

The Living Stones

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

April 2012

Vice President's Message

It's April! We've made it through another frozen, snowy winter. Oh! Wait! What happened the last four months? Almost no snow, record setting high temperatures, rain. The snowbirds probably had it worse than we did. Speaking of which, our members who went south or west for the winter are starting to arrive back home and we should look for more members in the next few weeks.

We have finished teaching the 4-H children for another year, and let me tell you that we had as much fun teaching as they did making jewelry. I would especially like to thank Ken Blake, Chuck Amberger, Dan Goodwin, Ed Oller, Scott Reinhardt, and Al Zielinski. These guys not only donated their time to teach, but also gave rocks, glue, materials, and many hours preparing for the classes.

Many of the newer members do not know the "Old Timers" in this club. A good way to get to know them is to attend the picnics we have in the Summer. Also, talk to them at the shop. As a new member I was invited to several members' houses after talking to them, and asking questions about rocks. As some of our members get older, or have illnesses, they are not at the club as often. Please, if you know of

someone who is ill tell the Sunshine Lady (Isla Mitchell) so we can get a card to them. If a member is housebound or in the hospital, arrange to go see them. We want them to know that we still care about them.

On a final note, some of the grinding wheels were recently replaced, so make sure you look at the dates on them. We don't want anyone's Opal ground to dust before they realize what happened.

Sincerely, your vice-prez

Bryant



General Meeting

Minutes March 20 2012

The meeting was called to order by Ken Blake at 6:04 P.M. with 17 members present.

We have one more week of working with the 4-H kids. Thanks to everyone who volunteered or donated items to keep this program working.

Thank you to Gayland Allen for making the wonderful guard for the big saw. A new blade will be installed on the saw soon. With the new motor and some other minor repairs and adjustments we feel that it is not necessary at this time to get a new saw.

New Business: Venus Sage is going to the Celebration of Agates in Minnesota on July 27, 2012. Anyone interested in more information see Venus.

We are still looking for input on Paul Maitre's invitation for a rock weekend at Bluegill Lake campground.

Ken brought to our attention that new safety glasses and dust masks were needed for the 4-H kids for next year. A motion was made by Margaret Edmundson and seconded by Venus. The motion was passed unanimously.

The 2012 Show: We need someone to work on advertising the show and would welcome any ideas for placing ads. We also need donations of prizes for the raffle and silent auction and donations for the club table. Soon sign-up sheets will be

posted for volunteer workers at the show. Remember that without your help we cannot have a successful show.

Vi and Lorelei volunteered to provide snacks for the April meeting.

Peggy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Isla seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M. followed by snacks and a presentation on agates.

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

Hospitality: Mary Barnett, 734-449-2907

Sunshine: Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804

Shop Chairperson: Ken Blake

Newsletter and Membership:

Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804

imvm.1@netzero.com

Show Chairman and 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!

Paul Maitre, 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.

Newsletter by email?

If you'd like to receive this newsletter by email, please send a message to Isla Mitchell at imvm.1@netzero.com



Many thanks to Sharon Krautheim and Margaret Edmundson who provided a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner prior to our March business meeting! Ummmm, good!

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
(Setup date is Friday, the 21st)

Aventurine

by Dale "Cougar" Armstrong, Wire-Sculpture.com March 2, 2012

The often sparkly light through dark green quartz, that has been used to create ornamental objects for thousands of years, is what we call green aventurine. Similar to quartzite, but not really a chalcedony, aventurine is a granular quartz rock that is usually available in shades of green; but did you know that it is also found naturally in shades of brownish-red, tangerine-red through peachy orange, cream, white, gray and even blue?

Green aventurine owes its color to inclusions of green mica (fuchsite), colored by the presence of chromium. Hematite or goethite colored mica, and/or scales of iron oxide is responsible for the reddish and orange tones aventurine can have, while hues of blue come from the mineral dumortierite. The metallic iridescence that is associated with aventurine of any color is due to the platelets or flakes of the included mica and/or minerals. This effect has been named "aventurescence". Shades of coral, orange, yellow and peach feldspars in the past, were also called aventurine as in feldspar aventurine, however these are now better classified as sunstone. The origin of the name aventurine is very interesting. In the early 1700s, a glass-making family in Italy may have made a mistake one day and dropped some metallic crystals into a batch of glass, which resulted in a beautiful product that looked like stars from the heavens had been trapped inside the glass. They named the glass "a ventura", which means "by chance." That special glass is what we now know as goldstone! Because our subject rock resembled this glass, it was named aventurine.

As a member of the macrocrystalline quartz family, aventurine has a hardness of 7 and can be semi-translucent to opaque; therefore this material is rarely faceted into gemstones. For centuries, lapidary use of aventurine for jewelry making has been in the form of cabochons and beads. A good example would be India, who has always had an abundant source of green aventurine. In the past, it was popularly used in the creation of "beggar beads", as well as for all forms of ornamental statuary, monuments and cut columns and blocks for building. (Beggar beads could also be referred to as "prayer" beads due to the fact that the honorable profession of begging described one who was paid to pray for different people and/or causes.

Besides India, green aventurine is also mined in Brazil, Austria, Russia, Tanzania, Africa, China and North America. Spain, Chile, Australia and Russia have red aventurine as do Brazil and South Africa. Aventurine can be confused with jade, therefore the amazing quality of green aventurine from China is highly valued and has been called "Indian Jade." Other normal look-a-likes include amazonite and feldspar; and rare occurrences of transparent, bright green aventurine has been mislabeled as emerald or chrysoprase.

Aventurine can be used as an alternate anniversary stone for the 8th wedding celebration (the traditional stone being green tourmaline) as well as an alternate birthstone for those born in the month of August (peridot being the traditional choice). Metaphysical uses for typical green aventurine include: helping to balance one's male and female energies; developing one's pioneering spirit and to enhance one's creativity.

Resources

Love is in the Earth by Melody, ISBN 0-9628190-3-4

The Peterson Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals by Frederick H. Pough, ISBN 0-395-24049-2

Simon & Schusters Guide to Gems and Precious Stones by Curzio Cipriani and Alessandro Borelli, ISBN 0-671-60430-9

<http://en.wikipedia.org>

<http://www.minerals.net/Image/22/43/Chalcedony.aspx>

Coming Events

April 5, 6, 7, 2012

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club's Annual Show

Rogers Town Plaza, 972 - 28th St, Wyoming, MI

Thursday 9:30 - 9, Fri 9:30-9, Sat 9:30-8

April 7-8, 2012

Columbus Rock and Mineral Society's Mineral, Fossil, Gem and Jewelry Show

Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad St, Columbus, OH

Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5

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

Fri 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-4

April 20-21, 2012

Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society

Rock and Gem Show at Orchard's Mall,

1800 Pipestone Rd, Benton Harbor, MI

Sat 10-7, Sun 11-4

May 4-6, 2012

Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society's 55th Annual Gem and Mineral Show

Kalamazoo Expo Center, Kalamazoo Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo, MI

Fri 4-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5

May 18-20, 2012

Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society Show

Southgate Arena, 14700 Reaume Pkwy, Southgate, MI

Fri 2-7, Sat 11-6, Sun 11-5

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, April 17, 2012
6 p.m.
In the Shop

