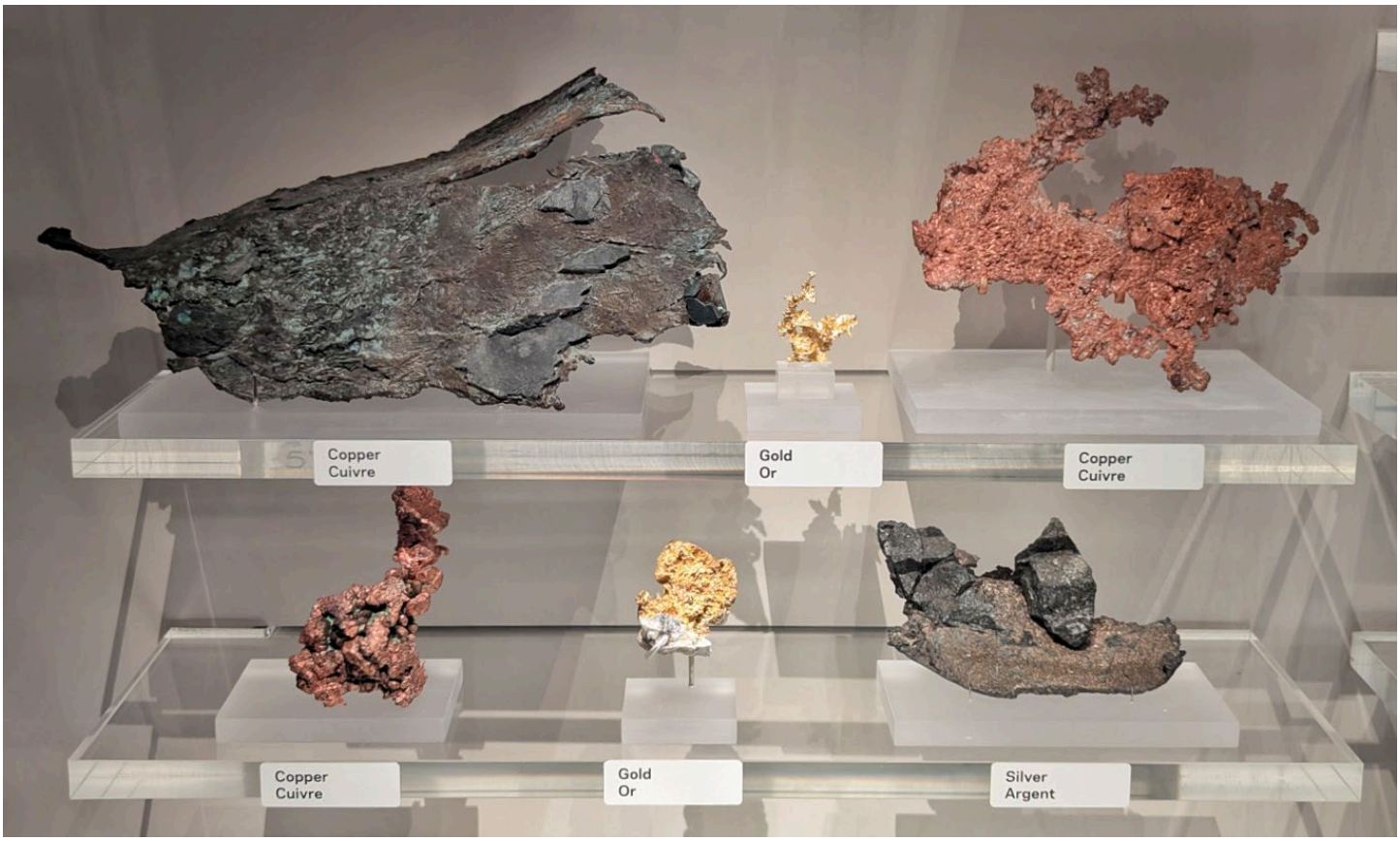
Tumblewood Tales

ELC News, Volume 26, Issue 8, November 2025



Specimens of copper, gold, and silver occurring naturally as native metals, on display at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton.

Annual General Meeting: November 20th, 2025

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 November 2025

Hello Everyone,

It is November. It is so surprising how fast the year goes by. It is once again time for the Edmonton Lapidary Club Annual General Meeting (AGM). Each year, our AGM gives members the opportunity to help shape the direction of the club by stepping forward to serve on the Executive Committee. The positions of **Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary** are open for nominations. The only role with a small eligibility requirement is **President**, which must be filled by someone who has been a member for at least the past two years. We are also looking for volunteer members to help on Committees for Social Media, and Event and Activity Planning.

If you've ever thought about getting more involved, sharing your ideas, or helping guide the future of our club, this is a wonderful chance to do so. It is a great way to connect with other members and make a lasting contribution to our lapidary community.

Please forward any expression of interest by email to etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com or attend the meeting on Thursday November 20th, 2025 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Lymburn Callingwood Community Hall 18740 – 72 ave NW.

Our **SHOW & SHARE** for this meeting is *Shades of Autumn!* Bring your favorite stones that highlight the colors of fall: reds, golds, browns, orange, yellow and ambers.

Our Annual Christmas Potluck Party is on Saturday December 6th 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. I hope that you all can make it. All details are in the newsletter.

Thank You!

Michelle Morin

President, ELC

Upcoming Events

SHOP TIMES FOR November and December

Thursday afternoons (November 20th and 27th; December 4th and 11th) 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Friday evenings (November 21st and 28th; December 5th and 12th) 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Saturday afternoons on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month (November 22nd and December 13th) 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Additional shop time slots may be available upon request with at least two days of advance notice.

The large saw in Morinville is by appointment only.

December 6th Annual Christmas Potluck & Party 3 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Our annual Christmas potluck party. All members are welcome. Guests may attend for $5. All attendees must bring a family size dish to share. Turkey and Ham will be provided by the Club. Members can set up sell tables from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Secret Santa gift exchange. All participants must provide a maximum $25 lapidary-themed gift to join the gift exchange. Activities will include:

- Visiting the sales tables from members of the club. Member sales tables will be featuring lapidary craft items that will be for sale. Handmade, one of kind items that you will not find anywhere else. GREAT GIFT IDEAS!
- Gem testing with Jim Routledge. Do you have concerns or hopes that your gemstones may not be what they appear to be? Bring them in for a test with Jim!
- Silent Auction. We have some surprises in the silent auction **including a 6" inch trim Saw.** We have also added some amazing slabs, rough rock, books, and magazines
- The ELC will also have sales table that will feature some desirable items! Do not miss this!

RSVP if you can attend to ETLCgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com before December 1st, 2025. We want to make sure we purchase enough Turkey and Ham for everyone to enjoy.

EDMONTON LAPIDARY CLUB
Christmas 2025
PARTY & POTLUCK
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6 3:00 PM- 9:00 PM
LYMBURN CALLINGWOOD COMMUNITY HALL
18740 - 72 AVE NW EDMONTON
JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS POTLUCK SUPPER!
PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE FAMILY-SIZED DISH TO SHARE
THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE ROASTED TURKEY AND HAM
REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN PLATES, UTENSILS, AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS
SECRET SANTA GIFT EXCHANGE, TO JOIN IN THE FUN BRING A LAPIDARY-RELATED GIFT (MAX . $25)
VENDOR TABLES
SELLERS CAN SET UP TABLES FROM 3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM, 15% OF SALES PROCEEDS WILL BE CONTRIBUTED BACK TO THE CLUB.
SILENT AUCTION, GEM TESTING ACTIVITIES
MEMBERS - FREE
GUESTS $5 PER PERSON
Please R.S.V.P. by Dec. 1st
Etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com

Upcoming Classes

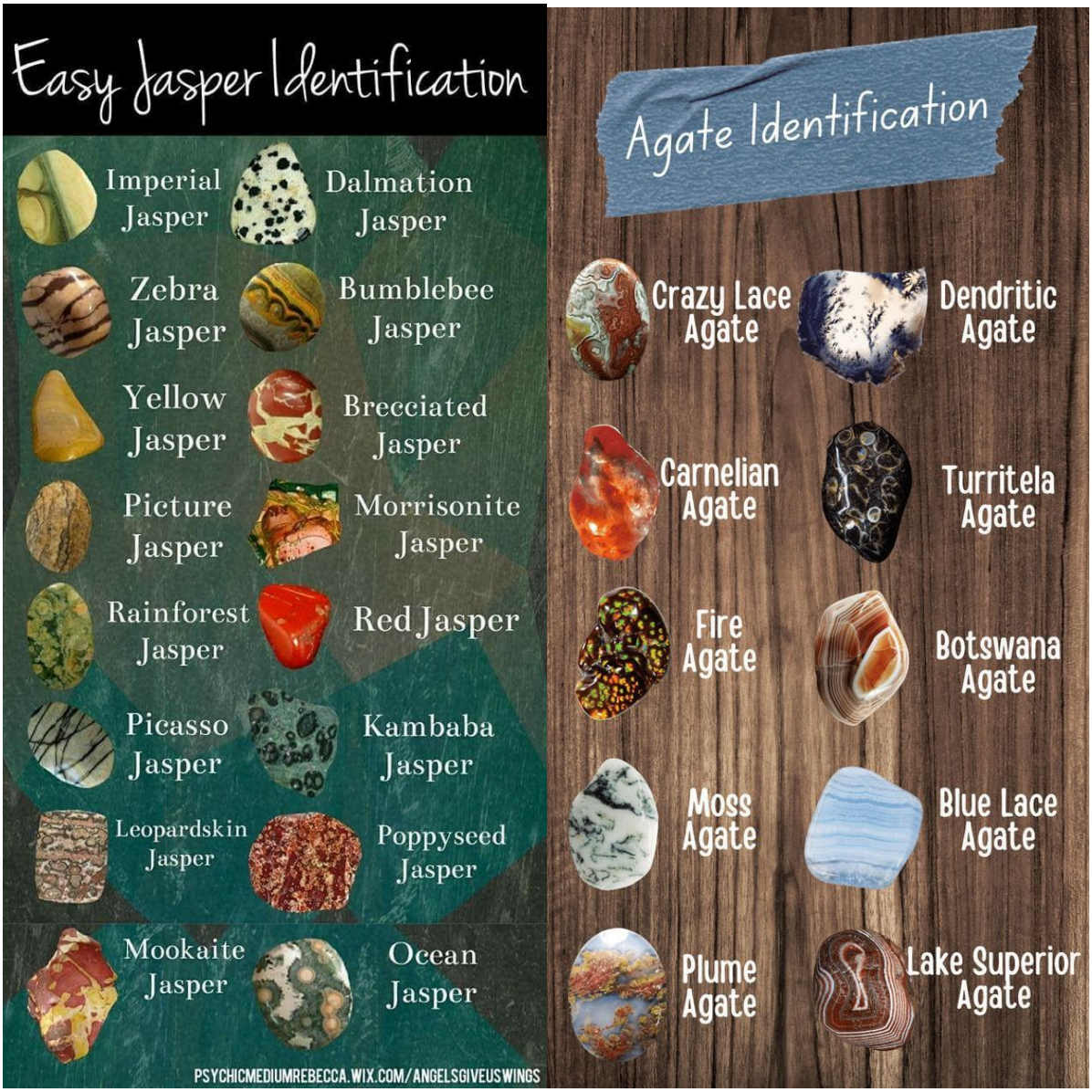
NOV 17 MONDAY **Dean Chesterman** **7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**	**Introduction to Chain Maille** Create your own stylized chain maille jewelry in this beginner friendly class. This technique is easy to do anywhere with minimal equipment. All supplies and tools will be provided. $30 for ETLC members. $40 for non-members. Tool kits will be available for purchase ($60)	
NOV 19 WEDNESDAY **Michelle Morin** **7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**	**Herring Bone Wire Wrap Ring** Learn how to shape, wrap, and design your very own ring using easy-to-follow wire wrapping techniques. Choose your favorite bead or stone and create a unique piece of jewelry. No experience needed $30 for ETLC members. $40 for non-members.	
NOV 23 SUNDAY **Olena Synkovych** **11:00 AM - 6:00 PM**	**Silversmith Skills & Wire Weave - Crescent Pendant** Create a crescent style pendant in copper using a combination of silver smith and wire weave techniques. All Supplies and tools provided. $150 for ETLC members. $175 for non-members.	
NOV 29 SATURDAY **Jim Routledge** **1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**	**Wire Wrap Bracelet - Summer Daisy Bracelet** Students will learn how to create a wire wrap bracelet An elegant design that makes a great gift All supplies and tools will be provided. $60 for ETLC members. $75 for non-members.	

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: Fluorite – the Gem of Many Colours

Fluorite is one of the most visually stunning and fascinating minerals a rockhound can find. It is prized for its brilliant range of colours, crystal shapes, and fluorescence under ultraviolet light. Fluorite can appear in shades of purple, green, yellow, pink, blue and clear – sometimes all in one specimen!

A cluster of gemmy, pastel green fluorite crystals on galena, 3.75 cm across. Image by Robert M. Lavinsky via iRocks.com.

Chemically, fluorite is calcium fluoride (CaF_2), and forms in hydrothermal veins alongside minerals like quartz, calcite, and galena. When it is cut and polished, its translucency and vivid hues make it a true showpiece. Because it ranks only 4 on the Mohs hardness scale, it is a relatively soft mineral that is best suited for display pieces, pendants, or earrings.

Pure, laboratory-grown fluorite is also used in telescopes, lasers, and other specialized scientific instruments due to its transparency in both infrared and ultraviolet parts of the spectrum.

In Canada, notable deposits of fluorite occur in Newfoundland, Ontario, and British Columbia. One of the best known historical sources is the St. Lawerence area of Newfoundland which was once home to a major fluorite mining operation. In Alberta, fluorite can be found in small quantities in the Rocky Mountains near Banff and Jasper. While Alberta specimens are often modest in size, they often display pale green and purple colouring together that makes finding a piece very rewarding.

Oval-cut, vivid blue fluorite, mounted in yellow gold, accented with diamonds, height 2.5 cm. Credit: Bonhams auction house.

Many fluorite specimens is their fluorescence under ultraviolet light, showing intense violet or electric blue glow. In fact, the phenomenon of fluorescence was named after fluorite!

Meeting agenda for November

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
- Follow up Nikola and U of A contact
- Books in shop
- Christmas Party
- Club Insurance

7:20-7:30 New Business

- **10”saw purchase $600**

7:30 – 7:40pm AGM ELECTIONS for the Executive and Supporting Role Positions

7:40-8:00pm Club Updates

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

8:00 ADJOURN

8:00 - 8:45pm Show and Share: *Shades of Autumn!* Bring your favorite stones that highlight the colors of fall, reds, golds, browns, orange, yellow and ambers.

8:45 - 9:00 Clean Up

Name That Stone! Riddle Page

Do you know your gems and minerals? Read each riddle carefully

Can you guess which stone it describes?

(Answers are at the bottom… no peeking!)

1. I'm green as a forest, with shimmering blue fire. From Labrador, I glow with mystical desire. When polished I flash and catch every eye. What am I?

Hint: Found in Canada's far east coast!

2. I'm striped like a sunset, brown, red, and gold. Formed in layers of iron that's ancient and old. My silky bands shimmer, like sunlight's warm gleam. What am I?

Hint: A cousin of Jasper, sometimes called 'Tiger's Eye's cousin.

3. Once wood, now stone, through ages I grew, my rings remain though colours are new. I tell a story of time long gone. What am I?
Hint: Fossilized forest treasure!

4. I'm black as the night yet made from old tears, volcanic glass cooled for thousands of years. Smooth and shiny, I guard from harm. What am I?
Hint: Often called a 'protective stone.'

5. Pink like a rose, my name gives it away, I bring love and calm to brighten your day. I'm soft on the Mohs scale but gentle in heart. What am I?
Hint: Often carved into hearts or spheres.

6. I'm blue as the sky, sometimes with gold specks, treasured by pharaohs and worn 'round their necks. I'm ancient and royal, both gemstone and art. What am I?
Hint: Often confused with Sodalite.

Answers: 1-Labradorite. 2-Tiger Iron. 3-Petrified Wood. 4-Obsidian. 5-Rose Quartz. 6-Lapida Lazuli