

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

July 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoy(ed) your Fourth of July holiday. As you read this, I am headed to Oregon to scour their Rock Shops and search the coast for agates. Thank you, Lori Keefer for the donation of the "Rockhounding Oregon" guide to our Club Library. I'll put it to good use.

It's about to get plenty busy around here. Mark your calendars:

Tuesday, July 18 – 6 pm
Seven Lakes State Park
Club Potluck, Rock Swap and Junk in the Trunk. Flint and Waterford Clubs invited.

Thursday, July 20 – Noon - LGMS Shop
ROCKHOUND'S DREAM SHOW Planning Meeting. If you have an assigned area, or if you want to be involved, join us for lunch and let's get the ball rolling on our biggest media and money making opportunity of the year!



CLASSIFIED ADS – HELP WANTED

Competition Manager – Someone to assemble, enter and manage an LGMS display for the "Club Alley Competition" at the Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show in Warren on October 13, 14 and 15.

Maintenance Supervisor – The shop needs a thorough cleaning and polishing now, and again before the Show in September. Need good motivator to lead volunteer cleaning teams in a couple of days of good hard work.

If interested in either of these positions, please contact Sherlynn Everly at 810-965-5899 or everly55@gmail.com

Sherlynn Everly, President

Workshop Hours

Monday: 10 am to 1 pm
Tuesday: 9 am to 9 pm
Wednesday: 10 am to 9 pm
Friday: 10 am to 2 pm

Note: the shop will be **closed** on July 3 **and** 4 in recognition of the July 4th Holiday

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 Krautheim, 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 pm (Except in January and February when board meetings are held in the shop.)

Shop closure

In recognition of the 4th of July holiday,
the shop will be closed on

Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4

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.



“Livingston Gem and Mineral Society”

Keokuk Geodes, Iowa State Rock

Geodes from Iowa have long been objects of curiosity, their sparkling interiors containing some of the most beautiful crystals to be found anywhere in the Midwest. Although geodes are known from many localities around the world, one of the most productive and famous collecting regions is encompassed within a 35-mile radius of Keokuk, Iowa. Rock collectors commonly refer to geodes from this region as “Keokuk geodes.” In keeping with the world-renowned status of the Iowa geodes, the Iowa General Assembly declared the geode as the official “State Rock” in 1967.

The word “geode” is derived from the Latin meaning “earthlike,” a reference to their rounded shape. Most Iowa geodes are roughly spherical, often lumpy or cauliflower-like in form, with diameters typically ranging between two and six inches. However, specimens up to 30 inches are known. The most prized geodes have hollow interiors, although many are solid objects in which crystal growth has filled most or all of the interior volume. Geodes possess a distinct outer layer which is more resistant to weathering than the rock material in which they occur. As such, complete geodes commonly weather out of rock exposures and accumulate in stream bottoms.

Geodes from the Keokuk area contain a variety of minerals, but quartz is dominant. Quartz is silicon dioxide, the primary mineral in ordinary sand. Beautiful transparent-to-white quartz crystals cover the walls of many geode cavities. These crystals become larger and fewer in number towards the center of the geode and terminate in characteristic pointed pyramid shapes. Chalcedony, a variety of quartz whose component crystals are too small to be seen with the naked eye, forms the outer shell in all “Keokuk geodes.” Chalcedony layers also encrust the interior walls of many geode cavities, covering the surfaces of the earlier-generation quartz crystals in a variety of colors, including whits, pink, gray, blue, yellow and orange. Calcite also is a common and attractive calcium carbonate mineral in many geodes. An additional 17 minerals have been identified in “Keokuk geodes.”

Iowa's geodes can be found in specific stream drainages in parts of southeastern Iowa (especially in Lee, Henry, and Van Buren counties), including the area near Geode State Park. Geodes,

often concentrated in layers, can be dug out of exposures of the Warsaw Formation, a widespread rock unit of Mississippian age (340 million years old) composed of shales, shaley dolomites, and limestones. Where water and stream flow have eroded these strata, concentrations of geodes may accumulate in stream channels. Although the bulk of Iowa's geodes are dreived from the Warsaw Formation, geodes also are known from other formations of Devonion and Mississippian age at scattered localities in eastern and central Iowa.

The origins of geodes have vexed geologists for a considerable time. There is agreement on these general points: 1) Geodes originally were nodules (concretions) of either limestone or anhydrite (a mineral related to gypsum), which formed within soft sediment by concentric, outward growth around some small nucleus or core. 2) The interiors of the concretions were dissolved, leaving a hollow space. 3) The minerals now seen inside geodes were transported in ground water solutions and then lifet behind as replacements of the geode walls or as crystalline growths within their interior cavities.

Adapted from Iowa Geology, 1987, Iowa Dept. Of Natural Resources





August 5, 2017

Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club's 42nd Annual Show

Ishpeming Elks Club, 597 Lake Shore Dr, Ishpeming, MI

Info: 906-228-9422 or ejohnson@nmu.edu

August 11-13, 2017

Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show

Houghton Elementary School, 302 W Jacker Ave, Houghton, MI

Contact Norm Gruber, (906) 228-6764; show@ccrmc.info

August 11-13, 2017

Midwest Faceters Guild Seminar

Tallmade Township Hall, 1451 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI

Pre-registration required by July 29.

Contact Barb Yost, (616) 453-9498; barbandben@gmail.com

August 12, 2017

Flint Rock & Gem Club Rock Swap

11350 N. Saginaw Rd., Clio.

Contact Bill Wendling, (810) 638-5796; bwrockbarn@centurytel.net

August 12, 2017

Tulip City Rock & Gem Club Annual Tailgate Swap-n-Sell

Sam's Club Parking Lot, 2190 N. Park Dr., Holland, MI

Contact Rance Westover, (616) 754-7093; rance_anne@yahoo.com



Directions to the potluck gathering at Seven Lakes State Park

From US-23, Exit 79 (Silver Lake Road)

East 5 miles to Fish Lake Road - turn left (north)

From I-75, Exit 101 (Grange Hall Road)

West 3 miles to Fish Lake Road – turn right

Park Entrance is less than ½ mile on left



Clarence and Hazel Morgan: A long history of service to the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

In 2011 I wrote a short history about Hazel Morgan for the historical record. I sat down with Hazel again recently at her new home in Brooklyn, Michigan where we talked about her husband Clarence who was born in 1911 and died in 1995. Clarence worked in South Lyon at the Michigan Seamless Tube Company and lived very close to Hazel who lived on Marshall Road, very close to Silver Lake at the time. They were married in 1958 – Clarence had 3 sons and Hazel had 3 daughters – a perfect “Brady Bunch” except the sons were much, much older than the daughters.

Hazel and Clarence became interested in rock hunting and lapidary and joined the Lansing club in 1965. Hazel, who was always eager to participate, became the Lansing club president in 1973 (right at the time that Johnny Johnson and Nelson Short were starting up the Livingston club in Howell). Clarence and Hazel became active in the LGMS in 1988 when Hazel became vice president and then president in 1989 and 1990. Clarence became active in the shop, the board of directors and was silent auction chairman for our annual show.

Clarence and Hazel had a series of camper vans in their many years of rock hounding out west. Many trips to Oregon, Texas and Arizona added to their rock larder, as well. Years of collecting enhanced their ability in identifying rocks, something they became very good at. They even drove to Alaska when Clarence was temporarily laid off from the Seamless Tube Company, which was suffering financial problems in the 1980's.

The Morgans accumulated many like-minded friends in their many years in Hartland and they had one special friend in Steve Assenmacher who was the head of the Hartland Elementary school system. In 2005, Steve was instrumental in getting us the fine shop we now enjoy here in the Hartland Education Service Center. Steve was so impressed by the many contributions made by the Morgans that he insisted that we name our shops “The Clarence and Hazel Morgan Workshop”.

This article is respectfully submitted to the historical record.
Chuck Amberger, Club Historian

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



Potluck gathering at
Seven Lakes State Park
Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 6 pm

bring a dish to share and any old rocks, tools, equipment or supplies that you'd like to unload. After all, one rockhound's junk is another rockhound's treasure!
(directions on page 4 of this newsletter)

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