

# Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

August 2012

## Vice President's Message

Well it's August, which means the show is in one month. Please sign up to help on the board in the shop. Don't think that only one person per block can sign up. The children's table needs at least two people at all times, and the club and admission tables can use three people.

Thank you to everyone who keeps the shop clean and running smoothly.

The picnic this month is at my house. The address is 6510 Bridle Lane, Highland for those with GPS systems in their cars, or who get directions from the internet. Written directions are on page 6 of this newsletter. As always, bring a dish to pass.

This month we would like to have a trunk sale after the picnic. Bring anything that you make to the sale: Clocks, Mushrooms, Butterflies, Honey, Woodcarving etc... (That's just my shopping list) It does not have to be rock related, maybe you just canned your famous rhubarb ginger salsa, bring it along!

*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.



*Many Thanks to*

Carol and Mike McDevitt  
for hosting our July potluck.  
Good company, great food!



A big thank-you goes out to all who helped with the 4-H kids. Your help was greatly appreciated.

We need more help for our show. 2 or 3 names per box on the sign-up sheet will make things a lot easier and smoother.

Respectfully submitted by  
Margaret Edmundson

If you're interested in learning more about wire wrapping, contact Anna Pernicano at 248-486-4048



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

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Paul Maitre, 248-961-4947  
First year Directors: Violet Porritt, 810-235-6286  
Lorelei Hosler, 810-789-3687

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Sunshine: Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804  
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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.)

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](http://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 ad when making reservation

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## **MIRockClubsPages.org**

Have you checked out this new online  
magazine for Michigan lapidary clubs?

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## **SHOP CLOSING PROCEDURES**

**\*THERE MUST ALWAYS BE AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS WORKING IN THE SHOP.**

**\*WHEN THESE TWO MEMBERS ARE THE LAST TO LEAVE, THEY MUST BE WILLING TO COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Fill and turn off dop pots
2. Clean grinders and sanders
3. Clean saws
4. Turn off water at sink
5. Turn off fans
6. Clean and turn off coffee pot and kitchen lights
7. Check on general housekeeping and make shop presentable for next day
8. Turn off lights
9. Lock doors

### **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.



## Chrysoprase

Chrysoprase is the apple-green form of chalcedony, instantly recognizable by its color, which is caused by nickel. Chrysoprase can be opaque, semitransparent, and even slightly translucent. Chrysoprase is found in North America (including Arizona and California), Europe (including Poland, Germany, and Russia), and Australia, and has a Mohs hardness of 6-7. Demand for chrysoprase has fluctuated over time: Poland's mines were popular until they played out around the 14th century. Chrysoprase was popular again in England in the 1800s until supply dried up again; high-quality chrysoprase was discovered in Queensland, Australia in 1965, bringing a new supply to the market.

Chrysoprase is named similarly to chrysocolla because they are both associated with gold: "chryso-" refers to gold in Greek. While chrysocolla, "gold glue," is named because of its similarity to an early gold soldering material, chrysoprase comes from the Greek for "gold green," although it can also translate to "golden leek," which pretty much describes the shades of green chrysoprase is found in. Darker varieties of chrysoprase are sometimes simply called "prase", although this is also used to describe a type of quartz with leek-green chlorite inclusions. Prase even referred to a type of green jasper in the past, although it's no longer used that way in most places.

### Real Chrysoprase

Chrysoprase is also called Australian Jade and spelled chrysophrase or chrysophase. Chrysoprase can be enhanced with dye, and even imitated with quartz impregnated with chrome green dyes. It is also easy to confuse some chrysoprase with jadeite, which is more rare than chrysoprase (and thus some suppliers label chrysoprase as jadeite). Some chrysoprase that is labeled as Chinese chrysoprase is actually simply serpentine. To tell if chrysoprase is real or manufactured, like many semiprecious stones, look for small inclusions and imperfections throughout the stone: if there are absolutely no inclusions, the stone is likely worth a lot, treated somehow, or an imitation.

### Prase and Plasma

Plasma is also a variety of chalcedony with green coloring, but this color comes from not nickel, but other minerals like amphibole, celadonite, and chlorite. Plasma also features yellow and white coloration.

### Chrysoprase in Culture

As far as the metaphysical value of chrysoprase, it is said to encourage hope, joy, ease restlessness, and even give protection when traveling on the ocean. Hildegard von Bingen, the 12th century abbess and mystic, prescribed chrysoprase for gout, calming anger, and reversing bewitchments. Alexander the Great, who lived in the 4th century BC, is said to have won his wars with a chrysoprase inlaid on his belt; when a snake bit the stone off his belt, he suffered military losses and never won another battle – or so the legend goes.

If you are familiar with Europe in the 1700s, or even stories such as the Hunchback of Notre Dame, you aren't surprised that public hangings were fairly frequent! Chrysoprase was said to bestow invisibility when placed in the mouth, so criminals were said to slip a piece of chrysoprase between their lips as they approached the gallows. However, I can't find any record of this plan succeeding!

## Coming Events

August 4, 2012

37<sup>th</sup> 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

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

**Our Annual show** is scheduled for

Saturday and Sunday

September 22 and 23, 2012

(Setup date is Friday, the 21<sup>st</sup>)

**Volunteer! Prepare your showcase! Spread the word!**



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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, August 21, 2012, 6 p.m.**  
**Bryant Hiiter's home**

6510 Bridle Lane  
Highland, MI 48356  
248-889-3974

Directions: From the shop, take M-59 east for 8 miles, turn left on North Harvey Lake Rd. (requires a U turn or a "Michigan left"). Go 3 miles north to White Lake Road, turn right at the flashing red light. Go 2 miles to the roundabout, go left on Rose Center Rd. (unpaved). Go north about 1/2 mile, turn left on Horseshoe Drive. Go about 1/2 mile, turn left on Bridle Lane (the only road off of Horseshoe). We are the 1st house on the left, 6510 Bridle Lane.