

The Living Stones

Page 1

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society August 2026

President's Message

“Real stupidity beats artificial intelligence every time.”

— Terry Pratchett, Hogfather

Greetings Members!

We held our July meeting on the 20th at Settlers Park. Several folks brought trunks with items for sale! We plan to have another trunk sale after the August 18th meeting, also at Settlers Park. There will be pizza and bring a dish to pass and a trunk full of rocks!

If each member had 3 people that they knew show up to the show in the fall we would have 900 additional attendees. That surpasses last years attendance by 150ish. Therefore, we will give a free 2027 membership to the club member who has the most folks say that they were referred. We will have someone collecting names of the club member that referred them at the ticket booth.

We did not have a formal maintenance day in July due to the holiday. Thanks to all those who show up the first Thursday in August to help. I am asking that Silversmiths step up to help too! There is plenty to do to make our space excellent!

Thank you for all you do! Enjoy the last full month of the summer!

Cheers!

Joe Musolf, President

August 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.



July 2026 General Meeting Minutes

Date: 07/21/2026

Meeting started 6:01 pm

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

It was noted that the June email newsletter mailing had the month of May instead of June. With that correction in mind, Jim Glassbrook motioned to approve the June meeting minutes; 2nd by Cari Jacob. All in favor, the motion passed.

President's Report - Joe Musolf

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

- The shop was closed on July 3rd so there was no big clean-up for the month.
- Chad went to the shop the following Thursday to work on a few tasks.

Large Estate Collection - Purchased last September.

- 2-3 more sessions will be needed to finish pricing the collection.
- Thank you to Sue Matlock and Bryant Hiiter for helping to identify, and price, so many rocks over the past year.
- The club has made back all the money it spent on the estate collection.
- Any rocks not sold in the shop, may be put out for sale at the September show.
- The club made several thousand dollars selling rocks at the holiday party in December.

Other Notes

- It was brought up that there should be a map to the Community Ed Office posted outside the door, in case the door is locked during open hours. Also there should be the phone number, and a way to contact a custodian after 6 pm.
- There was a surprising and large tariff payment due after the receipt of the 2 faceting machines, which came from India.
 - They were still much cheaper than a Facetron machine.
 - A member mentioned that the US government will often refund tariffs since many are not legitimate.
 - Be aware of this for future purchases when buying high priced items overseas.

Treasurer's Report - Cari Jacob

- A 5-month CD has matured and Jim Glassbrook made a motion to sign up for a new one. Chad 2nd the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.
- The checking and savings accounts are all in good standing, along with the CD.
- Cari asked the membership if there was interest in the club getting a landline in the office.
 - The club would have to pay \$100-\$500 to get the line installed in the room.
 - The club would have to pay an internet provider for the phone service every month.
 - Having our own internet, instead of using the school's, would give better access to sale websites blocked by the firewall.
 - Anyone could answer the phone, but it was questioned whether that would happen.
 - If there was an answering machine, the message could state the hours of the shop and location.
 - If there is not an answering machine, then who would take messages and log the day and time.
 - There was enough interest that Cari will do more research into the cost and bring info to the next meeting.

Membership - Cinda Wilson

- Cinda asked if there was going to be any more training before the fall show. The consensus was to wait until after the show.
- Cari mentioned there were 8 people on the waiting list.
- Max inquired if anyone else would like to become a trainer, because we are in need of more volunteers.

Shop Report - Chad Brendel

General Comments:

- Gayland mentioned that it is time to clean out the traps under the sinks.
- Chad will replace the tape on the mats soon.
- Joe would like to give \$10 in "LGMS bucks" to volunteers who participate on "Maintenance Day".
- The tiny blue trim saw reservoir was cleaned out but it needs to be changed again.
- The smaller saws are for cabochons only. There was too much oil added to one and it was spraying oil all over.
- Another saw was "running dry" the day before.

Silversmith's Report - Lavonne was not present

- Humidity has been attacking the new rolling mill.
 - Jim cleaned it for the second time in one month.
 - Put a bottle of 3-in-1 oil near it to coat it before leaving for the day.
 - Use only a couple of drops so that it doesn't get sticky.
 - Create a sign to let any member know how to maintain it.
- Maintenance on Foredoms has changed from every 3 months to every 2 months. It is due now.
- ATTN SILVERSMITHS! Please attend the Maintenance Day on the 1st Thursday of the month. Don't leave all the work for Lavonne.
- Wire wrapping and weaving classes will be the last 3 Fridays in August from 12- 2:30 pm. People who have already taken the class will be put on the waiting list to make room for new students.
- Chainmail class will happen in October.

Directors' Comments

- Max Runnels
 - Max is working on posting newsletters to the website.
 - Max will reformat the website, create an Events Page, and correct the shop hours.
 - The phone numbers of Board Members will be removed from the newsletters since AI and bots are scrubbing the internet for personal info. People can reach out by email, or stop by the shop.

Old Business: None brought up.**New Business:**Presidents notes about the 2026 show:

- Joe would like to offer a free membership to the member that gets the most attendance at the Rockhound's Dream Show. Referrals must be declared at the admission table. Cari will schedule people to keep track during the different shifts.
- If every member brought 3 people to the show, we would have 900 people attending.
- A vendor has dropped out of the show. Joe will look for a replacement.
- Toilet lids are needed for the flint knapper.
- There have only been 10 donations for the show so far. Please give what you can. There are tags to fill out near the sign in sheet.
- Status of Social Media:
 - Ruth set up a Facebook Business Page. There is information for vendors there.

- Please share our event on Facebook. The algorithm helps more when you share more.
- The Business Page will be advertised in the newsletter.
- The Business Page can have a raffle for free admission to the show.
- The Club has an Instagram page. Both Facebook and Instagram can be linked to the show website.
- TikTok is all about videos. Ruth can set one up. Anyone can send her videos to post. Jane has a lot of videos from last year - AND – she asked for permission from all the vendors before recording them.
- Vendor Spotlights can be put into videos.
- Brighton MI Happenings is a popular Facebook group.
- MI Facebook Rockhounding pages could be sent a copy of our flyer.
- Joe will send our Flyer out to other Michigan clubs soon.
- Cutting Geodes is still a big draw for any rock show.
- The Children's Table is in need of donations for grab bags.
- There will be a Gem Tree making day at the shop to teach people to make the trunks and branches, and glue them to a rock base. These will be used at the show for kids to attach gems and take home with them.

Faceting Machines For Sale

- There is one refurbished faceting machine for sale in the shop. It is a closed bidding system with a minimum of \$500.
- It is a Sapphire brand and includes a dop transfer and flat laps.
- It has been posted on Facebook, and an email has been sent out.
- A second machine will be for sale after the first one sells. It is not in as good condition. If it doesn't sell to a member thru the same closed bid system, then it will be sold at the Club Table at The Show.

Other Information

- Lori Hart will be teaching a beginning metalsmithing Class.
 - She has taught at William Holland.
 - Ideally the class is not for existing silversmiths.
 - There will be no torchwork.
 - \$25 material fee paid to the instructor.
 - 6-8 students max, and there will be an overflow list.

- Max mentioned using software called Google Forms. It can generate a QR code for people to get contact information for LGMS.
 - There could be an additional fee to get the software.
 - Google Forms can be used to create questionnaires.
 - Cari asked about adding a Slushie vendor to the show. Most people thought that it would compete with 4H sales and also food is not allowed in the gym. So she will tell the vendor it is a “no go”.
 - The locks on the drawers will be changed out soon.
 - The September meeting will be held the 2nd week of the month.
 - Jason Postula wanted to know if anyone has info on rockhounding in South Dakota.
- Max Runnels made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Glassbrook 2nd. All in favor, the motion passed.

Adjourned at 7:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Cinda Wilson. Secretary



Upcoming Events

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

September 11 - 13, 2026

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Annual Show

Wood County Fairgrounds, Pratt Pavilion, 13800 W. Poe Road, Bowling Green, Ohio

Info: RockyReader.com, Jerri Heer, jheerxl@aol.com

September 12-13, 2026

Kalamazoo Geologic and Mineral Society tailgate sale

St Michael Lutheran Church, 7211 Oakland, Portage, MI

Info: Dave Haas, stonehouserock@cs.com

SEPTEMBER 19 – 20, 2026

LIVINGSTON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SHOW

VOLUNTEER! ENJOY! PARTICIPATE!

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	
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

Vice President: Bryant Hiiter

Secretary: Cinda Wilson

Treasurer: Cari Jacob

Shop Foreman: Chad Brendel

Second year Directors: Lavonne Foldenaur
Max Runnels

First year Directors: Don Pentico
Jim Glassbrook

Note: The club's officers are available in person or
by sending an email to LGMSMich@gmail.com

Newsletter: Isla Mitchell

Historian: Chuck Amberger

Library: Bryant Hiiter

Webmaster: Maxwell Runnels

Web Resources: www.livingstongems.com

Email: LGMSMich@gmail.com

show website: lgmsrockshow.com

Instagram: 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, August 18, 2026
6 pm at Settlers Park
Pizza and Great Company! Bring a dish to share!

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.