

Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

July 2012

President's Message

It's July! One fine month to be outdoors hunting for rocks. It also brings fireworks. Rocks and fireworks - sounds like a good time to me.

I want to thank Marv and Margurite Martin for hosting the June meeting and picnic. It was a great time with good friends. Hope we get invited back again next year.

REMINDER OF THIS MONTH'S GET TOGETHER: July's meeting will be on July 17th at 6:00 pm and will be hosted by Mike and Carol Mc Devitt. **BRING A DISH!**

Here's a reminder to sign up as a volunteer for our September show. We also need items for the silent auction and raffle. I'm ready to take donations for the club table so if you have any rocks, slabs, or cutting material, bring it in!

I want to thank Margaret Edmundson, our secretary, for all her efforts in taking care of club needs! I'm sorry to say that at the end of this year, Margaret will step down. This leaves us looking for a new secretary. We need someone who is a regular on Tuesday and attends monthly meetings. If you can help out, please let me know.

I have changed a few grinding wheels, and replaced the 100, 220, 400, 600 and 600 micro finish belts. I have also replaced the 600 and 3000 diamond belts. All the saws have been cleaned and oil changed, as well.

As you can see, I do a lot of cleaning, repairing and keeping things going on Thursdays. If you can help out, please let me know.

I think that about covers things for this month, so until next time,

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.



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LGMS JUNE 2012**Minutes**

June 19, 2012

After a fabulous potluck dinner at the home of Margurite and Marv Martin, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Pres. Ken Blake. 23 members were present. The May minutes were accepted as written.

Shop report: Work still needs to be done on the big saw; new blades and wheels have been ordered. Bob Cook has donated a saw to the shop. A better grade of cerium oxide will be purchased. Help is needed teaching kids on Fridays from 11:00 – 1:00. Anyone willing to help, see Ken. When you are using cerium, put a clean piece of paper under the wheel. Then you can dip your stone in the cerium that comes off the wheel. When you are done, throw away the paper.

Show Planning: We need ideas for the main raffle prize. In the past a lamp was donated. Our past donor is unable to continue doing this, so we need new ideas. We still need volunteers and donations for the show.

Because of family responsibilities Margaret Edmundson cannot take on the job of secretary next year. If you would be willing to take on the job please let Ken know.

Bill Horton feels good and looks good, but can't go very far. We are all thinking of him and wish him well.

Respectfully submitted by
Margaret Edmundson

**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: Venus Sage
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.)

We've got rocks in our head at
Bluegill Lake Family Camping Resort!

(LGMS Member Paul Maitre)

15854 Pretty Lake Drive

Mecosta, MI 49332

231-972-4455

www.bluegillcamping.com



"Bluegill Lake, Catch The Fun!"

"Blooms and Colors Special"

2 sites for the price of 1,

when you bring a friend

9/15-10/28

(excludes holiday weekend)

3 day stay maximum

*Some restrictions apply, call for details

Mention this add when making reservation

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

Check this out !!!

New online Lapidary Magazine

at

MIRockClubsPages.org

4TH OF JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 Stars & Stripes
LET FREEDOM RING
AMERICA
 sweet land of liberty
RED ★ WHITE ★ BLUE
PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN
GOD BLESS THE USA

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.

The Alabastine Gypsum Mine, Kent County, Michigan

<http://www.mindat.org/loc-127051.html>

The ground was broken for the first shaft in 1907, and by mid 1908 the hand dug shaft had reached the twelve foot thick gypsum seam with a floor about 85 feet underground at 1200 Judd St. S.W., in Wyoming, Michigan. A wooden stairwell surrounding the shaft was completed by the end of the year. The first 20 feet of the shaft was thru dirt, sand, and glacial gravel before bedrock was reached.

The next requirement of the Alabastine Company was digging a well in the mine to supply fresh water for the workers, and the mules that would be pulling the mine carts. The mules were housed in an underground stable that was completed in 1909. The well, completed the same year, went to a porous rock layer 160 feet underground.

Most of the output of the mine was used to produce plaster for stucco, and as a sparkly filler for alabastine paint. In later years the mine output was used to make gypsum wallboard. The Alabastine Company went bankrupt 40 years later due to poor management.

Mining was done by drilling two inch diameter holes six to ten feet into the walls during the day. In the evening dynamite would be placed and set off. By morning the dust would have settled and the miners would come in, clear the rubble, and hopefully drill the holes for the next day's 'shot'.

The mine has four main tunnels with 75 'rooms' branching off them (only one is completely filled with rubble, the rest are at least passable, but you have to crawl in some). Each room averages 75 x 700 feet. Each tunnel is about 30 feet wide. The mine workings comprise about 7 million cubic feet of gypsum that was removed, 800,000 square feet of floor space, and left behind almost 100 thousand cubic feet of gangue, much of which has been cleared so the mine could be used for storage. But there is still a big (unlighted) section of the mine that is not being used other than for collecting and has not been cleaned. The parts of the mine used for storage have cement floors.

The temperature of the mine is a natural 50-52 degrees. When the mine went bankrupt the Michigan Natural Storage Company was formed to take advantage of this natural refrigerator. Many Michigan crops are stored in the mine and released throughout the year for sale. Some of the 'rooms' are refrigerated to lower temperatures, and only rise two degrees a month. Some rooms are rented to companies for records storage, and today there is a data center located in the mine.

The Michigan Natural Storage Company sank two additional shafts to the mine in the late 1960s at a cost of \$1.25 a foot. The original shaft is no longer used. For many years the mine was designated as a 'Fallout Shelter' that could hold a hundred thousand people. BTW, the company pays taxes on both their surface and underground land rights.

The mine is famous for its white alabaster with large crystals that sparkle, and for its honey colored selenite (the orange color is due to an iron impurity), with pencil crystals up to a foot long. There are also vugs containing perfect clear selenite crystals. The shale seams at the top and bottom of the gypsum layer contain shark and plant fossils. There is a half inch thick layer of clear selenite near the ceiling in most of the mine. Thin seams of satin spar gypsum can be found. Epsomite can be found growing as fine hairs out of the ceiling in most of the mine.

The family owned Storage Company had a long history of allowing public access to the mine. In the 1960s they had multiple tours a day and charged a quarter. By the late 1980s it was up to a dollar. In the 1990s they switched to only allowing non-profit groups access by lottery. The family company was sold around 2000 and public access disappeared; admission price at that time was \$2. The local rock clubs still have limited collecting access due to an arrangement via a local college.

Coming Events

July 26-29, 2012 ,
MINNETONKA, MN

“Celebration of Agates” AFMS/MWF Annual Convention

Information: www.minnesotamineralclub.org

August 4, 2012

37th Annual Show of the Ishpeming Rock and Minerals Club
Ishpeming Elks Club, 597 Lake Shore, Cr, Ishpeming

August 6-10, 2012

Copper Country Mineral Retreat

Mineral Collecting in Historic Lake Superior Native Copper District in Michigan's Upper Peninsula
<http://www.museum.mtu.edu/copper-country-mineral/index.html>

August 10-12, 2012

Annual Show of Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club
Houghton Elementary School, 203 W. Jacker Ave., Houghton, MI

September 14-16, 2012

43rd Annual Show and Sale of the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club
Holland Civic Center, 150 W. 8th St, Holland MI

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

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



Potluck Picnic
Tuesday, July 17, 2012, 6 p.m.
Mike and Carol McDevitt's home

114 Haystack Drive
Linden, MI 48451
231-286-4353 (Carol)
486-351-2449 (Mike)

Directions:

From the club take M 59 east to US-23. Go north on US-23 for 12 miles to exit 79, Silver Lake Road. Turn left on W. Silver Lake Road and follow the road for about 2 miles around Silver Lake to Haystack Drive on the right. Turn north or right on Haystack drive to the first house on the right: 114 Haystack Drive.