

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society November 2025

President's Message

I would like to thank Cari Jacob for being my Co Show Chair for our 50 th Anniversary Dream Rock Show. We started working on the show back in May, right after we finished our spring pop-up show. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes that keep this club running and Cari was instrumental at keeping me on track.

We had a great show, and I would like to thank all our wonderful club members who helped get things accomplished before the show along with all the members who volunteered at the show. The shop and kitchen looked great. We had a lot of positive feedback about our show from the vendors and attendees. We added 4 new vendors this year; they were pleased with the show and would like to come back next year. We had a few vendors who had to cancel and would like to have their spot back, so we will have to do some rearranging to be able to accommodate all the vendors. Mark R. and Autumn K. had to do some rearranging for the vendors this year and did a great job fitting them in.

We have been doing some major cleaning out in the shop; some stuff has been moved to the storage unit until we figure out what to do with it. We are still working on a plan to get the shop in order, according to what the school would like to see done. There will be some rearranging, so we have a more open flow.

We had the shop and kitchen looking great for the show! I would like it to always look that good. Every member should clean up after themselves no matter where you are at in the shop. If you dirty a dish, silverware, etc. in the kitchen, wash it and put it away. Sue Wilkinson does a great job at keeping our kitchen clean, but she shouldn't have to clean every time she comes to the shop. That goes for the refrigerator also: take your food with you when you leave for the day. If you take a water or pop out, put one back in its

place. Clean up every time you leave a station in the shop, mop up the floor if you get water all over it. It takes a team to keep this shop running and I appreciate all that the club members do to help in the shop.

Rocks and Prehistoric Animals

Prehistoric animals used rocks primarily for gastroliths, or "stomach stones" which were ingested to help grind food in their digestive systems. Dinosaurs like sauropods and other plant – eaters as well as plesiosaurs and other marine reptiles are some examples of animals that used gastroliths. Additionally, many invertebrates like mollusks and coral polyps created massive rock structures, such as limestone, as part of their life processes.

Animals that used gastroliths (stomach stones)

- * Plant- eating dinosaurs: These animals swallowed stones to help them grind tough plant matter. Examples include sauropods, primitive ceratopsians, and some hadrosaurs.

- * Marine reptiles: Plesiosaurs and other ancient reptiles also swallowed stones. These rocks could have helped with digestion or, in some cases acted as ballast to control buoyancy.

- * Ostrich-mimics and crocodilians: Some fossil evidence suggests that other ancient animals, including those that resembled modern ostriches and ancient crocodilians, used gastroliths.

Animals who created rock:

- * Mollusks: Over millions of years, mollusks like clams and snails produced massive amounts of calcium carbonate to build their shells, which in turn formed large beds of limestone.

- * Coral polyps: These tiny animals built vast, intricate reef structures from mineral substances that contributed significantly to the formation of limestone.

Terri Ridenour, President

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/21/25, at 6pm

Location: LGMS Workshop

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00pm

Roll Call: 35 Members were present.

Officers: Terri Ridenour, Bryant Hiiter, Joe Musolf, Max Runnels, Linda Sheedy, Ann Marie McFadden, Cinda Wilson, Bill Magee, Jim Johnson.

Approve Agenda: Jim Glassbrook made a motion to approve the October 21st agenda, 2nd by Linda Sheedy. All in favor, motion passed.

Approve Minutes: Linda Sheedy made a motion to approve the September 9th minutes, 2nd by Isla Mitchell. All in favor, motion passed.

President's Report - Terri Ridenour

- Terri thanked Cari Jacob for all her help preparing for the 50th anniversary Show.
- Preparation for the show started after the May Pop-Up Show.
- Terri thanked everyone who helped set up before, volunteered during, and tear down after the show.
- Terri thanked Sue Wilkinson and Susie Taylor for cleaning the kitchen for hours.
- The Vendors all had positive feedback and there were no issues.
- The 4 new vendors would like to return next year. 2 received contracts.
- Bill Magee signed up 38 new members with James and Joe Musolfs' help.

Show Details

- Approximately 680 people attended the show; 70 were children.
- More people attended than last year, but they did not buy as much.
- Profit was down about \$1000 from last year, but it was still a great show.
- There are still limited edition canvas bags for sale at \$15 each.
- We need to order more T-shirts in Small, Medium, and Large sizes.

Treasurer's Report - Linda Sheedy

- Proceeds from the show were deposited in the new Huntington Bank checking acct.
- Money at PNC bank will move over to Huntington so that PNC acct's can be closed.

Vice President's Report - Joe Musolf

- Joe thanked Linda Sheedy for doing a great job over the years, and thinks that

the treasurer's work is the most unnoticed job.

- Joe would like to sort and consolidate the 2 storage units in November.
- Many items were placed in the storage unit to de-clutter the workshop for the show.

Shop Report - Bill Magee

- Bill cannot find 16" disks for the large flat lap with 1/2" arbor hole.
- Don has a source for the disks.

New Business:

2026 Board:

- Nominees for the 2026 Board appear on the corkboard in the workshop.
- The nominees' names will appear in the November Newsletter.
- There will be a vote at the November meeting.
- New Board Members will be sworn in (for a January 1st start date) at the November meeting because there is no club business at the December party.

Holiday Party:

- Previous parties have been held in the Senior Center with a limit of 100 people.
- The party will be held on December 17th this year in the Commons.
- We are renting the large Commons area for the same price as the Senior Center but it can accommodate a lot more people.
- LGMS will pay the school \$50 to rent their tables and chairs.
- Wendy M suggested that we have music or a DJ.
- The Holiday party will have the same 4 competitions as last year.
- There will be the same wrapped gift exchange and silent auction.
- The material for "Best Polished Cab" category has not been solidified yet.
- Party Committee meetings should be held to work out the details soon.

Glass & Kilns:

- * Wendy M talked about the club storing unused glass lampworking equipment in the storage unit.
- Wendy found glass sheets in a drawer and thought they should be given a purpose.
- The glass sheets had unknown chemistry and might not melt down well together.
- There are a couple of tanks and a rumor that the lines might have dry rot.
- Jim Glassbrook said tanks need to be recertified every 10 years.

- Wendy suggested the club donate (or sell) the tanks and kilns so they don't sit unused in the storage unit.
- The board will look into the suggestion and evaluate the condition of the equipment.
- There are 2 kilns and tanks, propane & oxygen, and a torch.
- Joe M said the board can discuss and bring a proposal to the November meeting.
- Equipment that is being sold should be in the monthly newsletter.
- It will take longer to make decisions about casting equipment.
- Lori Hart proposed that the club sell the glass for a good cause for \$1, Ted Vosburg 2nd the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

Old Business

Chuck Bruce Class:

- The Class will be held Nov 3rd and 4th and the shop will be closed those days.
- The class costs \$400 and only 3 people have signed up, which is not enough to hold the class.
- Two knife blanks are provided for the class, and more can be purchased.
- The class will teach how to use machines in the shop to shape the stones.
- One special carving wheel will be brought.
- Chuck provides some rocks but suggests you bring ones you really love.

Safety Committee:

- Bill Magee will tape off a Hot Zone near the soldering stations.
- The Fire Dept thought the aisles were too crowded, so may have to eliminate or downsize a table.
- Joe M is compiling a binder of lapidary MSDS sheets.
- Jim Glassbrook is compiling a binder of silversmithing MSDS sheets.
- A "Flammable Gas" sign needs to go above the acetylene tanks.
- If you bring in your own chemicals you must provide an MSDS sheet for the office.

Training Committee:

- Every member who uses the shop, both old & new, will eventually be trained using our new method.
- There is a training form which breaks down all the machines, and the dates people were trained to use them.
- Rocks are on one side of the training form, and metalsmithing is on the 2nd side.

- The first part of training is general safety and protective equipment.
- The second part is the cabochon line and rotating equipment.
- The third part is additional machines such as the flat lap, auto feed saw, and Kingsley North machine.
- Trainers need to know that people who joined at the show already paid dues, whereas people on the waiting list need to pay on their 1st day. There is a list in the office on the bulletin board.
- Max suggested that a refresher course be held once a month.
- Linda suggested that the general membership is told when the shop will shut down for training going forward.
- The classroom section of Part 1 training takes about 45 minutes.

New Estate Purchase Information:

- Joe M. brought 16 flats from the new acquisition to the shop.
- 2 flats were seashells.
- 1 had black mold.
- We can sell 3 flats in the shop at any given time, and they will be rotated in on random days, at random times.
- If we sold all 16 flats, we would make back 1/20th of our purchase.
- Unsold flats will be marked and returned to the storage unit.
- Unsold flats can be sold at the Rockhounds Dream show in subsequent years.
- Records of all sales will be kept in the office until the club makes back all the money it spent on the collection.
- Photos should be put on Facebook of the specimens that are available before they return to the storage unit.
- No large specimens or equipment will be sold in the shop.
- There are 2 large display cases for the silent auction at the Holiday Party.

Facebook:

- Marianna said that she has added quite a few new members to the private group.
- Marianna said that several club members have been inviting their friends and neighbors to join the private group. They must use the public group.

Joe Musolf moved to adjourn; 2nd by Max Runnels. All in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cinda Wilson, Secretary

November 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
 Don Pentico
 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
Historian: Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586

Library: Bryant Hiiter, 248-472-8481
Webmaster: John Myer, www.livingstongems.com
 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 the board meets.)

Rock of the month !!
 immediately after the general meeting
 on November 18, 2025
Bring in your favorite rock and tell us why

Thanksgiving Holiday Closure
 The shop will be closed on
 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
 (26th, 27th and 28th)

Happy Thanksgiving !

2025 LGMS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES

Month	2025 date	Time	Meeting type	Location	
11	11/18	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
12	12/16	6 pm	LGMS Holiday Party	Commons Room	Shop shut down at 5:45

Upcoming Events

November 1, 2025, 6-8 pm

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society Annual Auction

Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd, Taylor, MI 48180

Info: Dwayne Ferguson, (313) 550-9809; shelby0671111@yahoo.com; www.mmls.ws

November 1-2, 2025

Mid Michigan Rock Club Annual Show

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

Info: Laura Foster, (989) 414-7254; pop345corn@sbcglobal.net

November 10, 2025, 7:30-8:30

Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Auction

Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1 Institute Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Info: David Lurie, (248) 224-0752; dlurie2001@comcast.net; www.michmin.org

November 22-23, 2025

Northwest Ohio Rockhound Club Annual Show

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

Suzanne Shimatzki, (419) 376-2650; sshimatzki@gmail.com



**How many years of LGMS history are reflected
in the smiles of these good friends? Thank you, Peggy!**

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



General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 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.