

# Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

June 2013

## President's Message

Ken Blake is taking a leave of absence for the foreseeable future, so I am stepping up as president.

June is the first month for our club picnics. This month it is at the McDevitt's house. Directions are on page 6 of this newsletter. Bring a dish to pass, and some rocks/crafts to sell out of your trunk.

The lamp for the show prize drawing has been finished and is at the shop. Stop by to check it out. Beautiful! I anticipate a lot of tickets will be sold this year.

Please be aware that there are new belts on all the wheels.

See you at the shop!

*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.

Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



To Gayland Allen and  
Bryant Hiiter and  
Al Zielinski  
for all their work in the shop!

And to the members who clean up the shop  
on Tuesday night and Wednesday night –  
great job!

## GENERAL MEETING 05-21-13

Meeting called to order At 6:00 P.M. 43 members present at start of meeting. Vice President Bryant Hiiter presiding.

Minutes of 04-04-13 meeting accepted as written in May newsletter. Motion was made by member Margaret Edmundson and seconded by George Pernicano, all in favor.

Motion made by Isla Mitchell and seconded by Lynette West to accept the minutes as written for the meeting of 04-16-13. All in favor.

TREASURER'S Report: Peggy Petito reported on the month's income and bills. Our treasury is in good shape as of 05-21-13. Motion made by Maddie Navarro and seconded by Vi Porritt to accept the report. All in favor.

SHOP REPORT: New Laps for the flat lap have arrived and are in use: 360 - 1200 - 220. VP Bryant stated that the shop is in good shape. The club would like to thank member Gayland Allen for his assistance with the repair and changing the pads on the cerium wheel. It has been brought to the attention of various members that many of the belts are worn. These are slated to be changed on Friday this week (05-24-13). Volunteers for shop chairman, for the upkeep and work on the shop machinery are needed.

SHOW REPORT: Chuck Amberger, show chairman states that as of this date, (1) signed contract by a dealer has been confirmed. The contracts have all been sent out and by the first of August they should be returned. The tickets are being printed. A signup sheet is posted for members to volunteer for the show. Member Isla Mitchell and show chairman both mention that a publicity chairman would be very beneficial to the show. This was discussed and members are asked to think about being our publicity "go-to" person. ADDENDUM: It was later learned that Barbara Wolfe has volunteered. A big shout out to Barbara. Thank you.

HISTORIAN REPORT: Chuck Amberger, club historian, reports that he is trying to get information about the early member Marion Short, wife of Nelson who helped to found our club. Marion recently passed and Chuck would like to find a way to get in touch with the children to be able to complete the history project. Perhaps someone has an idea for the research; if so, please speak with Chuck.

GENERAL BUSINESS: VP Bryant made a motion that we accept the constitutional amendment as written in the May newsletter. There was much discussion and it was noted that member Maddie Navarro had handed out to all present a paper explaining some changes to the new bylaws that she was suggesting. Member Kevin Smith also stated that he believed there are some problems with the way the proposal was written. Member Lavonne Foldenauer mentioned that she felt the proposal does not "talk enough or cover enough" detail regarding the rules. Member Bob Krautheim also wanted to know if there is a family membership, is the whole family expelled or just the member in question. Member Sue McEwen stated that there was a procedural problem and we needed to respond to the motion on the floor. She felt the proposal was a good effort that can be tweaked at a future time, if necessary. Members discussed back and forth if the vote should be tonight or at a later date. Motion to move to a vote on the proposal was made by member Gloria Poy and seconded by member Carol Richards. The consensus was to go ahead with the vote. The vote was taken on written ballots with the results: 30 yes, 9 no, and 2 abstaining.

A motion to form a committee to update the Rules of Conduct, Safety, and Ethics for the club was made by member Sue McEwen and seconded by member Margaret Edmundson. All in favor. Volunteers were requested and 5 members have volunteered: Sue and Paul McEwen, John and Peggy Petito, and Maddie Navarro. The committee is open to all members' suggestions concerning the draft of these rules. Please submit in writing to any board member or committee member.

Respectfully submitted: Sheila York, Secretary

President: Ken Blake, 810-750-6078 (on leave)  
President Pro Tem: 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.1@netzero.com  
Show Chairman and Historian:  
Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586  
Library: Bryant Hiiter 248-889-3974  
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.)



Our purpose is to promote, through educational means, public interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, archaeology, paleontology, and the lapidary arts.



Larimar specimen  
(see page 4)

## All About Larimar

May 10th, 2013 by Layna Palmer, [Wire-Sculpture.com](http://Wire-Sculpture.com)

I've often wondered if I love volcanoes because of the beautiful rocks that come from the process, or just for the simple reason that they explode — it's kind of a toss-up. I'm leaning more toward the fact that volcanoes, through their incredible power, create spectacular and fascinating rocks. One of the most beautiful and rare among the rocks created from the volcanic process is Larimar. When I first saw a picture of Larimar it reminded me of the scene in a movie where the star is running from an exploding building, and the camera goes to slow motion as the explosion slowly fills the screen. When you look at a piece of Larimar, you see clouds of steam billowing up from a volcano, the finger-like projections of superheated groundwater mixing with the earth to form sodium calcium silicate hydroxide — an explosion frozen in time.

The actual chemical term for Larimar is pectolite, which is found worldwide under various names, one of which is sugilite. Larimar is classified as a blue pectolite with cobalt replacing some of the calcium in the chemical formula  $\text{NaCa}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8(\text{OH})$ . While blue pectolite has been found in other areas of the world like the U.S. and Canada, only the pectolite from 1 square kilometer in the Dominican Republic can be classified as Larimar. So far it's the only one with the unique chemical composition and color.

**How Larimar was Discovered** Larimar was officially discovered in 1974 by Peace Corps member Norman Rilling and a Dominican man named Miguel Mendez. The two became intrigued by the beautiful blue stones they found along the seashore and found the source of the stone by following the Baboruco River to a remote area in the mountains. Mendez was given the honor of naming the stone Larimar after his daughter Larissa and *mar* which is "sea" in Spanish. Although 1974 was the "official" discovery, native Dominicans have known about the stone for generations.

Mining Larimar is very difficult and dangerous. The mines are located in a heavily forested, 1/2-mile-square area of the Dominican mountains. Flooding and rains keep the mines closed up to five months a year, especially during the hurricane season when entire mountainsides can become rivers of mud. Larimar is formed in finger-like veins. Once a shaft is found, the nearby villagers, who have excavated Larimar mines for most of their lives, will dig by hand through the rock hundreds of feet into the dormant volcano to extract the stone. This type of mining, though dangerous, helps to preserve the pristine nature of the rainforest but makes mining and transporting the mined material difficult.

**Larimar Properties** Larimar is also known as Atlantis Stone from a prediction by psychic Edgar Cayce (1877-1945) that a blue stone would be found in the Caribbean possessing incredible healing powers. Many believe Larimar is the stone Cayce spoke about. Hispaniola, the island shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti, is also believed by some to be a remnant of the fabled sunken city of Atlantis, giving Larimar even more numinous metaphysical power. Larimar brings the wearer peace, balance between head and heart, and protection from negative energy. The stone is also reputed to attract not only success, but one's "soul mate."

Larimar is a 4.5-5 on the Mohs hardness scale and should be treated with care. Pendants and earrings are the best settings for Larimar. If you decide you just have to have a ring, make a protective setting for the stone. Wire jewelry artist Judy Copeland advised: "Don't expose the stone to too much sun or light as the color can fade. If this does happen, you can soak the stone in plain water for 24 hours to restore the color." Judy said she followed these instructions, and the color was enhanced and even more beautiful than before.

There is not a grading system for Larimar as the color is really a personal preference, but it comes in colors that range from the most familiar sea blue to a deeper greenish blue and even white.

**Road trip: Larimar Mines** Road trip! Okay, so we are going to the Dominican Republic. Plan a day for the trip to the mines. Start out in Barahona and travel about 14 kilometers south by four-wheel-drive to Las Filipinas village. You'll leave the main road, then bounce over a dusty road for about 15 more kilometers until you come to the village of Las Cupaderos near the mines. The scenery is spectacular, and the villagers are friendly. You can purchase Larimar from the miners in either dry rough or rough in jars of water to show the color.

## ~~~ Upcoming Events ~~~

**May 31-June 2, 2013**

**Stateline Gem and Mineral Society**

Rock, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show  
Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon, OH

**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

**August 3, 2013**

**Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club's Annual Show**

Ishpeming Elks' Club, 597 Lake Shore, Ishpeming, MI  
Information: Ernest Johnson, 906-228-9422 or [ejohnson@nmu.edu](mailto:ejohnson@nmu.edu)

**September 21 and 22, 2013**

**<<<< OUR OWN >>>>**

**Livingston Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Show**

Hartland Education Support Services Center, 9525 Highland Road, Howell, MI 48843  
Information: Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586, Bryant Hiiter, 248-889-3974

**October 19 and 20, 2013**

**The Flint Rock and Gem Club's Annual Show**

Carter Middle School, Rogers Lodge Drive, Clio, Michigan  
Information: Ed Hern 810-687-2339 or [www.flintrockandgem.org](http://www.flintrockandgem.org)



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, archeology, 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



***Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 6 pm.***  
***Potluck Gathering***  
***Mike and Carol McDevitt's home***  
*114 Haystack Drive, Linden, MI 48851*  
*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 and drive to the first house on the right: 114 Haystack Drive.***