

# The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society March 2026

## President's Message

“Be patient with geologists—they all have their faults”

-unknown origin

Hello Members!

Thank you to all in attendance for February's meeting. February's meeting had 30 members in attendance. Slabs and specimens were given as door prizes. Please see the meeting minutes for more details.

We will establish a show committee, for the fall show, during our March meeting. Our March meeting will be held on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm.

Our first monthly cleaning was a success. Thanks to Jim, Jim, Jim, James (almost a Jim) and Max for all the help! Three Jims, James and Max helped to clean the saw area. There are now drip pans under all the saws, plastic sheeting up against the cabinets. Jim G. cleaned and oiled the rotary tools on the silver tables. If anyone has ideas for noise reduction on the saws, please reach out to me or show up on our second monthly maintenance March 5<sup>th</sup> 5 pm. We are focusing on making shop improvements. Thanks to Chad and Carrie for getting new grinding wheels and paper on all the machines.

New member training has yet to start. Cinda is getting the schedule going and reaching out to trainers. If you can help to train new

members, please reach out to Cinda or me. We need volunteers so the same 4 or 5 people do not have to do all the work.

Our pop up show will be in the same location in Waterford this year. The date is May 9<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to reserve a spot please contact Carrie Jacob. Space is \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members.

Thank you to all that give your time, knowledge and friendship!

Cheers!

Joe Musolf, President



## March shop hours

Monday 10 am - 8:30 pm  
Tues and Wed 9 am - 9 pm  
Thurs 9 am-9 pm - silversmiths  
and quiet activities 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.

## 2026 Officers and Chairpersons

**President:** Joe Musolf: 906-231-7632

**Vice President:**

Bryant Hiiter: 248-472-8481

**Secretary:** Cinda Wilson 810-423-0464

**Treasurer:** Cari Jacob 248-931-5999

**Shop Foreman:**

Chad Brendel 810-869-5510

**Second year Directors:**

Lavonne Foldenaur 517-294-3126

Max Runnels: 810-869-0740

**First year Directors:**

Don Pentico 517-294-1635

Jim Glassbrook 810-965-3468

**Newsletter:** Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804,  
imvm2227@gmail.com

**Historian:** Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586

**Librarian:** 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 from February through November. Only the board meets in January.

## Winter Reminder!

When the Hartland Schools are closed, the shop is closed. During inclement weather, before you make the trip to the shop, please check Facebook/hartlandcommunityed.com for school/event closures.



## Upcoming Events

**March 7 - 8, 2026**

**The Roamin' Club Annual Auction**

Vistatech Center, 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia, MI 48152

Contact: Clarence Sterling, (248) 884-0431;

[tripodsfrommars@gmail.com](mailto:tripodsfrommars@gmail.com);

[roaminrockclub.weebly.com](http://roaminrockclub.weebly.com)

**March 20 – 22, 2026**

**Michigan Gem and Mineral Society Show**

Keeley Park, America One Event Center, 200 W.

Ganson St, Jackson, MI 49292

contact: <http://mgmsrockclub.com/index.html>

**March 28, 2026, 10 am – 5 pm**

**Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society  
Rock Swap**

St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Rd,  
Taylor, MI 48180

Contact: Louis Talley, (734) 837-8920;

[ltalley1970@gmail.com](mailto:ltalley1970@gmail.com); [www.mmls.us](http://www.mmls.us)

**April 9-11, 2026**

**Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club  
Annual Show**

[Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 28th St SW,  
Wyoming, MI 49509](http://Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 28th St SW, Wyoming, MI 49509)

Contact: Kreigh Tomaszewski, (616) 243-5851;

[kreigh@gmail.com](mailto:kreigh@gmail.com); [indianmoundsrockclub.com](http://indianmoundsrockclub.com)

**May 9, 2026**

**LGMS Spring Pop-up Show**

**Volunteer!**

**Participate!**

## February General Meeting Minutes

Date: 02/17/2026, at 6pm

Location: LGMS Workshop

Meeting started 6:03pm

Roll Call: Officers: Joe Musolf, Bryant Hiiter, Cari Jacob, Max Runnels, Cinda Wilson, Jim Glassbrook, Lavonne Foldenauer, Chad Brendel, Don Pentico. In addition, several club members were present.

Joe asked for approval for the January minutes but a member pointed out that the newsletter had the February meeting listed as a Board Meeting, not a General meeting. So the minutes were not approved.

### President's Report - Joe Musolf

#### \* Rock Sale from 2025 estate purchase

- The collection has almost paid for itself as of January.
- About 25-30% has been sorted so far.
- Please use the check register when making purchases in the shop.
- Thank you Bryant, for making the sale happen!

#### \* Maintenance Day" is the 1st Thursday of the month.

- Work on issues that take more than 1 person.
- The 4 Jims and James cleaned near the trim saws in January.
- The plan is to clean the filtration system every time.
- We can make educational displays.
- Jim Glassbrook performed maintenance on all of the Fordams. One needed the spring drive replaced because it had not been greased. He will check them every 3 months.
- People can bring snacks to share.

#### \* Thursday "Quiet Day" Discussion

- A member brought up how the shop is not open for rocks on Thursdays
- Lavonne summarized the history of how the shop used to be closed on Thursdays but is now used mostly for silversmithing.
- The noise of the lapidary saws prevents people from talking and learning, and the club does not have enough space for a separate saw room.

- One member discussed that people who have health challenges (where dust and oils are a concern) might only be able to visit on Thursday. One of the silversmiths cleans dust from the large workbench every Thursday morning.

- A different member discussed finding a different location for the workshop. Suggestions for a committee to look for a new location have not come to fruition. Sherylynn Everly was president in 2017-2018 and her conclusions were that LGMS pays 50 cents per square foot, and other real estate in Livingston County was \$2 per square foot, plus water, heat, electricity, and property tax.

- Another point was that the club could become a 501c and apply for a grant to use toward buying (or rent to own) a new building.
- The Maker's Space called "I3" located in Ferndale received a \$100K grant in the past.
- Anyone is welcome to use the shop on Thursdays for work that does not use the saws, grinders, or rock polishers. It is a good day for faceting, beading, wire wrapping, and holding classes.

#### \* Show Committee to be established at March General meeting.

- Volunteers are needed.
- Bring Ideas for positions to the March meeting.

#### \* Spring Pop-Up Show.

- May 9th at the church in Waterford.
- A vote was held to keep the booth fee \$25 for members, and \$50 for non-members. Marianna 1st and Anne Marie 2nd, all in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.
- Rain or Shine. Bring your own tables, chairs, and tent.
- Cari will make a vendor map and advertising flyer.
- Other locations were discussed for 2027 such as Tanger Outlet Mall

#### \* School Lock Down Drill

- The LGMS workshop failed the drill.
- During a drill people need to shut the doors, turn off the light, hide and be quiet.
- Depending on the starting location, people can also leave the building.

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**2026 LGMS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES**

Please be aware that during membership meetings the shop will be totally shut down at 5:45 pm.  
We will probably add in show meetings starting in May at 4:30-5:30 same day as general meetings.

Month	2026 date	Time	Meeting type	Location	
3	3/17	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
4	4/21	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
5	5/19	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
6	6/16	6 pm	General Membership	Settlers Park	Shop shut down at 5:45
7	7/21	6 pm	General Membership	Settlers Park	Shop shut down at 5:45
8	8/18	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS Shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
9	9/8 (one week early)	6 pm	General Membership before show on 9/19 - 9/20	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
10	10/20	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
11	11/17	6 pm	General Membership	LGMS shop	Shop shut down at 5:45
12	12/16 (Wed.)	6 pm	Holiday Party	Commons area	Shop shut down at 5:45

**To pay the 2026 membership dues, complete this tear-off form and mail to:**

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

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 = \_\_\_\_\_

optional drawer charge \$5.00= \_\_\_\_\_  
(include previous drawer number)

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

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- People should remain hidden until released by school staff.
- During New Member Training fire and tornado drill locations will be discussed. For fire drills, people need to move to the **far west side** of the west parking lot. For tornado drills, people need to remain in the shop, and members from the Senior Center might join them.

\* Open & Close Sign Up Board

- Please sign up to open or close if you can.
- If there are not 2 people present then machines cannot be used.
- If the last person wants to leave then they must shut both doors and follow the closing procedure posted on the door.
- If a person wants to open the shop they must go to the front office or find a janitor.

**Vice President's Report – Bryant Hiiter**

\* Rock of the Month Club returns?

- Jim Johnson wants to continue.
- Bryant does not want to be in charge, so members could take turns each month.
- It would require calling people to bring in their specimens to display.
- We could have a sign-up sheet for each month.
- Hold Wednesday afternoons? Not after meetings?

**Treasurer's Report - Cari Jacob**

- Most of the money from checking and savings has been transferred from PNC to Huntington.
- Cari has reserved Settlers Park for the June and July meeting. She will ask to get the fee waived.
- There are 24 members still on the waiting list from 2025, 10 waiting from 2026, and 2 who never signed up for New Member Training who paid at the September show.
- The annual Rockhound's Dream Show will happen Sept 19th and 20th, with set-up on the 18th. We will not advertise in Rock & Gem since it does not affect attendance.
- The "Commons Area" of the building has been reserved for the Holiday Party on Wednesday December 16th from 5-9pm. (The 15th was already taken).

**New Member Training - Cinda Wilson**

- New Member training will take place in March and early April.
- The Sign Up Genius will be emailed to people on the waiting list the last week of February.
- Trainers are encouraged to give Cinda available dates and times.
- About 40 people will be trained.

**Shop Report - Chad Brendel**

- Thank you to all who helped clean and maintain on the 1st Thursday in February.
- Chad bought 2 size spigots to try out (for buckets to drain oil).
- Chad created repair tags to put on machines when they are not working properly. Please use them and make notes on them. They will be kept outside the office door.
- Chad appreciates other members fixing machines if they know how.
- Last week the water pump was acting up and tripping the circuit breaker. It was cleaned and seems to be working fine now.
- 3000 grit diamond cloth for the polishing wheels cost \$130. Kingsley North 3000 grit wheels cost \$60, we can switch to a Kingsley 3000 instead of expando drum and paper. Joe would like additional higher grit machines. Don knows someone who can recondition Kingsley wheels for \$45 each and they work a lot better.
- The filters around the box fan have been changed.

**Silversmiths' Report - Lavonne Foldenauer**

- Lavonne orders silversmithing supplies from Rio. She has a teacher discount and needs to buy \$5000 to keep the discount.
- There was discussion about LGMS buying the supplies from Rio using the club credit card instead of Lavonne. Or buying supplies once a month in combination with Lavonne buying more critical items for members. The discussion was tabled so that the board could discuss options.
- Lavonne will start teaching a couple of new students in about a week.

**Old Business:**Wire Wrapping class

- Taught by Jim Glassbrook on 3 Fridays in April. It filled up super fast.
- He might do another one in June.
- The fee is \$25 for materials, and he has tools to loan out.
- There will be 4-5 people and they will use copper, or students can bring their own silver.

Chain Mail class

- Taught by Jim Glassbrook on the last 3 Fridays in May.
- The fee is \$25 for materials. Students will use anodized rings and there is no soldering.

Safety

- Max wanted to remind everyone that hearing protection is now required while grinding and sawing rocks.
- Pull back long hair when using machines.
- Research the materials you are working on.
- Create a sign with a reminder about hearing and eye protection to post near the grinders.
- MSDS sheets are kept in the office. If you bring in a new chemical you must obtain the MSDS form and put it in the office for the file.
- The oxyacetylene torches need to be removed from the shop. They can be exchanged at Mathesons for smaller ones.

Silver Pricing

- The cost of silver per Troy Ounce has been volatile lately.
- Over the past 6 months the price has gone up incredibly.
- The spot price will be checked on [kitco.com](http://kitco.com) at the beginning of the day, and that will be used to look up numbers on a chart (that Jim Glassbrook made) for members to buy silver for that entire day.
- The workshop will refine its own scrap metal rather than sending it out.
- People will pay for silver when they first cut it out, AND pay for the scrap pieces (which they can keep or sell to another member).

\*Max would like to remind everyone there are many ways members can volunteer and donate to the workshop.

\* Marianna would like to remind everyone to be courteous on Facebook. There is no social media shaming allowed. Please take problems to Joe or a Board Member first.

\* We need more openers for Mondays and Tuesdays. All opening and closing names are now posted on the blackboard in the shop. Please help out.

\* At 7:45 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting: 1st - Sandy Wrestler, 2nd - Cari Jacob. All in favor, the motion passed.

\* Next meeting is Tuesday, March 17th and is a general meeting at the shop.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cinda Wilson, Secretary

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



**General Meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2026**  
**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.