

Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

December 2012

President's Message

I hope we all had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. Now it's time to get ready for our annual Churstmas party. This year's party is at 6 pm on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 in the Senior Center. Please bring food or dessert to share and, if you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped rock related gift of \$5.00 - \$10.00 value.

In the spirit of the season, how about a gift for the club? We can use quart size baggies, sponges, 100 watt light bulbs, blue Dawn dish soap, cans of pop or juice, bundles of clean rags or many other things. A box will be set up to collect your gifts.

It's December and that brings winter and the 4H kids. We can always use some help. If you are interested in teaching, please contact Chuck or me. We teach on Mondays from 6-8 pm, December through April.

With winter just around the corner, snow and school closures are possible. For information on snow days/ holidays, call Hartland Community Education, 810-626-2150, or watch your local news channel. If Livingston County schools are closed, so is the shop.

Sorry, but it's time to pay your 2013 Livingston Gem and Mineral Society's dues. Any new membership after our show in Septmeber 2012 is good until December 2013.

From the March 2011 newsletter: "Livingston Gem and Mineral Society, largest working lapidary club in Michigan"! We are still the largest with 133 members. This is only

possible because of the dedication of a large number of club members. Keep up the good work, pay your \$1.00 daily shop fee and we will continue to grow.

Holiday Closing Schedule: The lapidary shop (and the HESSC Building) will be closed as of Monday, December 24, 2012 and will reopen on Monday, January 7, 2013.

Well, there goes another year. So until we meet again, have a very Merry Churstmas and Happy New Year!

That's all folks,

Ken



Minutes for the L.G.M.S.
11.20.12

Meeting called to order by President Ken Blake at 6:02 P.M. Minutes from October meeting accepted as written.

New: Chuck Amberger is scheduled to speak at the Hartland High School (Farms), Science Club about lapidary. Time and date not confirmed at the time of this meeting.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the shop will not be open W-TH-F (November 21,22,23). Remember if the Livingston County Schools are closed, so is the shop.

Discussion regarding the purchase of a long extension/electrical cord for use during shows, necessary to allow increased space for vendors. (Cost is approximately \$500.00) A motion was made by George Pericano and seconded by Danielle Blanchard, for the purchase. Al Zielinski is willing to make the cord.

Discussion regarding the club purchasing small bottles of (Special T) glue for the members.

Danielle Blanchard asked that we see her for donations for a holiday gift for the President and Vice President, noting what a good job they have both been doing.

Gayland Allen noted that he can get some tumbling grit for a good price. Please check with him, if interested.

Vi Porritt has volunteered to secure the use of the senior center for our annual Christmas Party, December 18th at 6:00. All are invited. Set up

will be handled by Venus Sage and Sharon Krauthem. Cleanup volunteers are Isla Mitchell, Gayland Allen and Sheila York. Bring a small wrapped rock-related gift valued at not more than \$10.00 for the gift exchange. Think of it as “give a gift/get a gift”.

Nominations/motions for offices took place and as follows:

Peggy Petito - continues as Treasurer
John Petito – continues as Director
Ed Oller – Director
Sheila York-Secretary

All were unanimously elected.

Ken states that the “maintenance crew” is helping a lot and doing a great job. The shop is looking much better.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 P.M. Motion made by Al Zielinski and seconded by Vi Porritt.

Respectfully submitted by
Sheila York, secretary Pro Tem

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.

Christmas/New Years Shop Closing

The shop will be closed from
Monday, December 24, 2011 through
Friday, January 4, 2013
Reopening on Monday, January 7, 2013

To our outgoing officers:

Margaret Edmundson
and Paul Maitre

We appreciate your commitment!

Thank You!



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.

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: 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 pm)

Moissanite

by Layna Palmer, 11-23-12, Wire-Sculpture.com

Let's start with a question: what do Arizona, North Carolina, and outer space have in common? If you answered a beautiful, near-colorless stone that is commonly mistaken for diamond, you would be correct!

In 1893, Henri Moissan was exploring the Arizona desert, poking around the meteor crater in Canyon Diablo, when he found some tiny stones he thought were diamonds. He took them back to his lab and began to study them and in 1904 identified them as pure silicon carbide (SiC), not diamonds. This was a significant discovery because up until 1950, no other source of pure silicon carbide had been found on earth. Pure SiC was later renamed moissanite (pronounced: MOY-suh-nite) by Tiffany & Co's George Kunz (of Kunzite fame) in 1905, to honor Henri Moissan.

Even though moissanite was discovered in 1893, because of how rare and small the crystals were at Canyon Diablo, it would take a century and an enormous amount of scientific research before moissanite would enter the market as a gemstone.

Nearly a hundred years after Moissan's discovery, CREE, a company in North Carolina, developed the process for creating Moissanite in large, individual crystals in the 1980s, intending to use the crystals in electronics. Then a master diamond cutter saw the moissanite crystals in 1995 and wondered how they would look as a faceted stone: this was the event that really set the course for moissanite the gemstone. Three years later, Charles & Colvard Ltd. introduced the new gem to the world, becoming the one company on Earth to hold the patents to the process of creating jewelry-grade moissanite.

Moissanite Properties

Moissanite has a hardness of 9.5, which makes it nearly as hard as diamond, and also has needle-like, sometimes even string-like inclusions. What differentiates moissanite and diamonds is not only the chemical structure, but also the fire and brilliance.

While diamonds are beautiful and sparkly, moissanite is even more so. Moissanite is 10% more brilliant than diamonds, and more brilliant than any other gemstone, because of its refractive index of 2.65-2.69. Plus, moissanite's "fire," or the pretty flashes of color it sends out, is 2.4 times greater than a diamond's of the same cut! Moissanite is not graded on the same system as diamonds, using the "Four Cs", but moissanite stones are considered VS (very slight inclusion) and are sold by the carat weight.

Moissanite is also considered a "green" gem, and, no I don't mean that it's been buried in radium bromide powder. Instead, because moissanite is a created gem, the impact to the environment is much less than a mined gem. It is also considered a "fair trade" gem, for those who are concerned with the diamond trade.

Moissanite is spiritually neutral and isn't considered to have any metaphysical properties. Although, given the fire and brilliance of the stone, it sure does make a girl happy, and at 1/3 the cost of diamonds, it makes a guy happy too! So, while diamonds may be a girl's best friend, moissanite is a more affordable and sometimes even more beautiful alternative.

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.



The deadline for 2013 dues is December 31, 2012

**Remit to: Peggy Petito, Treasurer, LGMS
9525 E Highland Rd
Howell, MI 48843**

Tear off and mail

2013 Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Dues

Name _____

_____ adult member \$15

_____ family membership\$15

number of children 12-18 years _____

_____ 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

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



Annual Christmas Party

*Tuesday, December 18, 2012
6 pm Senior Center
Bring a dish to share and a rock-related gift!
Celebrate the season!*