

# The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

March 2023

## President's Message

"Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn." – Lewis Grizzard

**MWF & Fall Show** planning date for next meeting is Tuesday, March 21 right before the March general meeting. Show planning 4:30-5:30 with general meeting starting at 6:00.

We need every member to commit to a 4-hour time slot in September for the show or be able to help in another way beforehand. Mark the date in your personal calendars now!

**Congratulations to Lavonne for being the first member to donate 2 beautiful pieces of jewelry to the Fall Dream Show! An Ed Oller/Jose collaboration came in a close 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

We would like every member to donate a rock-related or jewelry item for the Silent Auction/Raffle. This takes a long time to sort & categorize the items donated – so please start now. Small information forms to fill out with your donation can be found on top of the small black cases by the shop office. Smaller items can be locked up also.

**ROCK ON!** The topic for March 1 is Metallic Rock from 1-2:30pm. (Copper/Pyrite/Mohawkite/Dendritic Silver...) Anyone can also bring in pieces from their collections at their own risk to room #33 for March 1 and April 5 (Featuring Quartz). Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm, an informative mostly hands-on meeting is held to teach our members about the different types of rock out there. This group is led by Jim Hansen, Bryant Hiiter, Dave Grimes, Ben

Gray and Ed Oller. The guys present different materials from their private collections. The cost to rent the room is \$30 per hour. Before meeting, please coordinate with Jim or Bryant on the time agenda so that if others wish to, they have time to make a presentation.

We would like to start having some small member-taught classes in the shop again.  
**Update-We are looking at several options for classes and will post when organized.**

As new members are being trained, please keep a kind lookout for them. Remember how overwhelming the shop is at first and sometimes a gentle reminder can go a long way. A huge thanks to the Feb/March trainers: Lori Irvin, Bryant Hiiter, Sandy Wrestler, Bill Magee, Cinda Dawson, Ed Oller, Peggy Kujara, Marv Martin and Lavonne Foldenauer (for Silversmithing).

**Winter Reminders!** During inclement weather...please check Facebook/hartlandcommunityed.com for school/event closures before you make a trip out to the shop.

**\*Dues for 2023 LGMS membership are \$65 (due December 31, 2022)** with \$1 daily shop fee. **Remember;** please add the \$5 locked drawer fee and the drawer #, if you are using one. (One drawer per person) Some locked drawers are now available. You can mail your dues to: Linda Sheedy, 1582 Forest Bay Ct., Wixom, MI 48393.

**\*For members currently using locked drawers - \$5 is due for 2023.**

Remember to get your club t-shirts for yourself and family and club decals for your car! T-shirts and decals can be purchased at the shop. (\$15-\$18 t-shirts) (Decals \$8).

Please note the times/dates for ALL this year's Club meetings are posted in this newsletter. Please attend and support your club, so your voice may be heard! Remember, the shop will be closed at 5:45 pm on general membership meeting days.

**March shop hours** - Tuesday thru Friday. Tues/Wed 9 am-9 pm, Thurs 9 am-9 pm (silversmiths only), and Friday 10 am-4 pm. (If there are not 2 members in the shop on Fridays, the closer may choose to leave earlier than 4:00. Be aware).

**General Member meeting for March – Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> at the shop, 6-8pm (Fall MWF and Dream show planning meeting 4:30-5:30pm).**

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 /President



### 2023 Officers and Chairpersons

**President:** Cari Jacob 248-931-5999

**Vice President:** Cinda Dawson 810-423-0464

**Secretary:** Laura Brock 248-467-9100

**Treasurer:** Linda Sheedy 248-425-9686

**Shop Chair:** Bill Magee 734-981-6117

**Second year Directors:**

Janelle Gustafsen 248-420-1741

Jim Johnson 810-923-6113

**First year Directors:**

Lori Irvin 810-820-0494

Sandra Wrestler 248-875-5921

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

**Membership:** Lori Irvin 810-820-0494

**Historian:** Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586

**Library:** Bryant Hiiter, 248-210-6138

**Webmaster:** John Myer, www.livingstongems.com Email:

[LGMSMich@gmail.com](mailto:LGMSMich@gmail.com)

General Membership Meetings are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6 pm. (Except in January and February when only board meetings are held.)

### Rock of the Month

Led by Jim Hansen and Bryant Hiiter, the meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at 1 pm in room #33 of the HESSC.

The next meeting will be **March 1, 2023** at 1 pm.  
The March topic is:

### Metallic Minerals

Bring your own specimens! Share! Learn!

## Board Meeting February 21, 2023 Red Olive, Hartland

1. **Call to Order** – 1:10 pm; Motion to approve minutes by Linda Sheedy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cinda Dawson, carried a unanimous vote to approve minutes with no changes.
  - a. **In Attendance:** a total of 6 members including board members Linda Sheedy, Cinda Dawson, Ed Oller, Sandy Wrestler, Lori Irvin, Cari Jacob.
2. **Financial Updates** –. Current accounts are in good standing.
3. **Shop Update:** - Sandy Motioned to allow Dave Grimes \$750 for flat lap and faceting supplies, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cinda Dawson. Vote taken and it was approved.
4. **President – Cari Jacob**
  - a. Rock of the Month Club – March is Metallic Minerals.
  - b. Locker Update – Cari to be informed.
  - c. Class Survey included many How-To ideas for rocks and silversmith techniques, and Show and Tell ideas (like the rock of the month Club)
5. **VP – Cinda Dawson**
  - a. FaceBook PURGE on March 11<sup>th</sup> of all the members who are not in good standing... i.e. have not paid their dues. Cinda Dawson, Marianna Zigler, and John Meyer will purge FaceBook.
  - b. Barbara T's Collection is being reviewed by Bryant. It has turquoise and opals from which the Club should be able to make 2-3 times the amount for which it was purchased.
6. **LGMS Rockhound's Dream Show**
  - a. NEXT Show Planning Meeting is MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> from 4:30-5:30pm.
  - b. Cinda Dawson motioned to increase the Fall Show Booth fees to \$300 for the 2 days, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandy Wrestler. Vote passed; forms to be updated.
  - c. Lori Irvin to update Cover Letter and Vendor Application. Ed to take to Taylor Rock show and other shows to find additional Vendor participants.
  - d. Midwest Federation must have their OWN Silent Auction Table for SUNDAY ONLY.
- e. Midwest Federation must have their own Display Table with electricity for their own contest.
- f. Security to be hired again. Currently Matt Brock and Crispus Willis volunteered.
- g. Proposal Packet to be MAILED to Midwest Federation.
  1. Intro Letter was completed by Cari Jacob.
  2. Flyer was completed by Cari Jacob.
  3. Packet will include a LUNCH Coupon for On-Site Meals \$10 pre-order.
  4. Member Holly Ingram is helping with information on – hotel stays, things to do in the area, art photo, etc.
7. Adjournment 2: 26.pm – Motioned by Cinda D. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandy Wrestler with unanimous vote taken & carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Irvin, Board Member



## Upcoming Events

**March 4 - 5, 2023**

### **The Roamin Club's Rock, Mineral and Fossil Auction**

Vista Tech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia, MI

Info: RoaminRockClub@weebly.com

**March 3-5, 2023**

### **Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Sale and Show**

Kuhlman Center, Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 Salisbury Road N., Richmond, IN

**March 17-19, 2023**

### **Michigan Gem and Mineral Society Show Annual Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show**

Keeley Park (formerly Jackson County Fairgrounds), 200 W. Ganson St, Jackson, MI 49202

Info: <http://mgmsrockclub.com>, Sally 517-522-3396

**March 18, 2023**

### **Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society's 50th Annual Metro Rock Swap**

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

Info: 734-837-8920

**April 6-8, 2023**

### **Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club's 46<sup>th</sup> Rock and Mineral Show**

Rogers Plaza Mall, 972-28th St, Wyoming, MI 49509

Info: [www.indianmoundsrockclub.com](http://www.indianmoundsrockclub.com)

## **2023 LGMS BOARD AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES**

Please be aware that during membership meetings the shop will be totally shut down at 5:45 pm.

Month	2023 date	Time	Meeting type	Location	
1	1/18	1 pm	Board Meeting	Red Olive	
2	2/21	1 pm	Board Meeting	Red Olive	
3	3/21	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
4	4/18	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
5	5/16	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
6	6/20	6 pm	General Membership	Settlers Park	Shop shut down at 5:45
7	7/18	6 pm	General Membership	Settlers Park	Shop shut down at 5:45
8	8/15	6 pm	General Membership	Settlers Park	Shop shut down at 5:45
9	9/12	6 pm	General Membership/ before fall show	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
10	10/17	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
11	11/21	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
12	12/12 or 12/13	6 pm	General Membership during Holiday Party	Senior Center	Shop shut down at 5:45

## There Is Only One Specimen Of The Rarest Mineral On Earth

*Among the Earth's 6,000 identified minerals, only one is known from just a single sample.*

Stephen Luntz, freelance writer, <https://www.livescience.com>

When people want to possess something unique it usually has to be human-made, not a piece of the Earth. After all, we live on a large planet, and if geologic forces produce a particular mineral in one spot, there's a pretty good chance they will make it somewhere else as well. Indeed, of the 6,000 minerals recognized by the International Mineralogical Association many are formed by multiple processes, with quite different chemistry leading to identical outcomes.

Even if a mineral did only form once, samples could easily be broken up and dispersed over a wide area. Consequently, it's somewhat remarkable any mineral would be known from just a single sample. However, that's the case for one crystal, kyawthuite.

Kyawthuite has only been found in the form of a single gemstone from near Mogok, Myanmar and was recognized by the International Mineralogical Association in 2015. An almost identical synthetic compound was already known, so if you badly want some, you don't need to steal the single specimen from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where it is stored.

Kyawthuite is a transparent reddish-orange and the single specimen weighs 1.61 carats (0.3 grams). The chemical formula is  $\text{Bi}_3\text{Sb}_5\text{O}_{14}$ , with traces of tantalum. Both bismuth and antimony (yes Sb is the chemical symbol for antimony because why make things easy) are rare metals, but not extraordinarily so. There's more bismuth in the Earth's crust than gold, while antimony is more abundant than silver. Oxygen is the crust's most abundant element, so Kyawthuite's rarity must relate to the method by which it formed, rather than a shortage of its ingredients.

Bismuth is such a heavy element the density of kyawthuite is more than eight times that of water (and double that of the rubies it slightly resembles), so the stone is even smaller than its weight would suggest. Caltech's mineral database describes the structure as having checkerboard sheets of octahedra  $\text{Sb}_5\text{O}_6$  parallel to  $\text{Bi}_3+$  atoms. It is the only recognized bismuth-antimony oxide and is named after Dr Kyaw Thu, formerly a geologist at Yangon University.

The kyawthuite specimen was found in the bed of a stream by sapphire hunters and approved by the IMA in 2015 as a distinctive mineral. Its scientific description was published in 2017.

Interestingly, Myanmar is also the source of the second rarest mineral, painstone, a gemstone with only a handful recorded. Speaking to [LiveScience](#), Caltech Professor George Rossman attributed the abundance of gemstones in Myanmar to the pressure and heat produced when India collided with Asia. Although having so many types of gems puts Myanmar in the running to have the two rarest minerals, decades of war and international sanctions make it likely a lot of examples of each are not reaching scientists.



Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, sole specimen of Kyawthuite

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



*General membership meeting  
on Tuesday, March 21, 2023  
in the shop at 6 pm*

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society was established in 1970. The annual membership fee is \$65.00 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.

***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.*