

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

March 2017

President's Message

CLUB INFO:

Next General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, March 21, 6:00 pm in the shop – presentation following meeting. Free drawing for rock specimens/slabs. Silent Auction Winners!* Please bring a snack to pass.

Thanks to Venus Sage for assuming the responsibilities of the Sunshine Chair, in addition to Hospitality Chair. Thank you, Anna Pernicano, for your service to the club as the former Sunshine Chair.

Annual Memberships are due NOW! If you're not sure if yours is up to date, just check in the office.

Field Trip!!!! Club members Nancy Bartel, Sharon Parker and Patty Fountain have made arrangements for a rock hunting trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, May 20 – 27, 2017. They've put together a schedule of sites to visit and suggested motels. Transportation and room reservations are on your own and you're welcome to do all or part of the trip. Sounds like a really fun time. Maps are in the shop and information is available from Nancy at nancyp17@charter.net.

*Over the years, our club has been blessed to receive gifts of really great rock collections. Former member John Kelly was one of those members who recently passed away and some of his collection was donated to our club. Bryant Hiiter is organizing a Sealed Bid Auction of some of these stones. They will be on display in the shop for you to bid on. (Some are very valuable and will have minimum bid pricing.) Final bids will be taken on March 21 and winners announced at the General Membership Meeting. Proceeds support the Club's operation.

I want to give a special shout-out to those Club members who donate their Monday evenings to mentor the 4H'ers. The kids who learn lapidary at our club often go on to win top prizes at the Livingston County Fair each year. I am proud of the kids, but

also proud of our members who are sharing their passion with future generations.

SHOP INFO:

Thank you to all the people who have been working extra hard to clean up and re-organize the shop. Your efforts are being noticed and appreciated by all the members.

And George Pernicano? You just keep Rockin' the Rock Shop!

Unfortunately, an increased level of "missing" items has been reported lately. There is a Lost & Found box in front of the office where lost items should be returned. Remember to be careful with your stuff, keep it safe, out of sight, and be respectful of each other's property. It gets crowded in here sometimes, so please be mindful.

Want to learn Lampwork Beading? Member Margaret Edmundsen will teach beading on Tuesdays to anyone interested. I made my first two glass beads yesterday and can't wait to see how they come out of the kiln! Margaret can best teach one-on-one so I recommend scheduling with her ahead of time.

SHOW INFO:

The 44th Annual LGMS Rockhound's Dream Show is scheduled for September 16 and 17, 2017 here in the Hartland Educational Support Service Center Gymnasium. This is the club's showcase event of the year and an opportunity for you to volunteer and participate in a variety of ways.

Show Chair Ed Oller will be recruiting returning and new volunteers throughout the coming months. Sadly, Paul McEwen has stepped away from his role as Advertising Chair after leading the show's growth for the past two years. Since Marketing and Advertising needs to start early, I am hoping someone would like to step into this role. It's a great opportunity to make contacts and get to know the Hartland Community. I'm willing to help; just let me know.

The show is a money-maker for our club and we are always looking at ways of cutting costs. An immediate need is for printing of 2000 full page, full color show flyers. If you or someone you know can donate the printing, please let Isla Mitchell know. We will be glad to recognize the donation on the flyer.

Club membership fee of \$50 per person 18 and older is due before January 1. Any member not paid by March 1 shall lose their membership. Thanks in advance for supporting our club by paying your dues in a timely fashion.

Sherlynn Everly

Board Meeting Minutes 2-21-17

Attending were Bryant, Ed, Sherlynn, Isla, AnnMarie, Sheila, Jim, Venus. Sherlynn called the meeting to order at 1:35.

The January minutes were approved on motion from Sheila and second from Venus. Sheila's treasurer's report was shared and discussed. An excel spreadsheet is in development that will give us monthly income and expenditure reports. By the end of the year we will have captured all our financial activity in one document, providing a basis for future budgeting.

Venus presented several options to memorialize members who have died. On a motion from Ed and a second from Ann, it was agreed that Venus would be authorized to spend up to \$70.00 for such a purpose using knowledge of the family situation to guide the purchase.

Ed gave the shop report stating that everything is going well. He will be doing research to make the decision about purchasing a new chop saw. He is also shopping to find a storage facility which will accommodate our rock collection, be affordable and be accessible to the club.

Isla reported that 102 of our 171 families have paid dues for 2017. Some additional members who are active will need personal reminders. A few have likely chosen not to renew due to the increase in dues. Bryant reminded everyone that this is typical of the club's membership flow; new memberships being

highest right after the annual show and lowest in late winter.

Bryant described the condition of the library. It was agreed that we should have a club copy of the faceting instruction book. The club already has several DVD's and this will be a good way to increase library information in the future. Ed made a motion to allot \$500.00 annually as a budget for the library. Jim seconded and it was passed.

AnnMarie reported that Marc Lampcov has agreed to be our webmaster. He will begin work on redesigning our website (free gratis) as soon as we can provide the User Name and Password to our site.

In anticipation of hosting the MWF Conference in 2020, Sherlynn has obtained information about Waldenwoods Resort and Conference Center. Several of our group volunteered to join her to tour the facility next Tuesday.

General membership meetings will resume in March. We will need volunteers to provide snacks for the March, April and May meetings. During the summer we will need volunteers to host the potluck gatherings. AnnMarie will be arranging programs to follow the March, April and May meetings.

In preparation for the club's September show, Ed is ready to mail contracts to various vendors. Additional show planning will continue at our March general meeting.

Bryant will be organizing a silent auction in March. Rocks will be displayed in the shop, with final bids being taken at the March General Membership meeting.

In March, the board will meet at 5 p.m. prior to the general meeting at 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month (March 21).

At 2:46 Ed made motion to adjourn. This was seconded by AnnMarie and passed.

AnnMarie McFadden
Secretary pro tem



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.

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 and Sunshine:
 Venus Sage, 810-458-4290
 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: Marc Lampcov
 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.*

The Discovery of Electricity

from Fundamentals of Electricity, American Gas Association, 1975

Perhaps the first “electrical” experiment conducted by man was performed by the Greek Philosopher Thales (640-546 B.C.). Thales observed that when a piece of a natural resin called amber was rubbed with a cloth, the amber attracted light objects near it. Today we say that rubbing amber with cloth gives the amber a charge of static electricity. The term “electricity” comes from “electra,” the Greek word for amber.



Weather problems?

The LGMS Shop is closed whenever the Hartland Consolidated Schools are closed. Check www.Hartlandschools.us/School-Closings



* “Livingston Gem and Mineral Society”

Upcoming Events

March 4-5, 2017

The Roamin' Club Silent Auction,

Schoolcraft Community College, 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia, MI

Info: Clarence Sterling, c.w.sterling@sbcglobal.net

March 11 and 12, 2017

Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc, Rock, Gem Mineral and Fossil Show

Western Illinois University Student Union Ballroom, Murray Street, Macomb, Illinois

Info: www.geodeland.com

March 17- 19, 2017

Michigan Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Show

Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganson St, Jackson, MI

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

March 25, 2017

Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society Rock Swap

St John's Lutheran Church 13115 Telegraph Rd, Taylor, MI

Info: Lou Talley, 734-837-8920, ltalley1970@gmail.com

April 6-8, 2017

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club Annual Show

Roger's Plaza Town Center, 28th St. at Clyde Park, Wyoming, MI

Info: Kreigh Tomaszewski, (616) 243-5851; kreigh@gmail.com

May 5-7, 2017

Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society Annual Show

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo

Info: Jerry Van Nolker, (269) 979-3348; jervannocker@comcast.net

May 20-21, 2017

Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show

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

Info: Nancy Wolff, (269) 983-4900; nancyswolff@hotmail.com



Fulgurites

When lightning strikes sand, magic is formed

All it takes is a flash. Lightning strikes the ground, creating temperatures of more than 3,000 degrees. The sand around the lightning strike fuses together, and fulgurite is formed.

What are fulgurites? The word – based on the Latin word for thunderbolt – refers to a hollow glass tube formed when lightning strikes soil, silica, sand or even rock. These amazing structures – sometimes referred to as “petrified lightning” or “lightning stones” - don't look like the transparent glass in your windows or kitchen cabinets. Instead they are complex structures that resemble a cross between a vegetable root and some of the more crystalline minerals such as mica. They vary in shape and size – most are only a few inches long – and they tend to form around the path of the dispersing electric charge of the lightning.

According to the Utah Geological Survey, there are two types of fulgurites: those formed when lightning hits sand and those created from rock. Sand fulgurites come from beaches and deserts, have a more glass-like interior, and can be particularly fragile. Rock fulgurites, which are rarer, form as veins inside rocks and often need to be chiseled out of their surroundings.

Fulgurites have been found all over the world, although they are relatively rare. Their unusual structure, delicate nature and origin give them some value, although not in the range of precious metals. Some sites list small fulgurites for as little as \$15. The more attractive pieces or those processed into jewelry can fetch a few hundred dollars.

Although most collectors seek out fulgurite solely for its looks, some people believe the lightning stones hold magical abilities to help focus divine energy, enhance creativity, or heal various illnesses. The TV show “Supernatural” used fulgurites in a few episodes to summon gods or demons, although those uses don't appear to be part of any traditional lore.

Perhaps not surprisingly, some people enjoy making their own fulgurites, either by sticking lightning rods in sand before thunderstorms or using a high-voltage power supply in a lab. The resulting fulgurites can be even more attractive than those created naturally, although obviously safety is paramount when engaging in these activities.

From <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/climate> via Rock Trails 11-16



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



General Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
6 p.m. at the shop

(Board meets at 5 p.m.)

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.