

The Living Stones

Page 1

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

January 2017

President's Message

Fast Facts about me, Sherlynn Everly

- * Joined LGMS September, 2015.
- * Hobbyist, retired, married to Jim Clark (25 years).
- * Went Thomsonite hunting this fall In Minnesota.
- * Elected Club President in November.
- * Underwent rotator cuff surgery on Halloween; hope to be back on the machines soon!
- * Best contact: everly55@gmail.com

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.

Fast Facts About LGMS

- * Current membership = 209 adults, 13 youth.
- * Our facebook group page is Livingston Gem and Mineral Society and is kept up by Marianna Ziegler. Like and Share!
- * Snowdays and closures are determined by Hartland School District. They close, we close.
- * Members are needed to teach 4-H'ers on Monday evenings. See Bryant Hiiter for details.
- * This club was founded in 1970.
- * Isla Mitchell compiles the newsletter and welcomes articles and information from you.



2017 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Sherlynn Everly, 810-965-5899
Vice President:
AnnMarie McFadden, 248-884-8126
Secretary: Lori Keefer, 248-634-8657
Treasurer: Sheila York, 810-695-0509
First year Directors:
Jim Hansen, 248-933-1482
Sharon Parker, 517-548-0675
Second year Directors:
Sharon Krauthaim, 810-701-3776
Dennis Gougherty, 810-986-9671
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:
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.)

LGMS T-Shirts

The first order of T-shirts has sold out
but additional shirts will be ordered.
See Ed Oller to place your order:
M and L \$11.00
XL - \$12
XXL - \$13

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.*

Weather related shop closings

Remember that when Hartland Consolidated
Schools are closed, the shop is also closed.
Check with radio and TV announcements.



Interested in Faceting?

On Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 10 a.m., Dave Grimes will be leading an orientation group for anyone interested in learning to facet. Sign up at the shop and/or come to the orientation.

Dave will be teaching in small groups to be scheduled on future Thursdays.



“Livingston Gem and Mineral Society”

United we are a rock, divided we are sand.
(African Proverb)

Even the stone you trip on is part of your destiny.
(Japanese Proverb)



Thank you, Jim Hanson, for the
beautiful new club sign!



Household Products That Can Be Used As Rock Cleaners

by Betsy Martin

Via The Granklin County Rockhounder, 5/2007, via Rock Trails 11/2016

Safety: Always use plastic containers, rubber gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when handling these products.

1. **Zud or Barkeeper's Friend** cleansers (contain oxalic acid) – Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces.
2. **Toilet Cleaner** (the hydrochloric acid type) dissolves calcite rapidly. After treating anything with an acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for a while to leach out any acid remaining in crystal seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in dilute Windex to neutralize remaining traces of acid.
3. **Lime Away** (dilute hydrochloric acid) dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatment (see above).
4. **Calgon** – Dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.
5. **Vinegar** (acetic acid), soda water, colas (carbonic and phosphoric acids) – will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above).
6. **Iron Out** (iron stain and clay remover) Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water.
7. **Bleach** – Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in areas used by livestock. Rinse with plain water.
8. **Hydrogen peroxide** – Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse with plain water.
9. **Citric Acid** – Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids.
10. **Windex** (with ammonia) A good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water.
11. **Distilled Water** – Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment.

Removing Thin Coatings:

On moderately hard minerals – use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive) and a toothbrush.

On hard minerals – use toothbrush with pumice powder and water.

On calcite (including bruised places) – quickly dip in vinegar or Lime Away and rinse thoroughly. Repeat. Soak in plain

water afterward to leach any acid from cracks.

Cleaning Tools:

Toothpicks, seam ripper, bamboo sticks, sewing needles in a pin vise, old dental tools, old toothbrushes, periodontal brushes, canned air, X-Acto knife, single edge razor blades, cheap small stiff bristle brushes.

Variscite

$\text{AlPO}_4 \cdot 2(\text{H}_2\text{O})$, hardness: 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

excerpted from Smithsonian Rock and Gem, by R.L. Bonewitz

Variscite is a relatively rare phosphate mineral that is sometimes confused with chrysocolla or the greener forms of turquoise. Colors are light bluish green, medium and dark greens. It has a waxy luster and takes a fine polish. Variscite was named for Variscia, the old name for the German district of Voightland, where it was first discovered. It rarely forms crystals and is predominantly found as cryptocrystalline or fine-grained masses, in veins, crusts or nodules. It forms in cavities in near-surface deposits, produced by the action of phosphate-rich waters on aluminous rocks. It commonly occurs in association with apatite and wavellite, and with chalcedony and various hydrous oxides of iron. Located in Austria, the Czech Republic, Australia, Venezuela, and in North Carolina, Utah, and Arizona, variscite is valued as a semiprecious gemstone and an ornamental material. It is porous, and when worn next to the skin, tends to absorb body oils, which discolor it.



2017 Dues are overdue!

Tear off and mail to Sheila York, Treasurer, LGMS, 9525 E. Highland Rd, Howell, MI 48843

2017 Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Dues

Name _____

Please note any changes in address, email address or phone number _____

Adult membership(s) _____ x \$50.00 = _____

Youth membership(s) (ages 13-17) _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Total Payment _____

Newsletter preference: _____ snail mail, _____ email, _____ shop folder

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society
9525 E. Highland Rd
Howell, Michigan 48843



*No General Meeting in January
The Board will meet at 12:30 p.m.
on Tuesday, January 17, 2017*

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. The annual membership fee is \$50.00 for adults and \$25.00 for youth ages 13-17. 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.

