

# *The Living Stones*

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

January 2016

## **President's Message**

Happy New Year everyone,

I would like to wish all of our club members and families a very happy New Year. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. With the winter season upon us and the start of a new year I would like to think that all of our members are ready for accomplishing all the projects and goals they have planned for this year. As president of our growing club, it is my goal to serve our club to the best of my ability. I would like to express my utmost gratitude to all the previous officers of our club for all the hard work and their dedication to the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society.

This year is going to be very challenging for all of us, as there are some proposed changes in the works from Hartland schools that could have an adverse effect on our club to continue to operate in an effective manner. One of the changes is an increase in our room rent for the workshop. This proposed rent increase will double our rent cost. In addition to this, they want to begin charging the club an hourly fee for the use of the gymnasium at our annual show. This hourly fee would make it extremely difficult for the club to make enough profit from the show to cover our annual operating costs. I expect to have a meeting with the people involved from Hartland schools to try and negotiate a reasonable resolution to the changes they are proposing. I will obviously try my best to negotiate a reasonable cost effective solution for the club. If they are unwilling to compromise on these changes it may become necessary to find a way to raise additional funds to offset the increased costs to the club.

These are just some of the challenges we will face as a club this year. I will be discussing this issue in particular with our club officers at our January board meeting. Any changes that may come as a result of the increased cost would have to

be discussed at our next scheduled monthly membership meeting. Please try to attend this meeting as it will be important to get our members' input concerning this matter.

It is with a sad heart that I have to announce the passing of our fellow club member and past president Ken Blake. Ken was a dedicated club member and asset to our club. He will be missed by many of us. I would like to extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

As a reminder, our club will be hosting the 4 H lapidary students in the near future. Please consider helping out with teaching and supervising these classes. It is important that we have as many members as possible to help teach these future rock hounds. Many of them become future members of our club. I will get a sign-up sheet posted in the shop for club members to volunteer their time and talents.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our club members who take the time to help out around the workshop. Our workshop is the central hub of our club! We all need to do our part in keeping it clean, safe, and operating effectively. With increased membership it gets pretty crowded at times during the week, especially on Tuesdays. We all need to contribute to taking a few extra moments to clean up after ourselves. We have also had a large increase in unwanted rocks being left at the workshop by some members. Please try to refrain from bringing in fieldstones or other rocks that you don't intend to take back out with you. If you have unwanted rocks that you would like to donate try to make sure that they are actually semi precious rocks. Preferably something that you may have already cut and polished and have extra material to share.

Sincerely, Bob Kalis

## 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.



## 2016 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Bob Kalis, 734-320-3648  
Vice President: Patty Fountain, 810-844-3970  
Secretary: Lori Keefer, 248-634-8657  
Treasurer: Sheila York, 810-695-0509  
First year Directors:  
    Sharon Krautheim, 810-701-3776  
    Dennis Gougherty  
Second year Director:  
    Margaret Edmundson, 248-634-5046  
Third year Director: Ed Oller, 810-241-8801  
Hospitality: Venus Sage, 810-458-4290  
Sunshine: Anna Pernicano, 248-486-4048  
Shop Chairpersons: Ed Oller, 810-241-8801  
    Sharon Parker, 517-548-0675  
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 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.)

## 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.



to the 2015

## **Max Schultz Award Winners**

**Paul McEwen**  
and  
**Sheila York**

Well deserved! We're very proud of you!

## **The New Year**

By B.L. Bruce in Cedar Vallley Gems

Remember the days that were sunny,  
In the year that now is through,  
Treasure the best it brought you  
And take it along with you.

Carry each cherished friendship  
Into the year that's new,  
Along with the dear-bought lessons  
The old year fashioned for you.

Leave your failures behind you,  
There still is promise true  
For all who have the faith to try  
And the will within to do.

Via The Roadrunner 01/03

## **Remembering Ken Blake**

by Bryant Hiiter

When I first met Ken 8 years ago he was carving and burning designs into gourds. I later learned that he was also an accomplished basket weaver, and combined them to weave grass and pine needles into his gourds. Ken had joined the LGMS club the year before, after taking a silversmithing class here, with his sister and niece, taught by Bob Krautheim. Ken was a perfectionist when it came to making cabochons, even using calipers to measure the slabs he cut. Ken taught me to make cabochons; we didn't use dop sticks back then. He always encouraged me with "Now you're getting it", and rarely, "It's a beautiful thing." I found out that Ken learned from Bob Kalis, who in turn had learned from the great Bill Horton. Ken and I went to Bill Horton's the last year Bill made a lamp for our show's grand prize, and learned to make Agate lampshades. He even had Chuck Amberger teach him to make stained glass butterflies. Ken traveled with me as an alternate delegate to the MWF meetings in Columbus, Ohio, and Peoria, Illinois. He also went as a delegate to the Toledo, Ohio meeting. Ken was Vice-president of our club in 2011, under Marvin Martin, and President from October 2011 to March 2013. He was also the Max Schultz Award winner in 2011.

Ken was born June 6th., 1952, in Buffalo, New York, and moved to Minnesota before settling with his family near Detroit. Ken had been married, and has a daughter and grandchildren. He died December 12th., 2015, in Ann Arbor, from complications after surgery to remove cancer from his kidney.

Ken loved the Blues, and even learned to play the harmonica. He liked a friendly game of poker, and was a Root Beer aficionado. "Frostop" Root Beer was his favorite. He liked putting puzzles together, and target shooting. The thing Ken loved the most was fishing. In the Summer he wouldn't show up at the club for weeks, and when we asked him where he had been, he just said "The fish were calling him." Ken liked to fish on Lake Shannon, and the Huron River, but his favorite place was his beloved pond. He spent endless hours keeping his pond clean, and knew every fish, duck, and turtle that lived there. In the last few years of his life he spent a lot of time with his good friend, Ed Oller, fishing in his pond. And that is where, I am sure, he would like to be forever.

## All About Chalcedony

Chalcedony is a catchall term that includes many well known varieties of cryptocrystalline quartz gemstones. They are found in all 50 states, in many colors and color combinations, and in sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. Chalcedony includes carnelian, sard, plasma, prase, bloodstone, onyx, sardonyx, chrysoprase, thunderegg, agate, flint, chert, jasper, petrified wood, and petrified dinosaur bone just to name a few of the better known varieties. Because of its abundance, durability, and beauty, chalcedony was, except for possibly obsidian, the earliest mineral material used by humankind. The earliest recorded use of chalcedony was for projectile points, knives, tools, and containers such as cups and bowls. Early man made weapons and tools from many varieties of chalcedony including agate, agatized coral, flint, jasper, and petrified wood.

The move from using certain items as weapons and tools, to using the same items for ceremonial and personal adornment is very easily made. It was only natural for early man to use his finest looking knife for special occasions or to attach a special lance point or arrowhead to his tunic. ... All 50 states produce some variety of chalcedony, but the material from some states is better known than that from others. Arizona is well known for its petrified wood because of the *Petrified Forest National Park*, and petrified wood ranks third in value of commercially produced gemstones. It is generally accepted that the park contains the most colorful examples of silicified logs in the world.

Petrified wood occurs in every county in the state, but the commercial production is essentially from privately owned lands in Navajo and Apache Counties near the Petrified Forest. Federal regulations restrict collecting petrified wood on public lands to 250 pounds plus one piece per person per year, none of which is supposed to be sold commercially. The regulation essentially eliminates production from federal lands. Pieces as small as 1/4 inch to sections of logs 5 feet in diameter are recovered from the surface of the ground or with minimum excavations for use in the lapidary trade.

Arizona petrified wood has the broadest range of applications of any gem material produced in the State. The material is suitable for tumble polishing for use in baroque jewelry or for cutting into cabochons for jewelry and display. Free form and calibrated slabs are polished for pen and pencil set bases and bases of other items, and polished slabs are used for clock faces. Additionally, large blocks, limb sections, and geometric shapes are used as bookends and decorator pieces. Objects of art, principally carvings, are produced, and furniture such as coffee and end tables are made from the petrified wood.

Arizona is the only state currently to have commercial production of fire agate. Fire agate is a form of chalcedony which contains inclusion of iron oxides that result in a play of colors much like that of precious opal. Eleven operations in Arizona report either commercial production of fire agate or dig-for-fee production. The material is produced in Graham, Greenlee, Maricopa, Mohave, and Yuma Counties.

Fire agate is cut into free form and calibrated cabochons for use in the manufacture of silver and gold jewelry. The material is popular in the Southwest and with hobbyist lapidaries throughout the United States. Fire agate also has been used and is currently used in Indian style jewelry. California's "Mojave Blue" agate has gained a great deal of attention in the past several years. This pastel blue or blue-gray agate cuts into attractive cabochons for jewelry and, in the hands of an expert carver, makes outstanding carvings.

Source: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/gemstones/sp14-95/chalcedony.html>  
Via the Rocky Tales, Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. April 2006,  
via Sedona Red Rocking News, May 2006

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.

## Upcoming Events

March 18-20, 2016

### Michigan Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show

Jackson County Fairgrounds, American One Event Center, 200 W. Ganson, Jackson, MI

April 29, 30 and May 1, 2016

### Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock, Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show

Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI



## 2016 Dues are overdue!

Tear off and mail to Sheila York, 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



### *Board Meeting*

*Tuesday, January 19, 2016*

*at noon in the shop*

*(No general meeting in January)*

