

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

February 2018

President's Message

What a busy month for our members! First, Nancy B. found a piece of the Hamburg fall meteorite! It fell the evening of January 16, and 3 days later Nancy had her "superb specimen" in hand. It was classified at the Cranbrook Institute of Science as an H Chondrite, likely from the parent Asteroid 6 Hebe. Way to go, Nancy!

Nancy also kept us busy on Martin Luther King Day as LGMS members introduced seven Webelos to the Lapidary arts. Nancy prepared a packed 3 hours that included learning about rocks from basic geology to the Mohs hardness scale. They each polished a Petoskey Stone cabochon and took home a hand-polishing kit. Thank you Nancy, Pack Leader Dave Geboski, and all the volunteers who donated their time and talent.

Several members attended the funeral of long-time club member Phyllis Keene, who was 92 years old. Several of you talked of her annual rock sale and how she had some great stuff. It was nice that her family had a bowl of crystals set out for the guests to take. All heads nodded and lots of smiles when one speaker talked of receiving "rock jewelry" for every occasion. Thank you, Phyllis, for everything you did for LGMS and the Lapidary world.

Finally, we have several members traveling to Arizona for the Quartzsite and Tucson rock and gem shows. Can't wait to see what they found!

Stay warm! See you in the Shop!

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

Summary of LGMS Board Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2018

Meeting was called to order by President Sherlynn Everly with 12 board and committee members present. Secretary report was given by Sheila York and the club is in good financial standing. We had a discussion about cutting slabs from rock in the storage unit to sell in the shop.

Shop report: Members have asked that the club purchase a 20-ton Potter hydraulic press. It is the Cadillac of jewelry making. It would cost \$1,000 and then \$20-60 for dies. It cuts silver and copper. Members will research the press and Venus is going to Arizona where she will see a demonstration of the press. A decision will be made next month on whether to purchase the press or not. The rolling mill is a new piece of equipment that flattens metal. Instruction for use will be posted and members using the mill need to be trained. Ed replaced the hose going over to the sink. The nylon stocking gets plugged up. Cleaning of the tube should be done weekly. We do have an inventory sheet of equipment in the shop but it is outdated. Ann Marie suggested we take inventory of the shop on Thursday when shop is shut down. We will ask for volunteers to help.

Sherlynn welcomed Cinda Dawson as the new membership chairman. Isla Mitchell will continue being newsletter chairman. Bryant Hiiter, library chairman, plans on spending the rest of the money allocated for books on subjects such as jewelry and wire wrapping. As a reminder, we encourage all members to return borrowed books to the library in a timely manner. Lavonne Foldenauer was welcomed as the new silversmith chairman. With more people working in silversmithing, Ann Marie made a motion that the club should give Bob \$100 per month to pay for basic silversmithing supplies like flux, solder and filling tanks. The motion was voted on and passed with no opposition.

Old Business: Our storage unit cost is \$85.00 per month. We have sold enough rocks at our auctions to pay for the cost of the unit. Sherlynn will have financial reports for 2017 ready for next meeting. Field trips – we are planning a field trip to Rock Port state park in the spring. Sherlynn will be going to the Mid-West Federation convention in Springfield Ill. the 1st weekend in October. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Keefer, secretary LGMS



Sewing, anyone?

We need cloth bags to be used as grab bags at the children's table at our show. If you have the time and interest, let Isla know (imvm.1@netzero.com).
Thanks!

2018 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
 Second year Directors:
 Jim Hansen, 248-933-1482
 Sharon Parker, 517-548-0675
 First year Directors:
 LaVonne Foldenauer, 517-546-5463
 Bill Magee, 734-981-6117
 Hospitality and Sunshine:
 Venus Sage, 810-458-4290
 Shop Chairpersons: Jim Hansen, 248-933-1482
 Bill Magee, 734-981-6117
 Sharon Parker, 517-548-0675
 Newsletter : Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804
 imvm.1@netzero.com
 Membership: Cinda Dawson, 810-632-6922
 Historian: Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586
 Library: Bryant Hiiter, 248-210-6138
 Webmaster: Marc Lampcov
 www.livingstongems.com or
 www.livingstongemandmineralsociety.com
 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.)



“Livingston Gem and Mineral Society”

Chet's Legacy

Chet Chapman contributed to LGMS in many ways when he was with us and, thanks to his wife, Cathy, his legacy lives on.

During the past months, she has donated to LGMS many specimens which were included in the silent auctions, a motor which is already in use and other items which will be sold in the future for the benefit of LGMS.

We are grateful, Cathy!

Weather-related shop closings

Remember that when Hartland Consolidated Schools are closed, the shop is usually also closed.

Check with the home page of Hartland Consolidated Schools to confirm that the building is closed.

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.

Lesotho Diamond Weighs More Than a Baseball

By Richard Perez-Pena, The New York Times, January 15, 2018

LONDON — High in the mountains of a small southern African kingdom, miners have unearthed one of the largest diamonds ever found, a glittering giant weighing 910 carats, or 6.4 ounces, and probably worth tens of millions of dollars. The stone, found in the Letseng mine in Lesotho, is [the fifth-largest gem-quality diamond](#) ever found, and the largest in Lesotho's history. It weighs more than a regulation baseball (about 5 ounces), and more than half as much as the average male human heart (about 10 ounces).

Gem Diamonds, the London-based company that owns a majority stake in the mine and that [announced the find](#) on Monday, described the diamond as being of extremely high quality. It said the stone is a D color, Type IIa diamond, meaning it is colorless and very radiant, without any yellow tint or impurities like nitrogen that absorb light and decrease luster. Gem Diamond's stock jumped sharply on news of the discovery.

How much the rough stone will fetch at auction remains to be seen, and it will depend in part on any imperfections that limit the size of the cut and polished stones it can be fashioned into. The previous largest find in Lesotho, the 603-carat Lesotho Promise diamond, sold for \$12.4 million in 2006, and "diamond prices have increased significantly since then. Stones of that size can make some of the world's most extravagant finished jewels seem like mere baubles. Elizabeth Taylor's famous collection of hefty jewels included a 33-carat diamond ring that sold at auction for \$8.8 million in 2011, and a 69-carat diamond, both bought for her by Richard Burton in the late 1960s. The largest gem-quality diamond, the Cullinan Diamond, weighed more than 3,100 carats, nearly three times as much as the next-biggest. Several of the world's largest finished diamonds were cut from it and incorporated into Britain's Crown Jewels.

The Letseng mine, at an elevation of 10,000 feet, is known for producing large, high-quality diamonds. The government of Lesotho, a constitutional monarchy surrounded by South Africa, owns a minority stake in the mine. Diamonds and garments make up almost the entire export economy of Lesotho, a country with high rates of poverty and H.I.V. infection. It ranks 160th out of 188 countries on the United Nations' Human Development Index



Upcoming Events

March 3 and 4, 2018

Special Auction, The Roamin Club

Schoolcraft College, West Atech Center Bldg, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI

Info: Todd Gall 248-348-5093 or Clarence Sterling 248-981-9673

March 16 - 18, 2018

Michigan Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show

American One Event Center, 200 W. Ganson St., Jackson, MI

Info@mgmsrockclub.com or 517-522-3396

March 24, 2018

Metro Rock Swap of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

St Johns Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI

Info at 734-837-8920

April 5, 6, and 7, 2018

Indian Mounds Rock, and Mineral Club's 43rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show

Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 - 28th St, Wyoming, MI

Info: indianmoundsrockclub.com



2018 Dues are overdue!

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

2018 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 Road
Howell, MI 48843-9098



No General Membership Meeting
Board meets at 1 pm in the shop on
Tuesday, February 20, 2018

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.