

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

February 2019

Hosting the 2020 Midwest Federation Convention

President's Message

Oh boy, winter has definitely kicked into high gear now. Please remember, if Hartland Schools are closed for unsafe traveling conditions, then the workshop will be closed as well.

A good way to stay informed about the workshop closing, is the LGMS Members Only Facebook Page. If you use Facebook, this is also a fun way to see what your friends at the club are up to. Some people post photos of their rockhounding trips, recently finished cabochons, or show their handmade storage solutions and display stands. I also post great photos from our "Rock of the Month" meetings.

Approximately 81 people, of the 200+ members, have accepted their invitations to join this private Facebook group. If you are interested in joining, and cannot find your invitation in your email, then please let me know.

We will be hosting the 4H club again this year. There will be a few sessions in February and a couple in May. The children are ages 9 to 18, and attend on Monday nights from 6pm to 9pm. Some have made cabochons over multiple years, and some are new. If you haven't ever mentored a 4H kid, it is a very rewarding experience to see their happiness at the end of the night, when they go home with a beautiful rock that they polished themselves. We are looking for newer members to contribute their time for this project in the coming month. I will post a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board after I learn the exact dates.

It is great to see so many members utilizing the equipment at the workshop, and see the projects that everyone is working on. If you are one of the first couple of people to use the grinders and polishers in the morning, please remember to wipe out (or vacuum) the sediment from the bottom of the pvc drain. This will help prevent clogs in the lines, and help the filters before the water pump. Also, if you see shot (from the silver tumblers) in the sink, or rock pieces and crumbs, please pick them out. These materials can build up in the plumbing and do not dissolve.

Our first general meeting for 2019 will be the third Tuesday in March, starting at 6pm. I would love to see you there. If we routinely get more than 30 people, I will look into renting a classroom at the school to accommodate us better.

I am really looking forward to making more cabochons in February. So I am hoping that the worst of the snow days, and super frigid days, are over. Everyone stay warm and drive safely.

Cinda Dawson, President



LGMS Board Meeting January 15, 2019

I. Call to Order – 1:05 pm:

In Attendance: Jim Parker, Lori Irvin, Bill Magee, Sheila York, Cinda Dawson, Isla Mitchell, Ann McFadden, Bryant Hiiter, Ed Oller, Sherlynn Everly, Venus Sage, & LaVonne Foldenauer.

II. Treasurer's Report – Sheila York provided details of the treasurer's report. 2018 Year End accounts are in good standing. If you would like to review the treasurer's report, please see Sheila any time that she is in the shop.

III. Membership – MEMBERSHIP DUES for 2019 are DUE! Based on Section III of our By-Laws, renewals should be **paid before January 1st**. And regrettably, members who haven't paid by March 1st, lose membership. Which means they are not permitted to use our Shop facilities, will be removed from the membership list, mailing list, and "Member Only" Facebook Page. For continued success of the club and to be a member in good standing **PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES ASAP! - Thank you.**

IV. Newsletter – Due to the significant raise in postage this year and to save money for the club, **starting in March**, there will be no more snail mail, with a few exceptions. The *Living Stones* newsletter will be emailed directly to members or it may be picked up in the shop. Please see a board member if you have any questions.

V. Safety – As a reminder and due to recent past experience, please do not leave valuables out in the shop overnight. Thank you so much.

VI. Rockhound's Dream Show 2019 – Sept. 21 & 22 Motioned by Jim P., 2nd by Ann M. with unanimous vote taken to keep The Dream Show the 3rd weekend of September. We will also be reviewing janitorial services for this event.

VII. American Federation National Show March 23-24, 2019 in Cedar Rapids Iowa– Motioned by LaVonne F., 2nd by Sheila Y. with unanimous vote taken to send a representative again this year, which will be Sherlynn E.

VIII. New Laser Printer – Cinda, Isla & Jim P. will research options for a new printer.

IX. Shop Report

* Replenish Supplies: Motioned by Jim P., 2nd by LaVonne with unanimous vote taken to have Ed O. order and replenish supplies for the shop such as wheels, belts, blades, drop wax etc.

* Refurbish Polishers: Bill Magee will start refurbishing the polishers on 1/16/19.

* Water Pump Research: Cinda D. will talk with Gayland & Dave G. regarding this system.

***MEMBERS PLEASE WIPE DOWN the machine after EACH USE.**

* Motioned by Bill Magee, 2nd by Ann M. with unanimous vote taken to provide a new vacuum and replace the burnt out stand-up fans. Bill Magee to research vacuums. LaVonne F. to research stand-up fans.

X. Michigan Mineralogical Society

The MI Mineral Society invited Cinda & Ann M. to attend their banquet on 1/19/19. They may be sending 4-5 of their members to possibly join our club.

XI. 4H in February – Bryant to follow up with 4H.

XII. Hilton Elementary Science Fair (ages 4-9) Requested a Hands-On Exhibit for their fair on Feb. 27, 2019, 5-7 pm. Nancy B. & Steve volunteered to provide this with an expected 250 people. We want to use 2 tables both sided to keep the kids interested and able to participate. Will need 2-4 U.V. flashlights.

XIII. General Meeting in March we will vote for a guillotine cutter.

XIV. The Waterford Club – is looking for help with cleaning their storage rooms and installing and refurbishing used lapidary machines. Details for compensating individuals are forthcoming.

XV. Adjournment - Motioned by Ann M., 2nd by Sheila Y. with unanimous vote taken to adjourn meeting at 2:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Irvin, Secretary

Workshop Hours

Monday: 10 am to 3 pm
 Tuesday: 9 am to 9 pm
 Wednesday: 10 am to 9 pm
 Friday: 9 am to 2 pm

Fluorescent Rock Museum

Rockhounds know how some rocks glow in vibrant color under ultraviolet light. But did you know that there is museum devoted entirely to fluorescent rocks? In

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, there is a museum called "Electric Ladyland-the First Museum of Fluorescent Art" in the basement of an art gallery called Electric Lady. Both the gallery and museum are owned by an American named Nick Padalino. And yes, rock and roll fans, the names are taken from a record album by the late Jimi Hendrix. In case you don't plan to be in Amsterdam soon, you can find much more information and photos at <https://www.electric-lady-land.com>.

Rock of the Month Club

Wednesday, February 13, 2 pm
 (second Wednesday of the month)

Jim Hansen and Bryant Hiiter will lead the discussion on
Dinosauers and Amethyst

Come to learn and share your specimens!



2019 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Cinda Dawson 810-423-0464
 Vice President: AnnMarie McFadden, 248-884-8126
 Secretary: Lori Irvin, 810-820-0494
 Treasurer: Sheila York, 810-695-0509
 Second year Directors:
 LaVonne Foldenauer, 517-546-5463
 Bill Magee, 734-981-6117
 First year Directors:
 Dan Goodwin 810-252-0026
 Jim Parker 517-548-0675
 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 and Membership:
 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: John Myer
 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.)



"LGMS Rocks for Members Only"
 group page

Weather-Related Shop Closings

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

Scientific Crystallography

Erich Grundel

Johannes Matthius Wackher von Wackenfels was an Austrian-born scholar and diplomat. About 400 years ago, around New Year's Day 1612, he received a very unique present from a friend. The friend was the famous mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler. The gift was a book dedicated to the diplomat. The title of the book is *De nive sexangula (On the Six-Cornered Snowflake)*. It can be said this 24-page book started the scientific study of crystallography.

One day, while crossing the Charles Bridge in Prague, a snowflake fell on Kepler's coat. Being the inquisitive scientist he was, he began to ponder the flake's six sides. Knowledge that snowflakes are six-sided had been known at the time for at least 1800 years (in China). What Kepler set out to do was to explain why the six sides. He thought the reason for the form was not something external and visible but something internal and invisible. He envisioned spheres or "globules" of water as he called them, to be the basic unit of the flakes construction. How he arrived at the construction requires a slight detour.

Thomas Harriot was an English mathematician who served as a navigator to Walter Raleigh's trip to the New World in 1584-85. Raleigh wanted to know what is the best way to stack cannonballs. Harriot spent two decades pondering the question. From 11606 to 1608 he consulted with Kepler on the question. In the book Kepler offers a solution for the cannonballs and the snowflake. In what is known as the Kepler conjecture, he postulated hexagonal packing of spheres will be the "tightest possible". It was not possible to prove this correct until a computer-assisted proof was made in 1998. Two centuries after Kepler, Rene-Just Hauy used a similar idea, packing of particles of various shapes, to derive the morphology of mineral crystals.

At the same time he was putting forth the hexagonal packing idea he was stumped by the external complexity yet regularity of snowflakes. He knew that packing of spheres does not necessarily have to give hexagonal shapes. He also knew the flakes are essentially flat (2-D) while packing is 3-D. The implications of the latter being why are snowflakes not more like their stouter mineralogical counterparts. Kepler concluded the book by urging more research was needed.

In the 1980's the regularity question was discovered to be a consequence of branching growth instabilities biased by the hexagonal symmetry of ice. After four centuries of research after *On the Six-Cornered Snowflake* we still have questions about our seasonal visitors that await answers.

Adapted from <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v480/n7378/full/480455a.html>, via Mineral Minutes 6/12



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.

Upcoming Events

March 9-10, 2019

Roamin Club Auction, Schoolcraft Community College, 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia, MI

Sat 11 am – 6 pm, Sun 12 noon – 6 pm

Contact: Todd Gall, 248-348-5093; roaminrockhound@gmail.com

March 23, 2019

Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society Rock Swap; 10 am – 5 pm

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

Contact Lou Talley, 734-837-8920; ltalley1970@gmail.com



2019 Dues are OVERDUE

Tear off and mail to Sheila York, Treasurer, LGMS, 9525 E. Highland Rd, Howell, MI 48843
2019 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: _____ email, _____ shop

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



*No General Membership Meeting
Board meets at 1 pm in the shop on
Tuesday, February 19, 2019*

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