

# Livingstones

Page 1

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

December 2013

## President's Message

Winter is here and Christmas is coming soon, time to finish up your projects for presents. It is also a good time to buy from your fellow artists at the rock shop. Need a cabachon in a certain color? I'm sure if you asked around someone has one they would sell you. Did you make too many silver angel ornaments last year? Bring them in to sell. Do you need a Petoskey stone mushroom? Ask George or Chuck. Think handcrafted presents this year.

Our officers for 2014 were elected at the November meeting. When you see Margaret, Gayland, and Paul, congratulate them for stepping up into their new positions.

Gayland, Ed, Dan, Sheila, and Bryant went out to Sheila's and "winterized" the club's rock collection we purchased earlier this year. The doors were covered with tarps and plastic was put over the boxes and equipment. This collection will provide material for the club table, at our show, for years to come.

I want to give a special thanks to Gayland and Al, who came in on a Thursday, and cleaned several areas of the shop that have been sorely neglected. Please clean up after yourself, but more than that, if you see something that needs to be fixed or cleaned, don't hesitate to do it yourself.

On a final and fun note: Christmas Party, 3rd. Tuesday, 6 P.M., Senior Center. Bring a dish to pass, Potluck style, and a rock related gift. It is lots of fun!

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## Holiday Shop Closing

The lapidary shop will be closed from December 23 through January 2, 2014; reopening on Friday, January 3.



## 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.

## 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.



On the eastern side of Oregon there is a lake called Owyhee Lake, fed by a river with the same name. This area of Oregon is high desert country and contains an abundance of fine jaspers and agates. The various varieties of owyhee jasper share a geographic region, not a single locale.

Asian style design and paintings can often be found in the owyhee flower jasper which, by the way, is also sold as Chinese dendritic jasper. This jasper is usually cream colored with red splotches, often connected with fine dendrites, and the red areas are often surrounded by pale green halos. Some show warm brown-red zones connected by a fine series of dark lines.

The owyhee sunset jasper has warmer colors, less detail, but often shows us the world with a stylized sunset.

Last, but certainly not least is the owyhee known as the cherry creek variety. This is my favorite type for its bright red color veining that is often surrounded by cream-yellow or even blue areas of color, sometimes both in the same stone. It often contains fine dendrites and resembles strong abstract art. All of the owyhee jaspers appear to come from silicified mud-stones or siltstones. The are very fine grained, uniformly hard, and take a great polish. They are truly porcelain jaspers of the highest quality.



Owyhee picture jasper cabochon

President: Bryant Hiiter, 248-889-3974  
Vice President:  
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: Chuck Amberger  
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 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.



**2014 Dues are due**

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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 9-18 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

## A SIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(author unknown)

'Twas the eve before Christmas and there in the night the desert was quiet, not a rockhound in sight.  
Our socks were all hung where the bright fire glows in hopes that our Moms would sew up the toes.

The kids were all stacked in their warm little bunks with visions of agate slabs, boulders and chunks.  
And me in my long john and Ma in her sack had jumped into bed; it was cold in the shack.

From out in the sagebrush rose a hullabaloo and I sprang to the window to throw out a shoe.  
The moon shining down on the still silver sand confirmed that the desert was my kind of land.

I strained my eyes 'till my brow was a furrow; along came an old gent, a-leadin' his burro.  
By the size of his tummy and the face full of hair I knew it was Santa or a big grizzly bear.

"Go Rudolph, go Rudolph, you stubborn ol' mule, get moving there, Rudolph, you lop-eared ol' fool."  
Then quick as a polecat I heard up on top that darn red-nosed burro go clippity-clop.

Santa's trip down the chimney was somethin' uncanny; the fire was a-burnin' and scorched his poor fanny.  
He was dressed all in denim from his hat to his shoes, His nose was all red and he needed a snooze.

He had middle age spread that just wouldn't fit, and a bag so big it was ready to split.  
He spied my old trim saw, the one that was broke; "By golly, you're rockhounds, you're my kind of folk."

He sat down at the table, we both had some java and talked about agate, opal, and lava.  
He told of old times, of Horse Canyon agate, of good times in Boron, of jasper from Dagget.

He told of old pals from a mine in ghost city, of Bullfrog and Bodic, they're dead, what a pity.  
Then out of his pack for me and for Maw what else did he pull but a big slabbing saw.

There was a hammer for Nels and a black light for Della and he winked as he sat there, a jolly good fella.  
Then lookin' at the fire and feelin' a bit sore he thought it was best to leave through the door.

Then I heard his exclaim as he went out of sight  
**"MERRY CHRISTMAS, YOU ROCKHOUNDS, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"**



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



### *Annual Christmas Party*

*Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 6 p.m. in the Senior Center*

*Bring a dish to share and a rock-related gift (value about \$10.00)!*

*Celebrate the season !*