

Livingstones

Page 1

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

April 2013

President's Message

“IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING!”

Spring is here, and our shop has a new look. The walls have been painted; we have a new ceiling, new and brighter lights, and improved ventilation. Even the floor was cleaned and sealed. The place looks great! Let's keep the floor cleaner than we have in the past.

THANK YOU*THANK YOU*THANK YOU

For all your help with the big move! Things really couldn't have gone any better. The move out was so quick, they were painting on the same day. Our room wasn't even scheduled to be painted! Thanks to MICHELLE OTIS from the front office for getting the job done!

April 15th and 22nd we have the 4-H kids at 6:00 pm. We still need help teaching. If interested, contact Chuck or me.

The shop's never looked so good. Let's do our best to keep it that way!

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.

The Rockhound by Ernie Hopfinger

My back is tired, my hands are sore.
I'm digging slower than before.
At first I'm kneeling, then I sit,
I begin to think it's time to quit.
From up the hill there comes a cry.
A new-found rock is held up high.
Whose back is tired? Whose hands are
sore?
I'm digging faster than before!

Via Moroks Newsletter, April 2013, via El Gambrisino



**Club President Ken Blake's negotiations
with school administration led to our
shop's freshly painted walls and sealed
floor in addition to the planned
renovations. Thanks, Ken!**

Marcasite

Marcasite: metallic shimmer with antique flair. “Marcasite” jewelry is jewelry made from iron pyrite (fool's gold), not, as the name suggests, from marcasite. Pyrite is similar to marcasite, but more stable and less brittle. “Marcasite” jewelry has been around for centuries, with early examples discovered in Incan ruins and Egyptian tombs. “Marcasite” was thought to have therapeutic properties and was often used as a healing stone. Many cultures also believed “marcasite” would attract wealth and inspire creativity. It was during Queen Victoria's reign that “marcasite” jewelry gained great popularity. After her husband died, Queen Victoria donned only dark clothing and jewelry to symbolize her widowhood, and the masses followed suit. “Marcasite” brooches were a Victorian favorite, as well as lockets, cameos and earrings. With its metallic luster and fiery sparkle, “marcasite” (i.e. iron pyrite) has also been called fool's gold. When cut with facets, it shimmers like tiny diamonds, but is much more affordable.

Via Moroks Newsletter, March 2013, via South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society

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 p.m.)

Rockus Collectralus: A Case Study

By Chris Lee (17), Georgia Mineral Society
(1st Place – AFMS Junior Articles 12-17)

It is a horrible thing to be addicted to rocks. In the middle of the night you wake up, contemplating more purchases to make. The shelves in your house are overloaded, sagging under all the weight – 30 percent of the earth's crust sitting on them. You don't even bother showering any more as the fine dust left on your hands from carrying rocks has built up to unmanageable levels. All but your best friends have abandoned you; they do not want to be seen in public with someone so dirty. This is a glimpse into the life of a person affected by rockkus collectralus, a horrible disease that causes compulsive rock collection. Sufferers of this disease can be easily identified by their bulging pickets, their vest covered in dust and their beat-up hat. Many sufferers also can be seen at any place that rocks, minerals, or fossils are sold. They can be differentiated from other patrons by lack of the phrase "How much?"

Unfortunately, there is no way to treat rockkus collectralus. However there are ways of making it more liveable. One way is to provide frequent exposure to others with this disease; this will help the sufferer to maintain their sanity. Another way is to provide frequent opportunities and finances to purchase as many rocks as needed. This keeps everyone happy, except your accountant and spouse. Finally, the most important way to treat rockkus collectralus is to have more social contact than just your rock dealer and not to spend all day organizing, tagging, gazing. If all of the above steps are followed sufferers of rockkus collectralus can have some of their lives back and be on their way to recovery.



From Ziggy.com 11-28-12

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 Search is on for Meteorite

By Gautam Naik and Alan Cullison

Excerpts from Wall Street Journal article, February 19, 2013

The meteor that crashed to earth in Russia on 2-15-13 was about 55 feet in diameter, weighed around 10,000 tons and was made from a stony material, scientists said, making it the largest such object to hit the Earth in more than a century. Large pieces of it have yet to be found. However, a team from Ural Federal University collected 53 fragments, the largest of which was 7 millimeters, according to Victor Grokhovsky, a scientist at the university.

Data from a global network of sensors indicated that the meteor's fiery disintegration as it neared earth near Chelyabinsk, Russia, unleashed nearly 500 kilotons of energy, more than 30 times the energy of the Hiroshima atomic bomb.

It is the largest reported meteor since the one that hit Siberia in 1908, according to NASA. "We would expect an event of this magnitude to occur once every 100 years," said Paul Chodas of NASA's Near-Earth Object Program Office. "When you have a fireball of this size we would expect a large number of meteorites to reach the surface and in this case there were probably some large ones."

A meteor is what is seen burning up flying through the atmosphere. A meteorite is what survives the plunge and lands on the earth's surface. When a meteor lands, researchers can get a better fix about its size and composition by studying isotopes found in the fragments. But the pieces need to be found quickly because the isotopes last for only days or weeks.

The search was hampered, Dr. Grokhovsky said, by officials of Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry, which sealed off the area around a 25-foot-wide hole in the ice of Lake Chebarkul, near Chelyabinsk, where a chunk was believed to have fallen. Ministry divers didn't find anything in the lake. A top regional official told Russia's Interfax news agency that the hole appeared there for another reason and wasn't caused by the meteor. "They just don't know what they are looking for," said Dr. Grokhovsky.

Dr. Grokhovsky said that although the meteorite exploded, there are certainly chunks larger than those so far recovered. The black and brown fragments have been fairly easy to spot because they stand out against the snow.

As space visitors go, the meteor wasn't especially exotic. It was of a variety known as ordinary chondrites, which make up most meteorites found on Earth. But it is still of scientific interest. "Each meteorite is a time capsule and space probe recording the history of our solar system from 4.5 billion years ago," said Caroline Smith, curator of meteorites at London's Natural History Museum. "Whenever you get a new meteorite, you never know what you'll find."

Some of the more intriguing meteorites are partly composed of carbon-based materials, including amino acids and sugars. "The early Earth could well have been seeded with the chemical building blocks you need for life to start," said Dr. Smith.

In addition, scientists have found about 100 meteorites that originated on the moon, and an additional 100 that originated on Mars. These were formed when an asteroid or comet smacked into the lunar or Martian surface and threw out debris that fell into Earth's gravitational grasp.

By comparison, meteors of the type that hit Russia originate at the earliest reaches of time, in the disk of gas and dust that swirled around the early sun. They become denizens of the asteroid belt found between Mars and Jupiter until they fall out of orbit, possibly after a collision. Some fly near Earth, get pulled in by gravity and meet their end in a blaze of heat and light as they fall toward the ground.

~~~~~ Upcoming Events ~~~~~

**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

**April 27-28, 2013**

**Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society Show**

Orchard Mall, 1800 Pipestone Rd, Benton Harbor, MI

Information: Nancy Wolff 269-983-4900

**May 3-5, 2013**

**Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society Annual Gem and Mineral Show**

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

Information: Jerry Van Nocker 269-979-3348 or <http://www.kalamazoorockclub.org>

**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



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LGMS, Hartland Consolidated Schools,  
9525 E. Highland Rd. Howell, Michigan 48843-9098.

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Howell, MI 48843-9098



*General Membership Meeting*

*Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 6 p.m.*  
*At the shop*