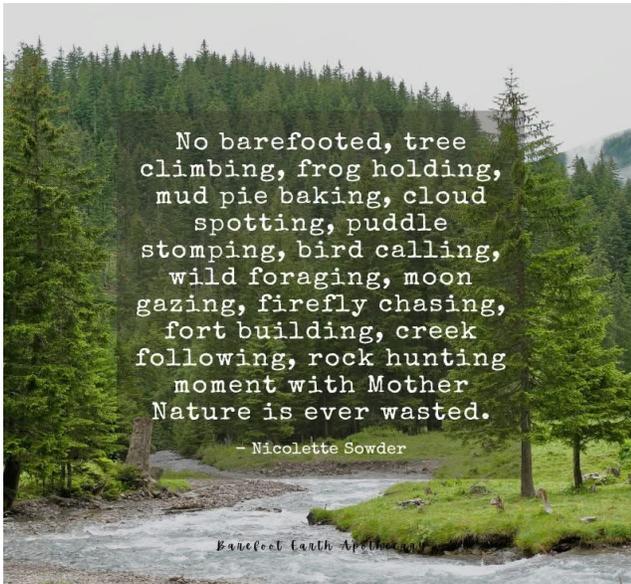


# The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society December 2025



## Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

The shop Elves have been very busy getting ready for our annual Xmas party on Weds. Dec. 17, 2025. The party will be held in the commons area from 5:30-9:00 pm. This is a prepay event; the cost is \$10.00 per person. The Sign-up sheet is in the office with a Dec. 10 deadline for signing up. Dinner by Red Olive; beverages provided. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. We will have a larger room to host the Xmas party this year. We will have a silent auction, buy it now table, lapidary and jewelry competitions. We also have door prizes for club members only. Santa's helper is in town, so there will be a gift exchange. Bring a \$10.00+ wrapped ROCK related gift and receive a \$10.00+ wrapped ROCK related gift.

Another year is almost over. I have enjoyed being the club's president this year and I couldn't have done it without all the wonderful club members who helped. The volunteers who worked months,

weeks, and days before and at the shows. The openers and closers for the shop. The Board members who keep the club running. Club committees. Those who clean the machines, buckets of oil, buckets of water, and mop shop floors. Our shop foreman Bill Magee along with Mark Ridenour and Tom for keeping the equipment running. Sue Wilkinson for always cleaning and organizing the kitchen. Our trainers. All of those who work behind the scenes; our newsletter John Myer and Isla Mitchell, Facebook Cari Jacob and Marianna Ziegler, sign-up genius Cinda Wilson. I want to thank all of you for your help this year.

## Some things we did in 2025

- \* Spring Pop-Up Show
- \* Chuck Bruce along with our very own Lori Hart, to teach a silversmith class on cuffs.
- \* Nancy Bartel gave an informative talk about rock hounding and camping in the UP.
- \* "Rock of the Month" Thank you Bryant Hiiter.
- \* 50th Anniversary T-shirt design contest won by Renee Kitson.
- \* 50th Anniversary Design put on tote bags.
- \* We bought one of the largest rock and mineral collections that the club has ever purchased.
- \* Mark Ridenour, Joe Musolf and Jim Johnson cut slabs from club rocks that were in storage so club members could purchase throughout the year.
- \* Cleaned out the storage unit again but this time it got organized!
- \* We had our 50th Anniversary Dream Show (Cari Jacob and Terri Ridenour co-chaired to put on both of our shows).
- \* Pot lucks and Pizza in the park for our summer general meetings.
- \* We did a major clean-up in the shop to help meet MIOSHA standards.

Rocks and Minerals from the large collection that we purchased are put out in shop for all the club members to be able to purchase them now and not have to wait until our annual rock show. Thank you Bryant Hiiter, Sue Matlock and Joe Musolf for sorting and pricing the specimens.

See ya in the shop,  
Terri Ridenour, President



### General Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/18/25, at 6 pm

Location: LGMS Workshop

Meeting called to order about 6 pm.

Roll Call: 31 Members were present as well as the following officers: Joe Musolf, Max Runnels, Linda Sheedy, Ann Marie McFadden, Cinda Wilson, Bryant Hiiter, Jim Johnson, Cari Jacob.

Approve Agenda: Cari Jacob made a motion to approve the November 18th agenda, 2nd by Bryant Hiiter. All in favor, motion passed.

Approve August Minutes: Wendy Malinasky made a motion to approve the October 21st minutes, 2nd by Jim Glassbrook. All in favor, motion passed.

#### Vice President's Report - Joe Musolf

Joe talked about promoting kindness and respect in the workshop.

#### Treasurer's Report - Linda Sheedy

All accounts are in good standing.

#### Shop Report - Bill Magee

- \* The 20" saw had a loose belt, but it has been fixed.
- \* Ann Marie and Jim Johnson replaced many belts on the polishing machines.
- \* The Kingsley North 1200 wheel had a gouge in it.
- \* It might be more cost-effective to buy a set of wheels, rather than just one.
- \* Wendy M. has spindles for the resin wheels.

### New Business:

#### Training New Members:

- \* The training forms need to be filled out with the trainer's and member's initials, dates, and signatures. Details have been missed lately.
- \* Trainers should write down the method of payment.
- \* One side of the training sheet is for lapidary, and the other is metalsmithing.
- \* All existing members need to go thru the new training procedure in 2026. Marv had several questions about why that was necessary. Joe and Cari replied that the school is enforcing new rules, and not many members are aware of how to clean up blood from cuts, and so on.
- \* The board will review the cost for silversmith training in early 2026.
- \* Training for silversmithing can be standardized with a syllabus and premade supply packets.

#### 2026 Board:

- \* There was a last-minute change to the slate for Board nominees. Jane Lerma withdrew her name for first year director, but she will still be very much involved in advertising and training.
- \* Max Runnels will automatically become a 2<sup>nd</sup> year director next year.
- \* The following 7 positions were unanimously voted into office for 2026
  - Lavonne Foldenaur - 2nd Year Director (Taking over for Bryant Hiiter)
  - Don Petico - 1st Year Director
  - Jim Glassbrook - 1st Year Director
  - Chad Brendel - Shop Foreman
  - Cari Jacob – Treasurer
  - Cinda Wilson – Secretary
  - Vice President - Bryant Hiiter
  - President - Joe Musolf

#### Monday Morning Opener:

- \* Jane Lerma can open some Mondays, but there is no one permanent at the moment.
- \* Some people do not know how to "Open" (the workshop).
- \* A sign can be posted. The "Closing" procedure is on the back of the main door, and it is basically the same thing, only in reverse.

### **Current Rules for Propping the Hallway Door:**

- \* A month ago the Fire Marshal toured the school and insisted that we do not prop our door open for fire safety reasons, which was most disagreeable. This applied to all classrooms.
- \* After several complaints the office has agreed (for now) that if people are working in the shop we can prop the door open.
- \* If the shop is empty we will have to close and lock the door. If more people arrive to work later, they will have to get the Community Ed office or janitors (after 6 pm) to unlock the workshop.

### **Misc New Business:**

- \* In rare instances where members would like to keep Club materials at home, they need to fill out a "Check Out Sheet" which is kept in the office.
- \* Max Runnels suggested that we make a Board Position for an IT person. However, this would require changing the By Laws and filling 10 positions every year, instead of 9. Several board members said it would be best to create an IT Committee with a Chairman and volunteers to start.

### **Old Business**

- \* The board has decided to wait on making any decisions about the kilns and glass in the storage unit until the Spring. They are not easily replaced if they are sold.
- \* To resume glass work in the workshop we would need a fuel source approved by the school.
- \* The small storage unit will be kept until the Spring.

### **Holiday Party:**

- \* The holiday party will start at 5:30 pm on Wednesday Dec. 17th.
- \* The party will be held in the Commons.
- \* \$10 per person.
- \* There will be a silent auction, Buy it Now table, and 5 contests which can be entered now. There is a \$50 prize for each category.
- \* The entries must be natural stones. New this year is "Best Faceted" gem or stone.
- \* There is a sign up sheet in the shop to bring an appetizer or dessert.
- \* Please list ingredients since we need to consider someone with severe food (peanut) allergies.
- \* There will be door prizes.
- \* There will be the Max Shultz Award and Swearing In of Board Members.

- \* If you bring a (high quality) wrapped lapidary gift valued at \$10 or more, you will be entered in a lottery to choose a wrapped gift.
- \* We will need help setting up tables, chairs, and decorating.
- \* Set-up starts at 4 pm.
- \* The workshop will shutdown by 5 pm.
- \* Red Olive will cater the event.

### **Remember to watch for Hartland Public School Closing for inclement weather.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Ted Vosburg, 2nd by Jim Glassbrook. All in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Rock of the Month Club followed afterwards.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cinda Wilson, Secretary

### **December 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.

*Christmas Holiday closure*

*The shop will be closed  
on December 24  
through January 1, 2026*

*Have a wonderful holiday season!*

## A SIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(author unknown)

'Twas the eve before Christmas and there in the night  
the desert was quiet, not a rockhound in sight.  
Our socks were all hung where the bright fire glows  
in hopes that our Moms would sew up the toes.

The kids were all stacked in their warm little bunks  
with visions of agate slabs, boulders and chunks.  
And me in my long johns and Ma in her sack  
had jumped into bed; it was cold in the shack.

From out in the sagebrush rose a hullabaloo  
and I sprang to the window to throw out a shoe.  
The moon shining down on the still silver sand  
confirmed that the desert was my kind of land.

I strained my eyes 'till my brow was a furrow;  
along came an old gent, a-leadin' his burro.  
By the size of his tummy and the face full of hair  
I knew it was Santa or a big grizzly bear.

"Go Rudolph, go Rudolph, you stubborn ol' mule,  
get moving there, Rudolph, you lop-eared ol' fool."  
Than quick as a polecat I heard up on top  
that darn red-nosed burro go clippity-clop.

Santa's trip down the chimney was somethin' uncanny;  
the fire was a-burnin' and scorched his poor fanny.  
He was dressed all in denim from his hat to his shoes,  
His nose was all red and he needed a snooze.

He had middle age spread that just wouldn't fit,  
and a gift bag so big it was ready to split.  
He spied my old trim saw, the one that was broke;  
"By golly, you're rockhounds, you're my kind of folk!"

He sat down at the table, we both had some java  
and talked about agate, opal, and lava.  
He told of old times, of Horse Canyon agate,  
of good times in Boron, of jasper from Dagget.

He told of old pals from a mine in ghost city  
of Bullfrog and Bodic; they're dead. What a pity.  
Then out of his pack for me and for Maw  
what else did he pull but a big slabbing saw.

There was a hammer for Nels and a black light for Della  
and he winked as he sat there, a jolly good fella.  
Then lookin' at the fire and feelin' a bit sore  
he thought it was best to leave through the door.  
Then I heard him exclaim as he went out of sight

"MERRY CHRISTMAS, YOU ROCKHOUNDS, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

**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

Email: [LGMSMich@gmail.com](mailto:LGMSMich@gmail.com)

show website: lgmsrockshow.com

Instagram: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.)



**LGMS Membership Renewal 2026 – Dues are Due!**

**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 #(Area code)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Hartland School District resident**  **yes**  **no**

**Adult membership(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$65.00 =** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Drawer charge \$5.00=** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total payment enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Join the fun!**  
**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**  
**5:30 pm at the Commons Room**  
**Sign up in the shop by December 5!**

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.