

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society May 2026

President's Message

“Light thinks it travels faster than anything but it is wrong. No matter how fast light travels, it finds the darkness has always got there first, and is waiting for it.”

– Terry Pratchett

Greetings Members!

We held our April meeting on the 21st. Our faceting group is getting two new machines! There have been trainings on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please reach out to Brent or Don if you would like more details.

The club will be retaining three of the old faceting machines. The rest are going to be refurbished and set for sale to members by sealed bid. We plan to put one out at a time. Look for the machines, details and the dates near the sign-in station. We will also post the details of the sale on our members-only facebook page.

Our May meeting will be held on Tuesday May 19th at 6 pm. Please attend the meeting if you can!

Thanks to the 3 people who showed up to help with the April Thursday club maintenance. We have 300ish members...so yay! to the 1/100th . The maintenance day is designed to keep the pressure off the shop foreman so he will not crash out whilst providing everyone with a great space. Please show up to help if you are able.

We have another small list of folks that need training. This will start up in the next week or two. Please sign up to help train if you can. Cinda will put you to work!

Our Pop Up show will be in the same location in Waterford this year. The date is May 9th. Come support our members and have fun hanging out!

Cheers!

Joe Musolf, President



May 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.

First Thursday of the month is maintenance day. Join us at 5 pm.

Note: Shop is CLOSED on Memorial Day,
Monday, May 25, 2026

April 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/21/2026, at 6pm

Location: LGMS Workshop

Meeting started 6:03pm

Roll Call: Joe Musolf, Bryant Hiiter, Cari Jacob, Max Runnels, Cinda Wilson, Jim Glassbrook, Lavonne Foldenauer, Chad Brendel, Don Pentico. Cari Jacob made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. 2nd by Bryant Hiiter.

President's Report - Joe Musolf

- * "Maintenance Day" is the 1st Thursday of the month. Only 3 people showed up in April.
- * Trim Saw Users: Please take time to clean the saw after use. Don't leave a mess for someone else. It is okay to politely tell someone to clean up, if they leave a mess.
- * Don P asked if there could be a shop vac for vacuuming dirty oil. It could clog or disintegrate the filter??
- * Shop is looking cleaner. Everyone thanks Chad for keeping the shop well run. Repair tags are working well. Even when the paper towels are running out.
- * Parker suggested draining the green trim saw before the weekend and leaving the cover off until Monday.
- * Pricing Estate Collection: About half way thru pricing everything. Thanks to Bryant and Sue for working so diligently. Thanks to Don P and Max also for helping.

Vice President's Report - Bryant Hiiter

- * 4H Training has been moved back to mid to late May. Time is from 6-8 pm. It will take 2 weeks.
- * Bryant will attend the Midwest Federation Meetings in Chicago next month. He will discuss what he learned from the MWF at our June meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Cari Jacob

- * The remaining funds at PNC bank have been moved to Huntington.
- * We are still looking for an alternative for Mail Chimp which has become too expensive.
- * Cari likes having a Rockhound's Dream Show Website separate from the regular website so it can be updated with photos and art. It is purchased thru Go Daddy. We need links on each site to refer to one another. Max would like to consult with John Myer.
- * The Spring PopUp Show is full.

- * LGMS has made back \$6000 of the \$10,000 spent on the large estate purchase last fall.
- * Membership: Training new members will resume in late May and last thru June. There are currently 28 people on the waiting list. A handful of members who joined at the show still need to be trained.

Shop Report - Chad Brendel

- * Chad thanks everyone for pitching in. The repair tag system is working well.
- * Replacing expandable drums costs \$140. Some of the drums on machines are old, and they become hard with age (no longer expand well). Chad will replace them with ones we have on hand. They can get hard sitting in storage also.
- * Some sanding belts move on the drum. The size might vary by manufacturer. Rio Grande does not give discounts, but Kingsley North does.
- * The 3000 diamond belt (which costs \$130) has been replaced with a resin wheel (\$65). The resin will last a long time and costs ~\$50 to re-coat. Brand new resin wheels can be aggressive and need "broken in". Resin wheels will be tried on more machines to see how people like them.
- * The 8" saw is ready to go. It will be used for making cabochons only, not whole rocks. That way the blade will not warp for the people who need more precision.
- * Chad wants everyone to know that anyone can change a belt. Just ask if you don't know how. Remember to change the date if you do.
- * All members are eligible for Kingsley North discount (10%?) but you must call them directly.
- * LGMS is looking for volunteers to spruce up the display cabinets which are used at the September show. Change out the light bars to LED with batteries, they last a long time and can be purchased on Amazon (per Sue Matlock). Some are missing glass pieces. Could be done one month before the show, perhaps on a "Maintenance Day". The village scene is mixed up, there are photos in the library from 20 years ago. Lavonne volunteered to fix that one. There are many others that need fixed inside.

Silversmith's Report - Lavonne Foldenauer

- * Lavonne would like to know if the club can install sound dampening material around the trim saws. Dirty oil on foam is a factor. The club is looking for good ideas.

- * One rolling mill had a bushing shear off. Pepe Tools would have to make a replacement part. The repair completion time is indefinite.
- * The school will not allow us to use oxyacetylene torches. It cannot remain as LGMS's property. If it is sold to the membership it must appear in the newsletter in advance.
- * Bryant made a motion for the membership at large to donate it to Don P where members can use it at his house for smelting for the foreseeable future. Sue M. 2nd the motion. Jim Glassbrook added an addendum that if Don no longer wants to use it, that it be returned to LGMS. Bryant Hiiter 2nd the addendum. All in favor, none opposed, the motion and addendum passed.
- * Lavonne thanks Don P and Chad for the 2 new fume extractors at the soldering stations.

Directors Comments

- * Max would like to know if the club will pursue obtaining higher grit polishers. Joe likes the idea but people would need special training to use them. Might require an additional machine with its own water source. General membership agrees it would be nice to have. Don P uses flat laps with 6000 and 8000 grit disks. They are a lot quieter and good for sapphires and obsidian.
 - * Jim Glassbrook has finished 2 of 3 wire wrapping classes and it is going great. He is an excellent teacher. He will offer the same class again the 2nd thru 4th weeks of August.
- The chainmail class was posted on 4/21 and filled up the same day. Students will use copper and anodized aluminum wire. There is a fee for materials that Jim supplies.

Old Business:

- * Spring Pop Up Show: Waterford club members were invited to sell but only Tony West will participate.
- * Cari has a layout for the vendor booths. Vendors must bring their own tents, tables, chairs, and rain protection.
- * Joe has volunteered to take rocks from the storage unit for the club table. Anyone who wants to help can be there at 5:30 pm on the 8th.

New Business:

- * A box with 3 rings inside is missing from the shop. They were accidentally left behind. They are not in the office.
- * New Faceting Machines - Don P: There are currently 3 time slots for faceting. There is a Chinese copy of the Facetron machine. It is better for beginners. It is less frustrating to use. Students could remove gemstones between classes, rather than leaving it in place until finished. The club has only one good machine so far. Propose buying 2 new ones. The club has two old machines, and two partial ones, which could be fixed up and sold to members. Total value would be about \$1000. There is a one time \$25 fee for faceting classes. Max recommended a blind auction for the machines. Joe said there would need to be a minimum, or reserve bid. Bryant said the club has had them in the past to raise money for a new saw. Don made a motion that the club buy two new machines for \$3600, including shipping, with laps and 20 dop sticks. And that 2 old machines get up and running to sell to the club at a blind auction with a reserve. Lavonne 2nd the motion. All in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.
- * Dream Show Vendor Fee Question: Last fall vendors paid \$300 for a 2026 booth space with 5 tables. There are currently 4 unpaid vendors. Cari made a motion that the 4 vendors pay \$325 for their spots this year, and next year the cost changes to \$325 for all vendors who pay at the show. Sue M 2nd. 22 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstained, the motion passed.
- * Dream Show Admission: Last fall Admission was \$7, kids 12 and under were free, and kids 12-17 were \$3. Approximately 760 people attended. The Detroit Rock and Gem show charges \$8. Cari questioned if we should reduce admission to \$6. Don P made a motion that admission for 2026 stay \$7 but all children under 18 years old are free. Jim Hansen 2nd the motion. All in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

(Minutes continued on page 5)



Upcoming Events

May 1-3, 2026

Kalamazoo Rock Club Rock Show

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Contact: Sheila Atherton, (269) 303-6853

Saturday, Rain or Shine, May 9, 2026

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society's Spring Pop Up Show

Volunteer!

Participate!

May 23, 2026

White River Rock Gem and Mineral Club Tailgate Sale

Montague Artisan Market, 8641 Water St, Montague, MI

Info: Chris Rogers, whiteriverrockclub@gmail.com

May 23-24, 2026

Chicagoland Gem & Minerals 49th Annual Show and MWF Convention

Prairie Arts Center at Kane County Fairgrounds, 525 S. Randall, St Charles, IL

May 29-31, 2026

State Line Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Show

Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair Building, 8514 SR 108, Wauseon, Ohio 43567

Info: Sherman Kardatzke, skardatzke@gmail.com

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, invvm2227@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 from February through November. Only the board meets in January.

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	
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

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* Venmo: Jim Glassbrook will look into the club getting a Venmo account for the Dream Show. He will research a regular account vs. a business account.

* Volunteer Needed: LGMS is looking for a reliable helper to manage the Club's website and an email manager.

* May Meeting will be May 19th at 6pm, in the workshop.

* Main Street Rocks will have a lapidary sale in Mason on June 9th or 12th.

* Dennis Ringle, a long time member, who worked for the school monitoring the building in the evening, passed away recently.

* Linda LaChance made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 1st - Ed Oller, 2nd - Jim Hansen.

All in favor, the motion passed. Adjourned at 7:44pm

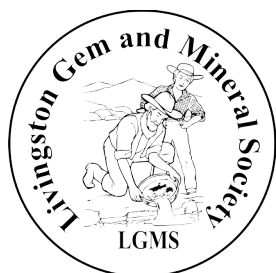
Respectfully submitted, Cinda Wilson, Secretary

Safety Reminders:

NO hair, jewelry, necklaces, loose clothing, etc. hanging forward when working with any machine, saw, grinder or torch. Hair band will be provided near the sign in sheet free for anyone needing it. (Please do not put used hair bands back)

Foot protection – NO open-toed footwear at all (flip flops, sandals etc.). Unfortunately you will be asked to get the proper footwear or leave the shop.

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



General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 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.