

The Living Stones

Page 1

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

February 2016

President's Message

With February upon us, it is good to see so many of our club members coming into the workshop to utilize their time and talents to create everything from beautiful gemstones to finished jewelry. We have an awesome group of talented people in our club. As of January 25th our club began the 4H club classes. We had several members volunteer to help out with teaching the kids who signed up for the class. I would like to thank Bryant Hiiter for all the work he did to help coordinate this event. As you all know, it is our club's main objective to teach and share our knowledge with those who are eager to learn about the lapidary arts. It is so rewarding to see the sparkle in these young students' eyes when they have completed their first gemstone. If you haven't participated in this event, I would like to encourage you to try it once and see what a great experience it is to work with these young rock hounds. Thanks to all those members who took the time to donate their talents and help teach the 4H kids!

As of this date, I am still waiting for a response from the director of Hartland Community Education on whether we will have to pay an hourly fee to hold our annual show. I should have more information to share at the February board meeting. As a club, we will have many issues to discuss at our first membership meeting the third Tuesday in March. I strongly urge all of our club members to attend this meeting. There is a very good possibility that we will need to raise our annual club dues and/or the daily shop fees that we charge members that use the workshop. I will do my absolute best to try and keep things as they are, but circumstances may force us to try

and find ways to increase income in order to keep our club operating.

In conclusion, I would like to remind all the club members who actively use the workshop to be extra mindful and considerate of your fellow members. With increased membership it seems like we have more people using the shop than ever! When the shop gets very busy, please try to limit your time on any given machine to allow others a chance to use it. It has also come to my attention that some members are having problems following directions for the proper use of some of the equipment. We currently have two diamond sanding belts that are used in the workshop. These belts are very expensive! They cost approximately 90 dollars each. When they are in use, it is imperative that plenty of water is used. If you are caught dry sanding on these belts you may find yourself responsible for the replacement cost of the belt that you ruin by dry sanding! Or worse yet, get expelled from the club. There is clearly a sign posted above the diamond sanding wheels stating that water must be used. Our shop chairman, Ed Oller has been doing a fantastic job keeping things up and running. Let's all do our part to try and help him out by using the equipment properly and CLEANING UP after ourselves.

Sincerely, Bob Kalis



Summary of Board Meeting January 19, 2016

All board members were present. President Bob Kalis stated he had met with Michelle, Director of Hartland Community Education, and discussed our displeasure with them raising our rent of the building from \$200 - \$400 per month and increasing the rent of the gym for our show to \$50 per hour. This increase along with the janitorial fee will put our cost of putting on the show to around \$1,900. Bob will meet again with Michelle later in January.

In Feb. board members will be voting on several proposals to cover our increased operating costs:

1. Increase club dues by \$5.00 to \$20.00 plus \$10.00 shop fee – total \$30.00.
2. Increase daily workshop fee from \$1.00 to \$2.00
3. Raise dealers' fees to rent tables
4. Raise admission to show by \$1.00 to \$3.00

The Feb. board decision will go to the March General meeting for the final approval of members.

Ed Oller, shop chairman will do an inventory of shop equipment to see what needs to be rebuilt or replaced.

Respectfully submitted
Lori Keefer, secretary LGMS



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 Krauthaim, 810-701-3776
Dennis Gougherty, 810-986-9671

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.l@netzero.com

Historian: Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586

Library: Bryant Hiiter, 248-210-6138

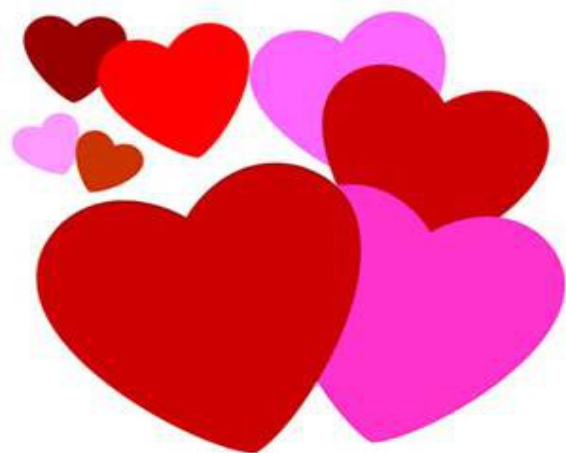
Webmaster: Emily Saling

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)

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.



Bits and Pieces

Running a rock club is like polishing a gemstone- the more planning and work by involved people, the more brilliant the finished product.

Via MMS Tumbler 7-88

Close examination of fossil mosquitoes from 40 million years ago show that they look just about the same as that one dining on your arm.

Via MMS Tumbler 5-91

A hobby is a lot of work you wouldn't do for a living.

MMS Tumbler 1-92

Few things are less compatible than a newly finished obsidian cab and a cement floor.

Via MMS Tumbler 1-93

Rockhounds are people who move mountains by carrying small stones.

MMS Tumbler 1-93

People can be divided into three groups:

Those who make things happen.

Those who watch things happen.

Those who wonder what happened!

Via Color Country Chips 11-93

No one ever injured his eyesight by looking on the bright side of things.

Glacial Drifter 3-89

Upcoming Events

March 5 (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and 6 (noon to 6 p.m.), 2016

The Roamin Club's Special Auction

Schoolcraft College, Visatech Center Bldg, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI

Info: 248-348-5093 or 248-981-9673

March 18, 19, 20, 2016

Michigan Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show

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

Info: 517-522-3396 or www.mgmsrockclub.com or info@mgmsrockclub.com

April 29, 30 and May 1, 2016

Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society's 57th 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

APACHE TEARS

By Shirley Greenberg

If you have a specimen in your collection labeled “Apache tear” and want information about it you could have a problem. Not all rock and mineral books have a listing for “Apache tears.” This is because “Apache tear” is not a valid mineral name but is a well known nickname for some obsidian nodules. Obsidian is a rock, not a mineral.

As you probably have guessed, these nodules are found in locations where Apache Indians lived in the U.S. Southwest. “Apache tears” have been found primarily in Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico. All “Apache tears” are obsidian, but not all obsidians are “Apache tears.” Obsidian is natural volcanic glass. Don’t look for crystals of obsidian because you won’t find any. The hot lava forming obsidian cooled much too quickly to allow crystals to form. “Apache tears” are found in grayish white volcanic material called “perlite.” Perlite is obsidian that has weathered and altered until it has become porous and lightweight. Each “Apache tear” lump will have an uneven coating of perlite clinging to it after being pried or dug from a mass of perlite. Tumbling and polishing will reveal a shiny glass pebble that may be black or smoky in color. Hold the “tear” to the light to see how translucent or transparent it is. It is interesting to note that the “Apache tear” and perlite surrounding it have been formed from the same volcanic material and yet the “tears” are dark in color and its coating of perlite is light in color.

Perlite is used in making lightweight concrete and is also used in the manufacture of insulation. Obsidian, with a hardness of 5 to 5.5, is brittle and chips easily. Nevertheless it has long attracted gem cutters and gem carvers. Obsidian was used for bowls and cups as early as 3200 B.C. in Mesopotamia. Jewelry set with obsidian made about 1352 B.C. was found in the tomb of King Tutankhamen. “Apache tears” are cut by faceters today because they are plentiful and inexpensive.

From The Garnet Gazette, March 1994, via Sedona Red Rocking News, January 2005

References: *Color Encyclopedia of Gemstones* by Joel Arem, *Earth Treasures*, Vol. 4, by W. Eckert, *Gems & Crystals* from American Museum by A. Sofianides and G. Harlow, *Gemstones of North America* by John Sinkankas, *Precious Stones* by R. Metz



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.

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9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI 48843-9098



Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 12:30

(No general meeting in February)