

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

May 2023

President's Message

"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive." – *Fennel Hudson*

Hello Members! Planning for the Fall show is underway! Our budget has increased for advertising and that will increase the interest and attendance to our show. Thank you for all the hours put in by our advertising committee! These ladies ROCK! (Lori Irvin, Sandy Wrestler and Holly Ingram) Am looking forward to seeing the additional exposure in magazines and hearing about our show on the radio! **In the works, a geode cache game for the public to play! Prizes include free admission to our show and a grand prize winner!**

****MWF & Fall Show** planning date for next meeting is Tuesday, May 16 right before the May general meeting. Show planning 4:30-5:30 with general meeting starting at 6:00.

We are excited about the installation of the Kingsley grinding/polishing station that will be ready soon. The \$1900 station was donated to our club several years ago and it's finally going to be set up. Look for training times and a usage signup sheet. Thanks Bill Magee/Ed Oller for getting this going.



We are currently trying to fill the secretary position. Please consider this small commitment to the club. Contact any board member with questions or if you are interested!

****Reminder for Tuesday evenings - first part of May:** Bryant Hiiter will have the 4H club in for 4 sessions from 6 to 8 pm on May 1, 2 and May 8, 9. The shop will be a little bit busier. Bryant is asking for member help to train the students.

ROCK ON! The topic for Wednesday, May 3 is Michigan rocks from 1-2:30 pm in the SHOP! (Machines turned off).

The 1st 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 rocks.

This group is lead by Jim Hansen and Bryant Hiiter with Dave Grimes, Ben Gray and Ed Oller contributing. Before meeting, please coordinate with Jim or Bryant if you wish to share in the presentation.

****No meeting for June, July or August.**

***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!**

*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.

Hooray! Marianna Ziegler-Hickey is working on getting T shirts ordered again. Everyone loves the popular Petoskey stone design. We should have them sometime before the show.

Weather Reminders!

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

(cont.)

(President's Message cont.)

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.

****LGMS TRUNK SHOW**—Trying to organize a small club sale for members to participate in. Look for further information...include your pre-priced cabs/slabs/rough rock/jewelry/tools etc. to sell or come to buy!

General Member meeting for May— Tuesday, 16th at the shop 6-8 pm (Fall MWF and Dream show planning meeting 4:30-5:30 pm)

General Member meetings for June and July will be held at Settlers Park under the pavilion 6-8 pm. Bring a dish to pass if you want, pizza will be provided. (Fall Show meetings will continue to be held at the shop, regardless, right before general meeting 4:30-5:30pm).

***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.

May 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.)

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:

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

Email: LGMSMich@gmail.com

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



General Meeting 4.18.23 at the shop

Call to order 6:03 pm

Roll Call: 22 LGMS members present. Linda Sheedy moved to approve last month's minutes, Ed Oller 2nd. Minutes passed with no changes. Guest Secretary: Robin Moore.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Cari Jacob

A. The position of Secretary is open and we are searching for a replacement. Anyone interested please contact any board member.

B. Discussion about dumping the grinding/polishing water in the shop. It is not being done on a regular basis. Thank you, Bill Magee for taking time out before the meeting to show 2 new members, (Sandy Wrestler and Paula Slack) how to do this.

C. Marianna Ziegler-Hickey is working on getting T shirts ordered again. Everyone loves the Petoskey stone design. We should be able to sell them for \$15-\$18 with a simple color choice.

D. We had a discussion on what to do with the grinding/polishing station donated to our club by Kingsley. It has been sitting a while, as noted by Cari. There were some observations about when you need to change one wheel, all have to come off and there is some concern we don't have any replacement wheels yet. Maybe it would better serve the club as an auction item or a raffle prize in a special raffle at the fall show. It's valued at \$1900+. Cinda Dawson offered another idea. She proposed that since Kingsley donated it to our club to excite members to want their own home station. Why not set it up and use it on a trial basis to see if it works for our club. We would like it to be set up and have members using it before the next meeting. It would require:

1. A signup sheet in the shop - 1 grinding & 1 polishing, 1/2 hr time slots for each.
2. Would need to be trained to use it, proper use of the full wheels, cleanup and specifics about how the water system works. It would involve lifting large buckets of clean water for use and lifting the dirty water out. If a member needed help lifting, they would need to ask for help. (Thanks to Ed Oller for bringing in the buckets, and helping Bill Magee with the set-up.)

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Cinda Dawson

A. Membership: Currently at 198 members. Both Facebook sites have been purged of

members not renewing this year. Cinda contacted about 20 members and at least 5-6 more renewed. Cari Jacob noted that 2 lockers not renewed would be purged and locked drawers are available.

B. Estate Purchase: Cinda was approached by someone offering to sell their collection, now called the beach collection as it may contain a fair amount of beach rock. Cinda and Gayland Allen will attempt to go out to look at the collection this weekend. We are expecting it to be less than \$500, if we are interested.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Linda Sheedy

The checking and savings are both in good standing. 13 vendors have paid fully for our fall show.

SHOW REPORT - Lori Irvin/Ed Oller

Went over information from the fall show meeting held just before this meeting. Here is the rundown:

A. Cari has sent out the info packet to MWF which includes: hotel info, banquet order form info, display contest rules, local things to do, MWF silent auction info, delegate lunch order form (catered thru Homeland Catering/Meals on Wheels at the school). (Holly Ingram has offered to help organize these box lunches.)

B. Cinda will have member phone numbers ready for us to call to schedule volunteers' time helping at the fall show.

C. Advertising committee – Lori Irvin, Sandy Wrestler and Holly Ingram have put in a huge amount of time and energy gathering information. These girls ROCK! At our last meeting the show advertising budget was increased to \$4k which will help attract a larger attendance at our show. Sandy presented a spreadsheet of possible media avenues. Rock and Gem magazine print & digital ads, rockandmineralshows.com for digital ads/banners, Body, Mind Spirit Guide magazine print ad, Crazy Wisdom Community Journal emagazine and some possible radio slots. Most of these will go out a month or weeks before show. Other advertising ideas were offered by the membership-emails to schools flagging science departments, local live tv, posters in schools, banners hanging from buildings, bridges etc.

D. We needed updated photos of kids with rocks, families with rocks and better quality rock and jewelry photos. These new photos will be used in our print and digital media ads. Our club has a photo permission sheet for this purpose. Sandy Wrestler had a photo session

with a neighbor's family and got some great shots. If you can photograph your kids, grandkids showing excitement about rocks, generational teaching or crisp clear photos of your rocks and jewelry, please send them ASAP to Cari Jacob thru Facebook Messenger. These should be closeup shots (they will go in some small ads). Please ask for Cari to send you the photo release form.

E. Sandy Wrestler presented a great idea combining the Geocaching craze with advertising for our show=Geode Caching Treasure Hunt! The idea is to use 3D printed coins with a UPC code attached to rocks and have members in different areas hide those in locations and then social media blast the general location to their FB/Twitter/TiKTOK/Instagram pages. The UPC code would be scanned by the finder and the link would go to our new show web page and would provide rules/info. The bearer would need to bring the coin to the show to determine the prize. Free admission and prizes will be offered.

F. Ideas for Gift Swag bags offered to delegates could possibly include: Michigan stones, yooperlites with keychain black light flashlight, coffee cup with our logo.

G. Breakfast for vendors/delegates – Sue Wilkinson is chairperson and will require help and food donations. We probably will not have a concession stand this year. We could have a table with pop/water and snacks to sell to the public if we want.

SHOP REPORT – Bill Magee

Bill has ordered and will be replacing the 20" saw blade. After some complaints of the blade binding, he suspects the rock is not tightened correctly. Cari reminds everyone of the rule for newer members to have someone check the tightness. Bill has also purchased some white blade sharpener sticks to be used. Sticks will be in water and only the width of the blade is to be cut off the end. Photos will be on the wall showing how to use the sharpening sticks. Cinda requested the 2- 10" trim saw blades be changed as one is wobbly and the other is dull. And if there is time Bill will check the 3000 polish wheel for bearing issues.

SILVERSMITH REPORT – Lavonne Foldenaur

A. Training has been going well since she has added a quiet day on Monday. 10+ members are working with her weekly and a few are ready to work on their own. Her list of members waiting to train is still ongoing. Her silver supplies are up to date for now.

B. She had questions about a locked

drawer with belt buckles/bolo ties and some general finding supplies in it. We think it was used for 4H kids or the scout troops that used to come in. Cari will inquire with Bryant Hiiter about this drawer and its availability to Club members for purchasing.

C. Mark Ridenour questioned having 2 quiet days for silversmithing when there are only 3 days for rocks. Cinda responded "according to the sign-in sheets and the shop closers, there are very few members taking advantage of the Tuesday, Wednesday open evening hours. Some Fridays don't even have enough members to stay open. Lavonne spends many hours in the shop to keep up with training demands on one person, and rocks only have a 3 hour training time with 6-8 trainers. The quiet days help Lavonne train more efficiently without the noise of the machines. Mondays and Thursdays will remain as quiet days for now.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 4H Bryant Hiiter will have the 4H club Coming in for 4 sessions from 6–8 pm in May 1, 2 and May 8, 9. He will need members to help train the kids. His phone number was provided to members at the meeting.

B. Rock of the Month Club: Wednesday May 3 meeting will be held in the shop due to school testing. (Machines will be turned off during this time.) The group will not meet in June, July or August.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Rockport Trip: Jim Hansen and Jim Johnson will be taking an impromptu fossil hunting trip to Rockport State Park on May 24. Please contact either Jim for details. This is not an overnight trip.

B. Cranbrook: Ed Oller noted that Cranbrook is also hosting a dig at Rockport on June 1 and 2. Please contact Cranbrook for details.

C. Glass Lampwork Station: Member Robin Moore and Dawn Ceccaci have agreed to get this station up and running. Robin started to inventory the glass/ tools/equipment. The torch hose lines and the kiln function will need to be checked. Safety glasses might need to be purchased. Thank you, ladies!

ADJOURNMENT 6:55 pm Motion 1st by Jim Hansen and Lori Irvin 2nd with everyone in attendance unanimously agreeing.

Respectfully submitted by
Robin Moore, Guest Secretary
C. Jacob, Content Review

Upcoming Events

May 5, 6, 7, 2023

Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society Show

Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake, Kalamazoo, MI

Info: David Haas, Stonehouserock@cs.com

June 2-4, 2023

Stateline Gem and Mineral Show

Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair Building, 8514 State Route 108, Wauseon, OH 43567

Info: <http://statelinegms.com>

June 10, 2023

Indian Mounds Rock Club Rock Swap

Woodland Drive-In Church, 2600 Breton SE, Grand Rapids, MI

Info: Kreigh Tomaszewski, kreigh@gmail.com

June 9-11, 2023

Rockhounding and Beachcomber Weekend at Camp Cavell

3335 Lakeshore Road, Lexington, MI 48450

Info: <https://www.campcavell.org>

Save the date! September 16 and 17, 2023 Mark your Calendar!
Our Own LGMS Rockhounds Dream Show

Hosting the Midwest Federation

How will you contribute?

Donate a prize? Volunteer your time at the show? Set up? Shut down?





Unakite

The pink and pistachio-green gem.

Author: Hobart M. King, PhD, GIA Graduate Gemologist

Unakite is a pink and green metamorphic rock composed of pink orthoclase, green epidote, and colorless to milky quartz. These colors have helped Unakite become a popular lapidary material. Unakite forms when granite is altered by hydrothermal fluids, and plagioclase in the granite is transformed into epidote. Unakite is used as a construction material, an architectural stone, a lapidary rough, and a gem material.

Unakite has a surprising range of uses: it is made into crushed stone used in highway construction, and it is cut and polished for use as a gem. Few rocks have such a diversity of uses. The uses of unakite are summarized below. Unakite is often cut into cabochons, beads, and other shapes that will be used in jewelry. Although it is not seen in fine jewelry, unakite is a very popular gemstone in craft and lapidary jewelry. It is most often seen mounted in sterling silver, strung as beads, or wire-wrapped and used as pendant stones. If you are interested in obtaining unakite jewelry, the best places to look are rock shops, new age and crystal stores, or gem and mineral shows.

The pink and green colors of unakite make it a popular material for making small sculptures, spheres, vases, desk sets, and other lapidary projects. Unakite is also a popular material for use in rock tumbling. The pink and green colors make eye-catching tumbled stones. Unakite is sometimes used as an architectural and decorative stone. Unakite can be cut into flooring tiles, facing stone, stair treads, window sills, and ashlars. Its most prominent use might be at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. There it is used as a trimming to the front steps and as floor tiles on a landing at the south entrance. Unakite has also been used as a construction aggregate. Crushed stone made from unakite has been used for road base, drainage stone, unpaved road surfacing, fill, and many other uses.

Unakite is a metamorphic rock that forms when granite (an igneous rock) is altered by hydrothermal metamorphism. During metamorphism, plagioclase in the granite is replaced by epidote to produce a rock composed primarily of green epidote, pink orthoclase, and clear to milky quartz. Unakite can also contain minor amounts of magnetite, chromite, ilmenite, apatite, zircon, and other minerals. Unakite is found in the deformed rocks of convergent plate boundaries where deeply formed granites have been metamorphosed and exposed by weathering and erosion. It occurs where igneous intrusions have delivered the hydrothermal fluids that altered the granite.

Unakite is named after the Unaka mountain range of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, where it was first discovered and described. Similar material is found in many other locations around the world. Unakite is known as the Pompton Granite in a 1/2-square-mile outcrop in the Piedmont physiographic province of New Jersey. That small area has produced architectural stone that has been used in many prominent buildings of New Jersey and surrounding states. Many locations in the Blue Ridge physiographic province of Virginia have been mined to produce unakite for construction, architectural, and lapidary uses. Unakite has also been produced in South Africa, Sierra Leone, Brazil, and China.

Unakite is not seen in fine jewelry and is seldom seen in commercial jewelry, but it is a common stone used in craft and lapidary jewelry. It is usually cut into cabochons, beads, pendants, or freeform shapes. Unweathered, fine-grained unakite with mineral crystals less than a few millimeters in size is relatively easy to work. It is suitable for cutting by a person who has a small amount of lapidary experience. The Mohs hardness of the primary minerals (epidote = 6 to 7; orthoclase = 6) are close enough that severe undercutting or overcutting usually does not occur. It is only when the grain size is larger, or the piece being cut is very small, that differences in hardness will make cutting difficult. Unakite cuts best using diamond abrasives but can also be cut or tumbled using silicon carbide abrasives. It polishes well with inexpensive aluminum oxide polish, but tin oxide, cerium oxide, and titanium oxide also produce good results on a felt lap or in a rock tumbler. In jewelry projects, unakite works best in pieces that will not be subjected to abrasion or impact. The [hardness](#) of orthoclase and epidote are low enough that they will show signs of wear when used in a bracelet or ring. These minerals also have perfect cleavage and could break with a moderate impact.

<https://geology.com/authors/hobart-king/>



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

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



General membership meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2023

In the shop at 6 pm

(MWF Dream Show Planning 4:30 - 5:30)

Snacks to share are appreciated!

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.