

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

March 2021

President's Message



Welcome March!

February's online board meeting went OK with the new platform of Microsoft Teams instead of Zoom. It has different options and may not work for very large general meetings. The program costs less for the amount of time we need & the members included, than Zoom did. We are still working out the signing in kinks!

Membership is still low though we are hoping that with the Covid vaccinations underway, more of our actual members will be able to maintain their membership and actually come in and work at the shop. Right now the shop is opened 2 days per week and a third day will be added when the membership able to come back into the shop increases.

With my husband finally coming home from the hospital after 24 days in the hospital fighting Covid, you probably noted this president's letter was very brief! He is on the mend and I appreciate all your patience as I transition into the president's role!

Hope to see you at the next meeting online with Microsoft Teams. Please set up your account or app before the meeting as it will take some time to accomplish this. A link will be emailed to members.

Next meeting date is 3rd Tuesday, March 16 @ 6:00 pm (My mistake on the minutes for saying the next meeting was March 23) Please stay well, my fellow members! You are all treasures!

Contact info: caricatures@comcast.net or cell phone 248-931-5999

Sincerely yours,

Cari Jacob



LGMS Board Meeting

2/16/21 6 pm via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order – 6:08 pm; Motion to approve minutes by Cinda, 2nd by Bill. With unanimous vote to approve minutes with no changes.

a. **In Attendance:** a total of 9 members including board members.

2. President Report –

a. Shop estimated to reopen 2/23/2021

b. Any rate change for dues for daily review of rent with the school will remain the same with 1/2 rent during shut down; \$600 rent with full week capacity; and negotiated \$400 rent for 2-3 days/wk with limited members.

3. VP Report –

a. Sign Up Genius is set up with 6 monitors and ready for possible opening 2/23/2021.

b. **Two Rock Collections** have come to our attention for purchase:

i. **Mr. Art's Collection WAITING TILL MARCH.** Includes Geodes, rocks, & some equipment pieces with a saw. Art is interested in possibly a bulk-buy in March sometime. Bill, Ann Marie, Ed & Bryant are to review his collection and estimate a fair price for the board to review.

ii. **Mr. George's Equipment Collection. Mr. George sold his rock collection before we were even able to see it.** (Mr. George estimates that his equipment collection is worth \$700. Ed, Bryant & Bill are to follow up with Mr. George and review the equipment quality and estimate the worth.)

4. Treasurer Report –.

a. Current Financial accounts are in good standing, If you would like to review the treasure's report, please contact Linda Sheedy.

b. New bank cards are to be made available for the President and Bill Magee for Club and Shop expenses.

5. Membership - Membership dues were due 12/31/20 for 2021! Currently approx. 83 members paid their dues on time. Please remit payment ASAP! Thank you.

6. Dues increase to \$60 with a \$5 coupon if paid before due date plus an increase in the daily fee to \$2. The discussion on this was motioned by Linda and 2nd by Bill for it to be tabled until July. This motion passed unanimously to be tabled until July 2021.

7. Shop Updates –

a. Bill installed the new hoods that Ed worked on and had made for the polisher machines.

b. Monthly cost for use of the shop to be open, ie...machines, belts, etc. to be estimated by Bill and Ed.

8. Show Updates –

a. We will try a Spring and Fall outside show in a Church or parking lot like last year. The Spring show will be returning to Waterford and the Fall show will be closer to the shop, location to be determined.

b. Ed recommended vendors be contacted and all thought that was a great idea & Lori followed up with Ed regarding this.

c. Spring Show **Lead by Ann Marie** & the Fall Show **Lead by Ed & Lori.**

d. Fall show location information gathering:

i. **Zach** – Reported that 242 church would be happy to host our outside show. We need to fill out an application. The Board is wondering if a permit is required or by them hosting our event it will be covered?

ii. **Cinda** to follow up with the school, farmers mkt. & Hartland Twp.

iii. **Cari** reported that Hartland Schools would be able to hold our show on Sunday, that is usually not a good day so this site is OUT as an option.

(minutes cont.)

- iv. **Lori needs** to follow up with 2 Lutheran Churches on M-59.
- v. Additional advertising will be needed. To talk to J. Gustafson regarding banners.
- 9. **Adjournment** 7:27 pm – Motioned by Cinda, 2nd by Bill with unanimous vote taken & carried to adjourn. Next General Meeting is March 23, 2021*

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Irvin

Variolites



Variolites are mafic, igneous, and typically volcanic rocks, e.g. tholeiite, basalt or komatiite, that contain centimeter-scale spherical or globular structures, called varioles, in a fine-grained matrix. These structures are lighter colored than the host rock and typically range in diameter from 0.05mm to over 5 cm. In 1648, Aldrovandi created the term variolite for aphanitic or fine-grained igneous rocks containing varioles. The weathering of varioles often cause variolites to have a pock-marked appearance. In allusion to the pock-marked appearance of weathered surfaces of variolite, this term is derived from the Latin word, variola, for smallpox.



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.

2021 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Cari Jacob 248-931-5999

Vice President: Cinda Dawson 810-423-0464

Secretary: Lori Irvin, 810-820-0494

Treasurer: Linda Sheedy 248-624-3605

Second year Directors:

Sheila York, 810-695-0509

AnnMarie McFadden, 248-884-8126

First year Directors:

Bill Magee 734-981-6117

Jane Lerma 517-438-6476

Hospitality and Sunshine:

Angela Hamilton 248-431-8288

Greyson Beckett 248-920-4913

Shop Chairpersons:

Bill Magee 734-981-6117

Newsletter: Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804,
imvm.1@netzero.com

Membership: Cinda Dawson, 810- 423-0464

Historian: Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586

Library: Bryant Hiiter, 248-210-6138

Webmaster: John Myer, www.livingstongems.com or
www.livingstongemandmineralsociety.com

Email: LGMSMich@gmail.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.)

* Actually March 16 – see correction page 1.

Chlorastrolite: Michigan's Striking State Gemstone

[Chlorastrolite: Michigan's Striking State Gemstone \(geologyin.com\)](http://geologyin.com)

Isle Royale has long been famous as the home of chlorastrolite, known informally in rock-collecting and lapidary circles as "Isle Royale greenstone." Chlorastrolite is a variety of pumpellyite: $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg,Fe})\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$.

In 1972 the governor of Michigan signed a bill designating chlorastrolite as the official state gem. We often hear, "I thought Petoskey Stone was the State Stone?!" The answer is, Petoskey Stone is the State Stone, and Greenstone is the State GEMstone."

Formed after hot lava flows settled and hardened about 1 billion years ago, Chlorastrolite, meaning "green star stone," occurs as amygdules or cavity fillings in certain of the lava flows on Isle Royale. When the water and wave action has worn away the basalt, they are found as beach pebbles and granules in loose sediment., generally greenish in color. When polished, either by wave action on the beaches or artificially, the "greenstones" generally exhibit a distinctive and attractive mosaic or segmented pattern, sometimes referred to as "turtleback".

Isle Royale Greenstone, the mineral, can be found in a belt of greenstone, the rock. Greenstone Ridge, one of the earth's largest and thickest lava flows, is up to 800 feet thick and extends deep under Lake Superior in a continuous flow that reappears 50 miles later on the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan.

In Isle Royale National Park, the gemstone that bears its name can be found encased in the basalt (hardened volcanic rock) on the island, or if weathered out of the basalt, can be found as pea-sized pebbles on the shore.

The polished stones also commonly are chatoyant - the property of having a luster resembling the changing luster of the eye of a cat. Chatoyancy is probably best known in the gemstone called tiger eye and is a property of translucent material that contains fibrous structures capable of scattering light. The grouping together of bundles of such fibers produces the mosaic pattern of the "greenstones."

Greenstones have a hardness of 5-6 and are very well suited for all varieties of jewelry. Polishing is tricky, as some stones have quartz or calcite centers, are hollow, and the most important consideration is the rapidly changing cell and color pattern as a stone is sanded to shape.

Soft chlorite inclusions on some of the mainland gemstones are a problem which can ruin a great pattern. The toughness of this stone allows for cutting and polishing of all types of cabachon shapes, calibrated or freeform, and is a great material for inlays.

It is found in the Keweenaw Peninsula of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Isle Royale in Lake Superior. Isle Royale is a National Park, and so it is illegal to collect specimens there. so the Keweenaw Peninsula is your best bet for hunting down this Michigan treasure.



Cleaning Brass and Copper Wire

I thought this tip may help others who are working with copper and brass wire. In a world of toxic chemicals, it is wonderful to find ways to keep ourselves as toxic free as we can. Since our skin is also an organ that absorbs whatever we put on it, I like to find alternatives for harsher products that come into contact with my skin. Since copper wire and brass wire begin to tarnish so quickly, you might find this tip really helpful. Try putting a couple of tablespoons of lemon or lime juice in a small container and add a teaspoon of regular table salt to the juice. Now drop in your item and swirl it around. The tarnish is gone instantly and your jewelry is bright and shiny. Be sure to rinse the jewelry well and clean off the salt with some gentle cleanser and then rinse it. Your jewelry will sparkle. This solution isn't hard to get out of wire wrapped areas either. Your beads are left with a shine as well. I have tried this also with sterling silver wire. It takes a little longer to remove the tarnish but it does work.

Submitted by Sandy Breckenridge, Preston Reuther's www.wirejewelrybootcamp.com



Last Call! 2021 Dues are overdue

Please complete this form, tear off, and mail to Linda Sheedy, Treasurer, LGMS, 9525 E. Highland Road, Howell, MI 48843. During shop closure, mail to **1582 Forest Bay Court, Wixom MI 48393**
LGMS Membership Renewal 2021

 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 really cannot function without volunteer help. Volunteering makes membership more interesting.
 Please mark the categories where you would like to contribute.

<input type="checkbox"/> Shop/Machine Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication/printing
<input type="checkbox"/> Board position	<input type="checkbox"/> Presenter	<input type="checkbox"/> Website/internet	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/> Education/4H	<input type="checkbox"/> Auctions	<input type="checkbox"/> Media/marketing	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality

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



March

**A General Membership Meeting is scheduled
via Microsoft Teams**

March 16, 2021, 6 pm

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