

Livingstones

Page 1

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

June 2015

President's Message

June is the beginning of the picnic season. For the next 3 months our meetings will be picnics at club members' houses. This month we will meet at Lori Keefer's house. Directions are in this newsletter and will be available at the shop. Please bring a dish to pass, your own plate and silverware, and a drink, if you want.

Our Gem & Mineral Show will be here in 4 months, and we have already had quite a bit of discussion about it at the last 2 meetings. There is a sign-up poster in the shop with jobs and times on it. Please fill in any times you can help on Saturday and Sunday. As always, we will need help setting up Friday afternoon, and taking down Sunday evening. Start reserving your display cases now; there are a limited number, and when they are gone, they're gone. Please donate something to the Prize Drawing and the Silent Auction.

A big THANK YOU to Jose Villalobos, who donated a new shaft for the 1200/3000 machine.

Please help those who close down the shop each day by cleaning up after yourselves, and taking a minute to clean something before you go. Whether you wipe down a table or mop a section of the floor, every little bit helps those who shut down at the end of the day.



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.

Bryant

GOLDEN TRILOBITES

Under a hillside near Utica, New York, lies a layer of rock riddled with millions of ancient trilobites.

Beecher's Bed, as the site is now called (after Charles Beecher, a 19th-century Yale lecturer) is leased from a dairy farmer by part-time paleontologists who excavate the fossils after digging through the hill's topsoil layers to expose the richly fossilized stratum of 450 million-year-old rock.

Uniquely, the Beecher's Bed trilobites are coated in pyrite, or fool's gold. This "gold plating" preserves the outlines of the animals' softest, most delicate parts as well as their shells. Beecher discovered that these trilobites had long, thin antennae and dozens of legs, each leg located beneath an armlike breathing apparatus. Most of the trilobites are small, but some are several inches long. Although collectors are fond of calling them "bugs", trilobites are probably closer relatives of horseshoe crabs.

Beecher died suddenly in 1904, without recording the bed's location. It remained unknown until the 1980s. Then, after its rediscovery, several museums funded new excavations before the current lease took effect.

The latest digs have revealed several "new" species, and probably new genera of trilobite. All the newly-discovered specimens to date have been donated to Yale's Peabody Museum, despite their certain appeal to private collectors.

adapted from the article by Elizabeth Kolbert, *The New Yorker*, August 25, 2014.

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.



Sale

**Invitation to my friends at the
Hartland Club
Open House at my home
June 9, 2015, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

I have a 25' x 50' building filled with thousands of specimens, minerals, fossils, Indian artifacts, antique Asian arts and crafts, etc. This is a 60 year lifetime collection consisting primarily of specimens gathered throughout the 60 years. Of particular interest to the lapidarist, I have many cut and carved stones, cabs, beads, pendants, agate slabs, stone jewelry, etc.

Look forward to seeing you.

**Bill Micol
3089 W. Commerce
Milford, MI 48480
248-842-1705**

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day!**

Rock and Garage Sale

June 5, 6 and 7, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Phyllis Keane's Home
1305 Applewood, White Lake, MI 48386
248-363-0026

2015 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
Second year Directors: Margaret Edmundson,
248-634-5046
Paul McEwen, 810-735-5832
Third year Directors: Ed Oller, 810-241-8801
John Petito, 248-887-8847
Hospitality: Venus Sage, 810-458-4290
Sunshine: Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804
Shop Chairpersons: Gayland Allen, 810-275-3444
Ed Oller, 810-241-8801
Newsletter and Membership:
Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804
imvm.1@netzero.com
Historian: Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586
Library: Bryant Hiiter, 248-889-3974
Webmaster: Emily Saling
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

Sat, June 13, 9 a.m. – noon

Summer Super Sale, Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club

Wesley Park Methodist Church, 1150 - 32nd St, Wyoming, MI

Info: www.Indianmoundsrockclub.com or Gordon Spalenka 616-249-0513

June 20, 2015, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

MMLS Rock and Mineral Driveway Sale

20281 Thomas, Brownstown Twp, Michigan

Info: dpkuzara@peoplepc.com or 734-675-5237

August 21, 22, 23, 2015

Michiana Gem and Mineral Show and Sale

St Joseph County 4H Fairgrounds, Esther Singer Bldg, 5117 South Ironwood, Rd, South Bend Ind.

Info: Show chair 574-232-8823 or www.michianaGMS.org

FIELD TRIP

6-6-15 (rain date 6-13-15)

Ed Oller, LGMS Board Member, is leading a field trip to **Rockport Quarry State Park**, 10 miles from Alpena, Michigan. You will need a state park sticker as well as knee pads, gloves, and tools (preferably bright colored or fluorescent).

The group will meet at the Quarry around noon to allow for the drive.

See Ed for more details or check the website “Friends of Rockport”.



DIRECTIONS TO THE LGMS POTLUCK GATHERING

Lori and Chuck Keefer's home at 14061 W. Laneden Drive, Holly, MI

Take US 23 north from M-59 to the Silver Lake Road exit. Go east on Silver Lake Road through Fenton toward Holly. Silver Lake Road changes to Grange Hall Rd. Continue on Grange Hall Rd through the intersection at North Holly/Saginaw in Holly. Turn left/north off Grange Hall Rd onto Fagan Rd. Then turn right on the first road which is Shields Rd. Turn left at the first left which is West Laneden Drive. Go to the 2nd house on the right - 14061 W. Laneden Drive.

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. This society was established in 1970. Annual dues are \$15 per person or family. Annual shop fees are \$10.00 per person. There is an additional fee of \$1.00 per day for workshop use. Annual dues and annual shop fees are due on January 1 of each year. The Livingston Gem and Mineral Society publishes The Living Stones. Non copyrighted articles may be reprinted provided that they are properly attributed. Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month. Articles or correspondence can be sent to LGMS, Hartland Consolidated Schools, 9525 E. Highland Rd. Howell, Michigan 48843-9098.

Gem Profile - Charoite

by Dale "Cougar" Armstrong, from The Voice, April 2013 via Gem Cutters News, February 2015 via Morocks

Charoite, the intense phlox-purple stone that can include black, peach, orange, and even green minerals in its enchanting surface, is a fairly rare rock found only in Siberia, where locals call it *Sirenevyyi Kamen*, or lililac stone. Charoite, a fairly recent addition to the rock and gem world, was not discovered until the 20th century. Discover what minerals make up charoite, and how this stone is typically treated, in today's Gem Profile!

Although purple was my favorite color at age 10, I was not allowed to wear it because I was told that both purple and black were "mourning" colors and meant to be worn by older women, not young girls. Being artistic, I thought I could get away with wearing purple if I brightened it up by adding green or orange – not! I was told that certain color combinations just did not go together, like green and purple, or orange and purple. My, how times have changed! Of course, back then my mother was heavily into mineral collecting, but only those found in North America. Little did she know that Mother Nature had already decided that yes! Purple and orange DO go together quite beautifully, in the natural formation of the mineral known as Charoite. It is said that charoite was first discovered in the 1940's, but that it was not recognized until around 1978. Perhaps this is because the one place in the world where it can be found is in Siberia, where both the weather and terrain are beyond the definition of harsh. Charoite is a calcium potassium silicate mineral forming in limestone deposits, in beautiful shades that range from lavender to lilac to purple; with contrasting colors of black, green and orange. Although the name relates to the Chary or Charo River in Yakutia, Russia near where charoite is found, Russian people call it *Sirenevyyi Kamen* or lilac stone.

The gem-rock charoite is always found as a massive mineral, meaning that it does not crystallize. Its silky chatoyant, violet swirls are often contrasted by the black needles of aegerineaugite, the peach to orange of tinkasite and green microcline. When a lapidary works with charoite they are often presented the challenge of the stone "peeling" away at its edges due to the fact that the stone is composed in irregular layers, similar to a mica schist. Charoite is also difficult to polish because it is a fibrous material and all of the different inclusions each have a different hardness. Besides being made into cabochons and beads, charoite registers a 5 to 6 on the Mohs hardness scale and carvers use it to make ornamental items such as urns and vases, candlesticks and statuary.

It is considered to be rather rare because it only comes from one location and open pit mining is only done a few months out of every year, often producing huge quarry-sized stones. However as this is a "new kid on the block", when looking to purchase charoite, you should be aware of some sellers' classifications. Charoite with a lot of chatoyancy, few inclusions, nice feather-like structure and good deep color is considered to be the best quality; while material with inclusions of black, peach, and or orange is not considered to be pure and should be more affordable. As a designer, I prefer the inclusions!

Charoite is distinctive and easy to recognize. Its pearly luster and deep chatoyancy might make one think it isn't a natural stone, but the only imitations are plastic or possibly opaque to translucent fluorite that has been intentionally labeled charoite to make a sale. A lot of the charoite beads on the market today have been stabilized with resin, making the material easier to work and polish. Natural charoite will be quite a bit more expensive than stabilized material and both are equally beautiful.

Resources: Minerals of the World by Walter Schumann, ISBN 0-8069-8570-4, www.gemtradenet.com, www.mindat.org, www.wikipedia.org



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



Potluck Gathering

at Lori and Chuck Keefer's Home in Holly, MI
see directions on page 4 of this newsletter

6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2015