

The Living Stones

Page 1

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society August 2025

President's Message



Crows use rocks in a variety of ways, demonstrating their intelligence and problem-solving skills. They use them to break open hard-shelled food, like nuts and shellfish, and even to manipulate water levels in situations like Aesop's fable of the "Crow and the Pitcher". Captive crows, a type of corvid like crows, have been observed to solve similar water-raising problems, suggesting a deeper understanding of physics and tool use.

Here's a more detailed look:

Breaking open food: Crows will drop objects like nuts or shellfish onto rocks to crack them open and access the food inside.

Displacing water: In the famous fable, a crow uses stones to raise the water level in a pitcher, allowing it to reach the water and drink. Captive crows have been shown to do this in experiments.

Tool use: Crows, especially New Caledonian crows, are known for their tool use, even creating tools like hooks and spears. They may also use rocks as tools in other ways that haven't been fully documented.

Other uses: Some crows have been observed dropping stones onto vehicles, possibly for reasons related to territoriality or play.

Gastroliths: Crows, like many birds and reptiles, swallow small stones called gastroliths to help grind up food in their gizzards.

The crows' use of rocks highlights their cognitive abilities and adaptability. They can solve problems, learn from experience, and even display tool-using behavior, making them fascinating subjects of study.

Hello Rockhounds,

As each new president comes into office, we have some things that we would like to work on in the club. I like to be well organized and have a clean safe workspace for the club members. This has been a work in progress.

We had the school manager, school operations manager and the fire chief pay a visit last week to settle a matter of concern. As a result, the acetylene tanks will have a new setup. We will have new added safety rules that will be enforced. We are not allowed to store boxes, papers, etc. in the shop area. A committee will be meeting to make sure we comply with the school and fix the items on the list. The new safety rules will be posted in shop soon.

We are getting ready for our September show. We have a T-shirt design contest going on now for our 50th Anniversary Rock Show. Information will be in the shop and on Facebook. I know we have a lot of creative members so let's see what you come up with.

We need lapidary related donations for the prize drawings, silent auction and buy it now events. Items can be placed in the office and please fill out a donation sheet to make Ann Marie's job easier.

Terri Ridenour, President

August shop hours

Monday 10 am-9 pm

Tues and Wed 9 am-9 pm

Thurs 9 am-9 pm (silversmiths only)

Friday 10 am-4 pm.

(If there are not 2 members in the shop on Mondays and Fridays, the closer may choose to leave early. Be aware.) There must be at least 2 people in the shop at all times for safety while using the machines.

General Meeting Minutes

Date: July 15, 2025

Location: Settlers Park

Meeting Called to Order at 6:04pm

Roll Call: Officers - Terri Ridenour, Bryant Hiiter, Joe Musolf, Cari Jacob, Linda Sheedy, AnnMarie McFadden, Bill Magee, Cinda Wilson. 28 members were present.

Approve Agenda: Joe Musolf made a motion to approve the July 15th agenda, 2nd by Bryant Hiiter. All in favor, motion passed.

Approve March Minutes: Jim Glassbrook made a motion to approve the June 17th minutes, 2nd by Autumn Kennedy. All in favor, motion passed.

President's Report - Terri Ridenour

1. To be proactive in regards to best practices with equipment usage in the workshop, a handful of LGMS leaders talked with the school officials and the fire chief and did a walk-through focused on safety concerns.
2. They inspected the acetylene tanks and said they need to be secured better.
3. The school did not need to repair anything in the room.
4. The air in the room is recycled 3 times every hour.
5. There were all multiple suggestions and requirements to implement in accordance with OSHA standards.
6. It will take time to put new policies together and implement them.
7. Jim Glassbrook suggested that once the new rules are complete, that members sign a form that they have read the rules and understand them.

Vice President's Report - Joe Musolf

Everyone who works in the shop should clean for 15 minutes before they leave. This will help get rid of clutter, and trainers need to emphasize that point to brand new members.

Treasurer's Report - Linda Sheedy

1. More money went out in June than came in. (Mostly due to people pre-paying for the silversmithing class with Chuck Brace in May, so there was a surplus the month before.)
 2. The rock slab sales in the shop have brought in a little over \$1,000 to date.
- We have approximately 261 members.

Shop Foreman's Report - Bill Magee

1. Please do not unplug machines by pulling on the cord. Pull on the plug. Bill has replaced two cords recently.
2. Please do not use multiple surge protectors plugged into each other.
3. The gauge of extension cord must exceed the gauge of the machine it is being used for.
4. The Cab King pump is broken. Bill is looking for a special type of pond replacement pump.
5. We need to replace the lamp above the right soldering station so it doesn't have a wood housing.
6. The autofeed trim saw is broken again and since it is having so many problems it should be replaced. The motor or switch is bad. Joe can bring the green saw from the storage unit; it has about the same footprint.
7. A suggestion was made to create a sign-off sheet to teach members about being kind to the trim saws and that some machine replacement parts are hard to find.
8. Lavonne asked if sound deadening foam could be placed around the trim saws, but it was mentioned that it would get dirty. A question came up about covering it with plastic, but that would defeat the sound absorption quality.

Silversmith's Report - Lavonne Foldenaur

1. The silversmithing table has a small amount of funds left for July.
 2. The silver fee may have to be increased as the price of silver keeps going up.
- Lavonne brought up that the school never followed up with training some of our members about blood clean-up.

Training Suggestions:

1. Trainers need to emphasize that working at our annual show is a requirement for membership.
2. Ann Marie suggested three separate days of training a long time ago, but it never came to fruition.
3. Jim Hansen suggested making training videos.
4. Autumn said that 2 hours is not enough time to train.
5. We have been telling all new trainees that they should find a mentor for their next few visits, and Autumn has been recommending to her people to train with her a 2nd time.
6. New trainees are told that they cannot use the Big Saw, water saw, or flat lap without further training.
7. Lori Hart suggested that we write instructions for each machine and she offered to help.
8. Terri suggested that we write procedures for all things in the club in case we lose people and their expertise down the road.
9. Bill wants people to return the tools they use.
10. Mark suggested that we train people in a classroom environment 1st, then do hands-on afterwards.
11. Ann Marie suggested that new members get a punch card and need to get 3 punches before they can work on their own.
12. Lavonne suggested that we have pictures or slides to go along with the training.
13. Joe Musolf suggested we hold the classroom training on Thursday nights.
14. Marianna and Jim Glassbrook suggested that we review the training procedure at the end of every year.
15. Cari brought up that there won't be any new member training until after our big show in September.

Motion to adjourn made by Autumn Kennedy, 2nd by Jim Hansen. All in favor; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at about 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Wilson, Secretary



2025 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Terri Ridenour 517-376-2190

Vice President: Joe Musolf: 906-231-7632

Secretary: Cinda Wilson 810-423-0464

Treasurer: Linda Sheedy 248-425-9686

Immediate Past President: Cari Jacob
248-931-5999

Shop Foreman: Bill Magee 734-981-6117

First year Directors:

Bryant Hiiter: 248-472-8481

Max Runnels: 810-869-0740

Second year Directors:

Jim Johnson 810-923-6113

Ann Marie McFadden 248-884-8126

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

Historian: Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586

Library: Bryant Hiiter, 248-472-8481

Webmaster: John Myer, www.livingstongems

Email: LGMSMich@gmail.com

show website: lgmsrockshow.com

Instagram: livingstongems

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

**The T Shirt Design Contest is on!!
Help celebrate our 50th Lapidary
Show!**

Share your ideas!!

(Details in the shop.)

Upcoming Events

August 2, 2025

Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club's Annual Show

Ishpeming Elks Lodge #447, 597 Lakeshore Dr., Ishpeming, MI 49849

Info: krmaki75@gmail.com, www.ishpeming.org

August 8, 9, 10, 2025

Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show

Houghton Elementary School, 203 W. Jacker Ave, Houghton, MI 49931

Info: George Schriver, george.schriver@gmail.com; www.ccrmc.info

September 5, 6, 7, 2025

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club Annual Show

Wood County Fairgrounds Jr. Fair Building, 13800 W Poe Rd, Bowling Green, OH 43402

Info: Jerri Heer, (419) 344-9999; jheerx6@aol.com; www.rockyreader.com

September 6, 2025

Kalamazoo Rock Club Annual Tailgate Sale

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7211 Oakland Dr, Portage, MI 49024

Info: Sheila Atherton, (269) 303-6853; Bruce Atherton, (269) 251-3858

September 12-14, 2025

Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show

Holland Township Community Center, 12343 James St., Holland, MI

Info: tulipcity.org/club-show

Safety reminders – Avoid any hair, jewelry, necklaces, loose clothing, etc. hanging forward when working with any machine, saw, grinder or torch. Hair bands, if needed, will be provided free near the sign-in sheet. (Please do not put used hair bands back.)

Foot protection – NO exposed skin on the feet, in case something sharp falls or drops or burning embers fall. (Flip flops, sandals etc.) You will be asked to get the proper footwear or leave the shop. Please wear comfortable shoes without slippery soles that can get dirty or wet.

~~~~~ 2025 LGMS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES

Please be aware that during membership meetings the shop will be totally shut down.

Month	2025 date	Time	Meeting type	Location	
8	8/19	6 pm	General Membership fall show planning meeting at 5:15	Settlers Park	Shop shut down at 5:45
9	9/9 (one week early)	6 pm	General Membership before fall show on 9/20-9/21	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
10	10/21	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
11	11/18	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
12	12/16	6 pm	General Membership during Holiday Party	Senior Center	Shop shut down at 5:45

The Weight of Stones: A Rock Hound's Reflection

Every rock tells a story, but the story you hear depends entirely on the day you're having. Take yesterday's find—a piece of smoky quartz I discovered wedged between granite slabs. In my palm, it felt surprisingly heavy for its size, like it was holding onto something. The crystal formations caught the afternoon light, casting tiny rainbows that danced across my fingers. But here's what I've learned after many years of rock hounding: the same stone can be a completely different teacher depending on your state of mind.

When you're restless or anxious, that smoky quartz becomes a lesson in patience. Each crystal face formed over millennia, atom by careful atom. The inclusions and fractures aren't flaws—they're evidence of pressure survived, of time weathered gracefully. Hold it long enough, and your breathing slows to match its ancient rhythm.

When you're feeling defeated or stuck, suddenly you notice how this quartz emerged from impossible circumstances. It crystallized under crushing weight, in total darkness, with no guarantee it would ever see daylight. Yet here it is, clear and luminous, proof that beauty can emerge from the deepest pressures life applies.

When you're energized and optimistic, that same stone becomes pure possibility. You see the potential for cabochons, the way light plays through its structure, the excitement of discovery. You imagine other collectors admiring its clarity, or maybe a jeweler recognizing its unique character. The stone doesn't just exist—it invites transformation.

This is why I keep returning to the creeks and quarries, why my garage overflows with specimens that neighbors probably see as "just rocks." Each piece in my collection holds multiple personalities, waiting to match whatever emotional frequency I'm broadcasting on any given day.

The geology textbooks will tell you about hardness scales and crystal systems, formation temperatures and chemical compositions. All true, all important. But they miss the essential magic: rocks are mirrors. They reflect back not light, but whatever emotional truth you bring to the encounter.

Last week, a fellow club member mentioned she'd been struggling with grief since her husband passed. I handed her a piece of Apache tear obsidian—volcanic glass born from fire and cooled by time. "Funny," she said after holding it quietly for several minutes, "it feels warm, like it remembers the heat."

That's the real treasure we're hunting for out there. Not just mineral specimens, but moments of recognition. Times when the earth reaches up through a simple stone and reminds us that we're part of something larger, older, more resilient than whatever temporary storm is passing through our lives.

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



General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, August 19, 2025



Potluck
6 pm at Settlers Park
fall show planning meeting at 5:15 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 December 31 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. 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.