Tumblewood Tales

ELC News, Volume 26, Issue 6, September 2025

Agatized red horn coral from Utah belongs to an extinct class of rugose corals. Shown here is a rough specimen along with a 13mm round cabochon cut in a high-dome style. Credit: Nikola Pekas

Club meeting: September 18th, 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

Tuesdays 7pm-9pm

Thursdays 11am-4pm

Fridays 6pm-10pm

No shop on 3rd Thursday of the month due to club monthly meeting

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

Edmonton Research Park
9403 20 Avenue NW, Unit 112

President's Message for September 2025

Good day ELC members

We are going into a new season of Tumblewood Tales! I hope everyone had a great summer which included some rock-hunting excursions. The ELC had an active summer and participated in several community events, put on an artisan market, and had a two-day auction.

Thanks to all club volunteers that gave their time and energy to events, shop time, and held classes throughout the summer. Your time and energy is greatly appreciated.

I'm looking forward to what our club will accomplish this year. We have some fantastic workshops and classes scheduled for the fall. Please look at the list of offerings posted on our website to see if there is anything that catches your interest.

Now that we have officially updated the club's name to Edmonton Lapidary Club, we have identified several objectives for this year to consolidate our club operations under the same name. This will mean updating our website, social media platforms, membership cards etc. The transition will take time, but we will work through it.

As always, I urge you to participate, share your tales, and knowledge regarding lapidary craft, rocks and minerals.

Our next club meeting is Thursday September 18th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm Lymburn/Callingwood Community League Hall 18740-72nd Avenue. Our SHOW and SHARE theme is "bring out your summer finds". Tea, coffee and cookies provided. Bring a friend!

See you there!

Michelle

ELC President

Upcoming Events

SHOP TIMES FOR SEPTEMBER

Tuesday Evenings (Sept 16, 23 & 30) 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Thursday Afternoons (Sept 18, 25) 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday Evenings (Sept 19, 26) 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday Afternoons 2nd and 4th Saturday of Each month (Sept 27) 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The large saw in Morinville is by appointment only.

Upcoming Classes and Other Events

Monday September 15th, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Introduction to Chain Maille

Create your own stylized chain maille jewelry in this beginner friendly class. Tools and supplies are provided. The cost is $30 for club members and $40 for non-members. Tool kit will be available to purchase for $60.

Wednesday September 17th, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Etched Copper Ring

Create your own stylized copper ring. Make your own unique design! NO previous experience necessary! Tools and supplies are provided. The cost is $30 for club members and $40 for non-members.

Wednesday September 24th, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Stretch Bead Bracelets

Taylor Swift has made them popular! Create your own stretch bracelets. Each student will learn basic techniques for making stretch bead bracelets and will make 3 different bracelets. Suitable for kids and adults! Tools and supplies are provided. The cost is $20 for club members and $30 for non-members

Sunday September 28th, 12 pm – 6 pm Brass Reticulated Pendant

Students will learn how to create a reticulated brass pendant set with a beautiful stone. Tools and supplies provided. Space is limited! The cost is $100 for club members and $120 for non-members

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES, contact ETLCgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com

Activities and Events – AFRC Partners

Alberta Federation of Rock Club (AFRC) partners often hold events or activities that Edmonton Lapidary Club (ELC) members are eligible to attend. All ELC members wishing to attend AFRC events must be members in good standing and have current membership cards. If you do not currently have a membership card, please contact etlcgeneralinquiry@gmail.com and arrange to pick up your cards before attending an event at another club.

Calgary rock and Gem Club: Ice River Field Trip September 20-21, 2025

A camping trip to Ice River is planned for Sept 20-21. This location is just past Field B.C. Participants will be looking for sodalite. For more information please contact Dave at dr.dave.gill@gmail.com.

Shop News and Updates

Shop code of conduct: our shop is seeing a lot more traffic now that we have a larger space and are offering more accessibility. Our equipment is getting used more, requiring more upkeep and maintenance. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE DOES THEIR PART TO HELP KEEP THE EQUIPMENT IN SAFE, CLEAN, AND WORKING ORDER!**

- Please remember to wash your rock and wash your hands when switching to a wheel with a different grit 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 incidents 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.

2026 Club Calendars for Fundraising

Last year the club produced a beautiful pictorial annual calendar for fundraising. It was a short print run, but all calendars were sold. The club would like to create a new calendar for 2026. We are looking for contributors to provide a stone, specimen, special collection piece that could be included in this year's calendar. Please send submissions to etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com. If you have a specimen, but do not have a good picture, let us know, we can help with that.

A specimen of wavellite on display at the on display at the University of Waterloo Earth Sciences Museum

Feature Article: Wulfenite

Specimen of wulfenite. Photo courtesy of Jeff Scovil from Red Hill Mine Arizona

Wulfenite is a dazzling mineral that is vibrant orange to yellow formed with crystal plates that often form as delicate, thin squares. This striking lead molybdate mineral ($PbMoO_4$) is prized by collectors for its intense color and glassy luster, it is often found perched on contrasting dark matrix rocks.

Named after Austrian mineralogist Franz Xavier von Wulfen, wulfenite typically forms as a secondary mineral in the oxidized zones of lead ore deposits. While it can be found worldwide, some of the most famous and spectacular specimens come from the Red Cloud Mine in Arizona, and the Los Lamentos district in Mexico. Due to its softness (Mohs 2.5–3) and brittleness, wulfenite is rarely cut as a gem, making it more of a showcase mineral than a lapidary material.

Did You Know?

- Wulfenite crystals are often so thin they look like tiny orange glass windows
- Pure wulfenite can be synthesized, and it is colourless.
- Colours of natural wulfenite range from deep red and orange, to yellow and even green. Current research suggests that coloration depends on trace impurities such as chromium incorporated into the wulfenite crystal lattice.
- Wulfenite is Arizona's official state mineral.

Wulfenite from Los Lamentos, Chihuahua, Mexico. By Didier Descouens via Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 4.0

Meeting agenda for September

7:00-7:10 Introduction & Welcome

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

7:10-7:40 Club Business

- Upcoming classes
- Auction
- Name change
    - Banking change
    - Website and social media
- Laptop upgrades

7:40-7:50 New Business

- Shop Hours of Operation
    - Survey
- 2026 club calendar

7:50 – 8:00pm Club Updates

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

8:00 -8:30 pm Show and Share: Bring out your summer finds to discuss and identify.

8:30-9:00 Social & Clean Up

Lapidary Activity Page