

The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

November 2011

President's Message

It's November already? That brings two thoughts to mind. The rock shows are over for the year and winter is on the way! YUK! I hope we were all smart and stashed away enough rocks to get through the winter. It's been a few months since my last newsletter, so I never got a chance to thank all of our club for all their hard work at this year's show. It was really nice to see a lot of our new members helping out. Thanks again; you've helped make for another great show.

The banquet was two weeks ago with a turnout of just over 60 club members and families and, as you hear it said, "A good time was had by all". Everyone seemed to enjoy the speaker and food. The club also gave the cookie lady some gifts for all the treats and cookies over the last year. Peggy Petito was given one of the Max Schultz awards for 2011 in recognition of her contributions to our society and the lapidary arts. Peggy's award goes beyond this year. It goes back a few years, and she has signed on for another term as treasurer. Thanks Peg, congratulations on your award. I have been moved up to club president and Bryant is back as vice president. It's good to see my buddy back and I know a lot of you feel the same way. Before I forget, I need to thank Vi Porritt and all the club members who put together and cleaned up after the banquet. And thanks to Chuck for getting the speaker.

The big saw is working again. Paul has done some pulley work and I've changed the motor. Some adjusting was done to make slabs equal in thickness. The saw is clean and oil has been changed. The next step is a

bigger motor and new blade. If you use the big saw, please do not wander too far. Please keep a close eye on it and ears open while using the saw.

The Howell 4H kids are back December 5th and 12th. The Hartland group starts sometime in January 2012. Both groups meet on Mondays from 6-8 pm. As always, at that time the shop is for 4H students only! Teachers for January - May are needed. If you are interested in teaching, contact Chuck or me.

I think that about covers everything, so until we meet again, "THAT'S ALL FOLKS".

Ken

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.



Vice President's Message

November is here and I hope everyone ate too much candy on Halloween. I stepped into the position of vice president when Ken moved up to president. The banquet was great, as usual, and I just want to say a word about our Max Schultz Award recipients. Peggy Petito has kept our books and brought order to everything she does. Ken Blake, the other award winner, has become the jack of all trades at our club. He opens up in the morning and closes at night 2 to 3 days a week. Many weeks he is there all 5 days. He also has taken over as shop chairman, which is a 3-man job in itself. As if that wasn't enough, he also teaches many of the newcomers how to make cabochons. In the past year he earned over \$360.00 in teaching fees. (He doesn't charge to teach, but he will take a donation.) ALL of that money he donated to the club in October! Now Ken is the president and I am sure he will be good at that, too.

Please think seriously about donating 2 hours a week to help us teach the 4H children. You will have as much fun as the children do. You do not need to be a master craftsperson to help. When the teacher to student ratio is 1:1 the children learn much more than when 1 adult is trying to teach 3 or more at a time. Thanks you, Vi, for the banquet and all you do. Thank you "Big Bob" for your tireless teaching. Thank you Paul, for the things you do to keep the shop running smoothly. And thank you, Isla, for the many behind-the-scenes things you don't get credit for.

Bryant

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Minutes

October 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Outgoing president Marv Martin swore in president, Ken Blake and vice president, Bryant Hiiter, to serve until next year's election.

Peggy Petito and Ken Blake won the Max Schultz awards for 2011.

Vi Porritt was thanked for a great job of preparing the banquet.

Cameron Wood, an anthropologist from Cranbrook, was introduced as guest speaker on the topic "The Use of Copper by Paleo Indians".

The meeting was adjourned to enjoy the banquet, which was followed by Mr. Wood's interesting presentation.

Respectfully submitted by

Margaret Edmundson, Sec.



2012 Officers and Chairpersons

President:: Ken Blake, 810-750-6078
Vice President:: Bryant Hiiter, 248-889-3974
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: Ken Blake
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.)



**Max Schultz Awards for 2011
went to
Ken Blake, our new President
and
Peggy Petito, our Treasurer**

Upcoming Event

On November 7, 2011, The Michigan Mineralogical Society's Annual Auction will be at Cranbrook Institute of Science Auditorium, 39221 N. Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI. Contact Mildred Hurt, 248-398-6693 or georgematyas@att.net



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.



“Those were the days, eh, Grandpa?”

Please note:

Your Dues are due

The deadline for 2012 dues will be December 31, 2011.

Tear off and mail

2012 Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Dues

Name _____

_____ adult member \$15

_____ family membership\$15

_____ annual workshop fee\$10

(each member who uses the shop must pay this fee)

_____ total payment

Please note any changes in address, email address or phone number _____

newsletter preference: _____ printed, _____ email _____ shop mail folder

Fossil fragment reveals giant, toothy pterosaur

By Wynne Parry, LiveScience Senior Writer

An examination of a small fossil — the tip of a toothed pterosaur's snout and a bit of its tooth — has revealed that a group of the extinct, flying reptiles could reach sizes larger than previously thought.

"What this research shows is that some toothed pterosaurs reached truly spectacular sizes and, for now, it allows us to put a likely upper limit on that size — around 7 meters (23 feet) in wingspan," said David Unwin from the University of Leicester, one of the researchers to examine the fossil, which has been in the Natural History Museum of London's collection since 1884.



Pterosaurs are flying reptiles that lived at the same time as dinosaurs, between 210 million and 65 million years ago. This fossil is believed to belong to a species of ornithocheirid, a type of fish-feeding reptile that was the largest of the toothed pterosaurs. It used the teeth on the tips of its jaws to grab prey while flying low over the surface of the water. Other types of pterosaurs, such as those without teeth, could reach much larger sizes, with wingspans of up to 10 meters.

From the tiny fossil — which included the snout tip and a small bit of a tooth — the researchers were able to calculate the size of the animal.

"It's an ugly-looking specimen, but with a bit of skill, you can work out just exactly what it was. All we have is the tip of the upper jaws — bones called the premaxillae, and a broken tooth preserved in one socket," said David Martill, from the University of Portsmouth, who collaborated with Unwin.

"Although the crown of the tooth has broken off, its diameter is 13 millimeters (0.5 inches). This is huge for a pterosaur. Once you do the calculations, you realize that the scrap in your hand is a very exciting discovery."

Based on the shape of the fossil fragment, they identified it as belonging to a species known as *Coloborhynchus capito*, a rare ornithocheirid. The fossil was collected in the mid-19th century from a deposit known as Cambridge Greensand in Cambridgeshire, England. It's not clear why toothless pterosaurs could reach much greater sizes than toothed pterosaurs, but it may be because teeth are heavy, according to the researchers. The study is published online in the journal *Cretaceous Research*.

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society
9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI 48843-9098



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*Next*  
*General Meeting*  
*6 P.M. Tuesday,*  
*November 15, 2011*  
*at the shop*

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