

# The Living Stones

Page 1

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society October 2025

## President's Message

### Monkeys and rocks

Some monkeys use rocks as tools to crack open nuts, seeds, and shellfish. This stone tool use is a rare behavior among non-human primates, with only a few species, including certain chimpanzees, also observed to use stone tools. Capuchin Monkeys: These monkeys in Brazil use stones to smash hard nuts and shells. There have also been reports of them creating stone knives to process food, which can be considered a tool used for hunting. This skill takes young monkeys years to master.

Long tailed Macaques: wild macaques in Thailand use stones as hammers and anvils to break open shellfish and nuts.

Archaeological insights: The long-term use of stone by capuchin monkeys in Brazil has created archaeological records that some scientists suggest could be mistaken for early human tools, leading to debates about the earliest evidence of humans in the Americas.

Intelligence and evolution: Studying how these monkeys use and even intentionally break rocks, a behavior previously thought to be exclusive to humans, offers valuable insights into the intelligence, physical skill, and evolutionary development of stone tool use.



### Hello Fellow Rockhounds

We are getting close to our show; club members have been working hard to get everything in order. I want to thank everyone who has been cleaning the shop to get it ready for the show. It takes a team to get this all done and we have some terrific club members that pitch in to help when called upon.

We still need donations for the silent auction, "buy it now" and prize drawing. Every club member is expecting to work at least one 4-hour shift. You can sign up in the shop or on SignupGenius. Spread the word about our show on your Fb page, Tik Tok, Instagram, flyers.

Our new 50th Anniversary T shirts will be given to club members who work either at the show or who help at the shop. I also ordered tote bags with our 50th anniversary design. These will be a one-time order. They come in 5 different colors and are \$15.00 each. Every rockhound needs several tote bags for their rock hunting adventures!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 50th Anniversary Dream Rock Show.

*Terri Ridenour, President*

## General Meeting Minutes

Date: 09/09/25, at 6 pm

Location: LGMS Workshop

Meeting Called to Order at 6:04pm

Roll Call: 20 Members were present.

Officers: Terri Ridenour, Bryant Hiiter, Cari Jacob, Max Runnels, Linda Sheedy, Ann Marie McFadden, Cinda Wilson, Bill Magee.

Approve Agenda: Jim Glassbrook made a motion to approve the September 9th agenda, 2nd by Cinda Wilson. All in favor, motion passed.

Approve August Minutes: Cari Jacob made a motion to approve the August 19th minutes, 2nd by Jim Glassbrook. All in favor, motion passed.

### President's Report - Terri Ridenour

- Terri thanked everyone for cleaning the workshop for the show.
- Terri thanked Sue Wilkinson and Susie Taylor for cleaning the kitchen.
- The T-shirts have arrived. We can order more if we need to.
- There are only 50 tote bags and we will not re-order more.

### Vice President's Report - Joe Musolf

- The training committee will meet after the show.
- The training committee will discuss training on individual machines.
- The new training program will be available for the next round in October.
- Cari wanted to know if there are any changes to the New Member Packet before she has dozens more printed.
- James can help with shop tours during the show.

### Treasurer's Report - Linda Sheedy

- A new checking account was Opened at Huntington Bank on 9/9/2025.
- The bank is super close to the shop and has a night deposit box.

### New Business: Estate Rock Collection Purchase: Discussion led by Bryant Hiiter

- Katherine Van Hoy was a rock and mineral dealer who passed away.

- Tony West referred her relatives to Bryant.
- She has 300+ boxes of flats in her basement, and 75+ in her garage.
- Most of the material is identified and priced, but we will need to verify the prices.
- There is rough material, and most everything is high quality.
- There are 5 machines including saws, polishing machines, and a microscope.
- Bryant randomly sampled the flats, and was very impressed.
- There is a huge 3-shelf display case.
- There are copper crystals, and copper chisels, and specimens Bryant has never seen before.
- The Board unanimously agreed to bring the proposal to the general membership.
- There were other clubs bidding on the collection.
- LGMS can win the bid for \$10K.
- The value is at least \$40K.
- The collection would be purchased with a check from the club treasurer.
- The material would be brought directly from the house to a storage unit.
- The VP will have a key to the storage unit.
- The collection will not be ready in time for the Dream Show.
- The club could hold a member only mini sales event before items would be sold at a show.
- What is the normal return on buying a collection?
  - The Grand Ledge collection was purchased over a decade ago for \$3000.
  - The club quit counting after \$5000 was sold, but a good estimate is that the club made \$15K from it over the years.
    - We need a way to keep track of how much is made on the collection in the future.
  - It could be sold at its own table at a show.
  - We could use a color coded Ledger so the work isnt all put on the treasurer.
  - Bryant estimates we could make our money back in 1-2 years.
- Bryant made a motion to spend \$10K on the collection, 2nd by Mark Ridenour. All in favor. The motion passed. 20 - Yes, 0 - Opposed
- Cari made the comment that after talking to Bryant about it, and knowing that we wouldn't have the need to buy another collection for many years, she thought it was a good idea.

- There are large rocks in the yard. Banded iron, and petrified wood, mostly for specimens.
- Joe and Autumn have horse trailers they can bring to transport the collection.
- The basement shelves might be included.
- Bill Magee will evaluate if the machines can be used in the shop, if not, we can sell them.

#### **Storage unit:**

- We will get a second storage unit on 9/11. The size is 10' x 15'.
- Autumn can arrive at noon, and Joe can arrive later in the afternoon.
- A group of volunteers will meet in White Lake about noon to start the move, on 9/11.
- A lot of boxes and packing material will be needed.
- Flats cannot be stacked more than 5 tall due to the weight.
- Joe stated we can make shelves from cinder blocks and wood if needed.
- Joe stated that volunteers will be needed on 9/14 to sort rock at the old storage unit and bring rough rock to the workshop for the show.
- Joe would like to sort thru rocks in the old storage unit and eliminate "junk rock" a couple more times in the coming months.

#### **Nominating Committee:**

- The Nominating Committee is responsible for recruiting and vetting people for board member positions. The names for people running should appear in the October and November newsletter and a vote is held for the general membership at the November meeting.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Chuck Bruce Class:**

- The class will be held Nov 3rd and 4th and the shop will be closed those days.
- We can start a waitlist once the class fills up.

##### **Safety Committee:**

- The Safety committee met last month.
- The school will have new rules but we are still waiting for them.

##### **Dream Show:**

- The Show is full with 16 vendors.
- A last minute surprise is that Paleo Joe can join us since the Holland Show is on a different weekend.
- The "Opal Guy" will be here.
- Walter Kellogg, with Millstone Minerals is new this year.

- The SignUpGenius Board is in the shop which can be cross-referenced with computer entries.
- Ann Marie is still looking for donations for the Silent Auction Table.
- There will be armbands for workers as well as attendees this year.
- We might run out of medium size T-shirts soon. Pricing is more expensive for small amounts of T-shirt prints.
- We will need someone to put out flags on Saturday morning.
- We need to train people at the admission table to use Square and enter a category for each purchase.
- We need more people to work the admission table from 10am to 2pm.
- There will be a "Buy It Now" place for costume jewelry at the silent auction table.

#### **Children's Table**

- There will be gem trees for kids to make at the Children's table with volunteers.
- Also, kids can make pet rocks with googly eyes.
- There will be 150-200 grab bags for sale for \$1.
- There will be a bucket of baubles brought from the storage unit for the children's table.
- People donated shark's teeth and brachiopods.
- We are still accepting donations for the Children's Table.

#### **Membership Report - Cari Jacob**

- There were 21 people on the waiting list as of 9/9.
- New Member training is frozen until after the show.

#### **Shop Report - Bill Magee**

- The Big Saw is running; it needed an allen head screw.
  - We should use Caution Tape on the floor around the soldering stations.
  - There are flat lap disks available on Etsy for \$90 each. The purchase was tabled until after the show.
  - Water sat in the 6" trim saw over the weekend, so the blade rusted. This has happened multiple times.
  - Water was left in the small shop vac so it grew some mold inside.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Hansen, 2nd by Max Runnels. All in favor, motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cinda Wilson, Secretary

**September 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.

**Nominations for 2026 Officers**

President: Joe Musolf  
 Vice President: Bryant Hiiter  
 Secretary: Cinda Wilson  
 Treasurer: Cari Jacob  
 Second Year Board Members:  
 Max Runnels  
 Lavonne Foldenour  
 First Year Board Members:  
 Jim Glassbrook  
 Autumn Kennedy  
 Shop: Chad Brendel

~~~~~

**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, [imvm2227@gmail.com](mailto:imvm2227@gmail.com)  
**Historian:** Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586  
**Library:** Bryant Hiiter, 248-472-8481  
**Webmaster:** John Myer, [www.livingstongems.com](http://www.livingstongems.com)  
 Email: [LGMSMich@gmail.com](mailto:LGMSMich@gmail.com)  
 show website: [lgmsrockshow.com](http://lgmsrockshow.com)  
 Instagram: [livingstongems](https://www.instagram.com/livingstongems)  
 General Membership Meetings are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6 pm. (Except in January and February, when only the board meets.)

**Rock of the month is back!!**  
 immediately after the general meeting  
 on October 21, 2025  
**Precious Metals**  
**and Uses as Money**  
 Bring your cool specimens and coins!

*Eat, Drink,  
 and be Scary!*

*Happy Halloween !*

**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      |                        |
|-------|-----------|------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 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 |

## Upcoming Events

### October 4-5, 2025, Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society Rock Swap

Wayne County Fairgrounds and RV Park, 10871 Quirk Rd, Belleville, MI 48111  
Contact: Bill Barr, (505) 803-4888; [wbarr@wmich.edu](mailto:wbarr@wmich.edu); [www.mmls.ws](http://www.mmls.ws)

### October 11, 2025, 10am – 5 pm, Michigan Mineralogical Society Rock Swap

Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
Contact: David Lurie, (248) 224-0752; [dlurie2001@comcast.net](mailto:dlurie2001@comcast.net); [www.michmin.org](http://www.michmin.org)

### October 17-19, 2025, Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society Annual Show

Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St, Mason, MI 48854  
Contact: Robin Smith, (517) 290-4891; [rsmith@radssmith.com](mailto:rsmith@radssmith.com); [www.michrocks.org](http://www.michrocks.org)

### October 1-2, 2025, Mid Michigan Rock Club Annual Show

Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour Rd, Midland, MI 48640  
Contact: Laura Foster, (989) 414-7254; [pop345corn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pop345corn@sbcglobal.net)

## [Photos of the recently purchased Van Hoy rock collection](#)



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



**General Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 21, 2025**  
**6 pm at the shop!**  
**Snacks are welcome!**

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.