

# Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

February 2014

## President's Message

Well, last month the weather kept our shop closed too many times. Let's hope February brings a little better weather.

The 4-H children have started on Monday evenings from 6-8. Please consider volunteering for 2 hours a week teaching them.

Gayland and Paul cleaned out the very dirty sink traps last Friday. Please remember to dump dirty water into the buckets, NOT the sinks. Chuck has replaced the sanding belts on the 100 through 1200 wheels, so be sure to look at the date as you decide which wheels to use.

Stay warm and see you at the shop.

*Bryant*

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"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."

Hal Borland

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

Anne Bradstreet

"Adversity draws men together and produces beauty and harmony in life's relationships, just as the cold of winter produces ice-flowers on the window-panes, which vanish with the warmth."

Soren Kierkegaard



## 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 Rocks: The Science of Ice

As many states still lie entrenched in winter's gloom, it might help to "know thine enemy". First.... ice and snow are technically minerals, just like quartz. They fit the official geological definition. And just like other minerals....

1. Ice and snow come in a variety of colors, depending on the impurities. Volcanic particulates of the Tambora Eruption of 1815 produced blue, brown and red snows in Maryland; and red and yellow snow in Taranto, Italy. In 2010, the Stavropol region of southern Russia experienced a light purple snow, attributed to Saharan dust. There has even been...

2. Pink snow! Pink snow is regularly found in the Sierra Nevadas and is called "Watermelon Snow" due to its pink color. It even smells like watermelon (though you shouldn't eat it)! The color is the result of *Chlamydomonas nivalis*, a species of cold loving green algae that has a secondary red carotenoid pigment (astaxanthin). But the true color of pure ice and snow is....

3. Blue! Pure ice is blue, for the same reason the sky and oceans are blue. Water absorbs more light from the red spectrum and reflects more blue. However, snow looks white because trapped air reflects back all light. If an ice cube doesn't look blue, it's because large quantities are required to make the effect obvious and beautiful. But you don't want too much ice or otherwise we could have another....

4. Ice Age! Starting about 2.5 million years ago (the Pleistocene Epoch) glaciers grew rapidly and spread across the world. At their peak, glaciers covered as much as 30% of Earth's current land area. Summer temperatures were 10° C (18° F) colder than present. Sea levels dropped by more than 90 meters (250 feet), resulting in an extra 18% increase in dry land, in turn creating land bridges across the Bering Strait, the English Channel, and Indonesia. The last Ice Age ended 1.5 thousand years ago, and the Pleistocene Epoch ended almost 12 thousand years ago. But to this day, no one is really sure...

5. Why the Ice Age began in the first place! Theories abound. The foremost theory involves the Milankovitch cycles, a term for how the Earth's "wobble" (precession) axial tilt (obliquity) and planetary orbit (eccentricity) all vary with a regular cycle of every 20 thousand, 40 thousand and 100 thousand years respectively. Those variations affect how the Earth is exposed to the Sun's heat and radiation and could chill the planet. However, Milankovitch cycles have operated since the Earth was turning. But the Ice Age was a geologically recent event, only in the last couple million years. For the majority of Earth's history, the planet has been considerably warmer. What else could have cooled the planet? Did the erosion of the newborn Himalayas absorb and remove vast quantities of carbon dioxide, an important greenhouse gas? Did the connection of the North and South American continents provide the catalyst? When the two continents joined, the Gulf Stream carried much warmer and wetter waters further north. This would increase precipitation (snow) and so increase glacier growth. Other scientists say that continental drift plays a factor, as Ice Ages don't really occur until there were large ice caps on the North and South Poles (which only occur when large landmasses are near the poles to serve as climatic "anchors") No one is certain how the Ice Ages were born, or if they'll return again.

6. In a way, it's much like our winters today. They come. They go. But humans have tackled winters (and worse) and we still survive. We have fought every crisis that Mother Nature brings to us. And we have what it takes to continue ... or move to Florida!

Heath Shive, via The Quarry 3/11, via The Pterodactyl 1/12



### 2014 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Bryant Hiiter, 248-889-3974

Vice President: Gayland Allen, 810-275-3444

Secretary: Sheila York, 810-695-0509

Treasurer: Peggy Petito, 248-887-8847

1st year Directors: Margaret Edmundson,  
248-634-5046

Paul McEwen,  
810-735-5832

2nd year Director: Ed Oller, 810-241-8801

3rd year Director: John Petito, 248-887-8847

Hospitality: Venus Sage, 810-458-4290

Sunshine: Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804

Shop Chairperson: Chuck Amberger,  
248-787-6586

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.)

### Wonders of a Crystal

A crystal is one of the strangest objects of nature. It is not alive, yet it grows. A crystal attracts the same kind of materials of which it is composed, arranges them with great accuracy in geometrical forms, cements the parts together and holds them. Place a crystal in a liquid or vapor composed of the same ingredients as the crystal and the process of accumulation immediately begins. If a crystal was broken in two parts and placed in a bath of liquefied crystal, the broken surface would be repaired and each part will grow into another crystal, providing the other conditions favorable for crystal growth are present.

Even after a crystal has been worn until it is but a rounded grain of sand, it will speedily become a crystal again if placed in a solution containing the ingredients of which it is composed. There is no known limit to the ability of a crystal thus to repair itself and resume its growth.

Under a microscope a crystalline solution can be seen forming into crystals and it is a wonderful sight. First, innumerable dark spots form in the fluid; they stand still and then begin to move. It is soon seen that the movement arranges the spots in straight lines, like beads. The beads speedily coalesce into rods, and the rods arrange themselves into layers until a crystal is created. The process proceeds so rapidly that it is almost impossible to follow closely.

Monrovia Rockhounds, February 2014, via El Gambrisino



### 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.

## Upcoming Events

**March 2-3, 2014**

### **The Roamin Club Special Auction,**

Sat 11 - 6; Sun 12-6, Schoolcraft Community College , Livonia, MI

Contact: Todd Gall or Don Brown (248) 348-5001, (234) 421-8159

**March 11, 2014**

### **Michigan Mineralogical Society Social and Swap**

7 p.m., Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 N. Woodward Ave. Bloomfield Hills, MI

Contact: Millie Hurt, 248-3998-6693

**March 14, 15, 16, 2014**

### **Michigan Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show**

Jackson County Fairgrounds

American One Event Center, 200 West Ganson, Jackson, MI

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



## 2014 Dues are overdue

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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

## Nelson and Marion Short ...a “short” history of the LGMS

Marilyn Short Davis, Nelson and Marion's daughter, recently sent us a little more background information about her parents. Now we can fill in more completely the story of the founding of our society: what happened then and since. We already know that the LGMS conducted its first meeting in the Howell Recreation Center on Grand River in Septmeber 1970 with 27 members attending. Nelson, Marion and Johnny Johnson were the key players in the original formation.

Marion Eleanor Short was born in 1914 in Bridgewater, Michigan. She graduated from Manchester High School in 1935 and then became a bookkeeper. Nelson Short was born in 1913 in Onstead, Michigan. Nelson became an electrician, a contractor and finally a silversmith and lapidary artisan. Nelson and Marion's son, James, was born in Ann Arbor and daughter, Marilyn (now Marilyn Short Davis), was born in Saline, Michigan.

In 1970, Marion, Nelson and Johnny Johnson belonged to the Lansing Rock Club. Many times they would drive together from Howell to Lansing and they became very tired of this rather long trip. That was when they decided to form their own rock club in Howell.

In 1985, two school rooms became available in the 21 Building of the old Hartland High School. With much help from Bill Horton, Johnny Johnson, the Morgans and many other members, this building became the new home of the LGMS. These were ordinary classrooms and had to be outfitted with electricity, water, drainage, worktables and the machinery necessary for a good lapidary shop. Much of this equipment was, in one way or another, supplied by Max Schultz. The two rooms provided both a workshop and a meeting room. Most of the monthly general meetings of the LGMS were held across the street in the basement meeting room of the old Krause Building. The Krause Building was the headquarters of the Hartland Consolidated School System at that time and destined to become a great player in the future of our society. The club remained there until 2005 when we moved into our present location in the Hartland Educational Service Support Center Building, formerly the “new” Hartland High School.

Nelson and Marion Short were an exceptional couple and we were just plain fortunate that they were there for the start of it all. Nelson and Marion loved to get out and travel. They loved their lapidary hobby and they loved working with the members, helping them out with their projects and sharing their collection of rocks and minerals. They were entertaining, always inviting members to come over to their house in Howell for cards or for enjoying their back yard which of course was full of minerals. They will be missed and fondly remembered in our hearts for their work in the foundation of this society.

May the recording angels please look a little aside if I did not capture all the events exactly as transpired.

Chuck Amberger.... Club Historian

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



*No general meeting*

*Board of Directors meeting  
at noon on Tuesday, February 18, 2014  
at the shop*