

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

April 2016

President's Message

It's April everybody! Anyone seen spring yet?

I'm still waiting for those warmer days of spring to get here! Regardless of the weather, our club is still going strong and the activity at the workshop is busier than ever. With the Easter holiday behind us, now is the time of year to think about all the outdoor activities we have planned for the coming summer months. We will be having our pot luck meetings for the months of June, July, and August. I will try and get the information ahead of time on locations and times. My hat is off to those members who have volunteered to host the club summer meetings. We also have a field trip to the Rockport quarry coming up in early June. Contact Ed Oller for information on exact date and time for this trip. I would also like to remind all of our members that it is never too early to begin planning for our annual show. If you have a display case or two for the show, now is the time to make sure it is ready to show off all those lapidary or gem and mineral treasures. Does it need repairs or perhaps a new interior? Is it a lighted case? As many of you know, a well lit display case will enhance your crystals, minerals, or finished jewelry much better than an unlit case. I will be looking for a volunteer or two at our April membership meeting to evaluate the club display cases and see if any of these cases need repairs or new interiors. I'm sure there are many other concerns pertaining to the annual show, so if anyone has ideas they would like to share, we are all ears!

Now comes the fun part of this monthly message! On March 29th we held a board meeting to discuss the findings of the financial committee. The club received a recommendation from the committee to increase the annual dues to fifty dollars a year. Yes,

this would be double the amount that the club currently charges for membership and shop fees. Let it be noted that the ten dollar shop fee would be included in this increase. A raise in annual dues for 13-to-17 year old members was also proposed. A vote was taken by the board and the proposal was approved by a 5 to 2 vote. This proposal will be presented to the membership for a vote at the April membership meeting. If you have any concerns over this proposal, please be present at the April meeting to voice your opinion. I expect we will have much to discuss concerning this matter.

Now on to more pressing matters! I would like to thank Ed Oller for bringing in several crystals and lapidary items and holding a special drawing at our March meeting to award the gifts to lucky members that had their names drawn. Ed will be having another prize giveaway at the April meeting, but you have to be present to win. Also a big hand for George Pernicano, for building additional shelving in the library room. It was definitely needed. Finally a special thanks to the financial committee for taking the time review our club finances and come up with a recommendation for the club. Hope to see everyone at the April meeting.

Bob



LGMS General Meeting Minutes March 15, 2016

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:03 with 38 members present. Feb. minutes were approved. Ed provided stones for a drawing to members present. Treasurer report was given by Sheila York indicating that the treasury is in good shape.

Shop report: We have purchased fabricated housing and drip pans for 6 sanders and polishers for a cost of around \$500. Hard felt wheels will also be purchased. New expandable diamond belts were put on end sanders. Water must be used with diamond belt.

Show: Ed is show chairman. Show is 3rd week-end of Sept. (17th and 18th). It will be held in commons area due to increased cost to rent the gym. Commons will cost \$32.50 per hour to rent and will include hallways.

Rent increase: Our rent has doubled starting in March 2016. Four proposals were presented to increase revenue:

- 1- To raise annual club dues by \$5.00 to \$20.00. This was tabled until the new financial committee can meet and determine the amount of money needed to meet our increased expenditures.
- 2- Increase daily work shop fee from \$1.00 to \$2.00. This was also tabled until the recommendations of the financial committee are presented to the board.
- 3- Increase dealer fees by \$50.00 to \$250.00. This was voted on and passed by membership. Ed will revise contracts and send them out to dealers.
- 4- Increase cost of show admission from \$2.00 to \$3.00 for adults, increase children age 12-17 from 50 cents to \$1.00, children under 12 are free. This was voted on and passed by membership.

Club Business: New financial committee will consist of volunteers: Sherlynn Everly, Dieter Achilles, Dave Worden, Teri Ritter, Jim Turovaara, Treasurer Shelia York. They will meet in the next week to go over budget and determine the amount of money the club needs to meet increased expenditures. This recommendation will go to board. It will take a change in the constitution to increase the annual club dues and daily workshop fee.

New Business: Lavonne Foldenauer made a motion to request the shop be open on Thursday for silversmithing, beading and glass work. No rock polishing will be permitted. She will get the vice president's key and be in charge of opening and closing shop. Hours of shop open on Thursday to be determined. Motion voted on and passed.

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, 248-459-3196
 Treasurer: Sheila York, 810-695-0509
 First year Directors:
 Sharon Krautheim, 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.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)

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.



A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped with our 4H sessions:

Gayland Allen
 Fuad Ghanam
 Dan Goodwin
 Bryant Hiiter
 Bob Kalis
 Ed Oller
 George Pernicano

Gemstones odds and ends

from Faceter Handbook, Raytech/Shaw

Quartz is the family name for amethyst, citrine, smoky quartz, rose quartz and colorless rock crystal.

Beryl includes emerald, aquamarine, golden beryl, heliodor (yellow), morganite (pink) and goshenite, the colorless variety. These are all the same stone except for color.

Corundum, when red, is called ruby; all other colors are called sapphire.



Upcoming Events

April 2-3, 2016

Stark County Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show

Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave, NW, Canton, Ohio

Contact Barry Heiks 330-868-4047, kc8goe@frontier.com

April 2-3, 2016

Columbus Rock and Mineral Society Annual Show

Northland Performing Arts Center, 4411 Tamarack Blvd, Columbus, Ohio

Info: Craig Kramer, 614-436-4511, craigkramer@wowway.com,
www.columbusrockandmineral.society.org

April 7-9, 2016

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show

Rogers Plaza, 28th St at Clyde Park, Wyoming, MI

Contact Kreigh Tomaszewski, (616) 243-5851; kreigh@gmail.com, www.indianmoundsrockclub.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

May 14-15, 2016

Parma Lapidary Club Annual Show

North Olmsted Soccer Plex, 31515 Loraine Rd, North Olmsted, Ohio

Contact John or Sue Zabrowski, 440-213-1153; parmalapidary@yahoo.com



The Livingston Gem and Mineral 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

The Merit of Metals – Silver

exerpted from the G and S Metals blog

The importance of silver coins and bullion as trade instruments consistently allowed entities with access to silver mines to gain predominance over their neighbors. Silver was the engine propelling history's empires, and even in today's jewelry industry, the importance of silver can't be understated, as a plurality of jewelers say that silver jewelry provides their best-maintained margins (from this survey of jewelry stores conducted for the Silver Institute).

Ancient Athenian Silver Silver played a critical role in the existence of the world's first democracy: the ancient Athenian state. The silver mines in Laurium were critical to the Athenian economy, funding the famous trireme navies of the Persian and Peloponnesian wars, and the construction of great architectural monuments like the Parthenon, the main example of classic Greek architecture. The first institute of higher learning in the western world was founded during this time, the Platonic Academy, where Plato instructed Aristotle. Athens' influence extended not only through out the Mediterranean but resonates even today as its legacy of democratic governance and classic architectural styling persists. It is unlikely that the ancient Athenians would have thrived like they did but for the wealth provided by the silver mines at Laurium.

New World Silver Similar to the ancient Athenian empire; the Spanish empire of the 16th through 18th centuries was a naval power built upon silver mines, this time located in Mexico and Bolivia. The original "empire on which the sun never sets", Spain flourished with vast quantities of silver, and maintained a presence on every continent but Antarctica. Sunken Spanish treasure galleons from this period are still being searched for and recovered today, laden with silver coins and other ancient treasures. While gold mined and minted by the Spanish during this period is romanticized and receives the attention in popular culture, the silver acquired by the Spanish during this period outweighed the gold nearly a hundredfold (receipts from the House of Trade in Seville report 91 grams of silver for every 1 gram of gold.) The Spanish empire was the first nation to engage in global trade, establishing permanent trade routes that spanned the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Japan's Silver As the Spanish empire was overflowing with silver from the new world, the largest silver mine in Japanese history, Iwami Ginzan, was funding the Tokugawa Shogunate's unification of Japan. The Tokugawa Shogunate ruled Japan from 1603 CE to 1868 CE, known as the "Edo Period." Mining operations at Iwami Ginzan continued until 1929, outlasting the Tokugawa Shogunate by over seventy years. Estimated to have accounted for one third of the silver mined annually at peak production, Iwami Ginzan contributed to the economic development of Japan and Southeast Asia during the 16th and 17th century. Despite Japan's self-imposed seclusion during this time period, a significant amount of trade occurred, resulting in the exchange of cultural values and scientific knowledge between Japan and the west through their sole European trading partner the United East Indian Company (also known as the Dutch East India Company.)

Silver coins were an important trading currency in ancient times, like this Greek drachma from the 5th century BCH



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



General Meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 6 p.m.

At the shop