

The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

October 2011

President's Message

With the blink of an eye we're thinking of "Banquet" instead of "The Gem and Mineral Show".

The banquet is October 18th at 6 o'clock at the Senior Center. Arrive earlier if you want to chit-chat before dinner. Cost this year is \$14 for each person. Please get the money and reservation to Vi by the 11th. Hope to see you there.

Back to the show. It seemed to go well. We got the gym early. Chuck called for the tables early. Helpers came early. Setup was early. You get the idea. It started great and continued throughout the weekend. Numbers are in and we did well. The only number that was down was attendance, but we still did well.

I would like to thank everybody who helped set up, take down, worked in the kitchen, worked the show and those who brought in showcases to share. THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Our next meeting will be at the BANQUET. Se ya there.

Be Safe,

Marv

Workshop Hours

Monday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

Thursday: open for cleaning only
(check with Ken)

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

Thanks for putting us at the Top!

According to the Midwest Federation, LGMS is one of only 24 lapidary clubs in the region with over 100 members - and one of only nine in Michigan with that distinction.



Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Minutes

September 13, 2011, 12:30 P.M.

A short meeting was held to discuss the show preparations. We seem to be in good shape so far. We have 8 vendors and 2 craft booths signed up. The club needs a list of where the signs for the show are placed in case a problem develops.

The motor on the big saw has burned up. A replacement motor (1725 RPM, 110 volt, 1 HP) is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

September 20 2011, 6:00 P.M.

17 present

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Peggy Petito and seconded by Paul McEwen. The minutes were accepted as written.

The treasury is in good shape and the show was a success.

Peggy will check with the school administration for openings to possibly change the show dates. We need ideas to get more people to come to the show.

The banquet is October 18th. All reservations are due by Oct. 11th, and are \$14.00 per person.

Bill Horton has donated a new motor for the big saw. Thank you Bill. A new blade has been ordered for it.

No one has stepped up to become vice president in November; however, we are trying to convince Bryant Hiiter to take on the job. If anyone has an interest in being V.P. let us know.

A video of the show can be seen at www.hartlandpatch.com. Hugh and Juanita Ward won the lamp, this year's big prize.

Thank you to all who worked to make the show a success this year.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bryant and seconded by Sharon K. Adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Margaret Edmundson, Sec.

Beaded Cabachon Class

November 1, 8 and 15

Tuesdays from 10:00 to 12:00

Maximum 5 students

Information: Madeline Navarro

mlnavarro@comcast.net

or 810-229-2780

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:

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.)

The Annual Show-(a little history of)-

Now that our 39th Annual Show for 2011 is over, I thought it would be interesting to look through our records to see how the Annual Show fared back in 1974 when the first Show was presented. However, I found no record of the Show, no mention of it in the minutes, no treasurers report, nothing. The total assets for the Club that year were listed as \$100.89. I get the distinct feeling that the Show was not all that successful. but then, we have no record. In the 1975 records, I found a very primitive-looking Show Flyer. The Show was held on Sept. 27th and 28th of that year at the Howell Rec. Center, 925 west Grand River. The treasurer's report for that show listed a profit of \$504.00 after expenses. In 1976, our Club published a very professional looking Show Flyer listed as the third Annual Show. The November treasurer's report showed that the Club took in \$ 411.00 but listed no expenses. (I wonder how they did that.) The 1977 Show had a fine looking Flyer announcing this as the "The Rockhound Dream Show". The net profit from this Show after expenses was \$628.18. (Things are looking better.) The 1978 Show published a profit of \$654.00 after expenses. (Better yet). Now let us just fast -forward to 1988 to see how our Club fared after moving to the "21 Building" in old Hartland and our Annual Shows were held in the Commons of the Hartland High School. This is where we now have our shop. The treasurers report for 1988 shows a total Show intake of \$2382.68 with expenses of \$1402.99 and a total Show profit of \$1339.69. (Much better.) In 1989 the Annual Show posted a net profit of \$2013.84 and here we will have to stop because our Club stopped publishing the Show reports in 1990. I realize that this is just a brief snapshot of our Show experience over the years but I see a definite trend here. The Club has done well

but we face many problems in the near future, Gas prices go up and access to the facilities of the Hartland Education Support Center are ever harder to acquire. There are many entities now using the Center who are competing with us for parking and scheduling events. We also have a great advertising problem. But all in all I know that in the end, we will do all right; always have, always will.

Thanks for all your help at the Show.

Chuck Amberger-- Club Historian--

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.



Lapis Lazuli

Daily Wire Jewelry Making Tip for September 9, 2011

Admired for its incredible, deep royal blue color, Lapis Lazuli is one of the world's oldest lapidary materials. The word lapis translates from Latin as stone, and lazuli is derived from either the ancient Persian word lazhuward (meaning blue) or the Arabic word lazaward (meaning Heaven, sky, or blue). For more than 6500 years, this semi-precious gem-rock has played a major part in cultures around the globe.

Lapis Lazuli, also known as simply lapis, has a Mohs hardness of 5.5 and a density of about 2.7, making it a favorite for those who do lapidary work. This gem-rock's rich blue color comes mainly from lazurite, assisted by hauynite, noselite, and sodalite, with occasional inclusions of calcite, feldspar, diopside and mica. The lovely stars that often speckle lapis are iron pyrite. Due to the presence of sulfur, lapis can give an unpleasant odor while it is being cut. Therefore, like most materials, lapis should be worked wet and with good ventilation. Depending on the amount of pyrite in a piece, lapis lazuli takes a nice polish. Top-grade lapis lazuli is also called royal lapis.

Lapis Lazuli by Region

Although some low grade lapis lazuli can be presently found in Italy, Burma and North America, and notable deposits are mined in Chile (Chilean Lapis) and Russia (Siberian Lapis), the major source of high-quality (royal) lapis lazuli both in the past and presently, is Afghanistan. All three of the latter locations are owned and mined by their respective governments. Let's look at some of the differences between these materials.

Chilean Lapis: Most of this variety is not as rich in blue color as royal lapis. This material usually contains streaks of white or gray (calcite) and sometimes has spots that may have a green tint. This lapis is often dyed to be sold as a better product, with a lower price tag. It has been mined for more than 2000 years by pre-Columbian cultures, including the Incas, who used lapis to carve into small statues, embellish ceremonial masks, etc. In 1984, lapis lazuli was named the official National Stone of Chile by their government. Due to the unfriendly mountain conditions and weather, lapis is only mined here during the short, two-month summer season.

Siberian Lapis comes from the harsh mountains of Russia and can only be mined under favorable conditions, so minerals from the Ural Mountains are rather rare. The lapis found there has conflicting accounts. Some sources claim it is as deep in blue color as the specimens found in Afghanistan, while others say it is pale in color with white inclusions. However, all agree that this lapis has abundant pyrite inclusions. As such, I would tend to believe that the solid material used to carve the 6-foot tall, beautiful urn I saw in the Hermitage last year, came from Afghanistan. As I have mentioned in other Gem Profiles, this building is absolutely a lapidary's dream; filled with all types of ornaments and structures made of solid precious and semi-precious gem materials!

Royal Lapis Lazuli, considered to be the most valuable material, a deep royal blue with next to no white streaks or inclusions and very little pyrite, has been mined in what is now known as the Badakhshan Province, since prehistoric times (probably during the Neolithic Age). The main mine is known as Sar-i-Sang (or Sar-e-Sang) and is believed to have provided most of the beautiful lapis statuary, jewelry and other ornaments found in tombs and on archaeological digs in Egypt (on the other side of the continent). This means that ancient Sumerians and Egyptians treasured this gorgeous gem-rock long before modern man. Unfortunately, because of its value, this mine is the subject of continuous war for control and the lapis from it has also been questioned with regard to providing money for arms.

Lapis Treatments and Quality

Denim Lapis: This is basically a trade name for a lapis rock very inferior to royal lapis that was given its name for marketing reasons. In fact, when I was much younger and learning to hunt rocks, whenever we picked up this material, we were told that it was a leaverite, meaning leave it right there. Denim lapis is popular especially with the younger crowd because it resembles faded blue denim, but in my opinion it is not qualified to be called a gem-rock.

When shopping for Lapis Lazuli, you should be aware that besides material from Chile and other locations being dyed, inferior lapis is also sometimes waxed or oiled to make the color darker. Howlite, dolomite (marble), jasper, and quartzite can also be easily dyed to resemble lapis, as well as sodalite! Other look-alikes include dyed marble, ceramic, and the obvious glass. Reconstituted lapis is a created material, made by crushing natural rock and adding bonding agents, sometimes with dye, and then processing it into a block that can be cut and cabbed, carved, or made into beads, etc. Some lapidaries will not purchase any rough lapis material that does not have a bit of white or pyrite showing, because they want to be assured of a true material. Remember that although selection is the artist's choice, pieces that do not contain pyrite and seem to be reasonably priced are most likely not real lapis.

Upcoming Events

Michigan Mineralogical Society's "Detroit Rocks" Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show

October 14, 15, 16, 2011

South Macomb Community College Expo Center Building P

Info: www.michmin.org, briarhillwerner@comcast.net, 248-887-3906

The Flint Rock and Gem Club

Earth's Natural Wonders

October 15 and 16, 2011

Carter Middle School, Rogers Lodge Drive, Clio, Michigan

Info: 810-687-2339 or www.flintrockandgem.org

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club's Rocks and Minerals October Silent Auction/Sale

October 18, 2011

Wesley Park United Methodist Church, Wyoming, MI

Info: www.indianmoundsrockclub.com or 616-530-9571

Central Michigan's 46th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Lapidary and Jewelry Show

October 21, 22, 23, 2011

Ingham County Fairgrounds, Mason, MI

Info: facetman60@yahoo.com, michrocks.org or 517-641-6125

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



Livingston Gem and Mineral Society's

Annual Banquet

6 P.M., Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Hartland Senior Center

Cameron Wood of the Cranbrook Institute of Science will speak on

"The Use of Copper by the Paleo Indians"

For reservations contact Vi Porritt, 810-235-6286 or vporritt@comcast.net

\$14.00 per person