

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society November 2023

President's Message

"Don't wait until the fourth Thursday in November, to sit with family and friends to give thanks. Make every day a day of Thanksgiving!"

— Charmaine J. Forde

Hello Members!

Thank you to all the "new members from our recent show" trainers! 29 new members were trained in October. Woo Hoo! Training will temporarily discontinue after Nov. 17, 2023 and resume January 8, 2024.



Please watch out for the new faces in the shop, some need a little more help in the beginning. The shop is getting busier and it could be overwhelming for them at first.



A grateful thanks to all members who stop to empty buckets, assist in dumping of water buckets, mop the floor, return oily rock bowls to table saws, clean tables, pick up the floor, and all the mundane tasks that no one seems to want to do, yet are required to keep our shop

functioning and lookin' good! Remember to call Bill Magee when there is a problem with a machine so he can bring the appropriate tools in when he comes into the shop next. His number is posted on the office window.

Nominations for 2023 board positions:

Nominees will be voted on, in person only, at our next general meeting, Tuesday, November 21 at the shop. Vote will be held near end of the meeting during "old business".

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**Incumbents** – Cari Jacob/President,  
Cinda Dawson/Vice President,  
Linda Sheedy/Treasurer.  
Bill Magee, Shopkeeper

**New Secretary** – Terri Ridenour

**New 1<sup>st</sup> year Directors** – Jim Johnson,  
AnnMarie McFadden

2<sup>nd</sup> year Directors –Lori Irvin,  
Sandy Wrestler

New board members/directors will be sworn in at the Christmas Banquet in December.

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T Shirts are in! They are purple & green & fabulous!
You may purchase the shirts S-2X- \$15 and 3X-4X
- \$18.

**Rock of the Month will be on November 1,
room #33, 1-2:30
Conglomerates and Porphyry!**

Dues for 2024 LGMS membership are \$65 (due December 31, 2023) 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.

November 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.) There must be at least 2 people in the shop on any day to use the machines for safety reasons.

(President's Message cont.)

The agenda for the November general meeting will include planning for the club Christmas party at the Senior Center on Tuesday, December 12, 6-9. This will include ironing out details and rules for the contests.

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



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.)

LGMS General Meeting October 17, 2023, 6:00 pm at the shop

Call to Order – 6:01pm

Roll Call: a total of 24 Members including board members. Quorum: YES (7). Linda Sheedy motioned & Lori Irvin 2nd to approve last month's minutes with no corrections.

President Report – Cari Jacob

1. T-shirts available in Heather Purple in sizes small-2XL (\$15) 3X-4X (\$18). Heather Green shirts will be available for purchase.
2. The shop is going to get busier with all the new members that are being trained. Please remember to watch out for them and provide assistance if needed. (signing in, paying shop fee, cleaning up, proper footwear/eye and ear care, etc).
3. Thank you to Marchello. We noticed new filters in the Hepa Filter fan he created for our shop.
4. Regular members – remember to sign in every time you come in to the shop. This is starting the sickness season and we would like to be able to notify members in the shop if there is a concern.
5. Guests may come in for the day provided they are working with a member who will be 100% responsible for them, and the guest waiver is filled out and filed in the office.
Per Bylaws: All guests must be accompanied by a member of the club. Guests may visit a maximum of two (2) times per calendar year and sign the waiver and pay the current daily shop usage fee per visit. For their first visit, they must be supervised by the sponsoring member or another experienced member of the club, in the manner described in section III d) 4) of bylaws. If they desire to use the facilities more times than the two visits per year, they must apply for membership and pay the appropriate dues and fees. Children (9-13) must have parent/guardian by them at all times.

6. A big thank-you to Cinda Dawson, Ed Oller, Jim Hanson, Autumn Kennedy, AnneMarie McFadden, Sherry Peterson, Bryant Hiiter, and Bill Magee who stepped up and started the cleanup process after the show. Many things had to be returned in multiple trips to the storage unit.

7. Rock of the Month – is held in a room rented by our club (\$30 per hr) and is for a specific time that is reserved on the school calendar. Please be aware and keep the meeting to the 1-2:30 times.

Vice President Report – Cinda Dawson

1. Cinda reports that 29 new members were signed up at our recent show and we have stepped up our training schedule to get all the new members in. 22

were trained in the first 2 weeks of October.

2. Membership is currently at 240-250.
3. Nominations were discussed and members who wish to be nominated must be listed in the November newsletter and then voted at the November meeting.
4. **Tentative list for 2024 positions are as follows:** Incumbents – Cari Jacob/President, Cinda Dawson/Vice President, Linda Sheedy/Treasurer. Returning 2nd year Directors – Lori Irvin, Sandy Wrestler, Shopkeeper -Bill Magee. New Secretary – Terri Ridenour, New 1st year Directors – AnneMarie McFadden, Jim Johnson.

A reminder to any member wishing to be nominated – Your position on the board requires you to attend all meetings and be available for any voting (either text or email) unless the board is notified about special circumstances/absence.

Treasurer Report – Linda Sheedy

1. We are currently in good standing with extra expenses due to our increased advertising budget for our show.
2. The show was a success for our club with over 600+ attendees. Many new advertising venues were tried. The show survey results showed “word of mouth” and “social media” were most successful. (Thank you, Holly Ingram)
3. Bill Magee complimented the volunteers who stepped up and how smoothly the set up/take down ran. We learned just how much the volunteers loved their LGMS bucks they received from volunteering. Thank you Lori Irvin (LGMS Bucks handler), and Cinda Dawson who coordinated the volunteers. Over \$2,000 LGMS bucks were handed out!
4. Cari Jacob reports - MWF was a learning experience this year, and while it was important to create exposure for our club and make those personal contacts, it was a financial loss of \$760. Some ideas for next year were discussed regarding adding info to the flags, and the flyer.

Shopkeeper – Bill Magee

All machines are working in good order. A bearing was replaced again in the auto feed saw. Please let Bill know if a machine is malfunctioning before he comes into the shop. He needs to know ahead of time so he can pack the appropriate tools.

Silversmith Report – Lavonne Foldenauer –

Our club is putting a time frame on her silversmith training to 8 weeks. There is no charge currently so this time frame could ensure a better turnover of new silversmiths. No makeup days if time is missed. (There will be considerations due to medical circumstance.) A proposal about this will be presented at the November meeting. She has added 7-9 members to her waiting list.

(October General Meeting minutes cont.)

Old Business

1. Discussed making flyers for next year's fall show a little earlier so Ed Oller can hand out at 2024 early spring rock & gem shows.
2. Kids table "quiz" should be called a scavenger hunt or something Fun, other than a school-related term.

New Business

- * Rock of the Month club is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2023 1-2:30 in Room 33. Discussion will be about Conglomerates and Porphyry rocks. We discussed possibly videoing the meeting and posting on our public Facebook page.
- * Christmas Party is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023 from 6-9. New board members/directors will be sworn in. More details will be discussed at the November general meeting.
- * Dependent on the church location's new pastor, we are planning for spring pop-up show on May 18, 2024.

Adjournment 7:04 pm

Motion to end meeting - 1st by Bill Magee
2nd by Ed Oller to Adjourn. Motion passed.

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

Gratitude can change common days
into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs
into joy, and change ordinary
opportunities into blessings.

-William Arthur Ward

Let your lives be full of both
Thanks and Giving

LGMS Membership Renewal 2023

Complete this tear-off form and mail to:

Linda Sheedy, LGMS Treasurer
1582 Forest Bay Court, Wixom, MI 48393

Last name _____ First name _____ (please print)

Address (City, State, Zip code) _____

Phone number (Area code) _____ Email address _____

Hartland School District resident ☐ yes ☐ no

Newsletter preference: ☐ shop ☐ email

Adult membership(s) _____ x \$65.00 = _____

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

Drawer charge \$5.00= _____

Total payment enclosed _____

Upcoming Events

November 4, 2023

Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

Annual Auction, starts at 7 pm

First Assembly of God Church, 5056 S. Telegraph, Dearborn Heights, MI

Info: Dwayne Ferguson, 313-550-9809, or shelby067111@yahoo.com

November 4-5, 2023

Mid Michigan Rock Club Annual Show

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour Rd, Midland, MI 48640

Info: Laura Foster 989-513-7254, pop345corn@sbcglobal.net

November 13, 2023, 8-10 pm

Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Auction

Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Info: Brad Zylman 612-600-9484, brad.zylman@mrm.com; www.michmin.org

November 18-19, 2023

Northwest Ohio Rockhounds Fall Open House

St James Lutheran Church, 4727 W. Sylvania Ave, Toledo, OH 43623

Info: Suzanne Shimatzki 419-376-2650 or sshimatzki@gmail.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	
November	11/21	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
December	12/12	6 pm	Membership mtg /Holiday Party	Senior Center	Shop shut down at 5:45

Concretions: What Are These Bizarre Rock Formations? (And What's Inside Them?)

by [Jeremy Hall](#) in the [Rock Seeker.com/concretions](#)

Concretions are a bit of an oddity in the world of rocks and minerals. They're one of the things I've seen trip up beginners the most, and it's simply because they don't fit in with what most of us know about rocks. In reality, they're perfectly natural and they have an easy explanation. So, let's take a closer look at concretions, first up...

What is a Concretion? A concretion is a hard mass found within layers of sedimentary stone. They're generally round in shape, and each type tends towards one form or another. You shouldn't confuse a concretion with a nodule. Nodules occur as minerals different from the surrounding layers, while concretions are largely composed of the same sediment as that which formed the sedimentary rock they're housed in. Concretions cause all manner of confusion for amateur rockhounds and fossil enthusiasts.

More than one person has been disappointed to break open a concretion and find the interior wasn't what they were expecting. And more than one person has eagerly taken their "dinosaur egg" to the local university only to be informed it's just another form of sedimentary stone taken from the area. They're certainly an oddity, no matter how you look at it. For many, that's enough, but the truth is that their formation offers a lot of clues about the local area's geology and they're certainly interesting enough in their own right.

How Are Concretions Formed? Concretions are formed through the precipitation of minerals in sediment before it hardens. Essentially, they became mineralized before the rest of the surrounding rock. Concretions form early on in the sedimentary stone cycle if they're present. Remember that a sedimentary stone is comprised of a mass of sediment, such as sand or clay, that's been compressed over time. It's often the second stage in the life cycle of rock since sediments tend to be formed from minerals that erode out of igneous stones. Quite often there's a nucleus in there, a little bit of something different from the surrounding sediment that mineralized more easily than the surrounding environment. This is often organic matter, an ancient leaf or shell for instance. Not always, however, as siderite concretions have been found in Europe which formed around unexploded ordinance from [World War I](#) as the exterior has corroded. There are two types of growth patterns displayed by concretions. Pervasive growths occur when the host sediment is penetrated by another mineral which effectively cements them together. For example, water rich in calcium carbonate penetrating silica sand can create a concretion as the water repeatedly evaporates and leaves behind its calcite. Concentric growth occurs when the exterior of a material continues to grow. This can occur when, for instance, an iron oxide like goethite precipitates out of a nearby water source and repeatedly forms around a nucleus. These are commonly spherical and can be seen frequently in sandstones.

What's inside a Concretion? What's inside depends on the type of concretion. As a general rule, those that were formed by concentric growth should have something in the center. Those which are *pervasive* in growth will often simply be harder than the surrounding rocks. For fossil hunters, concretions are always an exciting opportunity. Some may contain fossils in the center, and it's common for them to be broken open in the field to take a look at what might be inside. There won't be something visible in every concretion, but they're a boon for fossil hunters who learn to recognize them and how to crack them open.

Types of Concretion and Their Contents There are hundreds of different concretion types around the world, each unique to the area that they're from. That said, there are also some broad types that are more commonly seen. Let's take a look at some of them.

Septarian Nodules Septarian nodules are actually a concretion. They're also among the most interesting since the interior minerals have cracked through the exterior which forms a mottled coloration. This polishes up well and they can sometimes be seen cut as polished slabs or even cabochons. While their origin is a bit controversial, the contents aren't. Inside of a septarian nodule is a little bit of *something* that originally caused them to begin to form a sphere. Septarian nodules are primarily found in carbonate-rich mudstones. Essentially, the ball of mud cracked at some point and allowed the infilling of the nodule with calcite, generally yellow from iron content. Aragonite is also found in these nodules, often as a brown band around the exterior calcite.

Moqui Marbles A curious iron oxide concretion is found in the Navajo Sandstone of Southeastern Utah. These show up as hard, spherical concretions with an exterior comprised of goethite or hematite. They stick out in the sandstone since they're generally dark in color. Moqui Marbles are the subject of extensive study, especially since similar balls have been discovered on Mars. It appears their formation began during a seismic shift in the region about 20 million years ago. The raising of the Colorado Plateau created small fractures and allowed the intermixing of iron-rich water with methane and natural gas. The precipitated iron formed around a single grain of sand, causing them to grow in a concentric manner over time.

Kansas Pop Rocks Curious iron sulfide concretions found in Gove County, Kansas. These are formed of pyrite or marcasite, creating a roughly spherical concretion. They're called pop rocks because they have a tendency to explode when thrown in a fire. When struck, the iron sulfide generally sparks as well. These appear to have been formed by the precipitation of iron sulfide within the pelagic goo that forms in certain oceanic areas. While they occasionally enclose pieces of bivalve fossils, they don't contain fossils as a nucleus.

Gogotte These are some of the odder concretions, and it has to do with their pervasive growth. The above-described types all grew concentrically, while the Gogotte emerged from pervasive growth. They're found in only one place in France. Gogottes often resemble modern sculptures, being composed of small spheres and strange organic shapes not often seen in stone that's unworked by human hands. Their formation occurs when calcite-rich, superheated water penetrated the fine silica of the local sandstone before it had fully turned to stone. As the waters evaporated, the calcite was left behind and it binds the white particles of the sandstone together. These particular concretions are quite rare, and their unique sculptural form makes them highly desirable... and expensive.

Should I Open My Concretion? Many rockhounds have a concretion around somewhere, whether they brought it home knowingly or unknowingly. Opening them up can be a controversial affair, but in the end it's going to boil down to the person involved. While some concretions may contain fossils, not all do. That can make it a bit of a gamble if you choose to open them up and like the exterior form. If you do choose to open them up, it's a fairly simple matter. Just strike around the outside of the concretion with the pick portion of a rock pick repeatedly until it breaks. Generally, about half of the stone will fall off, revealing whatever was in the nucleus. Ammonites are often found in concretions, for instance. Not all types of concretions have even a chance of containing something inside. I recommend against cracking things like Kansas Pop Rocks or Moqui Marbles simply because there's never going to be anything inside. On the other hand, if you're in the field and know fossils are in the local rock, it can be a great surprise to crack one open and find an interesting fossil.



Fossil Concretion



Septarian Nodule



Moqui Marbles



Gogotte Concretion



Kansas Pop Rocks

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



*General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 21, 2023
6 pm at the shop
(bring food to share, if you like)*

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.