



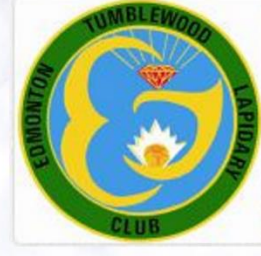
Tumblewood Tales

ETLC NEWS, Volume 25, Issue 5, May 2024



AFRC

MAY DAZE 2024



ETLC

This Event Would Not Have Been Possible Without Volunteers

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

**Our ETLC Team did an
Excellent Job!**

**Thank you ETLC for all of your support,
donations and time**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO THE VOLUNTEERS THAT MADE IT HAPPEN

May Daze 2024 Volunteer appreciation - Great Job!

**CLUB PICNIC, June 9th, 2024 -Potluck
Kingswood Park St. Albert, 11am-3pm**

Details in Newsletter

SEE YOU NEXT FALL

**Next Club meeting September 19th, 2024 at
Callingwood/Lymburn Community League
18740 72nd Avenue NW, 7:00PM – 9:00PM**

Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club

MEMBERSHIP INFO

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

NEW 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 jewellery 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.

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CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Michelle Morin
ETLCgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com

Vice President: Bruce Smith
Goldbug99@shaw.ca

Treasurer: Clint Morin
etlctreasurer@gmail.com

Secretary: Dean Chesterman
ETLC.Dean.chesterman@gmail.com

Past President: Joan Blize

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

Newsletter Editor: Nikola Pekas
npekas@gmail.com

Programs: **VACANT**

Field Trips: **VACANT**

CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michelle Morin, Bruce Smith,
Dean Chesterman, Clint Morin

AFRC DELEGATES:

Volunteers Needed

ETLC SHOP

Coordinator: Bruce Smith
Cell Phone: 780-908-4699
Goldbug99@shaw.ca

Shop Helpers:

Jim Routledge 780-446-7187
Jake Jakielaszek 780-939-3713
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 ETLC Lapidary shop, library, exclusive auctions and member sales

ANNUAL FEES

ETLC 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

SHOP FEES

Hourly Rate \$10.00

14" inch saw \$5.00/hr

Large saws \$10.00/hr

SHOP DAYS

Tuesdays and Thursdays

From 7:00-9:00 pm

2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 1:00-5:00 pm

Our new location:

Edmonton Research Park
9403 - 20 Avenue NW
Unit 112

Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello!

It has been a very busy month of May.

The ETLC hosted another wire wrap class with Ed Zeschuk and Jim Routledge providing excellent instruction. We had a full classroom, and the participants were thrilled with their finished products.

ETLC hosted the annual Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs (AFRC) MAY DAZE event over the long weekend, and it was very successful. We had many people in attendance from Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Calgary, Lacombe and Edmonton. All had a great time, the food was amazing, the workshops and field trips were well attended, and the auctions did well with everyone taking home some prize pieces.

Our volunteers for this event were SUPERSTARS. SHOUT OUT! Joan & Clint, Bruce, Dean & Karen, Jake, Jim & Terry, Ed & Pauline, Calvin, Chris H., Chris J., Anne & Kara, Renee, Darcy & Linda, Judith, Tony & Carolyn, John & Karen-Anne, Doug, Brett, and so many more who helped by donating time and/or materials. If I missed anyone, I apologise. To all the volunteers - your help and support made this event a success. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

We have many plans for summer activities and hope that the membership will continue to support the club by coming out to events. More wire wrap classes are coming, and the Leduc Art Walk is July 20th. We are also planning some rock pick field trips, open house/parking lot events at the shop and another auction in September.

This will be the last Newsletter until next September, but event updates will be posted on Facebook and the club website. Members will also be informed by emails.

If anyone has any questions, please get in touch.

Michelle

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EdmontonTumblewoodLapidaryClub>

Email: ETLCgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com

ETLC Website: <http://www.edmontonlapidary.ca>

Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club

NEWS & UPDATES

LARGE SAW SHOP in Morinville remains open by appointment only.

ETLC ANNUAL PICNIC AND TAILGATE is scheduled for June 9th at Kingswood Park in St. Albert. A fun day with a potluck lunch and members offering tailgate sales. See map and more details on Page 6.

LEDUC ART WALK will be taking place on July 20th. ETLC will be sponsoring a table. Any members that wish to showcase and sell their work are welcome to join us for this event. Let us know if you are interested in having a place in our booth by contacting Michelle at etlcgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com by July 5th.

MEMBERSHIP FEES and POLICY UPDATES

- Membership fees for an individual are \$50 per year.
- Membership fees for a family (of up to four: two adults and two children <18) are \$75 per year.

REMINDER: Proof of membership may be requested to access the shop, club classes, field events, and May Daze. Please make sure you pick up your membership cards.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Do you have something for sale? Are you looking for a special item? Want to see if anyone wants to trade? Let us know and we can create a listing for you in our "Classified" section:

FACEBOOK INQUIRY (April 13, 2024) - ETLC has been contacted through Facebook. Contact is looking for a 6" or 10" wet lapidary saw. Does anyone have one to sell? Contact Michelle for more details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shop Helpers – ETLC would like to open the lapidary shop more often. Shop Helper volunteers are required to help make this happen. Shop Helpers will oversee shop operations during regularly scheduled times of operation. A Shop Helper will maintain equipment, train users on how to operate the instruments, supervise shop use, and assist with clean up. Training will be provided if needed. Please contact Bruce Smith if interested.

Feature Article: The Cave of Swords – Cave of Crystals

Deep beneath the arid landscape of the Chihuahuan Desert in northern Mexico lies one of nature's most extraordinary wonders: the Cave of Crystals and the Cave of Swords. Both caves are located within the Naica Mine and are renowned for their stunning array of giant selenite crystals, some of the largest ever found.

The Cave of Swords was discovered in 1910 by miners working in the Naica Mine, a site primarily known for its silver, lead, and zinc deposits. The Cave of Crystals was discovered in 2000. Two other caves were also discovered in 2000, named the Queen's Eye Cave and the Candles Cave. In 2009, yet another chamber was found while drilling and was named the Ice Palace.



Large selenite crystals in the Cave of Crystals. Photo credit: Javier Trueba/MSF

The high temperatures and mineral-rich waters of the Naica Mine created an environment perfect for the growth of these spectacular crystals over a period of 550,000 years. Predominant mineral in the underground water was calcium sulfate that precipitated in the form of gypsum – specifically, the transparent variety called selenite. The crystals are among the largest ever found, some reaching lengths of up to 12 meters (39 feet) and weighing as much as 55 tons. Their clarity and size are unparalleled, creating a landscape of giant, translucent pillars that resemble something out of a science fiction movie.

Both caves are extremely hard to access due to extreme environmental and hazardous conditions. The caves are extremely hot and humid with average temperatures reaching 58 °C. The unknown topography and structure of the caves and crystals makes working in the caves dangerous, and exploration is reliant on removing flooding thermal groundwater from the cave chambers. Research teams required refrigerated breathing systems and special caving overalls designed specifically for working in the cave chambers.

The caves were featured on The Discovery Channel in February 2011, *Naica: Beyond The Crystal Cave*. Mining operations ceased and the caves were allowed to re-flood in 2015. The mining company may decide to open another entrance which would allow scientists to re-enter the caves for further research and exploration.

Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club



Some of the many kinds of lapidary creations exhibited by the participants of the May Daze 2024 event in Edmonton.

Call for Newsletter or Website Content

We are always looking for content contributors to showcase works of lapidary arts and rockhounding know-how. Do you have a story or photo that you would like to share? Do you have a favorite rock that you would like to see featured? Tips for other enthusiasts? Do you know how to create reels that can be used to showcase lapidary arts and crafts on Instagram or other platforms? Please contact us at ETLCgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com to let us know.

If anyone has skill or expertise in website content, we would be interested in hearing from you. We are looking for guidance on how to improve our website and social media content. Help us learn.

JUNE POTLUCK PICNIC

The last meeting of the year, in June, is a picnic in the park. The lunch is a Potluck event. We encourage you and your family and guests to plan on coming to the picnic and to meet the other members. After lunch a tailgating event takes place where members buy and sell their lapidary items to each other.

Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club

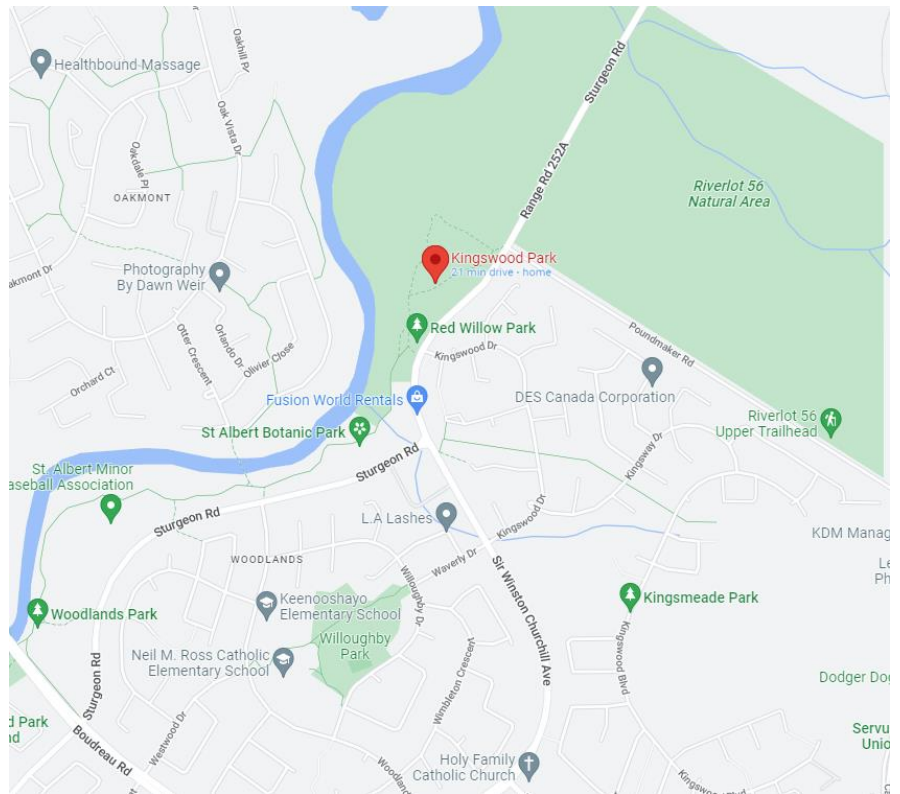
This is a Potluck lunch. Bring a food item to share with the group.

Bring your own drinks, dishes, and cutlery. Bring your own lawn chair or a blanket.

After the lunch and cleanup, club members will hold tailgate rock sales in the parking lot. The sale will be restricted to club members and guests only.

The picnic shelter has bathroom facilities. In case of rainy weather, we can have our year-end party inside the picnic shelter if it is not already being used.

Entrance to the picnic shelter is at the intersection of Sir Winston Churchill Ave and Kingswood Dr in St. Albert.



USEFUL LINKS / RESOURCES

[The Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club Website](#)

[FACEBOOK Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club](#)

[The Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada](#)

[Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs](#)

[Rockhounder Magazine](#)

[Rock Collecting and Geology Basics](#)

[WELO Opal presentation – New Deposit of Black Opal Ethiopia](#)

