one of these trips they decided that all this driving was becoming tiresome and that they should just start a rock club of their own. Thus was born the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society, the club we all enjoy so much today. They invited all their friends from Fowlerville, Howell and Hartland to join them and soon they had a large collection of permanent members.*

*The first meetings were held in a small room in the basement of the Howell Airport and the McDonald Funeral home supplied all the chairs for the meetings. Since there was no shop there, the first meetings were simply discussions about mineralogy, the lapidary arts, field trips and the fun of their shared interest. The Club would meet in Howell and at many other locations*

*until 1964, when the club moved to Hartland where two classrooms were obtained and a Lapidary Shop was installed in the "21 Building". Monthly meetings were held in the basement of the Krouse Building close by.*

*In 2005 the Club moved to the fine facilities that we now enjoy in the old Hartland High School, currently known as the Hartland Education Support Service Center.*

*More stories to follow....*

*Chuck Amberger*

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### LGMS Workshop Hours

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

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

Wednesday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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### Wirewrapping?

Anna and George Pernicano have returned from Arizona so the shop has more smiles on Tuesdays. Anna is again offering her help to anyone interested in learning to wirewrap. Just check with her any Tuesday morning.

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### 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.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Southeastern Michigan Gem and Mineral Show**  
Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society of Michigan  
May 20-22, 2011 (Fri. 2-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun 11-5)  
Southgate Arena. 14700 Reaume Pkwy  
Southgate, Michigan

**Huge Rock and Mineral Sale**  
Saturday, May 21, 2011, 9-6,  
Sunday, May 22, 2011, 9-4  
Marve and Kitty Starbuck  
7636 East V Avenue, Vicksburg, MI  
Information: 269-649-1991 or 1-231-740-5512

**State Line Gem and Mineral**  
50<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Rock Show  
June 3, 4, and 5, 2011  
Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon, Ohio  
Junior Fair Building  
information: 517-263-1669 or rychar@tc3net.com  
<http://stateline.freewebspace.com>

**M.G.A.G.S.**  
**Rockhound Weekend**  
June 11 and 12, 2011  
Carrollton Middle School  
3211 Carla Drive, Carrollton, MI  
information: [www.mgags.org](http://www.mgags.org) or 734-421-8159

### **Our Show Needs You .....and your Rocks!**

**Club Table** - needs rough rocks or slabs to sell  
**Children's Table** - needs collections of small specimens  
for grab bags and egg carton rock collections  
**Volunteers** are needed for setup, take down and for many other jobs.  
Sign up soon!  
Thanks so much for supporting your club!

## Crystal Clear Cave

Not all caves are dark and creepy. A cave in Spain sparkles like diamonds. Geologists, or scientists who study the earth's rock and soil, discovered the cave in an old silver mine. The cave is actually a giant geode (jee-ohd), or a hollow rock lined with crystals. The sparkling space is the largest geode ever found. Most geodes are about the size of your fist. This geode is large enough for ten adults to fit inside it! The cave's crystals are made of a glassy material, called gypsum (jip-sam). The crystals are so clear, you can read a newspaper through them. Some crystals in this geode measure seven feet. That's taller than either of the two Spanish scientists who found it.

From the MWF News, April 2011, via Scholastic News Zone, via the South Central Federation Newsletter, March-April, 2011

## Basalts and Basalt Cavities

Basalts are the most common of all volcanic rocks. They are dark, fine-grained, and composed primarily of plagioclase feldspar, the pyroxenes augite and bronzite, and small amounts of iron and titanium oxides such as magnetite and limenite. The entire sea floor is composed of basaltic rock, extruded at the mid ocean ridges and transported outward as the sea-floor spreads, due to the forces of plate tectonics. Some magmas of basaltic composition do not erupt on the earth's surface as basalts, but rather cool more slowly beneath the surface to form the coarser-grained rock types, diabase and gabbro. These rocks are coarser-grained because they cooled slowly, allowing the individual crystals time to grow larger. Gas bubbles that were unable to escape before the basaltic lava hardened into rock are often preserved as cavities in which a variety of crystals may form from the iron-enriched waters moving gradually through the rock. Not all basalt cavities host interesting mineral associations. Some remain completely empty, while others are filled only with crystalline and cryptocrystalline quartz.

From the MWF News, April 2011, via the Encyclopedia of Gemstones and Minerals by Martin Holden, via the South Central Federation Newsletter, March-April 2011

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  
9525 E. Highland Road  
Howell, MI 48843-9098



## **Next General Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011**

**6 o'clock  
at the shop**

**Come and participate!**