

# Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

June 2014

## President's Message

June is here, which means the start of our picnic season. This month's picnic is at Sheila York's house. Directions can be found in the newsletter or on the board in the shop. There will be rocks and equipment for sale after supper, so bring things to sell from your trunk. You can arrange car pools from the club.

Our new saw is here! It is a 20" Covington. It is very easy to use, but if it is your first time please ask for assistance. We want it to last a very long time. The old 18" Highland Park saw is for sale. The sale will run for 3 weeks, and end on the 3rd. Tuesday at noon. Put your bid in the can on top of the saw and the high bid wins. We can help you make arrangements to get it to your house if you need it.

The club recently purchased a sphere making machine. Several club members have already expressed interest in making spheres. If you have experience, or would just like to learn how, come to the club on a Tuesday.

As always, Please remember to clean up after yourself, and gently help others remember to clean up after themselves. The shop looks pretty good, but the floors can always use some attention. If you need a break from grinding rocks, try picking up a broom or mops. Rocks, mops, they almost rhymed.

*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- General meeting 5-20-14

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by President Bryant Hiiter, 29 members present.

There was discussion regarding the minutes of last meeting, and board member Paul McEwen presented information regarding an issue in the last minutes. He proposed amending the minutes as follows: Sue McEwen's major concern was the safety and prevention of injury, not as stated whether we as a club are covered for liability. She stated that children below the age of 12 often do not have the size or level of maturity to safely operate machines. Motion was made to accept minutes as corrected. Motion made by Paul and seconded by Venus. Passed.

Treasurers Report: A big 20" saw was purchased. In addition, club funds bought a 55 Gallon drum of oil and a machine to create spheres. Paul moved to accept the treasurer's report; seconded by Margaret Edmondson. All in Favor.

Shop report: Chuck Amberger shop chairman, stated that everything is running great. Due to the size of the new saw, we are running out of storage space. If anyone has brought in personal rocks and stored them in the saw room, please take them home. There are some rocks donated to the club which are available for slabbing for personal use. The center 10" saw is to be used for "dirty", softer stones. Note that one dop pot is for recycled wax and one is for the new wax. The show plans are going well. Venders are sending in their reservations.

New business: The new saw has arrived is installed thanks to the hard work of Ed, Gayland, and Bryant. George knows something about this type of saw and will help to get it cutting smoothly. It is a Covington Saw and the blades are some of the best. When using the saw for the first time, please ask someone who has used it before for assistance. The old saw is going up for auction. Though we could not use

it any more, there are good working parts to it, and someone with a mechanical mind could get it working or part it out.

The sphere making machine we have purchased is very nice. It has 2 extra motors, and 2 cups for different size spheres. Anyone familiar with these machines should please contact a club officer. A large kiln has been donated to the club. It requires a 220 line. There was discussion on ways to get the line installed and where.

It was noted that Phyllis Keene, is having a "rock and antique sale" at the end of May and the first weekend in June. Notice is posted on the board.

The June meeting will be at Sheila's house. Directions are in the newsletter and posted at the shop. Bring a dish to pass and something to drink.

Gayland made a motion to end meeting; seconded by Peggy. All were in favor. 6:25 pm.

Following the meeting there was a social hour during which Gayland offered a video presentation on "Lakers", while everyone enjoyed snacks.

Respectfully submitted: Sheila York, Secretary.



## SILENT AUCTION

### 18" Highland Park Slab Saw

18" Highland Park Slab Saw. Used. Needs work.  
New 1 horsepower motor.

New bearings. Comes with a used but good saw blade.  
Automatic feed, vise.  
Minimum bid \$300, Highest bid wins.  
If tied, earliest submitted bid wins.

Make sure your name and date are on your bid.  
Put bid in the can on top of the saw.

Come to the shop and see it for yourself.

**Silent Auction Ends June 17,**  
**@ 12:00 PM**



### 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.)

## Upcoming Events

**June 6 - 7, 2014**

### **Annual Rock and Garage Sale**

Phyllis Keene, 1305 Applewood, White Lake, MI  
information: 248-787-2980

**June 7-8, 2014**

### **Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society 39th Annual Rockhound Weekend**

Western Michigan University, Rood Hall near W. Michigan Ave and Rankin Ave. , Kalamazoo, MI  
Visit [mgags.org](http://mgags.org) for more information.

**June 7-8, 2014**

### **Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society Annual show**

Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield, Oh  
Arts and Crafts Bldg.;at. 10-6, Sun. 11-5

**June 14, 2014**

### **Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Annual Tailgate Sale (Summer Super Sale)**

Wesley Park United Methodist Church parking lot 1150 32nd St. SW Wyoming MI  
Contact chairman Ed Krzeminski 616-530-9571 or Club Liaison [donvandyke@tm.net](mailto:donvandyke@tm.net)

**August 5-9, 2014**

### **Keweenaw Mineral Days**

**hosted by the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, Keweenaw Gem & Gift and Red Metal Minerals**

Museum is at Michigan Technological University, 1404 E. Sharon Ave., Houghton, MI

**September 5-7, 2014**

### **Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show & Sale**

Stranahan Great Hall, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo, Ohio Fri. 2-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5;



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.



## Goldstone

by Layna Palmer, [Wire-Sculpture.com](http://Wire-Sculpture.com) 4-5-13

I've always liked goldstone; it's not really gold, and it's not really a stone, but it sure is pretty! So, if goldstone isn't really gold or stone... what exactly is it? Well, the short version is that goldstone is glass with copper flecks suspended in it, but since I'm not really the short version sort of person... we'll go with a longer explanation.

Goldstone is made by melting silica (sand), copper oxide, borax, and other chemicals that reduce the copper to its elemental form. When the glass is liquid, the vat is sealed off and all air is cut off from it. This is called an "oxygen reducing atmosphere" which keeps the glass hot enough for the metallic flecks to form, but not melt.

**How Goldstone was Discovered** While goldstone is glass, the origins are a little sketchy. Legend has it that an unknown religious order of Italian monks accidentally spilled copper shavings into a vat of melted glass, while others have the same monks trying to make gold and coming up with goldstone instead... busy monks.

However, ask a Venetian glass maker and they will tell you that the Miotti family invented the process in the 17th century and was granted an exclusive license to produce it, which is the most plausible and historically-verifiable story. The process was an exclusive and highly guarded one, up until the nineteenth century when the Miotti family stopped making glass and the formula was sold to re-start the goldstone tradition.

Here's an interesting fact; goldstone is also known by the name aventurine glass from the Latin word *avventura* (avventurina in Italian) meaning chance. It's also sometimes called sun stone and monk's gold. [Aventurine](#), the [macrocrystalline quartz](#), was named after aventurine glass because of its resemblance to goldstone.

**Avventura and Haematinum** Being the history buff that I am, I got curious about the Latin word *avventura* and how it related to glass, so I did a little digging and found some interesting things about glass in ancient Greece and Rome. Some of the first glass we find in history comes from Roman glassmakers who developed the method of blowing glass to replace the heavy molded glass funerary containers, and brought glass into the homes of the ancient people. It was due to this blowing method that the Romans and Greeks had nice window panes in their homes, and we have glass tile mosaics to restore today!

I found a reference to Haematinum from Pliny the Elder. He described this glass as blood red (oxblood-ware) with tiny flecks of copper suspended within the glass. Okay, so that got me thinking, so I found several other references to this same thing. The process for making Haematinum, or purpurin, was lost through the centuries, because glass makers are not very forthcoming with their recipes. But speculators think that copper salts mixed in the glass and cooled over time would have allowed the copper to precipitate within the mixture, making the glass red, yet having flakes of copper suspended within it...sound familiar?

If you ask me, goldstone was most-likely an "avventura" discovery by the ancient Romans and re-discovered by the Miotti family, then passed on to today!

**Colors of Goldstone** Goldstone, with its colored history, comes in various colors as well. The most familiar is the red-brown, but we also have blue, purple, and green. Purple and blue goldstone are made the same way only with cobalt or manganese, giving the flecks a more silver appearance, while green is made with chromium oxide, creating light green flecks.

So, even though goldstone isn't really a stone, or made of gold, it is a beautiful product with a colorful and rich history behind it – thanks to the Miotti family, and to the ancient Romans, for their "avventurina" in glass-making.

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



***Potluck gathering at Sheila York's home  
at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2014***

***5431 Evans Road , Holly, MI 48442***

***Home: 810-695-0509.***

***Directions: From the club: go east or left on M-59 to US-23. Turn north on US-23 to exit 79, Silver Lake Road. Turn right or east on Silver Lake Road. Go through Fenton. Silver Lake Road turns into Main/Grange Hall Road.***

***Take this to Holly Road, the fifth stop light from the expressway.***

***Turn left or north on Holly Road. (This is called Saginaw going south into Holly.)***

***Go north on Holly Road about 6 miles to Evans Road.***

***5431 Evans Road is the last house on left. before the road ends at I-75.***

***(The home is just down the road from Genesis hospital, and one road north of the National Veterans Cemetery.)***

