

January 2010

Summit Gem Newsletter February 2010

Summit Lapidary Club, 244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Phone (330)- 929-3798 www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org

Board Members: Pres. – Ted Maringer, V.Pres. – Bob Franks,

Treasurer - Tom McLaughlin, Secretary – Helen Franks, Trustees – Bob Powers, Bob Spore, John Tryon

Newsletter Editor- Pat Powers 440-237-6170 SLCnewsletter@AOL.com or 18270 Buccaneer, North Royalton, Ohio 44133

Mission Statement

To afford the opportunity to share interest in lapidary knowledge and working techniques



Monthly Meeting: February 2nd at 7:00PM



Program: Kristina Malcolm - presenting a Silversmithing Program

Hosts: Karyn Neiman and John Goldsmith

Membership: 130 members

Dues: Joining fee \$25 then \$4 per month

President's Message - by Ted Maringer

Has the membership ever talked about taking a trip in the winter? Maybe in January or February? It's really hard to dig for rocks in Ohio when the ground is frozen and covered with snow. If I'm not mistaken there are beautiful rocks in Arizona and it's much warmer there too! I've come to realize my tolerance for the cold weather is becoming much lower as I get older.

The January Membership Meeting was poorly attended as expected due to the cold and snow. We had a interesting presentation about the Victim Assistance Program. I was very happy to hear how valued the donations are that our membership graciously donates for their annual Mardi Gras Gala. If you'd like to learn more about the organization we have information at the club.

Thank you to the members who took the time to teach a class in January. We had a wonderful Metal Clay class under the instruction of Noreen Miller. Every student had the opportunity to create something beautiful in Bronze Clay. We also had a Beginning Faceting class and Bead Box Night organized by Mari. She and many members created beautiful jewelry to donate for the Victim Assistance Mardi Gras Gala Auction. What a great start for 2010!

Finally, when we get over 2" of snow in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, a no parking ban will be issued which means we'll have no street parking at the club house. Membership meetings may be canceled due to snow and icy conditions. With Gratitude, Ted Maringer

January 5th Meeting Minutes - Submitted by Helen Franks

The meeting was called to order by President Ted Maringer with 24 members and one quest present.

- Bob Franks introduced the speaker, Shelley Koch from Victim Assistance of Summit County. Shelley gave a wonderful presentation. Did you know....every 60 seconds, 48 people become victims? Shelley thanked the club for their continued support and again asked for donations for this year's Mardi Gras to be held March 6th at Todaros party center. Flyers were left for anyone interested in attending the event. Shelley also asked that all jewelry be submitted by February 1st if at all possible and requested all pieces be accompanied by the gift forms for better identification. She also agreed that having members of SLC set up the jewelry for display would be a good idea. Anyone interested in helping with that, please see Ted Maringer. Mari reminded the membership that the third Tuesday will be BEAD NIGHT and the project will be to make items for the Mardi Gras.
- **Treasurer's report:** December Balance - \$3,281.16
December Income - \$1829.43
December Expenses - \$2523.79
December Balance - \$3975.52
Treasurer's report accepted.
- **Board Meeting Minutes** - There was no board meeting report for December
- **Geo Juniors Report** – John Tryon reported the Christmas party, though not well attended was fun and the next meeting is scheduled for January 10th.
- **Upcoming Classes**
January 6th and 13th – Precious Metal Clary
January 16th and 17th – Beginning faceting
Dave M. asked for new teachers to volunteer
- **Library Report**
Mari showed the book that was purchased in memory of Warren Salchak.
- **Sunshine Report**
Art reported on Shirley's progress. She is still in SICU and may be having another surgery on 1/7. Many cards were sent around for signatures.
- **Newsletter** – Bob Powers reported the newsletter is going out and all are receiving it.
- **Building/Maintenance** – Frank Regan needs help with the shed door and asked to have volunteers come on Saturday to help. Ted asked for a volunteer to replace Frank and Bob Liddle volunteered. Thank you Bob!
- **Website** – Dave Rich says pictures are needed and reported the Midwest Federation has a great Virtual Museum and suggested our club do something similar.
- **Gemboree** – Financial reports were handed out and there was a discussion as to the value of paying hired help to tear down the tables and chairs in addition to paying to having them set up. *To save on postage expenses, Eric DeMan suggested sorting the mailing labels by zip code.
*Two more banners are being ordered from Bill Bandy for the spring show.
*Evelyn asked for volunteers to distribute flyers to V-rock and the Home and Garden show.

Ted reported the donations in memory of Warren were made and we have already received thank you cards.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tim Antes suggested removing the inner orange steel door for safety reasons. After discussion, it was decided that for now, a door stop and additional lighting will be installed.
- Dave Rich is planning a trip to Tucson and volunteered to shop for the Gemboree. Ted will ask Bob Spore to check our inventory to see what might be needed and report back to Dave.
- Bob Liddle found diamond sticks at V-Rock Shop to use on the drill press for a new demo for the Gemboree. Bob also plans to bring his marble machine.

- Frank Regan is going to buy tools to replace those that have been used for club maintenance. He expects the cost to be about \$30.00. Motion made by Bob Franks to reimburse Frank for these expenses. Second by Dave M. Motion passed.
- Dave M and Mari have asked for a third volunteer to help on the library committee.
- Bob Powers suggested advertising in the Victim Assistance Mardi Gras event to promote the Gemboree. This suggestion was very well received and will be discussed at the next Gemboree meeting.
- Mari reported that some members expressed interest in transferring our cd's onto DVD's. She will have the library committee research the cost and quality issues and will report back to the club.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned. Respectfully Submitted, Helen Franks, Club Secretary

February's Meeting Program

Our speaker is Kristina Malcolm. She is a Silversmith and will have some of her work on display. She will also be providing a slide presentation.

Victim Assistance Program – by Mari Takai-Manley

Shelley Koch, Director of Development at Victim Assistance came to our January meeting and talked about their program and fundraising activities. I found out that they wanted donations by February 1st so that they would have plenty of time for their catalog.

Thank you very much - to the eight members who participated in the bead and wire jewelry making for The Victim Assistance Silent Auction at last January's Beadbox Night. I will box them up and fill out their forms.

For our February Beadbox Night (Feb. 16) we will be making jewelry for our own personal use for a nominal fee. Come and join us!

February		February			February	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 SLC Meeting at 7:00PM	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Chainmaille	10	11	12	13
14 Happy Valentine's Day	15	16 Bead Box Night	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Board Meeting	24	25	26	27 Facetor's meet
28						

Sign up sheets for SLC Classes are posted at the club. Class instruction by SLC members is free, however there maybe a fee for supplies.

SAFETY THOUGHTS - by David Rich

The New Year is here and what a wonderful time to make a few safety resolutions and safety improvements. One of your resolutions should be to wear **safety glasses**. Wearing safety glasses should be a part of the way

you work. From blowing leaves to silver soldering, wearing safety glasses should be second nature. This little item in the tool box could save your eyesight.

I personally have at least 10 pairs; they are everywhere. I have a pair with my weed whacker, at my lawn mower, and out in my barn tool box. I have the goggle type in the greenhouse where I have my fertilizer and orchard sprays. Of course, you will find them in my rock collecting bags. I have a pair in the tool repair kit in my truck. I must admit that some of the safety glasses are old and scratched up. Some are not the most fashionable, but when you need eye protection, a few scratches or outdated styles will still afford the protection you need. Now that your first New Year's resolution is made, you can be more likely to maintain good eyesight throughout 2010.

Take a good look at your work station. Go over and stand in front of your work area or hobby/craft area. Now promote yourself to Safety Inspector. Look at your electrical connections. Do you have a ground fault? Are your extension cords old or torn? Is your area cluttered up? Are your tools sharp and well maintained? What about your chemicals? Do you have them stored properly? Are the lids on and containers labeled correctly? Should these chemicals even be in the house or garage?

This is a good time to give yourself a critical safety inspection. I would like to hear from you about your safety inspection results. Send an e-mail to me at birdman035@hotmail.com and let me know what you did to improve your hobby/craft and/or work areas. Be safe.

February's Birthstone – <http://www.galleries.com/minerals/gemstone/amethyst/birthfeb.htm>

The gemstone Amethyst is the Birthstone for February. It is also the Zodiac stone for the constellation of Pisces. Amethyst is the purple variety of the mineral quartz and is a popular gemstone. If it were not for its widespread availability, amethyst would be very expensive. The name "amethyst" comes from the Greek and means "not drunken." This was perhaps due to a belief that amethyst would ward off the effects of alcohol, but most likely the Greeks were referring to the almost wine-like color of some stones that they may have encountered. Its color is unparalleled, and even other, more expensive purple gemstones are often compared to its color and beauty. Although it must always be purple to be amethyst, it can and does have a wide range of purple shades.

Amethyst can occur as long prismatic crystals that have a six sided pyramid at either end or can form as druzes that are crystalline crusts that only show the pointed terminations. As a mineral specimen, amethyst is popular for its color and nice crystal shapes that produce a handsome, purple, sparkling cluster.

However, amethyst is not the same everywhere. Different localities can produce a unique amethyst to that particular region or even to that particular mine. Experts can often identify the source mine that a particular amethyst came from. The key to this is the specimen's color, shape of crystal, inclusions, associations and character of formation.

The following is a list of many of the more noteworthy localities and some of the attributes that characterize the amethyst found there.

- **Vera Cruz, Mexico** -- very pale, clear, prismatic crystals that are sometimes double terminated and have grown on a light colored host rock. Crystals are typically phantom, having a clear quartz interior and an amethyst exterior. Some are sceptered and phantom.
- **Guerrero, Mexico** -- dark, deep purple, prismatic crystals that radiate outward from a common attachment point. Often the crystals are phantom opposite of Vera Cruz amethyst having a purple interior with a clear or white quartz exterior. These are some of the most valuable amethysts in the world.
- **Minas Gerais and Rio Grande do Sul, Bahia, Brazil** -- crystals form in drusy crusts that line the inside of sometimes large volcanic rock pockets or "vugs". Some of the vugs form from trees that were engulfed in a lava flow millions of years ago and have since withered away. Other vugs are just gas bubbles in the lava. Some vugs can be quite large. The crystals that form are usually light to medium in color and only colored at the tops of the crystals. Most clusters form with gray, white and blue agate and have a green exterior on the vugs. Calcite sometimes is associated and inclusions of cacoxenite are common. On occasion, even excellent crystals of gypsum have been found nestled inside these

amethyst lined vugs.

- **Maraba, Brazil** -- large crystals with unattractive surfaces that are of a pale to medium color and often carved or cut into slices. The large "Maraba points" are always polished to remove the rough and milky surface, revealing the beautiful purple amethyst inside.
- **Thunder Bay, Canada** -- a distinct red hematite inclusion just below the surface of the crystals is unique to this locality. Clusters are druzy crusts that line the fissures formed in ancient metamorphic rocks.
- **Uruguay** -- crystals are dark to medium and form in druzy crusts that line the inside of volcanic vugs that have a gray or brown exterior. The crystals are *usually* colored throughout, unlike the Brazilian crystals, and form with a multicolored agate that often contains reds, yellows and oranges. Often amethyst-coated stalactites and other unusual formations occur inside these vugs.
- **Africa** -- crystals are usually large but not attractive. However, the interior color and clarity are excellent and polished slices and carvings as well as many gemstones are prized and admired.
- **Maine, USA** -- Dark druzy clusters that are not widely distributed today.
- **North Carolina, USA** -- Druzy clusters that have a bluish-violet tint.
- **Pennsylvania, USA** -- druzy clusters that filled fractures in metamorphic rocks. They are generally a brownish purple and patchy in color.
- **Colorado, USA** -- druzy clusters form crusts inside of fissures in sandstone, often on top of a crust of green fluorite. Crystals are dark but rather small.
- **Italy** -- both Vera Cruz like crystals, although not as well defined, and large parallel growth clusters with good evenly distributed color.
- **Germany** -- associated with colorful agates that form a druzy light-colored crust.
- **Ural Mountains, Russia** -- a very clear and dark variety that is cut for fine expensive gemstones, natural uncut clusters are rarely on the market.

Often, cut gems of amethyst are graded using the terms: Siberian, Uruguayan or Bahain; to represent high medium and low grade respectively, regardless of the actual source. Because of the patchyness of the color distribution in the crystals, Amethyst is often cut as brilliant round cuts to maximize the color. Other cuts can be used when the color is better distributed.

The color purple is traditionally the color of royalty and amethyst has been used since the dawn of history to adorn the rich and powerful monarchs and rulers. Today, amethyst is a lovely and affordable gemstone that is fortunately available in a wide variety of cut and uncut stones that we can all possess and admire.

A Little Bit of History... - by Dave Macseoinin

I joined the club in 1995. This was a time when only 1 or 2 people a year joined, so it was memorable when some one joined. Now this brings me to education.

Of course when new folks join the club they want to learn everything and RIGHT NOW! But the old cronies where reluctant to have a class for one or two people. Chris York was Education Co-ordinator at this time and she was always fighting an apathetic battle. Each discipline was taught maybe once a year and usually by Chris herself.

Soooo, when I joined I really wanted to learn how to facet. Lloyd Winters was our most experienced faceter as he was the one who learned it elsewhere and brought it to our club. I convinced him to teach the beginning faceting class as long as I would go on and teach it from there. A date was set, students signed up. (which rather surprised Lloyd at the number) Now came the heartbreak. Lloyd came down with the Shingles. He could not teach. That's when Dave Koffroth and Chris York stepped up and would teach it together. Needless to say, the class was wonderful.

Chris pulled me aside and said she wanted me to take over education and told me a little about her history which I will share in another issue.

Since my first faceting class, a new renaissance in education started. More people were joining the club because we taught classes and many members stepped forward to teach. I didn't have to do too much arm twisting. In part this is why our club has come so far over other clubs, because of our willingness to share our

knowledge and this comes through at the Gemboree show.

I guess the lesson we can take away is this: History is what we make of it. Our actions and maybe our words lead others to do the same. Fellow members, We done Good!

Sunshine News - by Mari Takai-Manley

- Shirley Andrews had open heart surgery in early December. The surgery was successful but had complications. The surgeon found bleeding after the surgery, so Shirley had to be operated on again to stop the bleeding. She also experienced difficulty coming out of anesthesia after the second surgery. She was awake and could communicate with writing. The last we heard is that the surgeon found another complication and is considering another surgery for her. We wish her well and the very good result of the surgery.
- Sue Paserba completed her first round of chemotherapies, and her reconstructive surgery afterwards was successful. She is strong and has a very positive attitude about her recovery. We wish her continuous healing.

BOBSERVATIONS - by Robt. Spore

What's Behind Door #1?
(It's Frank and he can't get out!)

I helped Frank install the new door on the shed last Saturday. And by "helped", I mean I stood around and handed him tools and tried to make as few mistakes as possible. By my count, I stripped two screws and marked the wrong place on the door, forcing Frank to re-cut the whole top of the door.

But only once.

Oh, and dropped to door on my feet. Glad I chose that day to wear my steel-tipped boots and not my sneakers.

On the plus side, no body parts were cut off or punctured and blood spilling was kept to a minimum.

Also, I learned that the red light on the electrical socket in the shed means it needs to be reset.

It's not a night light.

There was a lot of measuring and marking and fitting and shoving and wedging and shifting. And swearing.

I only helped for the first hour or so, then the "A" team arrived in the form of Bob Senn and a newer club member also named Bob (Do you see a pattern here?), who, since I don't know his last name, will, for this story, be called *Emergency Back up Bob*.

When Bob Senn and *Emergency Back up Bob* showed up, the door was wedged into the opening and Frank was inside;

Frank: "Where's it hitting?"

Me: "At the top, on the right corner."

Frank: "So it's my left."

Me: "I don't know. Which way are you facing?"

More swearing.

It was at this point, where you had three guys who knew what they were doing (Two Bob's and a Frank... sounds like something you'd order at a diner) that the construction project had the possibility of running like a well tuned precision machine and my further contribution would be like a handful of sand.

I went inside to do what I do best. Hang around, drink coffee and crack wise.

So I did not stay for the completion of the job. I bailed early. When I left, they were doing something called "shimming the latch side" which, believe it or not, has nothing to do with exotic dancing.

You learn something new every day.

Just A Quick Note From Me... - by Pat Powers

Nothing to add. See you next month!

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