

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

August 2023

President's Message

"August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd-uneven time." — *Sylvia Plath*

Hello Members!

♥ 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!

We are still in need of lapidary donations for our fall show silent auction & raffle. Please do not wait till the last minute!

We are pleased to announce the commercial is finished and will run at the Brighton MJR Theatre from 8/1/23 through 9/17/23!!! Great work Advertising Committee! (Lori Irvin, Sandy Wrestler and Holly Ingram). It will run in all 20 movie theatres approximately 20 minutes before the start of each movie. Scanning of the QR code on screen brings up the our show website right away! YAY!!! Here is the Link to the commercial – Enjoy <https://youtu.be/Tf6GcfKho1M>.

Please check out our show website: lgmsrockshow.com. Sandy Wrestler created this beautiful web page and has been updating information about the show there. Also, follow our group on Instagram: livingstongems.

💡 SHHH, have you heard about a Super Silent Auction? A **super silent auction** is a subset of your silent auction that features 3-5 valuable, highly sought after lapidary items that are chosen to be featured in an all day silent auction (Saturday). To maximize bidding, these "super" items will be showcased separately. Silent bidding and ghost bidding will take place starting a couple weeks before the show. This is in the works. Details & rules will be posted closer to showtime.

New member training - July 11 and ending August 11. New memberships will freeze until after the show.

Rock of the Month will be "on vacation" until October 4, room #33, 1-2:30 with guest hostess, Autumn Kennedy. Topic will be posted in September's newsletter.

▶ Plumbing party in the works! Bill Magee, Ed Oller & Gayland Allen are trying to find the pvc sizes we need and then we will put out a help request. Need not be a plumber to help.

See information below regarding a kids' grab bag/swag bag stuffing party – needing volunteers.

General Member meeting for August - Tuesday, 15th in the shop, 6-8 pm (Fall show planning meeting 4:30-5:30 pm at the shop/machines turned off at 4:30 and shop closed at 5:30) ** Bring a dish to pass if you want.

*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!

***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.

August 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 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 5:30 pm on general membership meeting days. Machines will shut down at 4:30 if Fall show meeting is held in the shop.

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

**It's a "Stuffing Party"!
10:30 am on Thursday,
August 24, 2023**

Calling for **volunteers** to help
stuff kids' grab bags and swag bags
in preparation for the
Rockhound's Dream Show
Enjoy this fun project
with your rockhound friends!

Contact Isla Mitchell or Cathy Linegear with questions.

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

show website: lgmsrockshow.com

Instagram: [livingstongems](https://www.instagram.com/livingstongems)

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

Reminder

No open-toed shoes,
flip flops
or sandals
are permitted in the shop!



LGMS General Meeting,

July 18, 2023, 6 pm, Settlers Park

Call to order 6:10

Roll Call: a total of 22 Members including board members. Quorum: 6. Bill Magee motioned & Terri Ridenour 2nd to revise last month's minutes regarding the MJR commercial winning the vote as opposed to the Radio 96.3. Those minutes will be amended as stated.

1. President's Report – Cari Jacob

- A. T-Shirts will be ordered
- B. Sink Etiquette PLEASE!!! Several rock fragments and pieces again have been found in the drain. Please be careful when utilizing the sinks.
- C. Shop Safety – A member fell down at the shop and 911 had to be called.
 - 1. New protocol of Blood Born Pathogens will be taught and several posters will be hung to inform all members of proper procedures.
 - 2. **LaVonne to get certificate. Others can go online and learn the procedures.**

2. John Myer – Mail Chimp. – According to Mailchimp, the newsletters and emails we send out are read by 60-75% of the people and 40-60% will download the newsletter to read it. Thank you John, for putting that report together.

3. Vice President's Report – Cinda Dawson

- A. There are **215 paid members** with 10 additional members to be trained by 8/11/23.
- B. **We will be calling members to:**
 - 1. Train New Members & to
 - 2. Volunteer for the 2023 RHDS – Security, Club Table, Kid Science Table, Kid Table, Set-up, Tear-Down, Place outside signs, Put up inside signs, Take up and down Flag Signs, Admissions table, Silent auction, Set-up library display cases in Novi, White Lake, Write down drawing winners, Call out drawing winners, Membership, Fluorescent rock booth.
- C. Kids' Hands-On Science Table:
 - 1. Laptop with information, Have a scope for a close up view of rocks, will have a matching game.
 - 2. Not sure if will have it inside next to the Kids' Table or outside before the admissions table.
- D. We will have **SignUpGenius** up soon & regular sign-up boards in the shop for the above jobs & more.
- E. **Grand Prizes**
 - 1. First Place - Amethyst Cathedral
 - 2. Second Place - A Piece of Chrysocolla with a stand
 - 3. Third Place - a Butterfly Fluorite Sculpture

4. Treasurer's Report – Linda Sheedy (read by C. Jacob): We are currently in good standing.

5. Shop Keeper – Bill Magee

- A. The water saw switch was out.
- B. FYI.....The circuit breaker for the big saw is in the Janitor's Closet.
- C. 4" schedule 30 PVC Pipe is still needed – 30 feet to re-do the drain system.
- D. Thank you, Jim Johnson, for cleaning the oil saw without being asked.
- E. PLEASE WELCOME & HELP ALL NEW FACES IN THE SHOP!

6. Silversmith Report – Lavonne Foldenauer

- A. Balance is in good standing with \$346 after purchasing 20 gauge silver and supplies.

B. Sherry Peterson donated 4-5 things for the 2023 show. Thank you, Sherry, & thanks to all who have donated so far.

C. Amazing job keeping up with all the training by new members!

7. Rockhound's Dream Show Status Report

- A. The kid's table needs styrofoam egg cartons, please.
- B. **30 second commercial** is in the works, Lori Irvin read the script to the membership, asking for any additions or deletions. Suggested add geode cracking and making arrowheads.

C. 10 Foot Feather Flags

- 1. Proposal was made by Sandy Wrestler and 2nd by John Myer that, if allowed to have these flags (costing about \$680 for 4) out in the front of the school, we will take \$200 away from the e-blasts budget and apply it to the feather flags, thereby only increasing the marketing budget by about \$480. Each flag will be in a different bright color with different word(s) on each as follows: Flag # 1 – Rock & Gem, #2 – Jewelry, # 3 – Fossils, # 4 – Crystals.
- 2. Vote taken – Proposal passed with unanimous approval, if they are allowed.

D. **Geode Cache** – Sandy Wrestler will be keeping track of those found. Rocks with QR codes are ready to be placed in parks. See Sandy Wrestler to sign up and get a rock with instructions! Thanks to all who have volunteered to place the geodes in parks.

E. **Flyers** – Please take flyers about the show and put in different places around your town. Please mark off Holly's list of places on the list that is in the shop. Thank you, Holly, your list will keep us on track!

F. **Channel 12 out of Flint** – Community Station does interviews of what is going on in the area. Gayland Allen and Ed Oller will check into this and do the interview. He will need nice crystals. (maybe show the grand prizes?)

G. **LIBRARY DISPLAY Cases** - We need help to fill the display cases in the libraries in the area.

- 1. Howell – Lori & ? reserved. Set up wk of Sept. 5th.
- 2. Wixom – Jan Roth Hinkinen reserved for end of Aug./beginning of Sept until the week after our show.
- 3. Milford – Jan Roth Hinkinen reserved for end of Aug./beginning of Sept until the week after our show.
- 4. Chelsea – Cinda Dawson completed.
- 5. Hartland – Cinda Dawson
- 6. White Lake – Autumn Kennedy
- 7. Novi – Ridenours reserved for end of Aug./beginning of Sept until the week after our show.
- 8. Farmington?

8. Old Business

A. **Next Rock of the Month Club** will be in October, hosted by Autumn Kennedy– thank you Autumn and to all who have hosted and participated in this wonderful learning time.

9. New Business - NA

10. Adjournment 6:54 pm Motion to end meeting - 1st by Terri Ridenour 2nd by Holly Ingram to Adjourn. Motion passed with the majority.

Next GENERAL Meeting 08/15/23 @ the shop.

Respectfully submitted: Lori Irvin, Guest Secretary
C Jacob, Content Review

Upcoming Events

August 5, 2023

Ishpeming Gem and Mineral Club's Upper Peninsula Gem and Mineral Show

Ishpeming Elks Club, 597 Lakeshore Drive, Ishpeming, MI

Info: showinfo@ishpemingrocks.org or www.ishpemingrocks.org (field trips Friday and Sunday)

August 9, 2023

Quincy Mine Hoist Annual Rock Swap

Quincy Mine Hoist, 49750 US Hwy 41, Hancock, MI, Info: Derek Ellis, derekdogg1@gmail.com

August 12, 2023

Clare's First Annual Gem and Mineral Show

MI Rock Stop, Clare's Art Alley

August 11-13, 2023

Copper Country Gem and Mineral Show

Houghton Elementary School, 203 W. Jacker Street, Houghton, MI, Info: George Schriver, pres@ccrmc.info

September 8-10, 2023

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club

Pratt Pavilion, County Fairgrounds, 13800 W. Poe, Bowling Green, Ohio, Info: Jerri Heer, jheerx6@gmail.com

September 9-10, 2023

Grand Marais Rock and Mineral Show

Burt Township Community Center, E21738 Brazel St., Grand Marais, MI 49839

September 16 and 17, 2023

Our Own LGMS Rockhound's Dream Show

How will you contribute? Sign up to volunteer your time at the show

September 23-24, 2023

Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club Annual Show

Cherryland VFW Post, 3400 Veterans Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684



turrillite agate

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	
August	8/15	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
September	9/12	6 pm	General Membership (before fall show)	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
October	10/17	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
November	11/21	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
December	12/12 or 12/13	6 pm	Membership mtg /Holiday Party	Senior Center	Shop shut down at 5:45

Turritella Agate by Jeremy Hall, Rockseeker.com/turritella-agate

Among the various fossil agates, Turritella agate is a standout stone. This chalcedony variant comprises small fossils held in a tough shell, meaning it's one of the few fossils that can be cut and polished. For that reason, many people have found it to be among their favorite stones. So, let's take a deeper look into Turritella agate, including the prehistoric origins, where it can be found, and some tips for working with the rough if you're of the lapidary bent.

What is Turritella Agate? Turritella agate is a brown-to-black chalcedony that contains small white-to-grey inclusions. These inclusions aren't just a trick of mineralization, instead, they're actually the prehistoric shells of snails. What kind of fossils are found in turritella agate? The area where they're found, the Green River Formation, was originally thought to be the remains of an ancient sea. The name of the stone derives from an ancient genus of marine snails, the *Turritella sp.* This genus still exists today, bearing distinctive shells that resemble a spiraled horn. In actuality, the area was found to be an ancient lake bed. The species responsible for the shells contained within the chalcedony is *Elimia tenera*, a now-extinct species of freshwater snail. There's a very slight difference in the angle of the shell's opening that allows for distinctions between the two species. But, as tends to happen with stones, the name stuck despite this discovery. On very rare occasions you'll see it referred to as Elimia agate by pedantic sellers, but as a general rule it's almost always labeled Turritella agate. On occasion, other small bits of fossils can be found. These may be from ancient plant life or fragments of shells from other gastropods and mollusks.

How Was Turritella Agate Formed? This agate appears with various different levels of silicification. The best material is hard throughout and will take a high polish, while some of the "lesser" bits of Turritella agate may be best off as display specimens without an attempt at a mirror polish. The details of the snail's shell are often well-preserved, allowing you to see the individual whorls and even the internal chambers once the stone has been cut. Often the fossils will be around the outside of the rough, making it even more apparent that these are indeed fossilized snails. The story of how this fossiliferous agate was formed is familiar to those who know about agates. The snails originally died and fell to the bottoms of the ancient lake they called home, roughly 50 million years ago. Over time, the sediment occurring in the lake buried the shells, but the snails were so prolific in the lake that there are entire layers of sediment almost entirely made up of their shells. After being sufficiently buried, hot water rich in silica filled in the gaps. It's generally thought that this material was actually a hydrated gel, which later cooled and formed the chalcedony that the shells are trapped in. Chalcedony is a cryptocrystalline form of quartz and its polymorph moganite. That means that the crystal structure is only vaguely apparent even at the highest magnifications. In essence, it ends up being smooth and "one piece" rather than quartz which grows into six-sided, pyramid-topped points. Not all of the material is sufficiently silicified for cutting, if you're going to go find or purchase some see below for tips on making sure you've got the right rough for lapidary use.

Where is it Found? Turritella agate is primarily found in the Green River Formation in Wyoming. This formation is comprised of several ancient, dried lakes that are scattered around the borders of Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. For the more modern tastes, the usual place where people [hunt for the agate](#) is along Wamsutter Ridge, which starts roughly 8 miles south of Wamsutter, Wyoming. It's said to be found on both sides of the road at this point.

Where to Look: The Green River Formation is comprised of about a dozen different types of sedimentary stone. Turritella agate is generally only found in a few of these, so it can help to narrow your search by making sure you're digging in the right bedrock. The majority of Turritella agate is found in shale or sandstone units within the larger Green River formation. These are a good place to start, but remember that only a small portion of them will be silicified enough to be used as lapidary material.

Tips for Working With Turritella Agate Turritella agate, at its best, can be worked roughly the same as any other agate. Start with 80 grit for pre-forming the stone after slabbing and trimming, and proceed as you usually would. If you've never worked with agate, a common progression is 80 grit, 200 grit, 600 grit, followed by 1200 grit. I generally hand polish up to 5000 grit from there before using a felt wheel impregnated with cerium oxide paste for a final polish. **Zam also works well for agates**, although it's a bit slower. I should note that sometimes small bits may not be hard enough to take a fantastic polish. In that case just do your best, having a few dull spots is completely normal unless you have very high grade material to begin with.

Selecting Your Rough While Turritella agate isn't exceptionally rare, the best rough isn't a common sight. There are a few ways you can judge the stone before you purchase or take home your rough. The most important is to make sure that you can see the fossilized shells of the snails on the exterior. If you're collecting in the field then try to wiggle the shells and make sure that they're well cemented into the matrix. Heavily silicified material should feel 100% solid; if there's a wiggle then it may not be suitable for lapidary use. The other big thing to keep an eye out for is the color of the matrix. On average, the darker the exterior of the stone, the better it will be on the inside. It's usually a good indicator that the interior is heavily silicified and has a darker background. Generally, people favor backgrounds that are closer to black when looking at pieces for decorative use as well.

Slabbing for the Best Effect There is a right way and a wrong way to cut Turritella agate. Similar to tube agates, when you cut the stone the wrong way you'll end up with just a round inclusion, but if you cut *along* the shells you'll find that you get the whole shell. While some of the shells may be different in orientation, generally the majority of them will be facing in one direction. This allows you to slab the material and see the interior of the snail shell, creating a much more interesting visual effect. The rough will generally have shells on the exterior since it's separated from a layer of sediment. It's often tempting to cut it vertically since it's a bit easier, but you should always cut horizontally along the shells. You may still end up with a few "spot" inclusions but the material will also open up and show you the highly desirable fossils in all their glory.

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



**General membership meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2023
at the shop
(MWF Dream Show Planning 4:30 – 5:30 in the shop)
A dish to share is 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.