Tumblewood Tales

ELC News, Volume 27, Issue 3, March 2026

Beryl varieties aquamarine, heliodor, emerald, and morganite. Part of permanent gemmological collection of Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton.

Monthly Meeting: March 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

Renata Ruch 780-000-0000

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 March 2026

March always feels like a turning point. With longer days and more sunlight, many of us start thinking about spring field trips, new projects, and getting back into the shop after the long winter.

Hate to nag, but membership renewals are now due. Membership fees help us keep the shop operational, 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.

The March meeting is on Thursday March 19th. Our Show and Share Theme for the meeting is "Banded Beauties". Bring along a specimens that feature "banding", stipes, ribbons, and tell the rest of us about it.

Our Presentation will be a discussion and photo showcase from the Tucson rock and Gem show, one of the world's largest gem and mineral events.

Keep Your Calendar Clear April 24th-26th for the first auction of the year! We will need volunteers for preparing the lots over the next couple of weeks. Volunteers will also be needed for the auction runners, data entry, the welcome desk and the concession. Email etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com to add your name to our volunteer list!

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and in the shop.

Until next time, keep those wheels turning and your rocks shining!

Thank- You

Michelle Morin

President ELC

Upcoming Events

CLUB MEETING

March 19th 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Presentation by Jim Routledge: *Tucson Rock and Gem Show.*

This month's Show & Share theme is "Banded Beauties." Bring your favorite banded rock, mineral, or specimen and tell us a little about it. Think of stones with striking natural layers or patterns—such as agates, malachite, banded iron, fluorite, or onyx. Anything that features layers, stripes, ribbons, or lines.

PLEASE NOTE: With the changing weather, the walkway from the parking lot to the hall can be very icy and snow packed. If you have spiked footwear, please wear it, and use extra caution when making your way to the hall.

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

CLUB AUCTION

April 24th - April 26th, Athlone Community Hall 13010-129th Avenue

Friday April 24th: hall set up 12 noon – 5 pm.

Saturday April 25th: open for viewing at 8 am, auction goes 9 am – 5 pm.

Sunday April 26th: open for viewing at 8 am, auction 9 am – 5 pm. Hall Clean up 5 pm – 7 pm.

Our first Club Auction of the year is coming up! Join us for a great weekend of rocks, minerals, lapidary rough, slabs, equipment, and other treasures. It's a fun event for collectors, rockhounds, and anyone interested in the world of stones and lapidary.

We will also need volunteers to help make the event a success. Volunteers are needed in the weeks leading up to the auction as well as during the event for auction runners, data entry, the welcome desk, and the concession.

We will be holding several **work bees** to help inventory and package auction lots. Dates will be announced soon.

If you would like to help, please email **etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com** to add your name to the volunteer list so we can send you the details.

MAY DAZE 2026

May 15th – 18th: this year hosted by the Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club at the Seven Persons Community Hall.

The May Daze schedule is available on the AFRC website. Please visit the site for details on events, auctions, and accommodations:

https://www.afrc.ca/activities.htm

There is still an open call for the following:

• **Showcases** – Anyone wishing to set up a display should contact the organizers to request space.

• **Demonstrations or Workshops** – If you are interested in presenting a demonstration or leading a workshop, please reach out to the organizers.

• **Auction Donations** – Donations are being accepted for the **AFRC Auction**, with all proceeds going to support the AFRC.

SHOP TIMES FOR MARCH

Tuesday evenings 7 pm – 10 pm (March 24th)
NEW - Thursday 11 am – 8 pm (March 19th, 26th). On March 19th shop will close early at 4 pm for club meeting.
Friday evenings 6 pm – 10 pm (March 20th, 27th)
Saturday afternoon 1 pm – 5 pm (March 28th)

UPCOMING CLASSES

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

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

April 12th 11 am – 6 pm. Metal Smith class. Adjustable Ring. $100 for members and $120 for non-members. All supplies and shop fees included. Registration Closes April 10th 4:00 pm.

April 18th 10 am – 12 noon Local Rock Identification Introduction Class. This class provides instruction on how to do basic rock Identification in the field. $30 for members and $40 for non-members. Registration Closes April 15th 4:00pm.

April 18th 1 pm – 3 pm. Introduction to Chain Maille. Students will learn how to create their own chain maille that can be used for making a variety of jewelry designs. $30 for members $40 for non-members. All tools and material provided. Tool kits will be available for purchase for $60 for students that would like their own personal kit. Registration Closes April 15th 4:00pm.

For Sale

From Ed Zeschuk:

Because of my physical health I no longer am able to do lapidary work of any kind. I have sold or given away most of my equipment. 21 years ago I purchased from Edmonton Rock & Gem the GENI grinding unit for $2500 after delivery cost and tax. It was the unit I used for fine work and was used sparingly. The unit is like new condition, but I don't have the mobility to clean it up. A fair price to buyer and me is $1250. Also, I had purchased at same time as the Geni two diamond wheels, not Resin Bond diamond thinking that I would wear the wheels out but I used the machine so sparingly that the original wheels are in excellent condition. I paid $230 each Wheel. Asking half price each for them. $110 each.

Summarizing: $1250 for Geni. $110 each for wheels.

Phone me at **780 430 6694** to arrange a look at the unit. I will keep track of the order of calls.

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

STILL FOR SALE: 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 lowers the risk of safety problems, and keeps our 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: Beginner's Guide 10 Rocks and Minerals Every Beginner Should Know – PART 1

For anyone starting out in rock collecting or lapidary, the world of minerals can feel overwhelming. Thousands of different stones exist, but many belong to a small group of very common and recognizable minerals. Learning to identify these basic stones is a great first step for any rockhound.

1. Quartz

One of the most common minerals on Earth, quartz appears in many forms including clear quartz, amethyst, rose quartz, and smoky quartz. It has a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale and often forms glassy six-sided crystals.

2. Agate

Agate is a variety of chalcedony known for its beautiful banded patterns. It is extremely popular for lapidary work because it is durable and takes an excellent polish.

3. Jasper

Jasper is an opaque variety of chalcedony that occurs in many colours including red, yellow, brown, and green. It is widely used for cabochons and carvings.

4. Calcite

Calcite is a very common mineral found in **limestone and many sedimentary rocks**. It is relatively soft (hardness **3**) and will **bubble in weak acid**, making it easy to identify.

5. Feldspar

Feldspar is a large mineral group that makes up much of the Earth's crust. Popular varieties include labradorite, moonstone, and sunstone, which can display striking optical effects.

NEXT MONTH FEATURE ARTICLE – PART 2!

Quick Identification Tips

Hardness – Measures how easily a mineral scratches. Quartz (7) will scratch glass.
Streak – The colour of a mineral's powder on unglazed porcelain.
Crystal Shape – Some minerals form distinctive crystals like cubic pyrite or hexagonal quartz.
Cleavage & Fracture – How a mineral breaks. Calcite breaks along flat planes while quartz breaks with curved fractures.
Luster – Describes how light reflects from the surface (metallic, glassy, dull).

Tip: The best identifications come from combining several properties, not relying on just one.

Smithsonite is a zinc carbonate mineral found in pastel colours of blue, pink, green, and lavander. It is named after James Smithson, founder of the Smithsonian Institution. This large, botryoidal specimen is part of the gemmological collection of Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton.

Meeting agenda for March

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 Coming up volunteers, work bees, advertising
- May Daze Event Info
- Shop Hours of Operation
    - Changes to current hours
    - Survey
- 2026 club calendar
- Books in shop
- Club Insurance

7:20-7:30 New Business

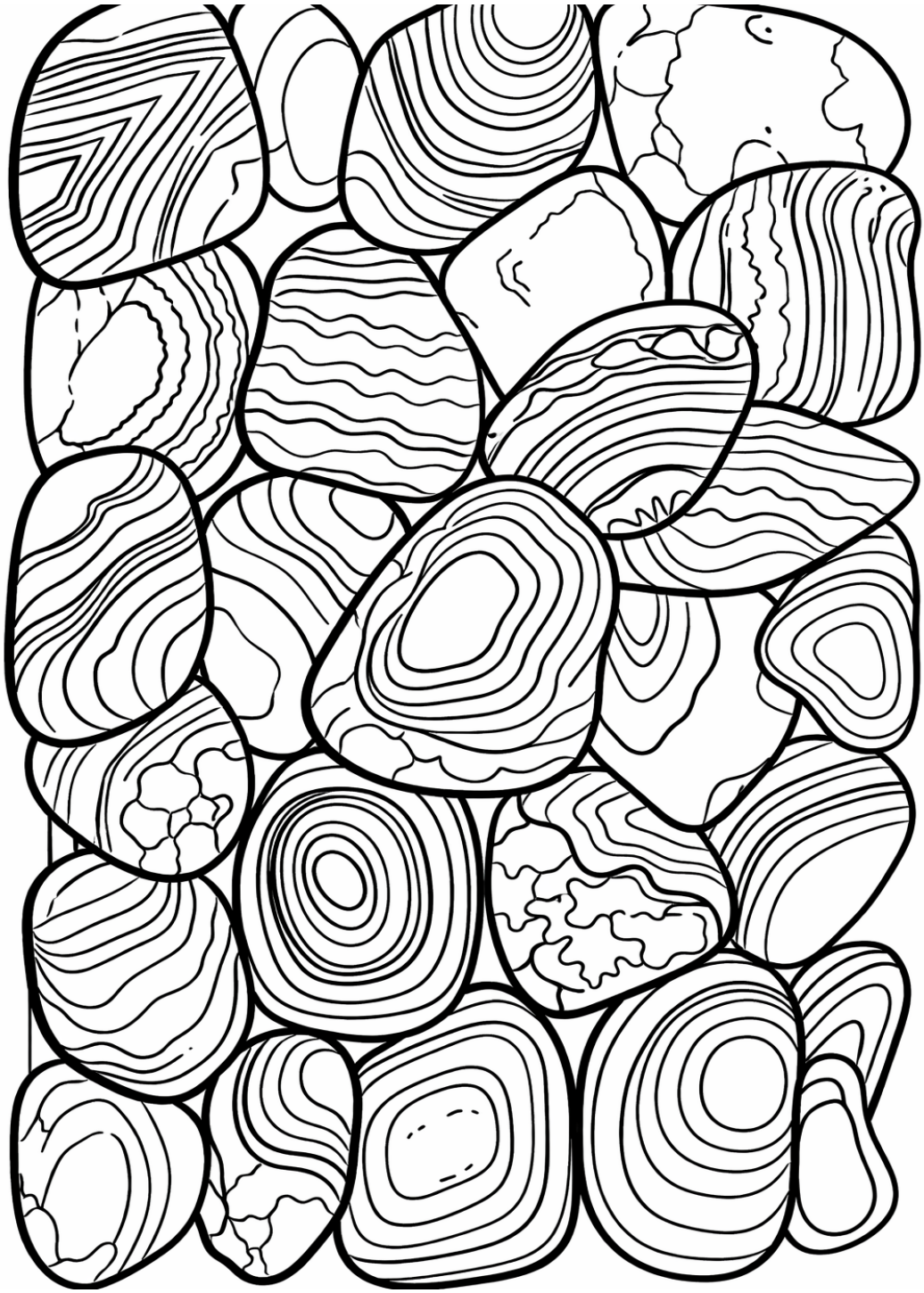
- Shop Waivers- reminder

7:40-8:00pm Club Updates

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

8:00 -8:30 pm Presentation: *Tucson – Largest Rock and Gem show in North America. Photo showcase from previous shows.*

Show and Share: "Banded Beauties" (not limited to just one)! Show off your favorite stones and tell us a little about them.

8:45-9:00 Clean Up

Activity Page: Color the Banded Agates