

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society July 2026

President's Message

“Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colors. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving.”

– Terry Pratchett

Greetings Members!

We held our June meeting on the 16th . We also held our first show committee meeting on June 23rd. We are accepting donations to our club silent auction table. Fill out the papers and put the donation in the black cabinet if it will fit! We will be taking pictures and posting for show advertising. Please share our Facebook and Instagram posts with folks that you know. Come to our next general meeting July 21st at Settlers Park. There will be pizza and I will announce a way for one ambitious member to win free membership for 2027!

Thanks to the 10 people that showed up to help with the June Thursday club maintenance. It was excellent to see so many people help. We cleaned all the displays, the front table, the kids' table cabinet and all the lockers under the line. It truly makes a difference.

Training is proceeding most excellent. We are still in need of new trainers. Let Cinda or me know if you would like to volunteer.

Volunteering is the life blood of all clubs. Thank you to everyone that spends their time to make our club most excellent!

Cheers!

Joe Musolf, President

June 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.



June 2026 General Meeting Minutes

Date: 06/16/2026, at 6pm
 Location: LGMS Workshop
 Meeting started 6:02pm

Roll Call: Joe Musolf, Bryant Hiiter, Cari Jacob, Chad Brendel, Cinda Wilson, Jim Glassbrook.

Cari wanted to clarify a small portion of the May meeting minutes. The Treasurer's report should have stated that vendors who sign up for the 2027 show during the 2026 Rockhound's Dream Show, will pay a \$300 booth fee. Vendors who renew later will pay \$325. Linda LaChance made a motion to approve the amended May meeting minutes. 2nd by Ed Oller.

President's Report - Joe Musolf

"Maintenance Day" is the 1st Thursday of the month.

- * On June 1st about 10 people showed up (which is great).
- * Volunteers wiped down machines, fixed displays inside of some cases, and cleaned rock displays.

Floor Mats

- * On June 11th the floor mats were taped down with new tape.
- * We will see how long the tape holds up with water, and Friday mopping.

Large Estate Collection - Purchased last September

- * Volunteers have helped sort and price rocks from the storage unit over the past 9 months.
- * About 120 hours have been spent looking thru all of the flats of specimens and rocks and identifying them.
- * Only a small amount of the collection has not been gone thru as of yet.

President's notes about the 2026 show

- * Joe Musolf noted that LGMS bucks could be used to purchase club rocks in the shop.
- * The 3rd place prize can be a large piece of petrified wood from the estate collection.
- * There will be a Show Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 23rd at 6pm in the shop.
- * There will be no stopping of machines and we can move to the hallway if needed.
- * More committee meetings will happen in July and August.

Vice President's Report - Bryant Hiiter

Bryant was a Delegate for the 2026 Midwest Federation Meeting, and attended the Show in Chicago in late May.

- * The Midwest Federation has about 10,000 members in 11 states.
- * LGMS is the 3rd largest in the state if you do not count children. 4th otherwise.
- * Michigan has largest number of clubs in the MWF.
- * Clubs such as Indian Mounds and Kalamazoo have large numbers of junior members.
- * The MWF brought in about \$51K from membership fees. It has paid out \$28K and has \$120K in the bank. They are giving out college scholarships for geology, paleontology, and so forth.
- * The American Federation has gone all paperless and that has saved them about \$18K.
- * All committees in the MWF turn in reports that include reports sent in by clubs. Bryant will leave information about what other clubs are doing this year, if you are interested in reading it. Look for the stars on the paperwork.
- * LGMS has not been sending in reports.
- * MWF has a logo that we can add to advertisements for our show.
- * Rules at the MWF meeting are more strict with large numbers of people.
 - * No person can speak more than twice about one issue.
 - * Discussions must be pertinent to the current motion.
- * There are 34 committees. Each person in charge of a committee gave a report or referred members to their document.

Chicago Show

- * There were 30 wholesale dealers.
- * There were display cases, food, and a HUGE children's area.
- * There was a toy train picking up coal and showing how rocks affect industry.
- * The Geode Cracking area was super popular.
- * Each year the show has a theme. This year was fossils. LGMS could pick themes. The MMS club has a quartz theme this year.
- * At the show 3-4 people would dress up into inflated dinosaur costumes and walk around the show. The attendees loved it and wanted their photos taken with them.
- * At the beginning of the show the line to enter wrapped around the block. There were about 400 people waiting to get in when it started.
- * Admission was \$5.

We keep a copy of the MWF newsletter in the office. There is a directory of clubs in the office. If you are visiting another state, you can see which clubs are there.

The club owns equipment to identify gemstones. It is fragile and needs 'Disclosure Fluid' which is expensive. Special training is required to use it.

Dave Grimes is a gemologist and knows how to use it. A class for this would be very beneficial.

Some members bring facet grade material to trade, or discuss, on Wednesday mornings.

Chiachen has taught members a quick and handy way to calculate specific gravity. It would be great to get this type of information out to more members.

Treasurer's Report - Cari Jacob

- * Cari brought in a detailed list of deposits and expenditures to the meeting.
- * The club has made some large purchases lately and the checking account is at \$10.5K.
- * Lavonne fell and broke her elbow at the shop. Fortunately, Mary was there to help at the time, and later participated in filling out an accident report for the school, and one for LGMS.
- * Cari mentioned that it is every member's job to help look after newly trained members and give them gentle reminders about using equipment properly and cleaning.

Membership - Cinda Wilson

- * Approximately 2 dozen people responded to the emails for the June training session.
- * About 1 dozen people did not sign up, which is a little higher than normal. Could be because people are busy with graduations and summer vacation.
- * Many trainers were also unavailable for the summer session.

Shop Report - Chad Brendel

Maintenance Day

- * People helped clean out old oil buckets.

General Comments

- * We are trying out a few of the new oil buckets with a port at the bottom. Please get new oil for trim saws from the buckets first, before getting new oil from the large drum.
- * New mops have been in use, with new mop hanging hooks.
- * The the small oil saws are only for slabs and delicate work, not rough rocks.

- * Last week someone pulled a hose off from one of the grinders, and left it off, so the tray of water drained all over the floor. If you remove a hose to clear out a crumb (or plug from a chip of rock) please replace it when you are finished.

Jim Glassbrook requests that people not leave metal tools near the grinders or polishers (or on a wet sponge) because they can rust. And tools are very expensive, especially the ones meant for silversmithing. Please use tools from the "Tool Room" for maintenance and repairs.

Silversmith's Report - Lavonne was not present

- * Silversmiths, please clean up after yourselves. Susie Taylor does a lot of cleaning on Thursday mornings and she is continually finding messes throughout the day.
- * DO NOT pickle nickel. This contaminates silver and the pickle had to be changed 4 times in one week lately.
- * The new rolling mill is working great.
 - * There is a rubber band with a reminder to turn only 1/4 turn per pass.
 - * It has a large handle which is in the aisle on the way to the trim saws.
 - * The tall skinny garbage can is kept underneath it to prevent people from walking into it.
- * Faceting machines are on the way. Shipping was more than expected. There was a \$130 international shipping fee, and some other extra costs. The next large purchase will need more research to look into these same matters.

Directors Comments

Jim G

- * The wire wrap class will be on Fridays in August.
- * Jim's September class will be Chain Mail.
- * October will be advanced Chain Mail.
- * Classes are limited to 5 students.

Old Business:

None brought up.

New Business:

July Meeting

- * Will be at Settlers Park
- * The shop will close at 5:30pm. The meeting starts at 6pm.
- * Cari or Joe will bring pizza.
- * Bring your own drinks.
- * We can have a trunk sale after the meeting.

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Celebration of Life for Hazel Morgan, a founding member of LGMS

- * July 18th from 3 pm-6 pm
- * In Jackson, at a Baptist Church on Elm St
- * Jane Miller is Hazel's daughter and gave us these details.

Cari would like a bigger safe to be installed in the office, and keep the old one installed as well. A new one costs about \$120 to \$150.

Cinda Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 1st - Jim Glassbrook, 2nd - Ed Oller. All in favor; the motion passed. Adjourned at 6:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Cinda Wilson. Secretary

Upcoming Events

July 11, 2026, 10 am to 5 pm Flint Rock & Gem Club Rock Swap

226 Pine St, Clio, MI 48420

Contact: Bill Wendling, (810) 638-5796; bwrockbarn@century.net; flintrockandgem.org

August 1, 2026, 9 am to 3:30 pm Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show

Ishpeming Elks Lodge #447, 597 Lakeshore Dr, Ishpeming, MI 49849

Contact: Kirsten Maki, (540) 850-4170; krmaki75@gmail.com; www.ishpemingrocks.org

August 7-9 2026 Copper Country Rock & Mineral Annual Show

Hancock High School, 501 Cmpus Dr, Hancock, MI 49930

Contct: Elizabeth Whelan, (269) 927-5079; avocet13@yahoo.com; ccrmc.info



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Rock and Garage Sales

**July 10,11,and 12, 9 to 5 each day
Gayland Allan**
16439 Red Fox Trail, Linden, MI 48451

**July 23, 24 and 25, 9 to 5 each day
Chuck Amberger**
20839 Dixboro, South Lyon, MI 48178

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	
7	7/21	6 pm	General Membership	Settlers Park	Shop shut down at 5:45
8	8/18	6 pm	General Membership	Settlers Park	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

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

Library: Bryant Hiiter, 248-472-8481

Webmaster: Maxwell Runnels

Web Resources: 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.

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, July 21, 2026
6 pm at Settlers Park
Pizza and Great Company! Snacks 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.