

The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

July 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.

2011 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Marv Martin, 517-521-3135

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

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

**Application and details are available at the
shop**

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
Email: contact@livingstongemandmineralsociety.com
Website managed by Rhonda Hagerman
General Membership Meetings are held monthly on the
3rd Tuesday at 6 p.m. (Except in January and February
when board meetings are held in the shop at 1 p.m.)

Our Show Needs Youand 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!

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.

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.

Huge Gold Nugget Found

As published in the Press-Telegram, Long Beach, California, January 9, 2011; submitted by Martin Dougherty, Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society, via the MWF News, May 2011

This undated photo provided by Holabird-Kagin Americana shows a 100-ounce gold nugget found by a man last year on his property near Nevada City, California. The nugget is expected to fetch from \$225,000 to \$400,000 when it goes up for auction in

Some 150 years after the forty-niners rushed west in search of riches, a new gold discovery in the Sierra Nevada is stirring excitement.

A 100-ounce nugget, found by a man last year on his property near Nevada City, Calif., is expected to fetch between \$225,000 and \$400,000 when it goes up for auction March 15 in Sacramento, Calif.

Fred Holabird, a mining geologist whose Reno-based company is one of the country's largest sellers of Western Americana and is handling its sale, thinks it's the largest California gold nugget left in existence. Virtually all of California's gold field have been thoroughly combed by miners, he said, and other monster nuggets from the Golden State have been melted into ingots for money.

While bigger nuggets have surfaced in Australia in recent decades, no similar-sized placer nuggets from California have turned up in museums, he added.

The Smithsonian Institution's largest placer nugget from California weighs about 80 ounces.

"The chances of finding something like this anymore are beyond remote. It could be one in a trillion," Holabird said.

The man was using a metal detector in an unmined ancient stream bed near the old Mother Lode mining camp of Washington when he stumbled on the nugget in February 2010.

The Union of Grass Valley, Calif., has identified him as San Francisco businessman Jim Sanders.

The so-called Washington Nugget is thick and oblong, and resembles a "squished loaf of bread," Holabird said, adding it was found in the same area where hydraulic mining was invented in the 19th century. A lack of records makes it difficult to determine how the nugget compares in size historically, said John Clinkenbeard, senior geologist with the California Geological Survey in Sacramento.

But he said he's unaware of any similar 100-ounce placer nugget being found in California in recent decades.

"I can't put a numerical value on how rare it is to find a nugget like this," Clinkenbeard said. "All I know is that large nuggets are very rare and your odds of finding one aren't very good."

The largest known nugget found in California weighed 54 pounds and was found in 1859 in Butte County, he added.

The California State Mining and Mineral Museum in Mariposa, Calif., displays the Fricot "Nugget," a rare 13.8-pound specimen of crystallized gold discovered in the American River in 1864.

But Clinkenbeard and Holabird said there's a difference between Mariposa's crystalline gold specimen and the placer nugget found last year.

True nuggets such as the latter are a product of erosion in a modern or ancient streambed, while the former consists of native gold in quartz that has not gone through the same erosional process.

While current gold prices would make the Washington Nugget worth roughly \$130,000 Holabird expects a collector to pay well more because of its historical value. Gold closed at \$1,368.90 an ounce Friday.

"It's worth more as a collectible," he said. "No one will be melting this thing. It's one of the most important California gold artifacts that exist."

Washington Gold Nugget Found Sells for \$460k at Auction to Secret Buyer

Published at <http://www.gather.com/viewArticle.action?articleId=281474979147470> and contributed by Martin Dougherty,

Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society, March 18, 2011 06:00PM EDT, via the MWF News, May 2011

by Brad Bechler

A Washington gold nugget weighing seven pounds sold at an auction for \$460,000. The anonymous seller was happy to get rid of the rare find that would have gone to a museum of not sold to the highest bidder.

It was a find that will go in the gold annals as one of the largest intact nuggets ever found. The find and final auction price will no doubt spawn another "California Gold Rush" not seen since the 1800's

It was a whopping discovery, and the finder was not expecting a Washington gold nugget as large as his monumental metal. He did and immediately realized that people will come knocking on his door looking for the treasure possibly accompanied by Messrs. Smith and Wesson.

An auction or donation was the most logical thing to do for safety. But the drive for a little cash was not a bad idea.

The monster rock weighed in at 100 troy ounces (seven pounds), and according to experts, would fetch about \$100,000 in today's gold prices. After a careful inspection, however, it was clear the amount would go higher.

When the auction opened at \$250,000, it quickly escalated to \$375,000, and it was clear that rare Washington gold nugget would fetch more. It did, and Spectrum Numismatics of Southern California won the prize at \$460,000 on behalf of a "secret bidder."

As fast as the action began, it was over, and people were making a beeline to the exit, no doubt headed to dust off their old shovels to claim their share of "gold in them thar hills."

Upcoming Events

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

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 1st 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 Meeting
Potluck Gathering
Epley Park
Hartland

Tuesday, July 19, 2011
6 o'clock

Come and enjoy!

