

Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

March 2013

Vice President's Message

It's March, and the spring Gem and Mineral Shows will be starting soon. Please see this newsletter or the bulletin board for dates.

I would like to thank Scott Reinhardt and his family for making aprons for the 4-H children. Anyone who would like to volunteer to work with the children on Monday evening please see Chuck Amberger, Ken Blake or me.

THE BIG MOVE IS ON! (Into the hall, that is.) March 5 and 6 we will be moving EVERYTHING from the shop into the hall for 2 weeks. The shop is getting a new ceiling, and maintenance needs total access. Please plan on coming on those days and help us move. If you have furniture movers or handcarts please bring them, it will make the move so much easier. Also, on March 25 and 26, we need people to move the shop back. Please see Ken or me for details.

The shop is closed on the third Tuesday of March so the monthly meeting will be moved to Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 6:00 P.M.

I think that is all. Just hang on, spring is almost here!

Bryant



Workshop Hours

CLOSED March 5th-22nd for renovations

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.

2-26-13 BOARD MEETING LGMS

- 1) 12:45, 7 members present This meeting was changed from 02-19-13 due to no quorum on that date. Minutes of January meeting were accepted as written. Motion made by Vi Poritt and seconded by Lorelei Hosler.
- 2) Historian: The club would like to thank Chuck Amberger/club historian for the great job he has been doing with out history reports.
- 3) Treasurer: The club is doing well financially. The club treasurer is out of town for this meeting.
- 4) Shop News: Everything is running well. Shop chairman and club President Ken Blake asks that if any member notices any problem with a machine, please bring it to his attention. If there is a problem it needs to be addressed and perhaps an out-of-order sign placed on the machine. This can be a safety issue and Ken asks that we don't "just walk away" from the machine.
 - A) A big "Thank-you" to Ed Oller for picking up our new dolly for the shop. (this will come in handy during the "BIG" move)
 - B) RENOVATIONS! What a fantastic opportunity to revitalize our shop! The shop will be closed for renovations March 11th through the 22nd. During this time the complete ceiling will be replaced including lighting fixtures and venting and the walls will be painted. The days of March 5th to the 8th- we will need every available person to assist with the move. Everything that can be moved and taken down will be done. The days of MARCH 5TH (TUESDAY) and the 6TH (WEDNESDAY) have been slated as the days we hope to get a lot moved. But, any time during that week we can use the help. This daunting task includes the library and office as well as all the saws, cabinets etc. Ken asks that, if possible, we remove any rocks stored in the drawers. Items will be stored in the hallway until the work is completed and we can move back into our "new" rooms". We have been granted use of a large display case in the main hallway (possibly 2) for our finer items during the work. An inspection has to be done before we move back into the shop. If the work is completed early and the the inspection is done; we can move back. Then, we will need help to replace all the items that were removed. Again, this is our shop and volunteers are very much needed for all aspects of the "big move".
 - C) Ken has asked board to approve the purchase of 2 mops and 2 push brooms, costing around \$125.00. Motion was made by Vi Porrit and seconded by Bryant Hiiter.
 - D) Shop thanks John Petito for packing up the unused dop wax and returning it.

5) New business: Potluck meetings will be held in June, July and August. See Ken if you would like to volunteer to host one of these gatherings.

A) Additional 4-H teachers are needed for Monday nights. It would be great to have more volunteers come and help the harried few that are working with the kids now. These kids can be the future of our club. 100% new findings have been purchased for the 4-H kids.

B) Donations: Dawn dish washing detergent (blue) is welcome. Rock donations for the club table and children's table during the show are needed!

C) Motion was made to have the "pop and water" funds put in a locked box in the future and to repay Venus Sage for the items purchased. Motion was made by Ken Blake and seconded by John Petito.

D) Copies of the LGMS Constitution were handed out to 4 board members. Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 1:38 by Lorlei Hosler and seconded by Ed Oller.

respectfully submitted by: Sheila York, Secretary

2013 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Ken Blake, 810-750-6078
 Vice President: Bryant Hiiter, 248-889-3974
 Secretary: Sheila York 810-695-0509
 Treasurer: Peggy Petito, 248-887-8847
 First year Director: Ed Oller 810-241-8801
 Second year Directors: Violet Porritt, 810-235-6286
 Lorelei Hosler, 810-789-3687
 Third year Director John Petito, 248-887-8847
 Hospitality: Venus Sage , 810-458-4290
 Sunshine: Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804
 Shop Chairperson: Ken Blake
 Newsletter and Membership:
 Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804
 imvm.l@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)

Breaking News

As some members might have heard, the shop is getting a much needed face lift: new ceiling venting, lighting and paint. What does that mean for us? The shop will be packed up – everything that can be moved or taken down, will be. This includes the several storage areas, kitchen and office. We are asking for members to volunteer their help for this daunting task.

Week of March 5th to 8th: the shop will be moving out into the hallway.

Renovations start the week of March 11th and will be completed by the 22nd. Needless to say, the **shop will be closed from March 5 – March 22.**

LGMS President Ken Blake is asking for help during the week of March 4th. It is understandable that some of us cannot do any heavy lifting, but there is a lot of packing that needs to be done. Boxes will be provided.

This is our shop! It will look great when this is finished! Please consider helping with the move.

Snow day closings?

For information on snow days,
call Hartland Community Education,
810-626-2150,
or watch your local news channel.
If Livingston County schools are closed,
so is the shop.

Statewide Lapidary Weekend

at **Blue Gill Lake Family Camping Resort**
April 12,13 and 14, 2013

For lapidary club members only. You are welcome to bring a few items for swap/sell, or demonstrate a craft. Enjoy the camp setting with with new and old lapidary friends.

Make your reservation as soon as possible!.

Call Paul or Nancy at 231-972-GILL.



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.

Psilomelane

by Rose Marion, Wire-Sculpture.com 7-6-12

Psilomelane, also rarely called psilomelanite and black hematite, is an umbrella name for manganese oxides, which are black stones. The name was chosen in 1758 and comes from the Greek for "smooth" (psilos) and "black" (melas – like melanin gives a dark pigment). Psilomelane looks like a black, almost metal, slice of wood. Gem-quality psilomelane, often called crown of silver psilomelane or silver crown psilomelane, is polished so you can see silvery "wood grain" or "tree rings" on a jet-black background. Some people even call it "black malachite," although the two stones aren't related. The name comes from the Silver Crown Mine where it is found in Chihuahua, Mexico, which has been open rarely in the last 100 years, closing due to WWII and multiple cave-ins. While there was much mining in the 1950s and some in the early 2000s, it is still a rare find on the lapidary market.

The silvery portions, which can look black, silver, or blue depending on the angle of light, are made up of pyrolusite, which is a different manganese oxide. Pyrolusite is used in making other alloys, creating chlorine, and used in disinfectants, taking green and brown tints out of glass, and in calico printing and dyeing. It is not magnetic, despite its hematite-like appearance. It can even be used in batteries, although artificial substitutes are more common.

Psilomelane is softer than quartz, about a 5 to a 6 on Mohs scale. It's often found in grape-like botryoidal formations, but you can see [this unusual psilomelane sample](#) that formed with black hair-like crystals on the top. That's a very close-up look: the crystals are less than a quarter-inch tall!

Besides the Silver Crown Mine in Chihuahua, Mexico, there aren't many active centers of gem-grade psilomelane mining. Augusta County, Virginia once had a mine, Crimora, which is now abandoned. Psilomelane has also been found in Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, and Arkansas in the US, and in small pockets of Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe.

Sometimes you will see psilomelane stones that have clear parts between the "grain," even druzy sometimes. This clear area is chalcedony, and some call it manganese oxide in quartz. Chalcedony psilomelane can turn into beautiful cabochons.

Metaphysically speaking, psilomelane is said to aid in understanding our emotional patterns and empowering us to re-engrave those grooves.

Here is a picture of shiny pyrolusite covering a botryoidal formation.



~~~~~ **Upcoming Events** ~~~~~

**March 2 and 3, 2013**

**The Roamin Club**

Special Auction at Schoolcraft College, Visatech Center

18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan

Information: Todd Gall 248-348-5093 or Don Brown 734-421-8159

**March 15, 16, and 17, 2013**

**Michigan Gem and Mineral Society**

“Gems of Green in Twenty-Three” gem and mineral show

Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 West Ganson, Jackson, Michigan

Information: Sally 517-522-3396 or [www.mgmsrockclub.com](http://www.mgmsrockclub.com)

**March 16, 2013, Saturday**

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Metro Rock Swap**

The Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

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

Information/Table Reservations: 734-259-8880

**April 4,5, and 6, 2013**

**Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club's 38<sup>th</sup> annual**

Gem and Mineral Show

Wyoming Village Shopping Center, 1220-28<sup>th</sup> St, Wyoming, Michigan

Information: John Donker MIROCKPAGES.org or 616-457-0556

**June 8 and 9, 2013**

**M.G.A.G.S. Rockhound Seminar**

Western Michigan University, Rood Hall

near West Michigan Ave and Rankin Ave, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Information: [info@mgags.org](mailto:info@mgags.org) or Don 734-421-8159

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 20th 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 Membership Meeting***

***Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 6 p.m.***

***(changed from regular meeting date due to shop renovations)***