

# *The Living Stones*

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

June 2011

## **President's Message**

Happy June! Even with all our wet weather, I'm pretty sure all the rain has not made the rocks grow, so they will still fit in our pockets. Keep looking for the best stone or rock!

Thanks to Ken for leading the May meeting in my absence. I appreciate it!

Our shop continues to be busy. During the past weeks we've all enjoyed Al's contest for the most interesting picture rock. Congratulations to Dave for taking first prize and to Hazel and Chuck for following with second and third. There were some amazing creatures and views in those rocks - and creative stories to go with them.

Al Zielinski, our shop chairman, deserves our ongoing appreciation! Many thanks, Al, for maintaining our machines and keeping the shop clean. You are the best!

June brings our outside meetings and the first one will be at my house! There will be room to open car trunks and sell or share your work with the group. Please consider it.

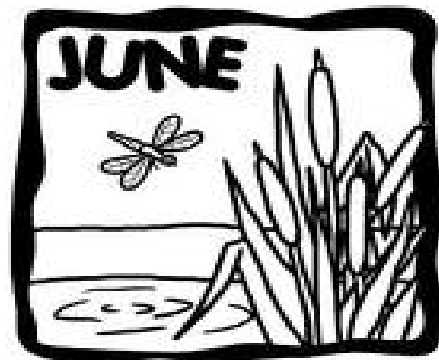
Directions to my home at 333 Pine St, Webberville, MI 48892 follow.

From the club take M 59 west through Howell to Grand River, turn west on Grand River and go through Fowlerville to Webberville's red light. Turn north on Main and go 3 blocks to Pine. Pine only goes left (west). Go 3 blocks on Pine to the "Road Ends" sign. Go past the sign and that is my driveway. Park on either the north or south side in the grass.

From I 96, go west to the Webberville exit # 122. Turn north on M52 to Grand River (about 1 mile) where there is a stop sign and flashing light. Turn right on Grand River to the Webberville red light. Turn north on Main and go 3 blocks to Pine. Pine only goes left (west). Go 3 blocks on Pine to the "Road Ends" sign. Go past the sign and that is my driveway. Park on either the north or south side in the grass.

See ya'

*Marv*



## **Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Minutes 5/17/11**

In Marv's absence, our vice president, Ken Blake, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The treasurer's report reflected only small changes with some vendors beginning to respond with show reservations.

Al Zielinski gave the shop report. He is pleased with the "curtains" which he has put on some of the wheels. He expects to gradually remount all the arbors to accommodate these curtains. He also recommended using sponges in the trays to keep splashing to a minimum. Al thanked Paul Maitre for making and posting signs to remind folks about using enough water at the diamond wheels and then keeping the floor mopped as necessary. We will soon need to purchase more oil for the saws and the members agreed that buying the 55 gallon amount is most economical. Al will plan to be responsible for the oil.

Ken asked for feedback on our website. Members are pleased with it, though a few have had difficulty opening the newsletters on the website. With time it is hoped that our website will be interchangeably linked with an increasing number of related websites.

Chuck Amberger has been busy with show planning. He is encouraged by the response of several vendors. In late June or early July Isla expects to mail all LGMS members prize tickets in preparation for the show drawings. Ken reminded members of the need to sign up as volunteers for the show. Al has been compiling a long list of advertising possibilities including such resources as the Argus, Midwest Federation, Community Life, Chamber of Commerce, and Livingston Parent. John suggested following up with Cliff Lyndal of the wood carvers who is also working on publicity. Isla agreed to forward Al information about the Hartland Patch. Chuck agreed to notify Rock and Gem and the Lapidary Journal and he will also plan to work with the Country Register and write some copy that can be

used in their ads. Al will be requiring money for some advertising and Ken agreed to have the board meet to discuss this next Tuesday.

Margaret, Al, and Venus have put together a detailed proposal regarding the "craft vendors" at the show. There was general discussion about this. Al made motion that the proposal be modified to add that the "LGMS jury will evaluate vendors as to whether they are appropriate for our show and will not evaluate the vendors as to their aesthetics". This passed with a show of hands. Peggy stressed that each vendor should be lapidary related. Finally, the concept of "craft vendors" as presented in the written proposal and with the modifications added by Al and Peggy, was put to a vote. It was passed with 19 voting "yes" and 5 voting "no".

We will be able to expand our available electricity at the show with the help of the Senior Center's resources. They will make it possible to have additional electrical "drops".

Paul reported on attending the Roamin' Club's dinner recently. He heard an interesting presentation on fossils. He shared our show flyers with their club and invited them to participate in our show by putting up display cases.

Ken pointed out the viewer which was recently donated to us by the Senior Center. We are delighted that we'll be able to use it to enlarge micros and other specimens. Many thanks to Alice at the Senior Center.

It was noted that with the space shuttle's recent flight, Dawn's bead is currently in space. Yea! Our summer meeting schedule will begin in June when we will gather at Marv's home in Webberville. We still need volunteers for hosting in July and August.

Many thanks to Anna, George, Venus, Lavonne, Richard and JoAnn Blake for the delicious refreshments tonight.

Lorelei made motion to adjourn, Al seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
Isla Mitchell, Secretary pro tem

## LGMS Board Meeting Minutes May 24, 2011

Ken called the meeting to discuss advertising for the show. Present were Ken, Peg, John, Paul, Lorelei, Chuck, Al and Vi. Following Al's motion, it was decided to purchase an ad in the "Country Register" July/August issue. Al also suggested that we try to interest students, age 14 and over, in the lapidary arts by encouraging them to come to the shop on Fridays from 10 to 4. Younger students would need to be accompanied by an adult. Al and Chuck volunteered to be at the shop.

Respectfully submitted,  
Violet Porritt, Secretary pro tem

### 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.

### 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.)



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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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**Attention: “Craft Vendors”**  
**Deadline for submitting your application is**  
**July 15, 2011**

Application and details are available at the shop

**Upcoming Events**

**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

**Rock Swap**

**Stateline Gem and Mineral Society**

July 16, 2011, 8 am to 5 pm

at the former railroad depot, 325 W. Main St, Morenci, MI

Information: 419-237-2000 or [davis@tc3net.com](mailto:davis@tc3net.com)

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

September 17 and 18, 2011

**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!

## Periodic Tales: A Cultural History of the Elements from Arsenic to Zinc

By Hugh Aldersey-Williams,  
excerpt from book review by Mike Jay, Wall Street Journal, April 9-10, 2011

Our blood is red because of its iron-containing hemoglobin, but the association between iron and blood was firmly established long before this fact became known in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The metal has been identified since prehistory by its bloody signature of iron oxide or rust; one of iron's principal ores, hematite, has had that bloody name since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Iron and blood have long been linked with the red planet Mars, named for the Roman war god, as symbols of battle. Modern science made the connection even clearer. The Martian surface is indeed covered with a fine dust of brick-red limonite, rich in iron oxide.

These connections between iron and blood represent just the sort of fertile overlap between the chemistry of the elements and their human meanings that Hugh Aldersey-Williams sets out to explore in "Periodic tales". As the author shows, every element tells a different story. The weight, ductility and imperishability of gold, for example have underpinned its status as a substance of beauty, value and permanence since antiquity. Platinum, by contrast, was a cheap and largely ignored commodity until around 1900, when jewelers, particularly Louis Cartier, turned its dullness to advantage in setting off the sparkle of gemstones. Once platinum was chosen for the setting of the Koh-i-Noor diamond in the British crown jewels in 1937, the metal came to trump gold itself - a distinction now enshrined in the language of credit cards and best-selling records.

Mr. Aldersey-Williams's "Cultural History of the Elements, From Arsenic to Zinc", as the subtitle has it, offers abundant ways of refreshing a subject that falls easily into well-trodden grooves. When he began the book, the author tells us he traced a map of the world on which to plot the discovery of every element. When he had finished, most of the dots clustered in the familiar scientific hot-spots of northwest Europe, with a sprinkle in Berkeley, Calif., for the post-uranium radioactive heavyweights. The big historical picture is similarly restricted in scope and surprises. The elements are essentially a construction of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, and specifically of Antoine Lavoisier, who replaced the charming but confusing lexicon of "essence," "liquor," "spirit," "butter" and "flower" with a list of 33 substances that represented "the last point which analysis is capable of reaching." New techniques such as electrolysis and spectroscopy multiplied the tally over the following century and in 1871 Dmitri Mendeleev's periodic table provided a structure that, over the next 20 years, would show its power to predict the missing pieces of the puzzle.

The author's personal engagement is at its most infectious in the experiments he undertakes in the course of his research. After several weeks of attempting to extract iodine from seaweed, he expresses a thrill at finally seeing iodine's distinctive violet hue that is palpable. When he fails even with an oxy-acetylene torch and quartz test tubes, to replicate the 17<sup>th</sup> century alchemist Henning Brand's breakthrough in extracting glowing phosphorus from his own urine, Mr. Aldersey-Williams concludes that "whatever his delusions, Brand was clearly a formidable experimental scientist." He laments the disappearance of the educational chemistry sets of his youth, but these passages succeed in capturing the excitement of their partially controlled explosions, pungent stinks and wondrously colored flames.

Ostensibly a survey of the elements, this book is really about the many ways humans have used them.

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



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**Next Meeting**  
**Potluck Gathering**  
Marv and Margurite Martin's home  
333 Pine, Webberville, MI  
(See directions in  
President's Message, page 1)

**Tuesday, June 21, 2011**  
6 o'clock

Come and enjoy!

