

Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

May 2014

President's Message

I can't believe it's May already. It seems like just yesterday we were complaining about all the snow.

Our big slab saw finally kicked the bucket last week, so we ordered a new one. They are made and shipped by freight from California, so we don't know exactly when it will arrive. Please be patient and understand that you can't cut large rocks for a week or two.

Robert brought in a bundle of different sized dowels, and Gayland cut some of them up to use as dop sticks. Bob Kalis, Ed Oller, Chuck Amberger and Gayland Allen are keeping the oil clean in our saws, and Chuck has replaced several sanding belts.

I'd also like to thank Janel Layton, who I saw cleaning up the dop pots and area. The shop runs smoothly when everyone pitches in to help a little. I'm sure many more of you help out, I just didn't happen to see it.

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.

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.

LGMS Board Meeting 04-01-14

At 1:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Bryant Hiiter. 8 members present plus Isla. Bryant stated there were just a few things we needed to discuss:

Member Al Zielinski returned a 55-gallon barrel of oil that he had been storing in his barn. It is now in our saw/storage room. Thanks to several members for their assistance.

Treasurer Peggy Petito spoke with the club's insurance representative regarding age limits (children ages 9 to 12) as it relates to our club. Our club is not governed by OSHA or Michigan laws in relation to youngsters using our equipment. If something happens to a young user of our machines and equipment, they are covered. Special attention must be paid to the rule that 9 to 12 year olds HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED ONE-TO-ONE BY AN ADULT. Member Paul McEwen spoke with legal counsel and also was told that a responsible adult has to be with a child while using our equipment. It was noted that MWF (Midwest Federation) insurance policy covers liability for all board members.

The new savings account for the club is in place.

Meeting ended at 1:18 p.m.. All were in favor.

LGMS- General meeting 04-15-14

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., President Bryant Hiiter presiding. 28 members present. Correction of minutes from General meeting in March: when using the smaller saws to cut stone, the oil can be pushed in the reservoir; grit and small stone pieces are to be pushed to the end or removed.

We welcomed 2 guests, Jack and Lisa James, new members as of tonight.

Margaret Edmundson made a motion to accept the March minutes as amended; seconded by Vi Porritt. Passed.

Treasurer's report: Peggy Petito gave an accounting of dues taken in, earnings from the sale of rocks and findings and the initial dealer reservations for the show. Motion to accept the report was made by Isla Mitchell and seconded by Lorelei Hosler. Passed.

Shop Report: Chuck Amberger (shop chairman) states that people are beginning to "kick in" and are helping with the cleanup. A shout out to Bob Kalis for working with the trim saw and to Ed Oller working with other members of the club in reclaiming the oil from our saws. Problem: the big saw is continuing to not work properly and is being worked on almost daily. Thank you to all who have put time into this project to try and keep it running. Vice President Gayland Allen has mentioned that a faucet might need to be replaced. There was discussion about checking with the facility to ascertain whose responsibility that might fall under.

UPDATE: Show Chairman Chuck Amberger, reported that the annual show is September 20 and 21. Flyers are available and dealer invitations have been sent. Thus far, 2 dealers have reserved space.

OLD BUSINESS: Member Sue McEwen (chairman of the Rules and Ethics Committee) has brought to this meeting that there are inconsistencies within the club's constitution regarding age of participants using club equipment and supplies. The issue of the age limit not being consistent throughout the constitution will be looked at and adjusted. There are continuing concerns about younger children using the equipment and the need for close adult supervision was again stressed. Recent changes put in place by the board are aimed at proper orientation for all new members.

NEW BUSINESS: Our summer meetings and potlucks are being scheduled. We have a member who has offered to host the August meeting but June and July are up for grabs. Please let a board member know if you are interested in hosting one of these meetings. Our next General meeting is May 20. Isla, Jill and Dennis have graciously volunteered to provide refreshments. Bryant received a phone call regarding a small bucket of Petoskey stones that someone wants to be tumbled. Since tumbling is not appropriate, Bob Kalis mentioned he would volunteer to polish them if they were of acceptable quality. The telephone number can be retrieved from Bryant.

At 6:45 Paul McEwen made a motion to end the meeting; seconded by Isla Mitchell. Passed. Goodies were enjoyed while watching a video on drilling holes in agates.

Respectfully submitted: Sheila York, Secretary LGMS

LGMS BOARD MEETING 04-29-14

8 members present. At 12:35 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Bryant Hiiter, who stated that there were a few things to discuss.

Grand Prize for the show: We need to start thinking about this and what are our options. Several clubs offer cash as an incentive, while in the past we have traditionally had something rock related.

If no one comes forward to host the June and July meetings, we might hold the meetings at a park.

When Al brought in the 55-gallon drum of oil, there was approximately 10-15 gallons remaining. There was discussion about whether to refill the barrel or purchase a whole barrel. The consensus was that we should just go ahead and purchase the barrel. Motion was made by Margaret and seconded by John to go ahead and purchase the oil. Unanimous.

The big saw is not working properly, and the repairs are just not getting at the problem. So, we need to think about getting another, perhaps bigger, saw, refurbished or new. The cost is a big consideration.

Website: As a club we are tied for one of the 3 largest clubs of this type in Michigan and all agree that we need to have a website, as we have had in the past. One of our members has been identified who has agreed to work on our website and follow through, maintain and build the site. The group unanimously agreed to proceed to make arrangements with her, compensating her as necessary.

Discussion was made to add to our newsletter some interesting facts regarding the elements that make up quartz, rubies, and sapphires, etc., in keeping with our mission statement.

We need to work on the constitution, revising wording to be consistent throughout. Paul volunteered to do this work to be discussed further in the fall.

At 1:40 p.m. Peggy made a motion to end the meeting; seconded by Paul. Passed.

Submitted by: Sheila York, Secretary LGMS

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
3rd Tuesday at 6 p.m. (Except in January and February
when board meetings are held in the shop at 1 p.m.)



Upcoming Events

May 2-4, 2014

**Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society
55th Annual Rock, Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo, MI**

May 3-4

Cincinnati GeoFair 2014 49th Annual CINCINNATI, OH
Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show of Greater Cincinnati; www.geofair.com
Sat 10 - 6; Sun 11- 5 Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 E. Seymour Avenue

May 17-18

Parma Lapidary Club Annual Show, NORTH OLMSTED, OH
Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain Rd., North Olmsted, Sat 10-5; Sun 10-5
Contact: Sue Zaborowski, (440) 213-1153



The 2014 LGMS Show is scheduled for

September 20 and 21

(Setup on September 19)

Thanks for helping to distribute
the flyers which are available in the shop.

The Trilobite: Ohio's State Fossil, Ohio's First Monster?

Heath Shive, Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Club (Fort Wayne) via The Pterodactyl, December 2012

Ohio has a state capital, state flag, and a state motto. For that matter, it has a state bird, state tree and state song. But did you know that Ohio has a state fossil? It's a trilobite. Specifically it's the trilobite species *Isotelus maximus*. *Isotelus maximus* earns its name, “maximus”. A complete specimen of *I. maximus* found in Manitoba measured 70 cm. But bits and pieces of *I. maximus* suggest lengths of 90 cm. That's a prehistoric water bug bigger than a truck tire!

Maybe “monstrous” would have been a better species name than “maximus”. Just maybe it was Ohio's first monster. Did I just call the trilobite a “prehistoric water bug”? That's right. As described in the book , [A Sea Without Fish](#), by David Meyer and Richard Arnold Davis, Ohio was once completely under water. Over four hundred million years ago, during what geologists call the Ordovician Period, lime and clay mud covered the bottom of Ohio's ancient sea. These muds became the limestone and shale beds of the Cincinnati region. The Cincinnati limestones are extremely rich in fossils, including the remains of some truly exotic creatures. They are world famous, so famous in fact that the term “Cincinnati” is applied to any rock strata of similar age on the entire continent.

One of these exotic fossils is the *Isotelus* trilobite, Ohio's official state fossil. Extinct today, trilobites were ancient arthropods. Modern arthropods include crustaceans, arachnids and insects. Even though the trilobite may look kind of like a horseshoe crab and kind of like a beetle, the trilobites weren't closely related to either. Modern relatives exist today. The *Isotelus* genera were among the largest trilobites and may have been one of the largest animals in the Ordovician seas.

The trilobites of the Cincinnati strata were so abundant and incredibly preserved that they have attracted geologists from around the world since the early 1800s. This plethora of paleontology inspired a breed of super-amateurs that scientific history has since dubbed the “Cincinnati School of Paleontology”. These men were Ohio's greatest rockhounds and influenced American geology for the rest of the nineteenth century.

The first of these men was John Locke, a founding member of the Ohio Geological Survey and whose specialty was trilobites, specifically (you guessed it) *Isotelus maximus*. Unfortunately for the *Isotelus* trilobites, and all other trilobites for that matter, there were other monsters in those seas too. There were predators in the Paleozoic oceans that almost defy description. But all of those fantastic creatures went extinct millions of years ago. Trilobites may have died out, but their fossils remain. And nowhere else in the world are their remains as well preserved and famous as in Ohio.



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



General Meeting
at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2014
at the shop