

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

March 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NAG! NAG! NAG!

Annual Club Dues are now DUE! March 1st is the official cut-off date. Check with Cinda or Sheila if you're unsure of your status. \$50.00 per year. Thank you for your support.

Shop Report: The Shop Chair-people report excessive wear and tear on our diamond saw blades and grinding belts. To help, we will be converting one of the saws to an auto-feed only mechanism. The other two will still be available for free-hand. What you can do to help is this: When using saws or belts, it is important use only about one-half pound of pressure against the diamond surface. Why? The best cutting occurs when the diamonds hit the surface of the stone; that precise instant. So it figures that the more times they come into contact, the more stone will be removed. George P. taught me a press and back-off technique for the saws which I find has helped me make better free-hand cuts. The same applies to the grinding and polishing wheels.

General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, March 20. The agenda will include:

1. Considering purchase of a Potter Press (see our Facebook page for more info)
2. Rock of the Month
3. Review of President's 2017 Goals

If you like, please bring a dish or snack for social time following the evening meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities

March 16 – **Inventory Shop Equipment.** Start at 10 am with intent to inventory all the major equipment and tools in the shop. Members with fresh eyes as well as long memories will be needed for this task.

Work on your own – Bill Magee has been doing a wonderful job refinishing the outsides of our display cabinets. Problem is they look so good outside, most need an inside facelift. If you'd be willing to take one home and give it an upgrade, we'd appreciate it. Please see Bill.

Field Trip

April 24 – 29, 2018 Mt. Mushroom Festival in Irvine, KY. Coordinated by Nancy Bartel (nancyp17@charter.net). First organizational meeting Tuesday, March 6 at 5:30.

Thank you to all the members and especially to you who have been helping with the 4H kids this month. I have been felled by kidney stones (there are *so* many jokes there!) but you good people stepped in and stepped up. It's just another reason why this is such a great club!

Sherlynn Everly, President



Workshop Hours

Monday: 10 am to 1 pm

Tuesday: 9 am to 9 pm

Wednesday: 10 am to 9 pm

Friday: 9 am to 2 pm

Note:

The shop and building will be closed on March 30, 2018 in observance of Good Friday

Summary of LGMS Board Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2018

I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1:05 by President Sherlynn Everly with 10 board and committee members present. Motion for approval of Agenda given by Venus Sage and seconded by Sheila York. Approval motion for January Board Meeting Minutes was given by Venus Sage and seconded by Jim Hansen.

II. Treasurer's Report as of February 2018 – Given by Sheila York

A. Club is in good financial standing going into the new year. January income:
Membership = \$2,555 Daily Fees = \$543

III. Committee Reports

A. **Hospitality & Sunshine** – Venus reports the member beverage purchases are covering the expense of these items

B. **Membership** – Cinda reported March 1st is the cutoff for those that have not paid their 2018 membership dues (Approx. 80 members have NOT paid their dues to the club on time).

1. Sherlynn to remind members in Newsletter it's time to pay dues.
2. Reminder to all members that they can bring a friend with them into the shop for 1 day to use the facilities with the hope of increasing membership.

C. **Historian** – Chuck Amberger reported that Bob and Sharon Krautheim's participation, background and history with the club will be added to the LGMS Historical Records. This is to be completed by April 2018.

D. **Show** – Ed. O. reported that

1. **LGMS Show** now has a possibility of 14 dealers this year, with some being strictly beads.
2. Wireless Credit Card Readers will be ready for use at the show.
3. Also, the **Taylor show** is March 24, 2018 from 10 am-5 pm, held at St. John's Lutheran Church 13115 Telegraph Road Taylor MI 48108.

4. **Annual Convention** – Midwest 2020 Federation of Mineral and Gemological Association Show will be held here.

E. **Silversmiths** – LaVonne reported that silver was purchased this month while solder was purchased last month with the supply money provided.

1. **To All members, please be advised that Silver is paid for by each participating silversmith based upon the weight that is used (it is not provided free).**

F. **Shop** –

1. **Rolling Mill** instructions to be written up by Ann Marie McFadden and posted.

2. **Shop Inventory Asking for VOLUNTEERS** for machine inventory **FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH @ 10 am.** (Document age, make, model, serial #, photo etc. of machines for insurance purposes). We are to utilize Sherlynn's phone to take photos with documentation to be stored off site.

3. **Chop Saw** discussion to sell chop saw that was purchased last year and not utilized. Motion by Bill Magee to sell this saw was seconded by Venus and approved by all. Motion carried.

4. **Blue Saws** – The new saw blades have been worn out in 2 short weeks due to greater than ½ lb. push force. Therefore, machine closest to Big Bob will be auto feed only.

5. **20-ton Potter USA hydraulic press** – Research of 2 different Potter USA presses and one Bonnie Dune Press will be presented to the Club for review next month. Venus will put up specs on our Facebook page and Sherlynn will put specification sheet together. AnnMarie will have video of the Bonnie Dune for review.

6. **Circuits Popping** – Sherlynn will send an email to the school regarding this electrical issue.

7. **Library** – Needs to be cleared out to increase ease of access. Provide shelves in the Chop Saw Room is one idea to reduce clutter.

IV. New Business Continued

A. **Awards & Plaques** – Sherlynn

1. Sherlynn's brother will make LGMS logos out of agate for our club with his water jet machine. He will make them free if we supply the agate.

a. Use the logos for Condolences, Awards, Pen holders, silent auctions, to raise money

b. Bill Magee to design and let Sherlynn know size needed

B. **February 28, 2018** – Howell Garden Club has asked for a presentation on our Club to be given by Sherlynn and Bryant.

C. **NEW Friday Hours:** 9 am – 2 pm

D. **March Meeting: MARCH 20, 2018 @ 6 pm**

a. **Asking Club Members to Bring** (donate) food (munchies, finger food) for our meeting.

V. Old Business

A. **Wireless Credit Card** Reader will be ready for our 2018 show.

B. **Rock of the Month Club**, 1st Wednesday of each month – Jim and Bryant – Jim reported that the meetings would be 1.5 hours, and rocks can be presented by country OR by USA by each state. Stating the rocks name, type, variety, mine it came from and have samples. To be presented to March meeting for discussion.

(minutes, cont.)

C. Cabinets – Bill Magee has been working on the display cases and refurbishing them on the outside, but we **NEED VOLUNTEERS** to WORK ON and line the INSIDE of the cases with fabric. Provide receipt for reimbursement of all material costs.

D. Future of the Club

1. **4H** – there were 7 4H members that showed up for lessons with 9 instructors available to help. We are asking for **NEW VOLUNTEERS** for these tasks as it tends to be the same awesome people to date.
2. **Boy Scout Troops** – reported that they liked learning about rocks. Idea to use Flint and Steel to have them make a fire starter.
3. **Girl Scout Troops** – We would like to **get the Girl Scouts involved** in learning about rocks etc. Anyone involved with the Girls Scouts? If so, Please Contact Sherylann.

VI. 2017 Financial Reports

A. Sherlynn has completed a compilation of 2017 income and expenses. She and Sheila need to review and a financial report to the members will be made at the March 20 General Membership meeting.

B. A closer look at the **2017 Financial report is available** for member review. Just ask Sheila York, or Sherlynn Everly.

VII. Adjourned meeting at 2:10 pm. Motion by AnnMarie, 2nd by Sheila

Recorded by: Lori Irvin
standing in for Lori Keefer, Secretary



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.

Shop Closing

The building and shop will be closed on March 30, 2018 in observance of Good Friday

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”



“Fossil Jackpot” Found in Canada

Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas at Austin
via MWF News May 2017, issue no. 5262 and The Pterodactyl, September 2017

A trove of exceptionally preserved Jurassic marine fossils discovered in Canada, rare for recording soft-bodied species that normally don't fossilize, is expanding scientists' view of the rich marine life of the period. The preservation of the fossils - which include soft body parts as well as shells and bones - ranks the site among the highest quality sources of Jurassic marine fossils in the world, and the only such site in North America. A paper describing the site and fossils recovered from it was published online in the journal *Geology* in January (2017).

The presence of fossilized soft tissue is especially significant because it offers a more complete view of life in ancient ecosystems and can help fill the gaps in knowledge connecting extinct organism to those living today, said Rowan Martindale, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences who led research on the fossils. “In a normal fossil deposit, you only preserve a fraction of the organisms that were alive in the past. When you get an extraordinary fossil deposit with soft tissues preserved you see significantly more of the community that would have been alive,” said Martindale, a paleontologist in the Department of Geological Sciences. “Normally, we wouldn't find many of the animal because they lack a skeleton or have a very soft skeleton.” Collaborators include researchers from Harvard University, Virginia Tech and Florida State University. The research was supported by the National Science Foundation and a research seed grant from the Jackson School of Geosciences.

The new site was found on the Parks Canada Ya Ha Tinda Ranch near Banff National Park in southwest Alberta. Co-author Benjamin Gill, a professor at Virginia Tech, spotted the first exceptional fossil when he noticed his PhD student and co-author, Theodore Them, standing right on top of a lobster. “The lighting was just right to make out the outline of the lobster,” Gill said. “then we looked around and notice fossils all around us.” The lobster was the first sign that the site could be special because lobsters' flexible exoskeletons usually aren't preserved as fossils. Other unusual fossils recovered from the site include delicate shrimp, complete fish skeletons with scales and gills, large dolphinlike marine reptiles called ichthyosaurs, as well as “vampyropods” (related to modern vampire squid and octopus) with their delicate ink sacs still intact. The presence of many well-preserved, soft-bodied animals marks the new site as a “Konservat-Lagerstätt,” a term for fossil beds that preserve an array of organisms with soft tissues as well as hard ones. These sites are rare.

The new site is about 183 million years old, meaning the fossilized life was alive during the Early Jurassic. At this time, Ya Ha Tinda and similarly aged European sites were on opposite sides of an ancient continent that became modern-day North America and parts of Europe. Having an array of well-preserved fossils from marine ecosystems on opposite sides of the continent will help scientists understand the distribution of sea life millions of years ago.

The researchers have been visiting the site every summer since 2013 and have recovered dozens of fossils, including some that are probably newly discovered species. Notable specimens include a lobster with bulky arms capped with diminutive, scissor-like claws, and 16 new vampyropod specimens, a number that Gill estimates increases known diversity of specimens from North America by threefold. The next step of the research is to investigate how so many diverse organisms were fossilized together. Researchers think that the high-quality preservation is related to a widespread extinction of marine life caused by a period of extremely low levels of oxygen in parts of the Jurassic oceans. Free of most scavengers, these low-oxygen areas could have been an ideal place for a carcass to lie undisturbed and become beautifully fossilized. “If a carcass sinks into anoxic water, you're more likely to get the conditions that will favor the preservation of soft tissues, feathers and articulated skeletons,” Martindale said. “These fossil jackpots are really special.”

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

LGMS Field Trip

The Mountain Mushroom Festival is more than just a rock and gem show. There is an agate hunt, a tractor show, mushroom cook offs, bluegrass music, and more. For more information visit the website at <http://www.mountainmushroomfestival.org>

Kentucky Agate Hunt

Tuesday: 04/24/2018

Wednesday: 04/25/2018

or Thursday: 04/26/2018

The agate hunt is by reservation only, and only a limited number of participants will be accepted. It is on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested you need to get your application in as soon as possible. It is a guided hunt walking through the mountains and hunting in rivers. You have a choice of moderate to hard terrain. **Read the form so you know what you will be getting into.** I don't think they give refunds.

Gem and Mineral Show

Start date: 4/27/18

End date: 4/29/18

Address: 253 Main St., Irvine , KY

I would be happy to email anyone information on the agate hunt, gem show, and lodgings, but it is your responsibility to plan and organize your trip. Transportation is not provided, but some people may want to carpool.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 6

5:30 PM IN THE HALL NEAR THE SHOP

Nancy Bartel,

nancyp17@charter.net

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society
9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI 48843-909



General Membership Meeting

March 20, 2018 at 6 pm in the shop

We would welcome finger food or munchies to share

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.

