

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

December 2015

President's Message

I would like to congratulate all the new officers who were elected at our last meeting: Bob Kalis, Patty Fountain, Sheila York, Lori Keefer, Dennis Gougherty, Sharon Krautheim, and Margaret Edmondson.

We are having a sealed bid auction at the shop. It starts now, and will end Tuesday, December 15, at 1:00 p.m.. The items for bid are in display cases in front of the office, where you sign in and pay your dollar. There are some really choice items for sale, so take a look, and bid early and frequently. Because of the quality of the items I needed to put minimum bids on some of them. To bid, simply write your name, the number on the paper in front of the rocks, and the amount you are willing to pay. Then put your paper in the sealed can and wait until Dec. 15. This material came from Bill Horton's house. More on that later.

Our annual Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m.. Please bring a dish to pass, along with your plate and silverware (I recommend a large sturdy plate). If you wish to participate in the gift exchange please bring a wrapped, rock-related gift (You know the drill, no Rolling Stones CD's, or a six-pack of Rolling Rock beer). Polished stones, slabs, jewelry, specimens, accessories made from stones are all acceptable presents.

Some Reminders: 2016 Dues are due now! We have 3 pocket aprons in the office for \$2.00 each. We will be teaching the 4-H children on Monday evenings from 6 -8, beginning in January. If you would be willing to help please tell me. It is ideal to have one instructor for each child, so they receive undivided attention. Remember, if the Hartland Consolidated Schools are closed for weather, so are we. Lastly, the shop will be closed for the holidays beginning Wednesday, December 23 through Sunday, January 3.

We will reopen Monday, January 4 at 10:00 a.m.. The Warm and Cozy Show will be Saturday, December 5, from 9-4, in the gymnasium down the hall from our shop. Several of our members will be selling their wares, so plan on attending, and pick up some Christmas presents for your family.

Bill Horton was one of this club's original members, and was, with Max Schultz, primarily responsible for much of the equipment in our shop today. He was also the most prolific donor of material for the club table at our shows. He was a jewelry maker and a world class faceter, winning many awards for his faceted gems. Ask any of the older club members, and they will tell you many stories about this amazing man. Bill died 2 years ago, and his daughter-in-law came to our shop and told us that LGMS was in Bill's will. We didn't hear anything until last week, when Bill's son's childhood friend contacted us, and dropped off a truckload of rocks at the club.

On a final note, I would like to thank you faithful readers of the Living Stones newsletter. I wrote my first Vice-president's message for the March 2009 newsletter. And now I am writing my last message for the December 2015 newsletter. Thank you for taking this journey with me.

Bryant



LGMS General Meeting November 17, 2015

Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:05 with 37 members present. New members were introduced. They included Karen, Allen, Rebecca, Linda, Jim H, Cheryl and Jim L.

Minutes: Karen made a motion to accept the September minutes as presented in the newsletter. Gayland seconded. Motion passed.

There was no treasurer's report since Peggy is away.

Shop Report: Gayland reminded the group that members who are not familiar with a machine or saw should ask for help. Much of our equipment is costly and needs to be handled properly. He reviewed the use of saws, grinders and belts as well as cleaning the dop pot. Basically, "if you mess it up, clean it up". Ed is making a white board to list members who are waiting to use the big saw. Marv stressed the need to clean up water spills to prevent mold on the mats. Gayland, along with Big Bob, reminded the group that members must pay \$1.00 for daily use of the silversmith area and another \$1.00 for daily use of the lapidary equipment. Use of beading equipment also requires separate payment.

Old Business: Bryant proudly read from the November Midwest Federation newsletter, which described our club as "perfect hosts" for the executive committee which visited us in September at the time of our show

New Business: Isla reminded the group that 2016 dues are payable now. Please make your payment before the Christmas break.

Bryant announced that we have a donation of shop aprons which are available for \$2.00 each from the office.

Bryant reviewed holiday closings. The shop will be closed the day after Thanksgiving. We will also be **closed beginning Wednesday, December 23 through Sunday, January 3, 2016**, reopening on Monday, January 4. Whenever the Hartland Consolidated Schools are closed due to inclement winter weather, the shop is also closed. Monitor your TV channels or the school website.

The Annual Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 15 at the Senior Center at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass as well as your silverware and a rock-related gift to exchange. The party will also include the presentation of an award and the swearing in of our new officers.

Election of officers: Bryant presented each of the new officers and members voted on each of them individually. All were elected as follows: Bob Kalis for president, Patty Fountain for vice president, Sheila York for treasurer, Lori Keefer for secretary, Dennis Gougherty and Sharon Krautheim for first-year directors, and Margaret Edmundson for another two-year term as director. Ed Oller continues his term as director.

Gayland advised the group that he has been contacted regarding material from Bill Horton's estate. Arrangements will be made to accept whatever he has left us.

LaVonne expressed some concern regarding the amount of time the silversmith area is open since there are many members using that area. This will be discussed further by the new president and board. Members were advised that the rent for our shop has recently doubled. It was agreed that we are very fortunate to have this facility.

Jim H advised the group that he spoke with a DNR representative who was geomapping the Rockport Quarry. He understands that the map will be available online in January.

Paul made motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lorelei. Passed.

During the snacks and social hour, everyone enjoyed a very large silent auction managed by Bryant, Ed and Gayland. Great specimens, great prices, great fun. In addition, Ed set up a drawing for a special prize.

Respectfully submitted,
Isla Mitchell, Secretary Pro Tem

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.



Warm thanks to each of our outgoing officers:

Bryant Hiiter
Gayland Allen
Peggy Petito
John Petito
Paul McEwen

Your leadership and your work on behalf of the club is greatly appreciated!



Warm and Cozy Bazaar

Saturday, December 5, 2015

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$2.00 admission

Several of our fellow club members will be selling their wares in the HESSC building.

Come and enjoy!

2015 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Bryant Hiiter, 248-210-6138

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, 248-210-6138

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.)

OPAL

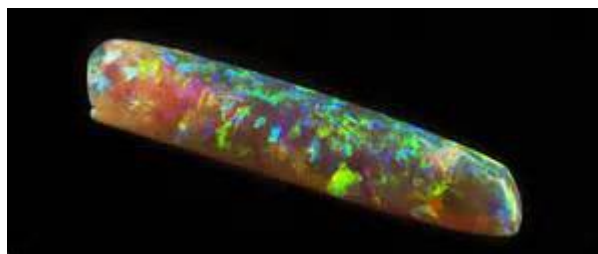
By Dennis Gougherty

Over the years I've seen a lot of beautiful opal pass through our club's shop. It's one of my favorite gemstones to work and admire.

The internal structure of precious opal makes it diffract light. Depending on the conditions in which it formed, it can take on many colors. Precious opal ranges from clear through white, gray, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, magenta, rose, pink, slate, olive brown, and black. Of these hues, the black opals are the most rare, while white and greens are most common. It varies in optical density from opaque to semitransparent.

Opal is a hydrated form of silica. Its water content may range from 3 to 21% by weight, but is usually between 6 and 10%. Because of its amorphous character, it is classed as a mineraloid, unlike the other crystalline forms of silica which are classed as minerals. It is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the fissures of almost any kind of rock, being most commonly found with limonite, sandstone, rhyolite, marl, and basalt. Opal is the national gemstone of Australia.

The Virgin Rainbow (below), about the size of a thumb, an opal worth more than \$1 million has been regarded as the finest opal ever unearthed. Made of marine dinosaur skeleton, it is the centerpiece of an exhibition of opals from around the world set to go on display at the South Australian Museum. It is just over six centimeters long, weighs 72 carats and features brilliant colors, from orange through to violet. The stone was found in 2003 at Coober Tedy, in South Australia's mid-north, a region which produces about 90% of the world's opals.



Sources: Wikipedia, ABC News: Michael Clements

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.

Holiday shop closing

The LGMS shop will be open regular hours through Tuesday, December 22, 2015.

**The shop will be closed as of Wednesday, December 23, 2015
through Sunday, January 3, 2016.**

We will reopen with regular hours as of Monday, January 4, 2016.



2016 Dues are payable now

Tear off and mail to Peggy Petito, Treasurer, LGMS, 9525 E. Highland Rd, Howell, MI 48843

2016 Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Dues

Name _____

Please note any changes in address, email address or phone number _____

_____ adult member \$15

_____ family membership\$15

_____ number of children 12-18 years _____ number of adults _____

_____ annual workshop fee\$10

(each member who uses the shop must pay this fee)

_____ total payment

newsletter preference: _____ printed, _____ email, _____ shop mail folder

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



LGMS Annual Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

6 p.m. at the Senior Center

bring a dish to pass and a rock-related Christmas gift

Come and Enjoy!