

The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

March 2012

President's Message

It's March and spring's just a few short weeks away. Soon we'll be back outside and back on the hunt for more rocks. March also brings the first general meeting of the year. The meeting is 6:00 p.m., March 20th (third Tuesday of the month). We're looking for volunteers to bring finger food for our social hour.

This is from this month's Midwest Federation newsletter: March 24th is the Taylor, Michigan Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society's annual Metro Swap at St John Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Road (corner of Northline Road in Taylor) Saturday 10-5.

I need to send out a few thank yous, so here goes. First to Gayland Allen for the great job on the belt cover he made for the big saw. I also need to thank Al Zielinski and Bryant for cleaning shop floors and flushing out the entire lapidary system. And the last thank you goes to all the 4H teachers. Thanks for three months of teaching, and being there every Monday!

The 4H kids are still here, for one more month. We can still use a few more teachers for 6:00 p.m. Monday nights. If you can help contact Chuck or me.

I'm pretty sure that about does it for this month.

Thanks 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.



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Our Annual show is scheduled for
Saturday and Sunday
September 22 and 23, 2012
(Set up date is Friday, the 21st)



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!

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.)

Camping Opportunity!

A fellow member of the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society has offered the club the opportunity to have a Rock Weekend at his campground with full use of the pavilion for a swap, sale area, and possibly some make and take gem crafts. He has full camping facilities for camper and tent camping and some cottages are available. The campground is on Blue Gill Lake west of Mt. Pleasant. If you would like more information about the campground, the web site is www.bluegillcamping.com. LGMS would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in this kind of event, or has any ideas.

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.

Alabaster

Excerpted from "Giving Physical Form to Faith", by
Barrymore Laurence Schere, Wall Street Journal,
January 11, 2011

Alabaster is a fine-grained form of gypsum whose name is said to derive from the Egyptian town of Alabastron, where it was quarried in ancient times. Like marble, it comes in a variety of colors and often shows veins, flecks or other inclusions of black and other colors that, by tradition, have been avoided by figural sculptors aiming to achieve flawless expanses of human flesh. And, like marble, alabaster can be polished to a glossy sheen or finished in a variety of smooth, matte surfaces to lend the impression of skin or other organic materials. Because alabaster is softer than marble, it is easier to carve. Because it is water soluble, carved alabaster is best suited to indoor environments and this is primarily how it was used in Medieval England where it was quarried in the Midlands and carved in busy workshops in Nottingham, Burton-on-Trent and other centers in the area.



Nicholas Steno

Did anyone notice Google's graphic (Google Doodle) on January 11 to honor Nicholas Steno's 374th birthday? If one day in history had to be picked as the birth of paleontology, it might be the day in 1666 when two fishermen caught a giant shark off the coast of Livorno in Italy. The local duke ordered that this curiosity be sent to Niels Stensen (better known as Steno), a Danish anatomist working at the time in Florence. As Steno dissected the shark, he was struck by how much the shark teeth resembled "tongue stones," triangular pieces of rock that had been known since ancient times. Today, most people would instantly wonder whether the tongue stones were giant petrified shark teeth, but in 1666 such a presumption was a tremendous leap. Few could imagine how living matter could be turned to stone, and beyond that, encased in solid rock - especially if the rock were well above sea level and contained remnants of a marine organism. Fossils were instead thought to have fallen from the sky, or to be "sports of nature" - peculiar geometrical shapes impressed on the rocks themselves.

From living tissue to stone

Steno made the leap and declared that the tongue stones indeed came from the mouths of once-living sharks. He showed how precisely similar the stones and the teeth were. But he still had to account for how they could have turned to stone and become lodged in rock. Naturalists of Steno's day were becoming convinced that matter was composed of different combinations of tiny "corpuscles" - what today we would call molecules. Steno argued that the corpuscles in the teeth were replaced bit by bit, by corpuscles of minerals. In this gradual process, the teeth didn't lose their overall shape as they turned from tissue to stone.

Steno's Law of Superposition

But how could fossils end up deep inside rocks? Steno studied the cliffs and hills of Italy to find the answer. He proposed that all rocks and minerals were originally fluid. Floating on the surface of the planet long ago, they gradually settled out of the ocean and created horizontal layers, with new layers forming on top of older ones. Molten rock sometimes intruded into the layers, reaching the top and spreading out into a new layer of its own. As the rocks formed, they could trap animal remains, converting them into fossils and preserving them deep within their layers. Those horizontal layers represent a time sequence with the oldest layers on the bottom and the youngest on top, unless later processes disturbed this arrangement. This ordering is now referred to as Steno's Law of Superposition, his most famous contribution to geology. Steno was not the only naturalist of his day to propose that fossils belonged to living creatures. Leonardo da Vinci and Robert Hook, for example, also took up the same view. But Steno pushed the idea much further. He argued for the first time that fossils were snapshots of life at different moments in Earth's history and that rock layers formed slowly over time. It was these two facts that served as the pillars of paleontology and geology in future centuries. And fossils ultimately became some of the key evidence for how life evolved on Earth over the past four billion years. (Ed. Note: Steno's insights had great ramifications beyond geology. He noted that the deepest rocks [which often are metamorphic or igneous, the very strong rocks that geologists call "competent"] are at the lowest levels, and the softer [generally sedimentary, less competent] rocks are at the top. Others soon noticed that the correlation of decreasing competence with higher position applied to other disciplines as well, the most notable of which is the Peter Principle.)

Coming 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

"50 is Golden"

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

Information: Sally@517-522-3396 or email: info@mgmsrockclub.com

Saturday, March 24, 2012

The Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

40th Annual Metro Rock Swap

St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Road, Taylor, Michigan

Information: 734-259-8880

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

May 26 - 27, 2012

Huge Rock and Mineral Sale

Sat 9 - 6, Sun 9 - 4

Marve and Kitty Starbuck, 7636 East V Avenue, Vicksburg, MI

Info: 269-649-1991 or 1-231-740-5512

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



General Meeting
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
6 p.m.
In the Shop

~~~~~

