

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

June 2016

President's Message

Hey everybody, June is upon us. We finally have some warm weather to enjoy! It also means that our annual show is only a few short months away. Hopefully, we are all preparing for another successful show this year. It will be a challenge because we are holding this upcoming show in the commons area of the community education building. Our club has not held the show in the commons area for many years. We won't have the space that we are used to having in the gym. The dealers will be closer together and we may not have as much space to set up the usual club activities, such as the children's table or club tables. I am hopeful that things will work out as we will have to make the decision as to where to hold the annual show in the future. I will be looking for volunteers at our next two monthly meetings to make sure we have all our bases covered when it comes to setting up and running key operations during the show. It will be nice to see some of our newer members get involved in this year's show! Our June meeting is our first outdoor meeting of the year, and will be held at Dave and Sharen Worden's house. Look in this month's newsletter for directions. Many thanks to Dave and Sharen for volunteering to host the June meeting! Remember this is a potluck meeting so bring a dish or two to share! Anything will do but I prefer ribs! Don't forget a dessert also! I like those too!

Now on to the business of club financial updates. At our last meeting much more debating and discussion was centered on the proposed dues increase. As most of you know, we have been wrestling with this issue for a couple of months now. It is getting to the point of bordering on insanity! I can hardly keep up with all the members who have an opinion or idea on which is the correct direction we should take on this issue. Of course I have been bombarded with everything from threats of long-time members quitting the club to some

members claiming that we haven't been charging enough for dues for far too long! I certainly hope that we as a club can come to a final decision on this matter and put this issue out to pasture! If you have an opinion on what has been voted on at the previous meetings I strongly suggest that you attend the next meeting! I plan on being there to watch the fireworks show and try to keep a level head! I know there are certain procedures that need to be followed in order to make changes to the constitution. I intend on following those guidelines so look for current bylaws to be posted in your newsletter. Also the proposed changes to those bylaws will be posted. These changes will be voted on at subsequent membership meetings. I can't hope to please every member of this club but I will do my best to make sure the rules are followed, and the membership vote will determine the final outcome.

I would like to thank Loyal Suntken for his donation to the club. As many of our members know, Loyal has been bringing flats of crystals, minerals and cutting materials into the workshop for the past month or so. Has anyone asked him to become a club member? I would also like to thank all the members who have volunteered to bring food and refreshments to our monthly meetings. I would also like to thank those members who volunteered their time and talents to help teach the 4-H classes this spring: George Pernicano, Ed Oller, Dan Goodwin, Gayland Allen, Fuad Ghanam, and of course, Bryant Hiiter for organizing and teaching at our annual classroom event. It is so enjoyable to see these young people come in and learn to cut and polish their first gemstone. Finally I want to thank all of our members that go above and beyond when it comes time to clean up, fix up and help maintain our busy workshop. We all need to play a part in keeping it clean and running safely!

(cont.)

As a final note, don't forget to check your newsletter for upcoming club events. There is the rockhound weekend at Bluegill Lake campground coming up early this month. Also the club field trip to Rockport quarry North of Alpena on June 11th.

Happy Rockhounding! Bob...

LGMS General Meeting minutes for May 17, 2016

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:00. 39 members were present. April minutes were approved. Treasurer's report was approved. The club is in good financial status.

Shop report: Ed stated 4 new grinding wheels have been installed and cleaned. New blades were placed in middle trim saw. Trim saws are all in good shape. Old faceting machine will be sold to an interested member for \$100.00.

Old Business: There was much discussion on the proposal to increase dues. Sue McEwen raised several issues regarding the increased dues. She commented on separating out fixed expenses (rent, insurance, and Federation dues) compared to expenses for expendable items (i.e. blades, belts, cerium, grinders, etc.). She also questioned the possibility of separating dues from shop fees. Dieter Achilles who was on the financial committee explained some of their thinking. Sue reminded the group that to legally change the Constitution, the changes need to be published in the club newsletter and then finally voted on by the membership.

Isla made a motion that Lifetime members be excused from any yearly membership fee; not daily shop fee. Patty seconded motion. Motion was voted on and passed. A second motion by Isla to have non-shop participants pay \$15.00 for membership was tabled. Peggy Petito had a new proposal for changes in membership dues and fees she would like to send to the financial

committee for review.

New Business: Paul finished the flyers for Sept. show. All members should help post flyers to advertise information on our Gem show.

Field trip to Rockport State Park is on June 11. Members are to meet at state park between 11:00 and 12:00. Another rock club is going to join us. Bring a picnic lunch. Any questions, see Ed Oller.

June meeting will be a picnic at Dave Worden's house on June 21 at 6 pm. There will be a tailgate swap for those interested.

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.



Garage Sale at Phyllis Keene's Home

1305 Applewood, White Lake, MI 48386
June 3, 4, 5 and June 10, 11, 12
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
each day 9am to 5 pm

Chuck Amberger Lapidary of the Month!

Check out the June issue of *Rock and Gem*
to see the feature on Chuck and his
beautiful butterflies.
Well-deserved recognition!

Michigan Rocks Weekend

June 3, 4 and 5, 2016

Bluegill Lake Family Camping Resort

Mecosta, MI

special rates for LGMS members!

Info: bluegillcamping.com or 231-972-4455

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.

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)

Serpentine samples



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Serpentine

Layla Palmer, Wire-Sculpture.com, 5-24-13

Serpentine is named for its appearance, using the Latin word *serpentinus* which means serpent-like. Serpentine is translucent green, though it is also found in yellow, white and gray, with a mottled appearance that looks like scales and is often described as having a “greasy” or silky feel and has a hardness of 2.5-3.

The Serpentine Group Serpentine is the “brand name” for a group of polymorphous rocks within the serpentine group; these rocks are sometimes called Serpentinite. *Polymorphous* means that the rocks have the same chemical compound with the molecules arranged differently. So the hydrous magnesium iron phyllosilicate polymorphs of Serpentine are classified as; Antigorite, Chrysotile, and Lizardite, all chemically the same, just having the chemicals bonded in a different way. In other words; the Serpentine group consists not only of Serpentine, but of Antigorite, Lizardite, and Chrysotile: all green stones with a scaly appearance and the same basic chemical structure.

The appearance of serpentine varies depending on the structure of the bonds within the stone at the time of metamorphosis. Antigorite is named for the Antigoro Valley in Italy, where the stone is most commonly found within quarries. Antigorite is also found in Rhode Island, where it is compacted and known as bowenite, Rhode Island’s state mineral; as well as found in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Antigorite forms in fine plate-like crystals bonded with mica and is used for carvings, beads, and other jewelry applications and can be used as a substitute for jade.

Lizardite, the most common type of serpentine used in home décor, is often referred to as green marble. Lizardite is a fine-grained serpentine with perfect cleavage and can be white, yellow, or green. The type we find in our home is usually a dark green with veins of calcite running through it. It also takes a high polish and is harder than marble, though it doesn’t weather well when subjected to the elements.

The most common form of serpentine is called Chrysotile and forms in cylindrical crystals that double back on themselves, forming long threads of asbestos within the rock. This type of serpentine is used primarily for the asbestos fibers due to their fire resistance and flexibility. Chrysotile is mined in New York, New Jersey, and other areas along the Appalachian Mountains, California, Arizona, and Quebec near the town named Asbestos.

Serpentine and Asbestos: You’re Safe We are all familiar with the health risks from asbestos so as a side-note here, asbestos confined within a stone is not dangerous, it becomes a health risk only when it is airborne. Asbestos workers are the most at-risk for health concerns from overexposure to asbestos and industry standards have been changed to protect them. This all sounds very scary; I mean who wants to put their health at risk over a rock?

Well, put the fear away and keep in mind that though asbestos may create health problems, it’s really only been seen in people who work in industry where there is an overexposure to asbestos fibers and as long as asbestos is sealed, either within the stone or through other means, the health risk is minimal.

Finding Serpentine: California Road Trip! Okay, so let’s go to where serpentine is plentiful, beautiful, and the official state rock; California! Since serpentine is formed from rock under high pressure and low heat, we see it a lot in the basalt along the sea floor. In California, the sea floor is being moved and subducted, so serpentine has come to the surface and is under most of the state. You can tell serpentine soil from other soil in the region. Serpentine soil is not very kind to plants and contains a lot of clay, so you can readily see the green stone with very sparse vegetation within it.

Upcoming Events

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

Rockport State Park Field Trip

meet at the quarry between 11 am and 12

See Ed Oller for details

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 gnsपालका@sbcglobal.net

LGMS Potluck Gathering Directions

June 21, 2016, 6 p.m.

David and Sharen Worden's home

9315 Andersonville Rd, Clarkston, MI 48346

(maps available in the shop)

Take M-59 east from the shop to Ormond Rd. Turn left on Ormond (to do this you must make a U-turn on M-59 and then a right onto Ormond). Take Ormond till it forces a left or right turn; then turn right onto White Lake Rd and follow White Lake Rd to the stop light at Andersonville Rd. Turn left to the address which is about a mile down on the left. There will be a sign "Come on in". Do not park on the driveway. There is lots of parking on the grass. Call 248-917-2822 if you get lost.



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.

Note: This supplement is presented by David Worden, proposing changes to the by-laws to reflect the recommendations of the financial committee. **Bold type** indicates suggested changes; *Italics* indicate Dave Worden's comments.

page 2 Article VII Add sub section **h) Hardship**

Page 3 OK through section 3.c.

Pages 3 and 4

Section III MEMBERSHIP

revise section a) 1) to read Regular Members - **Regular members will be defined as those whose dues are currently paid in full and are 21 years old or older.**

revise section a) 2) to read Honorary Members - **see item g) below**

Section III MEMBERSHIP

delete sections d), d)1), d)2), d)3), and replace with:

d) Dues and fee structure is to be recommended by the Board of Directors and presented to the membership for approval. A notice of the proposed structure shall be published in the Club Bulletin prior to the Regular or Special Meeting at which the recommendation will be presented. A majority vote of those regular members present will cause the recommendation to be adopted and the new fee structure will be effective immediately or upon a date defined in the adopted recommendation.

1) One half of the current dues rate will apply for current memberships initiated any time after September 1st and until December 31st.

2) The current dues and fee structure will be published monthly in the Club Bulletin.

3) Once approved the dues and fee structure will be effective for a minimum of 12 months from the effective date unless a new structure is approved by a minimum of 75% of the members voting on a motion to revise them.

Item 4) remains unchanged.

Old Item 5) deleted.

Old item 6) becomes item 5) without change

Old item 7) becomes item 6) with the additions in bold with each word capitalized and deletions in strike-through font

6) All guests must be accompanied by a member of the club. Guests may visit a maximum of two (2) times per calendar year and sign the waiver and pay \$1.00 per visit **the current daily shop usage fee per visit. For their first visit, they must be supervised by the sponsoring member or another experienced member of the club, in the manner described in Section III e)4)**

Section III f), below. If they desire to use the facilities more times than the two visits per year, they must apply for membership or, if in a family membership, they must pay the annual shop fee **and pay the appropriate dues and fees.**

Old item 8) to become item 7) without change in wording.

Old item e) to remain unchanged.

Old item f) to be revised by deleting the two words in strike out font.

f) The club shall mail a statement to any delinquent member as of February 1st. Any regular member who, after having been so notified, and who has not paid his dues by March 1st shall lose the membership.

page 9 Section VII Add sub section

- b) 8) Hardship. The Treasurer will also serve as the Hardship Officer and will be responsible to determine if a dues reduction is warranted for any member(s) due to financial hardship. Such reduction will be at the sole discretion of the Hardship Officer and will not be reviewed by any other Officer, Board Member, or other club member.**

The changes above are all driven by the change in dues and fee structure and no other changes are required in that regard.

The comments below suggest that some further changes might be advisable.

page 5 item i)3) - *Do we really expect ALL member of the BOD to sign that letter?*

page 6 item d) "The President shall be an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees and shall perform each other duties as usually pertain to the office of President. He or she shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office and as partially outlined below."

Isn't this a bit redundant?

page 8 Section VI item c)

"The Board of Directors shall direct all activities of the Society as defined in Article II as well as" **act as** "custodian of all physical assets of the Club." *I think we should add the words "act as".*

page 8 Section VI d)

Actually, the Chairperson of the meeting (not necessarily the President) is the person who cannot vote except in case of a tie. If the President wants to make a motion, for example, he/she would step down as Chair and the VP or someone else would assume the role of Chair and the President could then make a motion AND vote. The Chair can do neither.

page 9 item 6)

The item requires the Shop Committee Chair to "develop an operating budget to be presented to the Board of Directors". I saw no such animal while on the committee to determine whether we needed to raise due and/or fees! It would have helped.

page 9 Section VIII a)

The item says that "amendments and/or revisions to the Constitution shall be presented in writing to the By-Law Committee". There is no standing committee authorized as a By-Laws Committee. To whom would one submit recommended amendments and/or revisions??

page 10 Section XIV

item a) requires that "all annual membership dues and all other money not specifically designed for a special fund" be credited to the General Fund.

item d) requires the "The Treasurer shall keep separate records for each fund."

We seem to not keep track of the shop usage fees paid for silversmithing and glass work. We saw no line items for these when working on the dues revision. I can't remember if there was a line item for the grinding shop fees.

In general, our finances are not tracked in sufficient detail. We need to acquire a book keeping program for the club that helps to properly account for our various funds yet shows ALL of our income and expenditures as part of a whole.

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



Potluck Gathering

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 6 p.m.

David and Sharen Worden's home in Clarkston

(see page 5 for directions, map available in the shop)