

# The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

March 2019

*Hosting the 2020 Midwest Federation Convention*

## President's Message

This past Wednesday, February 27th, six LGMS members attended the Hilton Elementary Science Fair to run a hands-on booth. It was such a fun and rewarding experience. I would like to attach some photos from the evening to the newsletter. We have already been invited back next year.

I would like to thank Nancy Bartel for all the time and energy that she put into developing the experiments, and buying the materials for the science fair. The electrical boxes she made into a game, to show how rocks are used in everyday items, were a big hit. We would like to incorporate the hands-on activities, for children, into our show in September. So we will be looking for volunteers in August/September.

I would also like to thank Ed Oller for making the portable UV light boxes, and finding the rocks to put inside. Everyone who peeked at them were very impressed and delighted. I would also like to thank Sherlynn, Jim Hansen, and Greyson, for donating their time, and teaching talents, to run the tables at our booth.

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We have had used lapidary-type equipment become available for purchase from local Michigan clubs. I have hung up photos on the bulletin board. If you can't make it into the shop, our email address is [info@livingstongems.com](mailto:info@livingstongems.com). And the Oakland County Earth Science Club has some equipment as well [contactus@ocesec.com](mailto:contactus@ocesec.com).

The Michigan Mineralogical Society has asked us if we are interested in running demonstrations at a few tables at their 75th Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral and Fossil show, on October 11th-13th at Macomb Community College. Which is a few weeks

after our show in September. If you are interested in demonstrating please let me know.

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Our first general meeting for 2019 will take place in the workshop on March 19th from 6-9 pm. For our many new members who have never been to a meeting, here is some general information. We start the meeting with business at 6 pm. We discuss finances, shop maintenance, show preparation, buying new equipment, and any new or old business. People speak one at a time by raising their hand. Votes are taken and the secretary records the minutes. Most meetings last an hour unless there is a lot of discussion.

After the meeting we have a small potluck with the snacks that people have brought. Ed Oller usually donates 3 rocks to have a lottery. I would like to bring in DVDs about rock identification to watch at the end. Or have presentations by local rockhounds. If someone would like to present a slide show of a rockhounding trip, they can talk to me ahead of time, and I can reserve a projector that plugs into a laptop.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

*Cinda Dawson*, President



## LGMS Board Meeting February 15, 2019

### I. Call to Order – 1:03 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. Dan G.

**II. Approve Minutes** – Motion to approve minutes by Sheila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill M. with unanimous vote to approve minutes with no changes.

**III. Treasurer's Report** – Sheila York provided details of the treasurer's report. Current 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.

**IV. Membership – MEMBERSHIP DUES for 2019 are DUE!** Based on Section III of our By-Laws, renewals should be **paid before January 1<sup>st</sup>**. And regretfully, members who haven't paid by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.**

**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 experience, please do not leave valuables out in the shop overnight. Thank you so much.

### VI. Rockhound's Dream Show 2019 – Sept. 21 & 22

**a.** Will be paying building staff to monitor the bus lot to increase parking for our event on Saturday only.

Motioned by Sherlynn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sheila with unanimous approval.

**b.** Ed is Looking for a Volunteer-

Apprentice for this Show.

### VII. Shop Report –

**a. New Laser Printer** – Use Canon printer for now. Reviewing quotes from Costco, Allegra, and PDQ Printing.

**b. Replenish Supplies** ordered by Ed. Bill working on mounting for grinders which are being standardized with PVC and hinge plate. Big saw is down due to diamonds worn off possibly due to using wrong dressing wheel.

**c. Shop Floor** – recommend it be professionally cleaned and waxed – Ann Marie follow up regarding machine rentals. Cinda to talk to Michelle in the front office.

**d. New vacuum not needed** current one still works. Replace 2 stand-up fans.

**e. Silver Allowance** – Motion to roll over the \$100/mo allowance since acetylene can cost \$80 every other month. – Motioned for approval by Lori I. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim with unanimous approval.

### VIII Hilton Elementary Science Fair (ages 4-9) Went Excellent! Thank you Everyone!!

### IX. Howell Garden Club Presentation April 24<sup>th</sup>

**X. General Meeting in March:** We will vote for a guillotine cutter. Also, **PLEASE Bring Snacks** for this member meeting in the shop. We want a TV and DVD player/laptop for educational movies after each General Meeting– Cinda will check into DVDs.

**XI. Adjournment** - Motioned by Ann M., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sheila Y. with unanimous vote taken to adjourn meeting at 2:13 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

## Rockport Field Trip

Jim Hansen is planning a Rockport quarry field trip on **April 27 and 28**. More details will be posted on the bulletin board.  
 Yay! Spring is coming!



## Rock of the Month Club

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

Jim Hansen and Bryant Hiiter will lead the discussion on  
**Petrified Wood**  
 (bring anything petrified)

Come to learn and share your specimens!

## 2019 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Cinda Dawson 810-423-0464  
 Vice President: AnnMarie McFadden, 248-884-8126  
 Past President: Sherlynn Everly, 810-965-5899  
 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6 pm (Except in January and February when board meetings are held in the shop.)



“LGMS Rocks for Members Only”  
 group page

## Newsletters

Club members have the option of picking up a printed copy of our monthly newsletter at the shop or receiving it by email. If you would like to change the method of getting your newsletter, please contact  
 Isla Mitchell  
 imvm.1@netzero.com

## Gemologist Finds Insect Trapped in Opal Instead of Amber

**Ryan F. Mandelbaum**

1/23/19 gizmodo.com, via SCRIBE January/February 2019

On a trip to Indonesia, gemologist Brian Berger purchased an opal that appeared to have an insect entombed inside. Insects trapped in amber are a common enough sight, but in a slow-forming gemstone like opal?

“Some researchers weren’t sure it was possible,” Berger told Gizmodo. “Now we know it’s possible. Is it likely? Extremely unlikely.”

Berger had the stone analyzed by the Gemological Institute of America, which confirmed its authenticity. He published a blog in Entomology Today about his finding and is looking for entomologists to further analyze it.

Plants produce a sticky substance called resin mostly as a means to protect themselves. Under the right circumstances, the chemical structures of these resins can change over time, fossilizing into amber—occasionally trapping and preserving an insect inside.

This specimen probably started as a typical insect trapped in amber—but then it appears to have gone through a second process called opalization, where some of the amber turned into opal. Opals are essentially spheres of silicon dioxide with water combined into their chemistry. Organic specimens can turn into opal similar to the way fossilization turns bone into stone; paleontologists in Australia have recently found an opalized dinosaur fossil.

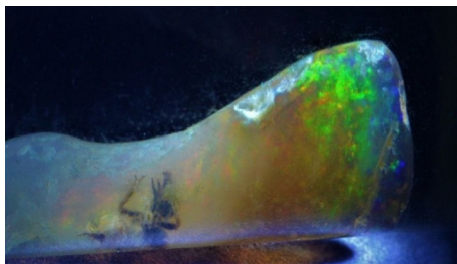
At least, this is what Berger speculates happened. How the specimen formed remains unclear.

One entomologist, Ryan McKellar, Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Canada, told Gizmodo “it is a pretty neat find, and a bit puzzling.” Though commenting only on Berger’s blog post in Entomology Today, McKellar said it “definitely looks like an insect inclusion.” He noted that he’d seen a comparable specimen in Canada, where a piece of wood was partially embedded in resin and partially exposed to the surrounding environment. The amber preserved the wood, but silica replaced the organic matter outside the amber and turned it into petrified wood.

McKellar thought that perhaps this specimen was formed by a similar process, and said he’d be interested in the age of the deposit where it was found.

Meanwhile, well-known American entomologist George Poinar Jr. from Oregon State University remained cautious. He found the specimen “interesting,” but wanted to wait for an entomologist’s opinion before offering any further comment without examining the object himself.

Berger is now hoping to recruit an entomologist to study his stone. He plans to donate the specimen to a museum after the analysis.



Photo, Brian Berger

## 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 15-17, 2019

Michigan Gem and Mineral Society, “**Igneous is Bliss**”  
Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganson St, Jackson, MI 49202  
[Info@mgmsrockclub.com](mailto:Info@mgmsrockclub.com) or Sally 517-522-3396

### 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

### April 4-6, 2019

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club’s 44<sup>th</sup> Annual **Gem and Mineral Show**  
Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 - 28<sup>th</sup> St, Wyoming, MI  
Contact: Kreigh Tomaszewski, 616-243-5851, [kreigh@gmail.com](mailto:kreigh@gmail.com), [www.indianmoundsrockclub.com](http://www.indianmoundsrockclub.com)



#### ***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  
9525 E. Highland Road  
Howell, Michigan 48843-9098



*General Membership Meeting  
at 6 pm in the shop on  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019*

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Science Fair Photos

