

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

November 2019

Hosting the 2020 Midwest Federation Convention

President's Message

The October Banquet was a big hit. Over 70 people attended and enjoyed good food from Cracker Barrel, and delicious desserts brought in by members. Lavonne Foldenhauer and Big Bob received the Max Shultz awards. They are so deserving of the special recognition for all their contributions over the years. There were door prizes, and a very entertaining magician to round out the evening. Thank you to everyone that participated in making this a fun event.

Our next meeting will be held on November 19th. At that time we will vote for 6 officers for terms which will start on January 1st, 2020. I am happy we have nominees for Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary (incumbent), and two 1st Year Directors. However, we still need someone to volunteer for President. I will help the next president as much as possible. Please let a board member know if you want to be nominated as soon as possible. The Constitution states that names should be posted in this newsletter.

The club will soon be purchasing a used 43" flat screen television. It is compatible with SD cards. I'm thinking we can use it at meetings to create slide shows from members' field trips. Or perhaps people can submit photos of their lapidary creations and we can collect them into a digital display showcase. We could use it at the Rockhound's Dream Show as well.

The "LGMS Rocks for Members Only" Facebook Page has 92 members now. I'm hoping we can reach 100 people through this social media page very soon. Members post really great photos of their rockhounding field trips. There are also photos of some really awesome rocks, and jewelry projects that people have been working on. We might be having some snowy weather later this autumn, and I will post on that page about shop closings (when school is closed for weather), or for the holidays.

Another great way to learn about Hartland School closings is by going to Facebook and searching for Hartland Community Education. Posts will let you know if the building, and school district, will be closed that day. I believe they enter the information shortly after 7 am.

I am looking forward to spending time with friends and family this Thanksgiving. I hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather, pumpkins, and apple cider.

Cinda Dawson, President





Congratulations

to the 2019 Max Schultz Award
winners:

**LaVonne Foldenour and
Robert (Big Bob) Krautheim**

These awards were one of the highlights of our Annual Banquet. The banquet was an evening of fun where we enjoyed great company, delicious food, prizes, and exciting “magical” entertainment.



Nominations for officers for 2020

President: open
Vice President: **Cinda Dawson**
Treasurer: **Linda Sheedy**
Secretary (incumbent): **Lori Irvin**
First year Board Members:
Sheila York
AnnMarie McFadden

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

Holiday Closure

The lapidary shop will be **closed** on
November 28 and 29
(Thursday and Friday)
in celebration of the Thanksgiving Holiday

Rock of the Month Club

Wednesday, November 13, at 2 pm
(second Wednesday of the month)

Jim Hansen and Bryant Hiiter will lead the
discussion on

Rocks and Minerals from Mexico

Come to learn and share knowledge!

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:

Angela Hamilton 248-431-8288

Greyson Bechtold 248-920-4913

August Stone 810-938-7716

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.)

Be a Joiner!

Join the club's **TWO** facebook groups!

Spread the word about our club from the public
group page!

“Livingston Gem and Mineral Society”



Keep informed about club activities at
“LGMS Rocks for Members Only”
group page



Upcoming Events

November 2, 2019

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society Rock Swap Sales tables 6 pm; Oral auction 7 pm.

Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor.

Contact: Dwayne Ferguson, (313) 550-9809, shelby0671111@yahoo.com www.mmls.us

November 2-3, 2019

Mid Michigan Rock Club Annual Show.

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour Rd., Midland.

Contact: Debra Young, (989) 245-0343; debiyoung50@yahoo.com www.midmichrockclub.com

November 11, 2019

Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Auction.

Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills.

Contact: Brad Zylman, (612) 600-9484; www.michmin.org



2020 Dues are payable now

Please complete this form, tear off, and mail to
Sheila York, LGMS, 9525 E. Highland Road, Howell, MI 48843

LGMS Membership Renewal 2020

Last name (please print)

First name

Address

City

State

Zip code

(Area code) Phone number

Email address

Hartland School District resident yes no

Newsletter preference: shop email

Adult membership(s) _____ x \$50.00 = _____

Youth membership(s) (ages 13-17) _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Total Payment _____

The club is much more interesting, and really cannot function without volunteer help. Please mark the categories where you would like to contribute.

Shop/Machine Maintenance

Field Trips

Membership

Publication/printing

Board position

Presenter

Website/internet

Newsletter

Education/4H

Auctions

Media/marketing

Hospitality

The Field Trip

by Bill Magee

LGMS Board Member

It was a gray, rainy Sunday morning in June. The hardy group from LGMS met for a field trip to Nether's Farm to collect the elusive Ohio flint. The trip had already been postponed twice due to weather and we were determined to make this pilgrimage come hell or high water. After packing the gear in my truck, which took about 4 hours, we were on our way. It was good to know the group thought as I do: that it's better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it. However, I still ran a mental checklist as we started out: buckets, hammers, chisels, sledgehammer, pry bar, dynamite, blasting caps, CAT series 416E four by four backhoe, 9 rolls of duct tape and 14 cans of bug spray as tick deterrent. Yup, got everything. Lavonne, Nancy and Greyson all piled in the truck. Now does anybody know the way????

After driving a mere 16 1/2 hours, (it only seems that long when you're in a hurry and there are rocks involved) we arrived. The rain had stopped, the sun came out, it was a glorious day! Now if you've never been to the Nether's Farm, it's a farmhouse on one side of the road, woods on the other, no signs or fanfare. You drive down a two-track, that turns into a one-track in places, avoiding trees and what looks like foxholes. Obviously remains from a skirmish between Ohio State and U of M. We passed one hole that resembled the Arizona meteor crater in size and shape. I said to myself 'self,' (and I knew it was me because I recognized my voice and I was wearing my underwear) 'avoid that hole.' Right about the time I thought I could hear banjos playing, we found a semi-level spot to park. We met up with Cinda and Ted. After unloading our gear and spraying and taping sleeves and pant legs against ticks, we all headed off in separate directions. Adventurer that I am, I found a pit about 8 feet from the truck. I figured it would be less of a walk hauling rocks, and seeing as I looked like a twin to the Michelin man with my anti-tick duct tape suit, I was inspired to remain at this post. I quickly rounded up about 22 pounds of treasured flint. Sitting in my Dunham's folding hydraulic-piston rocker, deluxe model circa 2019 (I do enjoy my creature comforts but I assume every rockhound travels like this) I was listening to the birds sing, wind in the trees, (really is that banjos I hear??) and the sound of hammer breaking rock. I was thinking to myself, didn't they used to punish inmates by making them hammer for hours on a pile of rocks? And here I am spending money to hammer for hours on a pile of rocks.



Imagine my surprise while in this peaceful setting I hear someone rapidly approaching. Expecting to see a banjo-toting local, I was relieved to see it was Greyson. He had discovered a treasure that required the 6 foot, 1 inch diameter, cold-rolled steel pry bar, the sledgehammer, 4 rolls of duct tape and my assistance. I followed him a short distance until he disappeared over the edge of, you guessed it, the meteor crater. I peered over the precipice to see a small speck at the bottom, some 843 feet below. It was Greyson, encouraging me to jump. Upon consideration for life and limb, I opted NOT to jump but rather

lower myself using a vine from a nearby tree. I gave it a tug and it seemed sturdy enough. As I leaned back over the pit of doom, the vine snapped. Now I can only imagine the look on Greyson's face, as I hurled backwards toward him at 32 feet per second squared (if I remember my physics.) They say just before you die your life passes before your eyes. Not true. I was imagining what the local newspaper headlines would be the following day. "Michelin Man dies in tragic fall into Ohio meteor crater. Remains of second rockhound still being excavated." But instead, Greyson and 17 pounds of duct tape padding broke my fall. We both survived 'technically' unscathed, although there's a rumor in the club that Greyson is still undergoing therapy. A Three Stooges episode quickly unfolded. I, in my Michelin man regalia, Greyson wielding the 16 pound sledgehammer, committed to releasing this find in short order. The reality is that our efforts only managed to produce chips and sparks and the rock remained unwilling to give up its grip from its peaceful resting place of millenia. Greyson, undeterred by this temporary setback, is a man possessed with taking home this trophy. I, on the other hand, was formulating plans for my escape from this hole. Meanwhile, topside, our fellow travelers made their impending starvation known and requested our presence. After all, I am the Grill Master. Greyson scampered up the walls of the pit like a mountain goat, dragging me and my 17 pounds of duct tape by his pant leg. As I proceed to camp to begin lunch, Greyson returns to the Netherworld to continue his obsession with relieving the crater of its Hope Diamond of flint. After a gourmet lunch of only partially cremated brats and other camp delicacies, Greyson triumphantly marches into camp, carrying what appears to be a small Volkswagen, having relieved his trophy from Satan's clutches. The crowd goes wild! Greyson's Smithsonian-quality treasure is the find of the day! Unfortunately, I have to insert reality and economics into the revelry. I remind Greyson that his beauty will cost him \$.50 a pound when we leave.

After washing 13 1/2 tons of Ohio clay off our bounty, we pack up camp and do a quick tick check. Have I mentioned the immediate dipillatory effect that duct tape has on the human body when removed? (My skin grafts are growing back nicely, thank you.) Now begins the grueling journey of traveling back home. Now that the fun was over, the group found numerous ways to keep me awake as I drove us all home. High-spirited bouts of raucous singing followed by 'guess the commercial theme song' contests livened up the atmosphere and kept us all awake. Cracker Barrel dinner served to replenish our reserves and wash the bitter taste of cremated brats from our palates. Greyson, gentleman that he is, was gracious enough to allow Nancy to beat him at checkers while we waited for vittles. Our bellies full, we managed to drag all our grubby selves safely back to Michigan. As we finished the final leg of our journey, I had time to reflect on my near-death experience. I decided I would rather go peacefully in my sleep, as my grandfather did, and not screaming maniacally like the passengers in his car.



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.

**Fun with Robert Zarins from Magic and Escapes Entertainment
at our Annual Banquet**



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



General Meeting and election of officers

Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 6 pm

at the shop

bring a dish to share and enjoy your fellow club members!

Livingston Gem and Mineral 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.