Tumblewood Tales

ELC News, Volume 26, Issue 7, October 2025

Topaz is a nesosilicate mineral that in its stracture also includes aluminum and fluorine. Naturally ocurring as clear, yellow-brown, orange-pink, or pale blue crystals, it can be treated by heating and irradiation to produce deeper shades of pink,golden, violet, of blue. Shown on the left is a natural specimen of imperial topaz, along with a treated dark blue variety, in a pear cut, on the right. From the collection of Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton.

Club meeting: October 16th, 2025
Callingwood/Lymburn Community League
7:00PM – 9:00PM
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 October 2025

Hello Everyone,

It is October. Gardens are getting cleaned, Halloween decorations are coming out. The air is getting chilly, and winter will be here soon. But that does not mean that lapidary crafts and working with rocks is done for the season. Now is the time to come into the shop and work on projects that will bring out the beauty of your summer finds, or to drop in to learn a new craft or skill.

New class listings have been updated on Facebook and our website. Let us know if there are any other offerings that may be of interest.

Our next meeting is on Thursday October 16th 7:00 PM. Dean Chesterman is going to do a presentation "Tumbling 101: Tips for Successful Tumble Polish". Our *SHOW & SHARE* theme is *Orange and Black* – for stones that have orange and/or black – and *Stones & Bones for st*ones that are bone, have bonelike structures, or imprinted skeletons. Bring them out and show them off.

Upcoming Events

SHOP TIMES FOR OCTOBER

Tuesday and Thursday evenings are no longer available

Thursday afternoons (October 16th, 23rd, and 30th) 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday evenings (October 17th, 24th, and 31st) 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday afternoons on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month (October 25th) 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The large saw in Morinville is by appointment only.

December 6th Annual Christmas Potluck & Party 3:00pm – 9:00pm

Our annual Christmas potluck and 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 3pm -5pm. Dinner is at 530pm. Secret Santa gift exchange after dinner. All participants must provide a max. $25 lapidary themed gift to join the gift exchange.

Upcoming Classes

OCT 19 SUNDAY **Jim Routledge** **Ed Zeschuk** 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM	**Pharaoh's Ring Wire Wrap** This is a hands-on class where you'll master basic wire-wrap techniques to craft a stunning Pharaoh's ring. It's a great way to explore jewelry-making and create an amzing feature piece to wear or gift. All supplies and tools will be provided. $60 for ETLC members. $75 for non-members.	
OCT 20 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)	
OCT 22 WEDNESDAY **Michelle Morin** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	**Stretch Bead Bracelets** Each student will design and make 3 different gemstone bracelets. Suitable for kids and adults! Easy and Fun! All supplies and tools will be provided. $20 for ETLC members. $30 for non-members.	

Submissions Needed for the 2026 Club Calendar

Last year the club produced a beautiful pictorial annual calendar for fundraising. It was a short print run, but all calendars were sold. We would like to create a new calendar for 2026, and are looking for contributors to provide a stone, mineral specimen, or a special collection piece that could be included in this year's calendar. Please send submissions to etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com. If you have an item, but do not have a good picture, let us know, we can help with that. We have a wonderful photographer that will take some great photos. The deadline for contributions is November 1st.

Shop News

Due to staff availability issues, we are currently unable to continue offering Tuesday evening shop sessions. We will be canvasing for new volunteers, but for now shop days are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays as shown on page 2.

Shop code of conduct: PLEASE CONTINUE TO DO YOUR PART TO HELP KEEP THE EQUIPMENT IN SAFE, CLEAN, AND WORKING ORDER!

- Remember to wash your rock 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 the mist and debris of the bench surfaces.
- When using the saws do not overtighten vise screws, and make sure the rock being cut fits securely. Use shims if required. Consult with the shop helper if you are unsure about anything.
- At the end of the working session, please
    - Make sure that the main control valves have been shut off and dop station is turned off.
    - Help clean and wipe down all machines and benches: wipe excess dust, sand, debris, and cat litter.
    - Make sure that garbage cans and water collection pails have been emptied. Mudy water from pails should be emptied onto the grassy area outside of the building, away from any storm drains.

Feature Article: Picture Rock Jaspers – Biggs, Blue Biggs and Deschutes

Few stones capture the imagination quite like **Picture Rock Jasper**, a variety of jasper known for its stunning, landscape-like patterns that resemble desert vistas, rolling hills, and painted skies. It is formed from silica-rich sediments and volcanic ash that slowly solidify into chalcedony over millions of years. Each slab reveals intricate scenes that look as though they were painted by hand but have evolved naturally.

While many localities produce picture jaspers, some of the most famous and sought-after varieties come from Oregon's Columbia River Plateau. There are three closely related types that are often mistaken for each other; Biggs Jasper, Blue Biggs Jasper, and Deschutes Jasper. All three are especially prized by lapidaries and collectors alike.

Biggs Jasper

Biggs Jasper is the most classic and recognizable picture jasper. Discovered near the town of Biggs Junction, it is known for its soft browns, tans and earthy red tones that are arranged in swirling layers and scenic patterns that are reminiscent of ancient canyon walls and distant mesa landscapes. The fine grain of the mineral takes a high shine polish that makes particularly prized for cabochons, fine jewelry or decorative specimens.

A slab of a classic Biggs Jasper. Photo by Deidre Woollard used under Creative Commons license.

Blue Biggs Jasper

A fine example of Blue Biggs Jasper, cut en cabachon by lapidary artist Sam Silverhawk.

Blue Biggs Jasper forms under similar conditions but contains trace elements that provide for blue, gray and slate color tones in the mineral landscape. The cooler blue gray shades often create dramatic storm-like skyscapes or swirling landscapes. This jasper also polishes to a high shine and makes stunning decorative pieces or slabs that are distinctive and unique.

Deschutes Jasper

Deschutes Jasper is found 20 miles south of the Biggs locality near the Deschutes River Canyon. Deschutes jasper shares the scenic quality of Biggs Jasper, but differs in both texture and color. It typically has warmer colors in chocolate browns, ochres, and deep brick red and

features bold, sharply defined patterns. It is slightly harder and denser than Biggs and Blue Biggs, and will take an exceptional polish.

All three of these jaspers tell a story of geological process, time and transformation. They are often mistaken as “Landscape Art” that has been made by hand when they are on display, but Picture jaspers are an amazing example of the beauty that nature creates and is often hidden. Whether you’re cutting cabochons, polishing slabs, or simply admiring them in your collection, picture rock jaspers offer a glimpse into nature’s own gallery.

Cabochons of Deschutes Jasper. Credit: Jerred Morris via Rockhouning Maps.

Meeting agenda for October

7:00-7:10 Introduction & Welcome

- Guest and new member introductions
- Review of previous minutes (May and Sept)
- Additions to the Agenda?

7:10-7:20 Club Business

- Upcoming classes
- Auction
- Shop Hours of Operation
    - Changes to current hours
    - Survey
- 2026 club calendar
- Follow UP Nikola and Uof A contact
- Books in shop

7:20-7:30 New Business

- **Rental Insurance and GMFC changes coming**
- **November AGM and elections**
- **Christmas Party**

7:30 – 7:40pm Club Updates

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

7:45 – 8:15pm Presentation – "Tumbling 101" by Dean Chesterman – Everything you need to know to tumble polish at home.

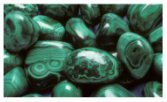
8:15 -8:45 pm Show and Share: Bring out your summer finds to discuss and identify. Theme is Orange/Black, Skulls and Bones! Let's see your Orange and/or black beauties and your stones that may be bones or have skeletons or skulls.

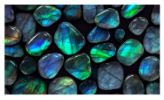
8:45-9:00 Social & Clean Up

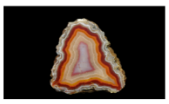
Lapidary Matching Game

Draw a line to match the rock or mineral with its description!

Rocks & Minerals	Descriptions
1. Agate	A. Shiny black volcanic glass
2. Jasper	B. Rainbow flashes when turned in the light
3. Obsidian	C. Red or pink stone with black streaks
4. Quartz	D. Blue stone often with golden flecks
5. Labradorite	E. Fossilized tree turned to stone
6. Tiger Eye	F. Colorful stone with stripes and bands
7. Malachite	G. Green stone with swirls and rings
8. Lapis Lazuli	H. Golden-brown stone with a silky shimmer
9. Petrified Wood	I. Opaque stone, often red, brown, or yellow
10. Rhodonite	J. Clear or colored crystal found everywhere

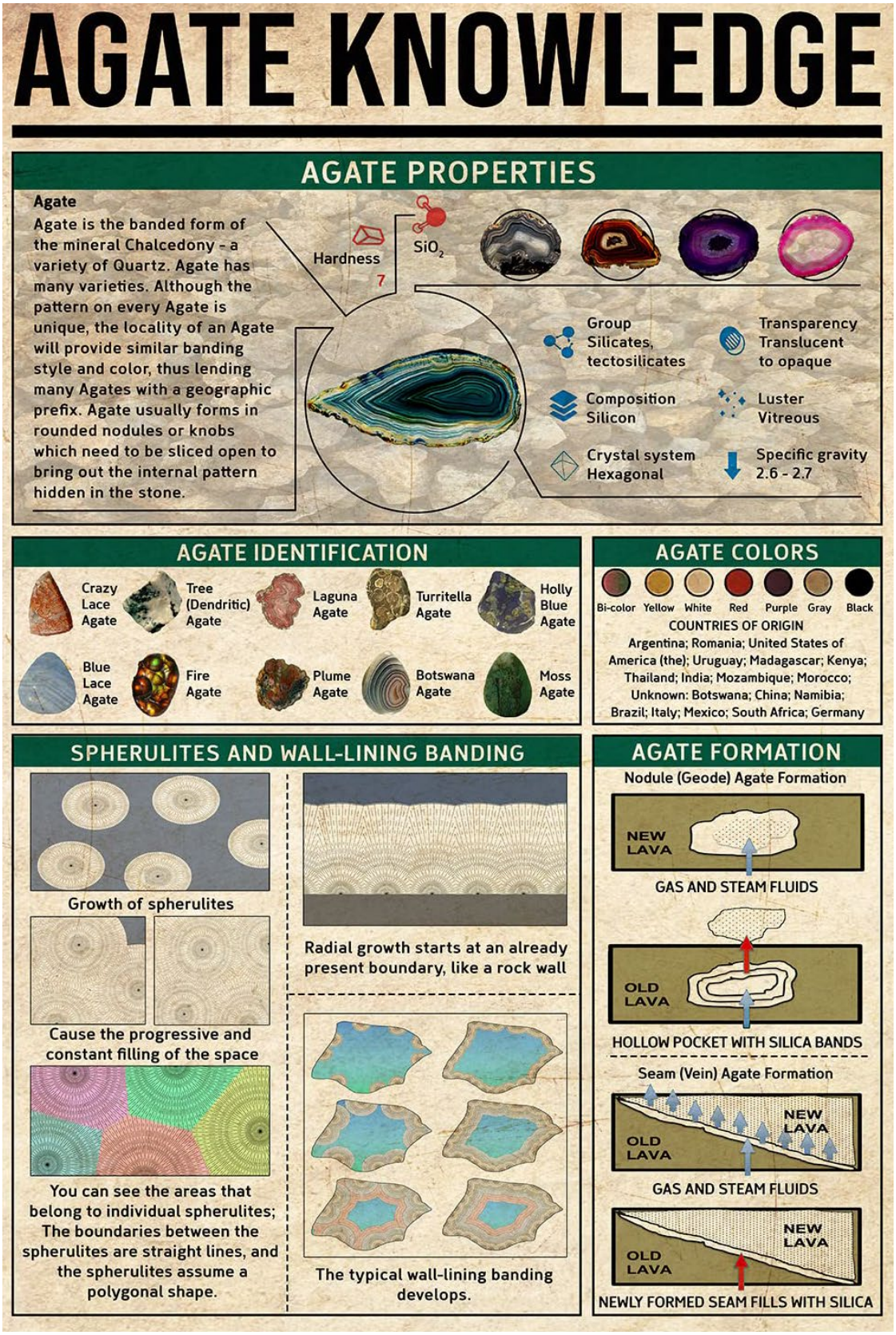






Answer Key: 1-F, 2-I, 3-A, 4-J, 5-B, 6-H, 7-G, 8-D, 9-E, 10-C

Edmonton Lapidary Club 2025



Source unknown – poster art from Amazon