

# Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

November 2013

## Thanksgiving 2013

Thanksgiving thoughts are the kind of thoughts that we should have all year long.

For it is the folks with thankful hearts whose lives are filled with song.

We should take time for kindness to those we hold most dear, and just extend a helping hand to others through the year.

Let's set aside some quiet time and share it with a friend.

For friendship brings a special joy and pleasure without end.

So may the blessings of this day that I would ask for you, now fill you with Thanksgiving Peace that lasts the whole year through!

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## November Notes

President Bryant Hiiter has been away on vacation. We hope it's been refreshing. You've been missed, Bryant!

The lapidary shop will be **closed** on **November 28 and 29** for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Nominating Committee Report

The following individuals have agreed to have their names put in nomination for election as the club's 2014 officers:

for president: Bryant Hiiter  
for vice president: Gayland Allan  
for secretary: Sheila York  
for treasurer: Peggy Petito  
for board member

1st year: Margaret Edmondson  
Paul MeEwen

2nd year: Ed Oller  
John Petito

Submitted by the nominating committee  
Lorelei Hosler  
George Pernicano  
Vi Porritt





to **Vi Porritt** who coordinated our annual banquet – a special time with special friends!

To **Tony West** for his fascinating presentation on his rock hounding adventures at the banquet!



to **Gayland Allen**, the 2013 recipient of the Max Schultz award



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**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.

**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

**2013 Officers and Chairpersons**

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  
                                          John Petito, 248-887-8847  
 Third year Director: John Petito, 248-887-8847  
 Hospitality: Venus Sage, 810-458-4290  
 Sunshine: Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804  
 Shop Chairperson:  
 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.)

**How Rich Are We?**

One day a father and his rich family took his son on a trip to the country to show the young man how poor people can be. They spent the day and a night at the farm of a very poor family. When they returned home the father asked the son, "How was the trip?" "Very good, Dad" the son replied. "Did you see how poor people can be?" The father asked. "Yeah" said the son. "And what did you learn?"

The son replied, "I saw that we have a dog at home; they have four. We have a pool that reaches the middle of the garden; they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lamps in the garden; they have the stars. Our patio reaches to the front yard; they have the whole horizon." When the little boy finished speaking, his father was speechless. His son added, "thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

from Chiasto-Hi-Lites, March/April 2013 via Golden Spike News 9/00

**Helpful Hints****~~~~~ Upcoming Events ~~~~~**

**November 2-3, 2013**

**Mid-Michigan Rock Club Annual Show,**

Midland Resort and Convention Center, 1500 W. Wackerly  
St. Midland, MI

Contact: Deb Acord, (989) 689-4840,  
[jackdanred1@aol.com](mailto:jackdanred1@aol.com)

**November 2, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

**Democratic Club of Taylor, The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction**

23400 Wick Road, Taylor, MI  
Info: Dan Gumina 313-766-8944

1. Don't try to cut and polish cabs while watching TV.
2. Always walk uphill while collecting large specimens.
3. Tin oxide will not work as well in your coffee as creamer.
4. Most worthwhile gemstones can be dug only during a rain or snow storm.
5. All worthwhile gemstones are a good 500 miles away at the end of a dirt road at an elevation of at least 8,000 feet.
6. If you can't identify a mineral, call it jasper. No one else will know, either.
7. Don't spill dop wax on your wife's kitchen stove.
8. Don't store tumbled stones in the candy dish.
9. There are approximately 135 ways to polish jade, most of which don't work.

From The Paradise Gem via The RockRunner 12/2002



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



## 2014 Dues are due

Tear off and mail to Peggy Petito, Treasurer, LGMS, 9525 E. Highland Rd, Howell, MI 48843

## 2014 Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Dues

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ adult member ..... \$15

\_\_\_\_\_ family membership .....\$15

number of children 12-18 years \_\_\_\_\_ number of adults \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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

## Serpentine

By Layna Palmer, Wire-Sculpture.com 5-24-13



Serpentine is one stone named for its appearance, using the Latin word *serpentinus* which means serpent-like. Serpentine is translucent green, though it is also found in yellow, white and gray, with a mottled appearance that looks like scales and is often described as having a “greasy” or silky feel and had a hardness of 2.5-3.

Serpentine is the “brand name” for a group of polymorphous rocks within the serpentine group; these rocks are sometimes called serpentinite. *Polymorphous* means that the rocks have the same chemical compound with the molecules arranged differently. So the hydrous magnesium iron phyllosilicate polymorphs of serpentine are classified as; **antigorite**, **chrysotile**, and **lizardite** all chemically the same, just having the chemicals bonded in a different way. In other words; the serpentine group consists not only of serpentine, but of antigorite, lizardite, and chrysotile: all green stones with a scaly appearance and the same basic chemical structure.

The appearance of serpentine varies depending on the structure of the bonds within the stone at the time of metamorphosis. **Antigorite** is named for the Antigoro Valley in Italy, where the stone is most commonly found in quarries. Antigorite is also found in Rhode Island, where it is compacted and known as bowenite, Rhode Island’s state mineral; as well as found in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Antigorite forms in fine plate-like crystals bonded with mica and is used for carvings, beads, and other jewelry applications and can be used as a substitute for jade. **Lizardite**, the most common type of serpentine used in home décor, is often referred to as green marble. Lizardite is a fine-grained serpentine with perfect cleavage and can be white, yellow, or green. The type we find in our home is usually a dark green with veins of calcite running through it. It also takes a high polish and is harder than marble, though it doesn’t weather well when subjected to the elements.

The most common form of serpentine is called **chrysotile** and forms in cylindrical crystals that double back on themselves, forming long threads of asbestos within the rock. This type of serpentine is used primarily for the asbestos fibers due to their fire resistance and flexibility. Chrysotile is mined in New York, New Jersey, and other areas along the Appalachian Mountains, California, Arizona, and Quebec near the town named Asbestos. Asbestos confined within a stone is not dangerous; it becomes a health risk only when it is airborne. Asbestos workers are the most at-risk for health concerns from overexposure to asbestos and industry standards have been changed to protect them. As long as asbestos is sealed, either within the stone or through other means, the health risk is minimal.

Finding Serpentine! Let’s go to where serpentine is plentiful, beautiful, and the official state rock; California! Since serpentine is formed from rock under high pressure and low heat, we see it a lot in the basalt along the sea floor. In California, the sea floor is being moved and subducted, so serpentine has come to the surface and is under most of the state. You can tell serpentine soil from other soil in the region. Serpentine soil is not very kind to plants and contains a lot of clay, so you can readily see the green stone with very sparse vegetation within it. One great area to be able to see and explore serpentine is Mount Tamalpais State Park near San Francisco. If you hike the Simmons Trail, you’ll go right through outcroppings of serpentine, and probably get to see some wildlife, redwoods and other native trees.

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



**General Meeting**  
(the agenda includes the election of officers)

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

6 p.m. at the shop