

The Living Stones

Page 1

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

May 2016

President's Message

Greetings, fellow club members.

Has anyone seen any signs of real spring weather yet? I am still wondering whether we will ever get some real warm weather here in Michigan this year. It is May 1st and we just had frost warnings last night! So much for global warming! Nevertheless it is time to get ready for the upcoming field trip to Rockport quarry next month. If you haven't been to Rockport before, this collecting destination has lots to offer in the way of fossil material. You can find many different species of marine fossils in this large quarry. The quarry is located approximately 10 miles north of Alpena in northeastern Michigan. I will make sure we get a map posted at the shop for those who are interested in going. As for preparation for this field trip, you will probably want to bring the basic rock hounding tools to help in collecting there. While a lot of the material is just lying there ready to be picked up, it would be a good idea to bring a rock pick and crack hammer along. A small pry bar can come in handy too. As for clothing, I would definitely bring along some rain gear. You never know what Michigan weather will throw at you! A good pair of hiking boots helps too. This is a very large quarry and much of the areas where you will be collecting have uneven ground. Of course you will want to bring a container or two to put all your finds into. A five gallon bucket or two will do, but keep in mind that the area where you park is quite a distance from the area where you will be collecting. Hauling five gallon buckets can be very tiring if you have to haul them back to your vehicle loaded with rocks! If you have a cart or wagon with large wheels this can really save your back when it comes time to carry out your prized finds. On my last visit to Rockport I took along some packing materials to wrap and protect most of the fossils I found. Newspaper or bubble wrap will work just fine. I don't know if the

biting bugs are going to be a problem in early June, but you never know. It wouldn't hurt to bring along some insect repellent just in case. Packing a lunch and water is probably a good idea. The nearest restaurants are in Alpena. We are fortunate to still have this collecting site available to go to. Our club used to have access to many collecting sites in Ohio, but they have been closed to collecting for many years now.

At our last club membership meeting, much of the discussion was centered on the business of club finances and pending increases in annual club membership dues. Many different opinions were voiced and there were many different ideas as to which would be the proper direction to go on this matter. It has been two months now and we still seem undecided as to how much of an increase is needed to offset the increased expenses of operating our club. I am hoping that we can come to a final conclusion on this matter at our May meeting. As I stated in last month's newsletter, any increase in club dues will make it necessary to change the constitution and/or bylaws. If you are currently an active member and want to vote on this matter, be present at the May membership meeting! As president of this club, I know that I don't have the option to make a motion or even vote on a motion but I feel that I am still entitled to an opinion on this matter. I feel that an increase in annual dues to 40 dollars a year per member would be adequate to offset our operating costs for the near future. This amount would include the annual shop fee which is currently 10 dollars. I have received much feedback from many of our current members expressing their concerns over the financial committee proposal to raise annual dues to 50 dollars a year per member. My concerns about this proposal are based on the real possibility of losing club members.

(cont.)

I am looking forward to the club coming to a final decision on this matter at the May membership meeting!

Many thanks to those club members who volunteered to bring snacks to the May meeting. Ed Oller will be having another prize giveaway at this month's meeting. I would also like to welcome back our snow birds. Many of you haven't yet renewed your membership for this year. Please make sure you get your dues paid for this year before you are taken off the membership list!

Regards, Bob...

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.



LGMS General Meeting minutes April 19, 2016

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:00 with 36 members present. March minutes were approved. Treasurer report was approved.

Shop report: Ed stated 2 new felt wheels and housing for machines are being purchased. He has replaced belts and trim saws. Big saw to be cleaned in next week. The two new felt wheels will be 2 inches wide and we will need to clean our work before polishing stones as we don't want the new felt belt to get contaminated.

Old Business: None

New Business: Dave Worden presented the report from Financial Committee. Their recommendation is to raise the club dues by \$25.00 per year to \$50.00 per year. The \$50 will include the shop fee. Ages 13-17 will pay \$25.00 per year. Ages under 13 are free. There will be a hardship clause – where any member who has difficulty paying for their yearly membership can talk to Sheila York, who volunteered to be the hardship coordinator. Sheila will discuss the situation with the President and the dues can be lowered or canceled. There was much discussion regarding pros and cons of the proposal. Margaret Edmundson made a motion to approve the Financial committee's proposal. Dieter Achilles seconded the motion. A vote was taken with 18 for proposal, 17 opposed. (President can only vote in a tie.) Motion passed. The increase in dues will take place in Sept. – Dec. 2016 when the 2017 dues are collected. The increase in dues means there needs to be a change in the constitution to revise section III, membership. President Bob will appoint a committee to work on changes to the constitution. Gayland Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lorelei Hosler.

Respectfully submitted

Lori Keefer, secretary LGMS



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.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.

Michigan Rocks Weekend

June 3, 4, and 5, 2016

Bluegill Lake Family Camping Resort,
Mecosta, MI

Info: bluegillcamping.com or 231-972-4455



Super Colour Contra Luz Natural Ethiopian Rough Opal
from Amazing Geologist website

The Merit of Metals - Modern Silver

exerpted from the G and S Metals blog

With the affordability of silver, the shift in consumer tastes towards handmade and personalized products, and more casual attire in the workplace, the popularity of silver jewelry has surged. This increase in popularity for silver jewelry has been met with an increase in innovative jewelry designs in both traditional silver alloys and newer silver alloys like argentium®.

.925 Sterling Silver The most widely known silver alloy is sterling silver. Sterling silver is any silver alloy containing 92.5% pure silver, with the remaining 7.5% being other metals, most frequently entirely copper. Most sterling silver pieces will be hallmarked or stamped with “Sterling” or “925” to indicate that they’re sterling silver, and any piece presented as sterling silver that is not stamped should fall under heavy scrutiny. By US law, any piece marked “sterling” or any abbreviation or imitation of “sterling” can not overstate the actual fineness of the piece by more than 4 one thousandths in portions of jewelry that are free of solder or base metals, and can not have a divergence of greater than 10 one thousandths fineness for the entire quantity of silver, including any solder and alloy of inferior fineness.

.935 and .960 Argentium® Silver With modern metallurgical techniques, new silver alloys have been introduced to the market. These new silver alloys address issues encountered with sterling silver, like firescale and poor tarnish resistance. One of the most exciting new silver alloys is argentium® silver, a proprietary silver and germanium alloy. The inclusion of germanium into a silver alloy has provided many tangible benefits to jewelers using Argentium®, especially higher tarnish and firescale resistance due to a self-replenishing layer of germanium oxide that forms on the outside of Argentium® alloys. If Argentium® silver is ever overpolished or overworked by a jeweler this layer of germanium oxide can be replenished by heating the jewelry in a 300°F(149°C) oven for three hours. Another benefit of Argentium® is the ability to fuse it to other Argentium® as well as high karat (18K or higher) gold.

.999 Fine Silver Fine silver is not as common as sterling silver in jewelry, but is still available in round wire, sheet, and bezel strip. Fine silver is also often referred to as “three nines” pure and can be represented by a 999 stamp. For investment purposes it is common to see “four nines” purity on silver bars, coins, and other forms of bullion. The term “fine silver” is not a protected term in the United States, unlike “sterling silver,” but all marks, stamps, etchings, brands or printed words or numbers on a product that are intended to represent the fineness of silver are regulated by the Federal Trade Commission, and cannot deviate by more than four one-thousandths of the actual fineness of the silver. While “fine silver” is not a protected term in the United States, it’s always best to accurately report the metal purity of your pieces to your customers.

Silver-Filled Silver-filled material is another metal resulting from an increase in metallurgical knowledge. Consisting of sterling silver bonded onto a base metal core through heat and pressure, silver-filled metal is an inexpensive metal that provides the look, and working characteristics of sterling silver but at a more inexpensive price. Silver-filled is also more durable than standard plated silver pieces, as the outer layer of sterling silver is either 5% (for silver filled marked 1/20) or 10% (for silver filled marked 1/10) of the total weight of the product, whereas silver plated material is typically anywhere between 5 and 25 microns thick (a micron is 1/1000 of a millimeter.) There are currently no stamping or purity requirements for silver-filled unlike there are for gold filled. However, for consistency, it is probably best to maintain the same nomenclature in use for gold filled if you work in both.

Upcoming Events

May 14 - 15, 2016

The Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society Show

Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School, 3165 Washington Ave, St Joseph, 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

June 3 - 5, 2016

State Line Gem and Mineral Society 52nd Annual Show

Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair Building, 8514 SR 108, Wauseon, OH

Info: Sherm Kardatzke 517-673-5487 or ggafner@frontier.com

June 11, 2016

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club's Annual Tailgate Sale

Wesley Park United Methodist Church parking lot, 1150 32nd St, Wyoming, MI

Info: Gordon Spalenka 616-249-0513 or gnsपालenka@sbcglobal.net



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.

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



General Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 6 p.m.

At the shop