

# The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

December 2011

## President's Message

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving, and your only problem was overeating. Now get ready, Christmas is just a few short weeks away.

It's December, and that brings three things to mind. This month is our annual Christmas party. It also means the 4H kids are back, and it's the start of winter.

Bryant will be along shortly, to give you all the details on our Christmas party. The Howell 4H kids are back December 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The Hartland group starts sometime in January 2012. Both groups meet on Mondays from 6-8 p.m. 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.

With winter just around the corner, snow and school closures are possible. For information on snow days/holidays, call Hartland Community Education, 810-626-2150, or watch your local news channel. If Livingston County schools are closed, so is the shop!

### "SHOP TALK"

First of all, "Thank you, Al" for fixing the motor on the 400 machine and for recycling the old dop wax. The 600 and 3000 diamond belts need to be used with lighter pressure and more water than the 100, 220, 400 and 600 belts. Diamond belts' only purpose is to make the surface of your stone smoother, and one step closer to final polish! If you get on the diamond belts, and you're looking to remove scratches, pits, holes, craters, etc, you're on the wrong machine. All of the above should have been removed by the time you leave the 220 belts. All belts after the 220 machine are only for making your stones smoother. The 100-600 sanding belts cost \$2.50 each, the 600 and 3000 belts are \$85.00 each! So please, only use the diamond belts for smoothing your stones. A stone the size of a

quarter should only take about one minute. One the size of a silver dollar should be done in two minutes. If you take any longer you're wasting your time because you've already made your stone as smooth as possible!!!

Every time we clean a saw, we recycle the oil. I've been changing the oil more often, with a much better return of oil! The only problem is, we need more paper bags. They're the large 7"x13"x17" brown bags from the supermarket. So if you have any, please bring me some. You can put them on the top shelf of the saw room.

The club is adding something to this years Christmas. Let's just call it a gift for the club. What I'm talking about can be bought at any dollar store. The club can always use quart size baggies, sponges, 100 watt light bulbs, Dawn dish soap, pop or juice in cans, or even a bundle of clean rags. If you know of anything else the club needs, feel free to wrap it up and bring it in. We will have a box set up by December 6<sup>th</sup> to put your gifts in. Hope to see you all at the Christmas party Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Thanks. I'm pretty sure that covers everything so until we meet again, "THAT'S ALL FOLKS".

Ken .



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## Vice President's Message

Just a quick note from your VP,  
CHRISTMAS PARTY! CHRISTMAS  
PARTY! CHRISTMAS PARTY! The party  
will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, December 20, at  
6:00 P.M. Please bring a dish to pass,  
anything from a crock pot of meatballs to a  
bag of chips! Please bring a ROCK  
RELATED wrapped gift if you plan to  
participate in the gift exchange. Not a bottle  
of Faygo Rock n' Rye, or a CD of the  
Rolling Stones, but mineral-gem-geological-  
jewelry-cabochon-slab-specimen-fossil-  
meteor-rock-lapidary related. Also our  
President made a very good suggestion at the  
November meeting. Bring a present for the  
club. The shop can always use more sponges,  
lightbulbs, rags, paper grocery bags, dish  
soap, etc., etc. Thank you and let's have a  
great Christmas Party!

*Bryant*



**Harlan Hays**

for sharing your bumper crop of gourds!  
(The club took in about \$20.00 in  
donations!)

**Dan Goodwin and Dave Riggs**  
for representing LGMS at the  
Swartz Creek First Baptist group

**Scott Reinhart**  
for sharing the terrific 2011 show photos

**Steve Miron**  
for sharing the great 2011 Banquet photos

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## 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.

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## 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 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.)

**Livingston Gem and Mineral Society  
Minutes**

**November 15, 2011**

15 members present. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by President Ken Blake.

Isla Mitchell motioned to accept the October minutes as written. Vi Porritt seconded. The motion passed.

Ken reported that the big saw has been working well. He also asked that everyone please add wax to the dop pots whenever needed. The only rocks that can be picked up are in the prospectors bin. If you see a rock anywhere else, leave it there or give it to Ken or Bryant and they will return it to its owner. The 600 diamond and 3000 belts are not for pits, holes, shaping, or scratches. They are for polishing only.

New Business: The day care center in the building needs specimen rocks for its discovery center. All specimens donated must be large enough that pre-school children cannot choke on them, approximately the size of a lemon. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

The Christmas party will be on the third Tuesday in December (Dec. 20, 2011). Bring a dish to pass, and a rock-related present. Isla, Vi, and Venus have volunteered to prepare for the party. Anyone who would like to help, please see them. Coffee and water will be provided.

Remember, dues are due in December.

Club gifts will be accepted. Items like clean sponges, Dawn dish liquid, toothpaste, tissue, clean rags or anything that the club uses regularly.

Lorelei Hosler motioned to adjourn; seconded by Denis. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

Margaret Edmundson, Sec

**Christmas/New Years Shop Closing**

The shop will be closed from  
Friday, December 23, 2011 through  
Monday, January 2, 2012

Reopening on Tuesday, January 3, 2012

**Merry  
Christmas**

**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.

## SANTA IS A ROCKHOUND

(A Lapidarist's version of the Night Before Christmas)\_Original author unknown. Via Hy Grader, Coastal Waves 2005 and SCRIBE No 4, 2011

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house  
not a Rockhound was stirring - I felt like a louse!  
For the lapidary gift I was making this year lay down on my bench, UNFINISHED, I fear!  
The pendant my dear wife wanted so much, as I polished the cab, it fractured with a touch;  
And the lovely jade brooch for Grandma so sweet, just wouldn't polish - it looked terribly beat.  
As for Sister's new bracelet with baroques dangling lightly,  
I ran out of bell caps after the stores were closed tightly.  
Then the tie clasp for Uncle that would make such a hit, after I cut the cab, no mounting would fit!  
And even Junior's new crystal growing set though I'd sent for it months ago, had not arrived yet!  
So I tossed and I turned as though caught in a trap. I could not settle down for a "long winter's nap".  
When all of a sudden I heard such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
I raced for the door then saw with a flick a red-suited man I was sure was Saint Nick.  
As I reached for my robe and was turning around, down the basement stairs, Santa went with a bound.  
He went straight to my workbench to see what I lacked, then with a nod of his head he opened his pack.  
Out tumbled such mountings and bell caps without stop, I was sure Santa must own a Lapidary Shop!  
He said not a word but went straight to his work, and finished each piece, then grabbed his pack with a jerk.  
And shaking his white bearded face with much glee, took out some new slabs I knew must be for Me!  
Then laying his finger aside of his nose, with a nod of satisfaction, up the stairway he rose.  
Went straight to the door, to his team gave a whistle and away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim 'ere he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas, Dear Rockhounds, and to you a good night!

## Your Dues are due

The deadline for 2012 dues will be December 31, 2011. Tear off and mail

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## 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

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## Staurolites

Staurolite is a metamorphic mineral that is famous for its twinned crystals that form the shape of a cross. It is composed of iron aluminum silicate and its color ranges from yellowish brown to reddish brown to black. It can be transparent or opaque. It forms with garnet, tourmaline and kyanite in mica schists and gneisses and other aluminum-rich metamorphic rocks. They can be found in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and New Mexico. Deposits are also located in Russia, France and Brazil. It is the official state mineral of Georgia. The cross most commonly forms at a 60 degree angle (St Andrew's Crosses) but the 90 degree angle (Greek Crosses) is most sought after. They sometimes form with both types of crystals creating a specimen that looks like a 6-rayed star. Staurolite gets its name from *stauros*, the Greek word for cross but is also known as Fairy Stone and Fairy Cross. It has long been prized as a good luck charm and is thought to aid in healing and provide protection from evil spirits. A popular Christian legend states that tears shed by the angels at the time of Christ's crucifixion crystallized and fell to the earth as Staurolites. Other legends claim they were formed by the tears of fairies, shed in sorrow over the death of Christ. The Cherokee have their own legend which tells of the little people who brought to them a tale of greatness and sadness. The little people spoke of a special boy-child who had grown into a man of wisdom and taught his people the ways of the Creator and the straight white path of peace. He brought strong medicine (*nuwati*) to his people but had many enemies who would not hear his message of peace. On this day they would torture and kill the wise man. Because of their sorrow, the Cherokee began to cry. When their weeping had ended they looked down and saw that their tears had been changed into small stone crosses. (legend preserved by the Chiltoskey family of Cherokee North Carolina) The Cherokee also tell of an annual ceremony centered around staurolites that was held at the Spring Solstice full moon. At sunset staurolite crosses would be put into the fire and heated until they were glowing hot, then carried to a special mound with green sticks. There they glowed for hours and were reheated as necessary to keep them hot until sunrise. The ceremony assured the people of safe passage, rain during the growing season and an abundance of food in the fall. Sources: ·



Smithsonian via Strata Gem June 2011

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

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*Annual Christmas Party*  
*6 P.M. Tuesday,*  
*December 20, 2011*  
*at the shop*

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