

# Livingstones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

July 2015

## President's Message

It's July, and I hope everyone's picnics are ant free and your fireworks are 2nd. degree burn free. First let me say thank you to Ed Oller, who organized our Rockport field trip. The weather he ordered was gorgeous, and the 14 of us who went had a great time. I have to say that it was not at all what I expected, and can be enjoyed by people of any fitness level. A big thank-you to the Keefer family for hosting our June picnic. There were 25 of us who enjoyed their deck, and the lake view, and of course the food. (If the person who brought the Bowtie pasta could get in touch with me, I want the recipe.)

A few notes on upcoming events: There will be a board meeting on July 14, after lunch. Several officers have updates on the upcoming show to report. July 21 is the picnic at Sheila York's house. Directions for those who do not know the way are in this Newsletter, and on the bulletin board at the shop. The club will have several tables of rock rough for sale at the picnic, and I would encourage anyone with anything to sell from their trunk to bring it also. Crafts, woodwork, honey, birdhouses, doilies, clocks, jewelry, anything at all (No, not tubesocks). We are going to have a Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 11, at noon, in the shop. There are 2 very important reasons. First: We need to elect a nominating committee. Elections are in October and I don't think I have ever seen an election with so many open positions. Please start thinking about volunteering yourself or, someone else for an officer's position. Officers need to be members in good standing. Second: Final preparations for our September show!

Finally, some comments about the show. The official Michigan Tourism Website [michigan.org](http://michigan.org) has a link under EVENTS to a page about the show. Just type in September 19-20, 2015, and it takes you right to it. Our website [livingstongemandmineralsociety.com](http://livingstongemandmineralsociety.com) has downloadable flyers for the show. When you are at the shop please take flyers home with you to distribute. You also need to reserve showcases if you are going to have a display at the show. They are going fast. Our club was also mentioned in the June Mid-West Federation Newsletter in 3 separate places. (For those who may not know, the MWF Executive Committee is meeting here during our show. This is a great honor for us to host them.) Well, I've written enough, see you at the shop!

*Bryant*



## General Meeting, May 19, 2015

President Bryant Hiiter called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. 25 members present. New members welcomed, including; Anne Marie, Marge and Dennis (from St. Lucie Fl) and Bill from Canton.

The minutes from the April meeting were accepted on a motion from Lorelei, seconded by Venus. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Peggy reported that our club is doing well financially. Margaret made motion to accept the report, seconded by Jill. Passed.

Shop Report: A BIG thank you to member Jose who helped in the repairs of various machines and obtained a shaft to repair one of them. It was noted that the parts that were needed for the big saw have been ordered.

New Business: The June picnic/potluck meeting will be at Lori and Chuck Keefer's. Directions to their home will be posted in our newsletter. July's meeting will be at Sheila's and the August meeting will be at Gayland and Jill's home. Reminder: Shop will be closed on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day. Remember, Phyllis Keene is having a rock-related garage sale on two upcoming weekends. Directions are on the board. Ed is our delegate to the Midwest Federation meeting and show in Chicago this year.

Field Trip: Rockport Quarry on June 6th (rain date would be the following week). Bring a picnic lunch, water, and tools ( hiking shoes, gloves, sledge hammer, buckets) that have some bright paint and would be easy to see. Meet at 12:00 noon at the quarry. Show Business: John has been checking on signage and had several ideas that we could implement this year to bring more awareness to the show. Gayland has volunteered to look up different avenues of social media to bring more people to the show. Paul has been handling advertising and publicity and has found several local papers to contact. There was discussion regarding the amount that can be spent on on advertising. Motion brought

by John and seconded by Venus for a sum of \$500.00. Motion carried. Peggy brought up that our website does not have enough new pictures and needs updating. Bryant brought up that we are all advertisers for our club and show. Places we can put flyer include our local libraries, craft stores and other shows. We can also post flyers in many different store bulletin boards. Bryant mentioned the signup board is up and gave a brief description of each job. Everyone is encouraged to help in some way. Many volunteers are also needed for the setup on Friday and the tear down on Sunday. Some ideas were offered regarding the "grand prize" for the show. The local 4H club will be serving refreshments again this year. Items for the prize drawing are slowly coming in but more are needed. Please consider donating an item or two, or three. Ed mentioned the possibility of getting some matching t-shirts for members who are working to wear. Dan, John, (and maybe Marv) volunteered for being in charge of the electrical. John stated that we could really use help in taping the mats down and mentioned that it be great to have some of the younger members assist. Mike is again in charge of our security. There was discussion about the possibility of using high school kids who need service credits to assist.

Discussion was initiated regarding our policy of not charging for teaching new members the various lapidary skills. It has long been part of our mission statement that education and learning are a big part of Livingston Gem and Mineral Society. A motion was brought by Kim and seconded by Jill and Peggy that this would be addressed.

Our Constitution and Code of Ethics are being modified in keeping with the recent changes voted on. Copies will be available soon. Cards are being designed for young people who have earned the right to work independently.

Lorelei made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sharon. Meeting ended at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila York, Secretary, LGMS



Rockport Quarry  
Field Trip

## 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: Anna Pernicano 248-486-4048

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 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.)

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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](http://www.michianaGMS.org)

### **OUR VERY OWN!**

#### **Livingston Gem and Mineral Society**

Annual Show, September 19 and 20, 2015

Setup on Friday afternoon, September 18

Prepare your showcase!

Volunteer your time!

### **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.

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE LGMS POTLUCK GATHERING**

### **Sheila York's Home**

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.)

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## Fordite

by Layna Palmer, Wire-Sculpture.com 2-1-13

When Henry Ford first started rolling his products off the assembly line, he was asked what colors the vehicles came in. He replied, “Any color you want, as long as it’s black!” The painting process at this time was very time-consuming and tedious, taking several days to paint, with a brush, each layer of black lacquer and allow it to dry. The workers at Ford Motor would rub the entire chassis down with pumice after each layer as well. This process often caused a bottleneck at the factory and slowed production. There had to be a better way.

**Enter the DuPont Company** In 1924, DuPont, in conjunction with General Motors, developed a nitrocellulose paint lacquer that dried fast and came in several colors, the most popular of which was blue. They also developed a sprayer for the paint, virtually eliminating the brushing process. This was still an air-dried lacquer, but it was a faster process and sped up production at the factory. New paint came in the 1930s that was enamel instead of lacquer and it was baked on the car’s frame. This paint lasted longer and retained its shine better over time. The automobile was mounted on an assembly stand and pulled into the painting room, sprayed by a person and baked in place, then pulled down the line for further assembly. The paint overspray on the walls and assembly stands would also be baked in place, making a very hard, thick product. Over time, the layers of paint would build up and make it difficult to pull the car chassis through the painting process and the workers would chip the paint off the metal sleds and walls. In the 1960s and 70s, acrylic paint was introduced that was more durable and weather-resistant than the enamel being used at the time, creating a buildup of vibrant colors in defined layers on the overspray. Workers noticed this material building up, and they would clear it away and take it home, forming it into shapes. Voila...Fordite, or Motor Agate, was born! That's recycling!

**About Fordite** Fordite is not really a gemstone, but the buildup of layer upon layer of acrylic enamel paint that has been baked over and over again, making it very hard and durable. The lapidary process for Fordite is similar to other stones, though care does need to be taken since it is in such defined layers and may have hairline cracks from the removal process at the factory. I couldn’t find any information about the hardness on Mohs scale, but it is a medium-hard material with some earlier specimens being a little softer due to the composition of the paint.

You may be wondering as to the lead content and safety of the paint. The paint is an acrylic material that does contain lead. Lead is absorbed into our bodies through breathing, our mucus membranes, ingestion, and occasionally through cuts or scrapes. However, inorganic lead that is contained in paint is not easily absorbed through our skin, even through a cut or scrape, so unless you are going to eat it, there is really no danger in wearing a piece of Fordite.

There are several different types of Fordite, some having separated colors and regular banding with a primer layer in between while others are color on color with metallics and limited color ranges. Add in the color from drips and swirls, most likely from the walls and floor of the painting rooms, and you have very neat patterns.

**Where is Fordite from?** Fordite also comes from several different places. Great Britain has some beautiful specimens that not only have the opaque colors, but metallic and transparency to some of the layers too. Detroit Fordite, although not necessarily from Detroit, is American in origin and usually has a gray primer layer between the vibrant colors. Ohio Fordite is another American original and comes from the factories that painted vans, so the colors can be earth-tones of green and brown or the more vibrant colors of the 70s with yellow, orange and bright blues.

**Why Fordite is a Collector’s Item** Automobiles are no longer painted in this way today, because the painting process is automated and the chassis is charged to attract the paint molecules, so there is virtually no waste. Because of this, Fordite is a finite material that is quickly running out, but what a great piece of automotive history!



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



## Potluck Gathering

**at Sheila York's Home in Holly, MI**

see directions on page 4 of this newsletter

**6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2015**

Fordite! See page 5



What I start with. This is a 3.5 pound Fordite chunk!