

The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

February 2012

Vice President's Message

Believe it or not, it's still winter! Just a reminder, if the Hartland Schools are closed, the shop is also closed. If you don't live in the Livingston county area, or your local news channels don't show the Hartland area, now is a good time to make new friends at the club. Just make friends with everyone you meet at the club until you find someone from the Howell-Hartland area! (You don't have to stop there.) Then, if they are nice, they could call when the schools are closed

You may have noticed something new at the club. We have a new digital kiln and a vacuum casting machine. I hope they will get plenty of use in the future.

We are teaching 4-H children on Monday evenings. Please come and help us. Contact Chuck or Ken to volunteer.

Remember, dues are past-due. We will be dropping names from our rolls soon. Please see Peggy or any officer to pay your dues now! I would like to thank Al Zielinski for demonstrating electro-plating a couple weeks back. He had almost a dozen students. I hope everyone has a good February. See you at the shop.

Bryant



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.

Snow Days?

For information on snow days/holidays, call
Hartland Community Education,
810-626-2150, or watch your
local TV news channel.
If Livingston County schools are closed,
so is the shop!



The cards you sent at this
difficult time were greatly
appreciated.
Thanks for caring.

Peggy and John Petito

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.)

Electro-Forming Followup?

I'd like to thank those who attended the 17 January 'Electro-Forming' demonstration. Your kind attention and thoughtful questions kept the proceedings lively, germane, and entertaining.

As a result of that demo, I've gotten a few suggestions..

- *Hold a workshop and build your own tank assembly.. about \$5 in materials.
- *Build a tank for club members use.
- *Supply a service to Electro-Form / Silver / Gold plate club members creations.

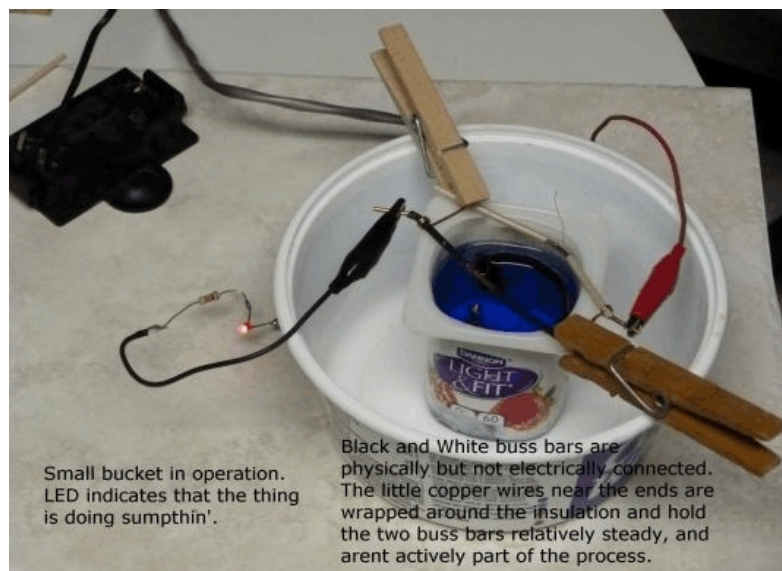
Interested? Have other thoughts / ideas?
I'm at temperedsilk@yahoo.com and would love to talk about 'em.

Al Zielinski.

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.



Upcoming Events

March 3-4, 2012

Special Auction by The Roamin' Club

Schoolcraft College, Visatech Center Bldg, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI
Info: Todd Gall 248-348-5093 or Don Brown 734-421-8159

March 16, 17, 18, 2012

Michigan Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Show

Jackson County Fairgrounds, American 1 Event Center, 200 W. Ganson, Jackson, MI

April 5,6,7, 2012

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club's Annual Show

Rogers Town Plaza, 972 - 28th St, Wyoming, MI
free admission on Thursday 9:30 am - 9 pm

April 20, 21, 22, 2012

Mt. Clemens Gem and Lapidary Society's 35th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

Lapidary...For the Art of It!!!
Roseville Recreation Center, 18185 Sycamore, Roseville, MI 48066



Your Dues are OVERDUE! The deadline for 2012 dues was 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

Chinese Investors Look for Sparkle

Rare Pink Diamonds Are in Demand; Jewelry Industry Increasingly Geared Toward Wealthy Asians

Excerpted from article by Stephen Bell and Jason Chow, Wall Street Journal, November 17, 2011

Pink diamonds have found a new best friend: China's rich.

Worried that traditional investments like stocks and bonds are losing their sparkle, wealthy Chinese are buying the gemstones to showcase alongside fine wines and contemporary art.

Their interest is driving up prices of Australian pink diamonds-the world's rarest-and supporting returns that have outstripped the Dow Jones Industrial Average and Hong Kong's Hang Seng over the past decade.

"I see it as an investment, but unlike shares, I can wear it," said Doris Kwan, a Hong Kong-based consultant, who bought a pink diamond necklace in April at a private sale in Shanghai. "I'm not going to put a gold bar on my body."

Other colored diamonds also are hot: A record was set on Wednesday (11/16/11) for the sale of a yellow diamond. The Sun-Drop diamond was sold for 11.2 million Swiss francs, or \$12.4 million, at a Sotheby's auction.

The wave of interest is prompting a major shake-up of the jewelry industry, as traders who once catered to Hollywood stars and scions of oil wealth from the Middle East are now expanding in Asia. Store openings and private displays are rising in Hong Kong and mainland China, and jewelers also are seeking to tap institutional investors for funds.

Pink diamonds, produced almost exclusively at Rio Tinto PLC's Argyle mine in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, are so rare that only a few dozen of the gemstones are offered annually for sale.

For every colored diamond, there are at least 10,000 colorless, also called white, ones. This scarcity has helped underpin prices. Recent auctions of pink diamonds have fetched more than \$1 million a carat, with an average price 20 times more than their colorless cousins.

In addition, pink diamonds may not be forever. The Argyle mine is due to finish operations in 2019, and Rio Tinto estimates there may be only 500 quality diamonds left to be unearthed.

While some are starting to question whether the market is running too hot, Ms. Kwan isn't among them. She spent 135,000 yuan (\$21,000) on her necklace, featuring 0.8 carat of pink diamonds in a floral design surrounded by small white diamonds. "I'd sell all my stocks, everything else, before my diamonds," Ms. Kwan said.

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



Board Meeting
February 21, 2012
Tuesday, 1 p.m.
In the Shop

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