Tumblewood Tales

ELC News, Volume 27, Issue 2, February 2026

Charoite cut en cabochon, part of permanent gemmological collection of Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton.

Monthly Meeting: February 19th, 2026

Callingwood/Lymburn Community League

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

18740 72nd Avenue NW

MEMBERSHIP INFO

The Edmonton Lapidary Club is a registered non-profit society dedicated to promoting the lapidary hobby in Edmonton and surrounding areas.

The meetings are every third Thursday of the month from September to May.

Club activities include educational and social events, field trips, and classes offered by members featuring various lapidary and jewelry design skills.

The club provides a fully equipped lapidary workshop for members' use. Members wishing to use the shop must be certified by the shop foreman after taking the introductory cabochon making course ($60). Current membership is required to access the shop.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

ELC Annual Membership is from January 1st to December 31st:
Family $75.00
Single $50.00
Please submit membership forms and e-transfer funds to etlctreasurer@gmail.com

CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Michelle Morin
ETLCgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com

Vice President: Bruce Smith
Goldbug99@shaw.ca

Treasurer: Clint Morin
etlctreasurer@gmail.com

Secretary: Fiona Jakielaszek
fossilgirl57@gmail.com

Past President: Joan Blize

Newsletter Editor: Nikola Pekas
npekas@gmail.com

Library & Social: Terry Routledge
780-459-5960
Routledge.jim@gmail.com

Programs: VACANT

Field Trips: VACANT

AFRC DELEGATES:

Michelle Morin, Dean Chesterman, Jim Routledge

ELC SHOP

Coordinator: Bruce Smith
Cell Phone: 780-908-4699

Goldbug99@shaw.ca

Shop Helpers:

Jim Routledge 780-446-7187

Jake Jakielaszek 780-298-9797

Dean Chesterman 780-863-5171

Nikola Pekas 780-221-7021

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fees include the following:

- Cost of affiliation in the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs (AFRC) and the Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada (GMFC)
- Liability insurance for members on organized field trips or club events.
- Subscription to our monthly newsletter - Tumblewood Tales
- The AFRC Newsletter
- Access to the ELC Lapidary shop, library, exclusive auctions and member sales

SHOP USAGE FEES

Hourly Rate $10.00
Slab saws $5.00/hr

SHOP DAYS AND LOCATION

Thursdays 11am-4pm

Fridays 6pm-10pm

2nd and 4th Saturday of the month 1pm-5pm

Edmonton Research Park
9403 20 Avenue NW, Unit 112

President's Message for February 2026

Well! The Groundhog Came out and said that Spring is six weeks away! The days are getting longer! Our shop has ben busy already with new members coming in and some great classes.

This month I encourage everyone to:

- Start something new
- Finish something that has been sitting in their rock box
- Pick a piece for our next Meeting Show and Share

Another reminder, membership renewals are now due. Keeping your membership current helps support our shop operations, classes, and events throughout the year. If you haven't already renewed, please be sure to submit your updated membership form and payment soon. Either in person at the shop, at our next meeting, or by e-transfer to etlctreasurer@gmail.com.

Upcoming, our February meeting is on February 19th. Jim and Terry Routledge will be doing a presentation on the *La Brea Tar Pits,* one of the world's most famous fossil sites. This remarkable site contains natural asphalt seeps that have preserved mammoths, dire wolves, and saber-toothed cats. It contains a geological history.

Our Show and Share Theme for the meeting is linked to the presentation. Bring your specimens that feature "Black" and/or "Buried and Preserved". This could include a favorite piece of obsidian, bones, teeth, fossils. Bring out your favorite specimen to show off and tell the rest of us about it.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and in the shop as we kick off another great year together.

Thank- You

Michelle Morin

President ELC

Upcoming Events

CLUB MEETING

February 19th 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Presentation By Terry and Jim Routledge: *Trip Report - La Brea Tar Pits*.

We will also have a show and share - bring your rocks to show off. The theme is "Black" or "buried and preserved" as a homage to the presentation. Bring your favorite black rocks/minerals that have been buried and/or preserved. This could include horns, teeth, claws, bones. Bring Your favorite!".

PLEASE NOTE: The weather forecast for the meeting week is predicting heavy snow over Tuesday and Wednesday. ***The walkway from the parking lot to the hall may be very icy and snow packed, please wear spiked shoes if you have them and be very careful.*** If the weather is really bad, we may cancel the meeting, but we will send an email by 3:00 pm and post updates on the Website and on Facebook. Please check for updates if the weather is bad.

Meeting location : Lymburn/Callingwood community Hall. 18740 72 Ave NW, Edmonton

SHOP TIMES FOR February and March

Tuesday evenings 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm (Feb 24th; March 3rd, 24th)
Thursday afternoon 11:00 am - 4:00 pm (Feb 19th, 26th; March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th)
Friday evenings 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm (Feb 20th, 27th; March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th)
Saturday afternoon 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Feb 28th; March 14th, 28th)

Upcoming Classes

Please register by contacting etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com.

February 21st 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Wire Wrap – Bracelet with Jim Routledge. All supplies provided. Members $60, Non-members $75. Registration Closes February 18th 4:00pm.

February 22nd 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Advanced Lapidary materials Cutting and Polishing – OPALS. This class provides instruction on how to work with OPALS. Space is limited. $100 for members and $150 for non-members. Registration Closes February 20th 4:00 pm.

March 1st 11:00 am - 7:00 pm. Crescent Moon Pendant. Silversmith and Wire Weave Class. $100 for members and $120 for non-members. All supplies and shop fees included. Registration Closes February 27th 4:00 pm.

March 10th 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Free Form Wire Wrap Pendant. Basic Wire Wrap. Students will learn the basics to wire wrap a stone that is not a standard shape. All tools and materials supplied. $60 members $75 non-members. Registration closes March 7th 7:00 pm.

March 15th 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Advanced Lapidary Materials Cutting and Polishing – JADE. This class provides instruction on how to work with JADE. Space is limited. $100 for members and $150 for non-members. Registration closes March 13th 4:00 pm.

March 22nd 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Rough Rock Prong setting Silversmith Class. $100 for members and $120 for non-members. All supplies and shop fees included. Registration closes March 20th 4:00 pm.

Some of the creations from previous ELC classes

For sale

One of our members has 2 - 6inch 220 hard diamond wheels for sale for $360 or best offer. Brand new- not used. Contact **etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com**

Club member has a brand new Hi-Tech flat lap for sale including smoothing pads and backing plate. Asking $1000. Contact **etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com**

Gentle Reminder: Shop Code of Conduct

Please continue to do your part to help keep our equipment in safe, clean, and working order:

- Avoid contamination of dopping wax by saw oil, as contaminated wax will fail to bond properly. Oily slabs should be thoroughly wiped and then placed in cat litter that will further absorb the oil residue. Finally, slabs should be scrubbed in the provided tub with detergent, and rinsed and wiped before trimming and dopping. Plan your work accordingly.
- Remember to wash your rocks and wash your hands when switching to a wheel with a different grit; this is to minimise cross-contamination of wheels and the surrounding surfaces.
- Never rinse slab cuts and rocks into the sink. The grit will clog the pipes!
- Please help us keep the area clean and tidy. This helps reduce the risk of safety problems, and keeps the equipment in good working condition.
- Make sure the water is turned off at each machine when done using it, then turn off the motor. Wipe any water and debris off the bench surfaces.
- When using the slab saws, do not overtighten vise screws. Make sure the rock being cut fits securely. Use shims as needed. Consult with the shop helper if you are unsure about anything.
- At the end of your working session, please consult with the shop helper and help clean and wipe down all machines and benches: wipe excess dust, grit, debris, and cat litter. If you are helping empty water collection pails, ensure that they are emptied onto the grassy area outside of the building, away from any storm drains.

Feature Article: Jet

Two views of a jet cameo representing Medusa, ca. 2nd-4th century. Photographed by: York Museums Trust Staff, Creative Commons License CC BY-SA 4.0.

Dark, lightweight, and deeply connected to ancient forests, **jet** is not a mineral at all; it is fossilized wood. Formed from prehistoric driftwood that was buried, compressed, and subjected to heat over millions of years, jet is essentially a compact variety of lignite (a type of coal). Unlike harder gemstones formed from crystalline minerals, jet is organic in origin, linking geology directly to ancient life.

Jet has been used for thousands of years, but it became especially popular during the Victorian era. After the death of Prince Albert in 1861, Queen Victoria wore jet as part of her mourning attire, sparking a fashion movement across Europe. The finest historical material came from Whitby, England, where "Whitby Jet" became world-renowned.

Mourning jewelry in jet, 19th century. Photograph by Detlef Thomas, published under CC BY-SA 2.0 license.

Properties of Jet

Exhibiting Mohs hardness of 2.5–4, jet is also very lightweight and warm to the touch (unlike most stones). It is often deep black or brownish-black, and can take a high, velvety polish. Because it is relatively soft, jet is easy to carve and shape, making it ideal for beads, cameos, pendants, and intricate carvings. Jet cuts easily compared to most stones, but it must be handled gently. It can scratch, chip, or crack if treated aggressively. Light sanding and careful polishing produce a beautiful, almost satin-like sheen.

Due to its organic origin, jet can sometimes be confused with black glass or plastic. One simple clue: jet feels lighter and warmer than glass, and when rubbed gently, it may emit a faint coal-like scent.

Jet reminds us that not all "stones" began as rock. Some began as trees, growing in ancient forests long before mammoths walked the Earth. Over time, those forests transformed, compressed and preserved, into the dark material we now polish and wear.

Meeting agenda for February

7:00-7:10 Introduction & Welcome

- Guest and new member introductions
- Review of previous minutes
- Additions to the Agenda?

7:10-7:30 Club Business

- Review Action Items - Update
- Upcoming classes – Info
- Auction
- Shop Hours of Operation
    - Changes to current hours
    - Survey
- 2026 club calendar
- Books in shop
- Club Insurance

7:20-7:30 New Business

- Shop waivers

7:40-8:00pm Club Updates

- Reporting Financials
- Social Committee
- Shop
- Big saws
- Library
- Website, Facebook, Instagram

8:00 -8:30 pm Presentation: *La Brea Tar Pits by Jim and Terry*

Show and Share: "BLACK" and/or "Buried or Preserved" (not limited to just one)! Show off your favorite stones and tell us a little about them.

8:45-9:00 Clean Up