

Summit Gem Newsletter January 2008

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

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

Board Members: Pres. – Dave Macseoinin, V.Pres. – Wayne Jessup

Treasurer- Tom McLaughlin, Secretary- Laura Thomas, Trustees- Carl Miller, Mari-Takai Manley, Bob Spore and Dave Macseoinin, 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



Meeting: January 8th at 7:30PM
Program: "The Chris York Inventory – Silent Auction"
Host: Dave Macseoinin and Wayne Jessup



Membership: 130 members
Dues: Joining fee \$25 then \$4 per month

President's Message – by Dave Macseoinin

Well, it is a new year and open for new plans and boy, do I have some! I will start with two:

1. Christmas Tree: Not only do we have to decide on a project but we must find a new chairperson as well.
2. Trips: Where to go? We are also in need of a trip co-ordinator.

Now, we have to jump start both of these projects immediately because the tree project takes a good length of time to complete and with trips coordinating transportation and accommodation is not an easy task.

For the Christmas tree project, come to the meeting with some ideas and even better yet, volunteer to chair this project.

For the trip project, bring your ideas and or pictures and articles to the next meeting so when you speak on your idea you are prepared. (Yes, you are going to speak in public.) Trip ideas do not have to be on a place you have already been to but of course if you had it is nice to share your experiences with maybe some samples of what you have found!

This is a good start. If you have other projects of concerns do bring them up during the "new business" portion of the meeting.

As always, I am need of instructors for classes. If you have a subject you wish to teach, step right up and be counted! In this same subject, if you would like to have a workshop of any sort, just pick a date on the calander which is open and put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. (Iknow that some of you would like to have a silver workshop sometime soon!)

I wish to thank David Rich for serving as our president for the past three years. A fine job done! Thank you, David!

SLC December 4, 2007 Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Barbra Finnemore

We had a splendid presentation on Fairburn Agates of S. Dakota presented by Bob Powers. Thank you Bob!

Visitors: Frank and Karen Wilson, John Smith, Linda Wilson, David Moore.

Treasurers' Report: All is well.

Pres. Report: Dues are due...\$48.00 per year or \$44.00 if paid by Feb. 1. If you're more than 3 months behind.....you're out of the club.

The Board met and discussed the donations from Chris York.

The MWF will sponsor the Agate Symposium on July 10 in Wisconsin. \$75.00 for the meeting and \$15.00 for the lecture.

Library: Mari talked about new book additions.

Newsletter: Bob said the newsletter was out.

Education: David told us about Tom's class on Dec. 14 and 15...this casting class is for those who attended the previous casting class whose end product did not turn out.

There will be a lace edged bracelet class on 1/7, and 1/14.

1/13 will be a faceting class and 2/16 there will be a beginner silver class.

Gemboree: Warren reports that it was very successful. Funds were divided.

Safety: Al reminds us to always wear eye protection when working in the basement and be sure to sign in!!!!

Unfinished Business: The Christmas Party is Saturday. Be sure to give Rosemary the \$7.00 if you're a member of both clubs or \$14.00 if a member of only 1 club. The cost is \$21.00 if you don't belong to either.

New Business: Motion made and carried to make the voting verbally and suspend the paper vote.

ELECTIONS

Pres. David M.

VP. Wayne Jessup

Sec. Laura Thomas

Treasurer Tom McLaughlin

Congratulations new officers.

Other new business:

Eric will serve out David M.'s duties of Trustee

Bob Spore and Carl Miller are also Trustees

Mari reminded us about the Victim Ass. Program...we're collecting donations. Please have them in by the end of Feb.

Eric made a motion, and it was carried, to make Chris York a lifetime member of SLC.

David M. said the Tag sale would be held in Jan. A motion was made and carried to change the tag sale to a silent auction.

Thank you to David M. and the committee for dispersing the donated items.

Thank you to Art Andrews for the beautiful party favors for the Christmas Party.

Meeting adjourned.

I have enjoyed serving as secretary for this past year. Because I was a fairly new member I was still learning names and faces. I apologize if I ever missed a name or misspelled a name.

Feedback on the South Carolina Trip - by Andy Long

We met at the usual place, the parking lot, and of course Eric was kind of late but actually on time. The bus left; we were off and rolling along the scenic route of hills and byways soaking in the beautiful fall colors that nature provided for the trip.

We arrived in Anderson, South Carolina that evening and bed down for the night eager to go to the mines the next day.

The next day we met up with Dave, our mine guide, he was giving us instructions where to dig and what pits had the Smokey Quartz, Amethyst and etc. But, before he was finished everyone had split up with their noses to the ground picking up specimens one after another. We had our picnic

lunch and then we went back to work looking for more specimens. Our bus driver, Virgil, who never did this, got just as dirty as the rest of us and found his share of rocks and also had a good time.

We finished for the day and headed back to the hotel for a good night's rest. Oh! By the way, "No Mud on the Bus!"

The next day was exciting...we awoke to the sound of a fire alarm going off. It was a lint fire in the laundry room where it was quickly put out. After that, we were off to the mine again! Everyone went to their favorite spot and once again found specimens. Joyce was in the Smokey Quartz pit with buckets of Smokey Quartz; she was asking anybody who came by to take a bucket to own. Mari had a big rock that Dave helped with. Tom had a few rocks of his own. Warren had a big rock that he needed help with. It was so big it broke the wheel on his cart. Andy tried to sneak a nice piece of Amethyst past Eric who let out a big 'Wow'. Terry, Skeeter, Russ, Frank, Grace and Sue, just to name a few, got their share of the many specimens that were around.

We all had a great time and are looking forward to the next trip. Guess what? "No Mud on the Bus!"

What the Heck is a Thunderegg? - by Wayne Jessup

Being relatively new to the world of Lapidary and Mineralogy, I have been fascinated by many stones over the last year. Two of the most fascinating to me have been the Geodes and the Thundereggs. Being naïve about Thundereggs, I had formed a conclusion, in my mind, that the process of lightening striking the ground must have formed them. I had imagined a lightening strike, melting the minerals in the soil, on contact and, voila, the Thunderegg is created. Since this event would normally be followed by a loud clap of thunder... Well it must be called a Thunderegg.

When I explained my theory of Thundereggs to a few of the seasoned and more knowledgeable members, at the Fall Gemboree, I sure got some peculiar looks and was told that my theory was in error. Heck, I think a few of the people sitting around the Silent Auction table even laughed at me, rightfully so.

So I took it upon myself to do some research and here is what I found. Lets start with the name Thunderegg. The myth behind the name goes something like this:

Prehistoric Indians found solid nodules near Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Hood in Oregon and thought that when the gods or spirits who inhabited the mountains became angry at one another they would hurl these nodules at each other with accompanying thunder and lightning. Hence they called these nodules thundereggs. This explanation is more in line with what I was thinking, but I decided to dig further (pardon the pun).

Now that I had the myth of the name "Thunderegg" out of the way, I wanted to find out the "real" story behind Thundereggs. Here is what I found by researching various geology sites on the Internet:

Thundereggs are also known as spherulites. They are solid or near-solid nodules formed by magmatic and volcanic processes and are found only in volcanic rocks (Lofgren, 1971). Spherulites are made of radial crystals extending from the center. Thundereggs are typically rounded to slightly ovoid. Many thundereggs are spherical and consist of two distinct parts: a dark-gray to pinkish outer part and a white, blue, or gray or green inner part, or core, which is recognizable as agate, chalcedony, and quartz crystals, all forms of the compound SiO₂. In many examples, these two parts can be described as a shell and a filling. However, some thundereggs, or spherulites, do not contain the filling; they are composed of solid dark-gray to pinkish shell or are partly hollow.

Geologically distinct processes form the two parts of the thundereggs. The outer part of the thundereggs is formed by complex magmatic processes (i.e. as spherulites), and then the inner part is formed and modified by multiple cycles of late-stage hydrothermal fluids. The processes that form thundereggs are complex and are controlled by constantly changing physical and chemical

conditions, such as temperature, pressure, depth of formation, composition of the magma, composition of the ground water, and composition of the host rocks. Since all of the above-mentioned processes are constantly changing, during the Thunderegg formation it is often difficult to find two Thundereggs that are similar inside.

Wow, no wonder the guys and gals at the silent auction chuckled when I told them my version of the creation of the Thunderegg. I stand corrected!

Happy New Year Everyone!

Special Club Project For the Victim Assistance Program by - Mari Takai-Manley

Early this year our club participated in fund raising project to assist in The Victim Assistance Program by donating some of our jewelry made by ourselves or purchased from our members. I received a report that our jewelry alone raised about \$500.00 to help victims in need from a silent auction table.

Out of 12 sets of jewelry donated all together, our club offered 9 sets of them. They bundle sets of jewelry together and sell each set separately on their auction table. We received names such as Heart Jewelry set, Victorian Jewelry set, Blue Jewelry set, Multi-colored set, Bracelet and Necklace set, "Ruby" Jewelry set, "Sapphire & Diamond" set, Pearl necklace set, Children's Earrings & Butterfly Bracelets. Thank you very much for all those who generously gave to the program.

Marianne Sweeney, who is a daughter of Tom and Rosemarie McLaughlin, is our connection to the program and she is also a member of Victim Assistance Board of Trustees. Well, I am writing this report not only because David Rich has insisted that I do, but also it is time again to collect our beautiful jewelry we make or buy to donate for a worthy cause. We are talented group of people who love our rocks and jewelry we make, but also we are sort of an eccentric group with big hearts. Right? So, let's shell out some jewelry we can dare to part from us to help out people in need. By the way, The Victims Assistance Program also includes the Women's shelter in caring for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and many others.

Oh, don't forget to include brief information about your jewelry as well as your name on an index card. This information is used for making their program catalogue. Will be collecting your donated items for this worthy cause thru February.

January		January			January	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5
6	7 Lage Edge Bracelet	8 SLC Meeting 7:30PM	9	10	11	12
13 Intermediate Faceting	14 Lace Edge Bracelet	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Board Meeting 7:30PM	30	31		

Sign up sheets for SLC Classes are posted at the club. Class instruction by SLC members is free. There may be a fee for supplies.

Gemboree Information - by Warren Salchak

Funds have been disbursed; dealers are out looking for rocks and new items for our show. Our club is trying to come up with a way to wire wrap something for the show. If you can think of a way to make money for the club with a easy, quick, idea and low cost, please contact or turn in a information sheet to Tom, Carl ,Dave K. or myself . Any questions or concerns feel free to call. Have a safe and blessed New Year.

Warren 330-928-0181 lapidary1@neo.rr.com

Sunshine News – by Mari Takai-Manley

- Richard Lee had heart catherization on Dec. 17th and they found 70 % Blockage. He is scheduled for open heart bypass and aortic valve replacement surgery on Jan. 2, 2008. Cathy and Richard appreciate our continued prayers.
- Jim Shoffner is home now with his family. It was good to see him at our club house and at our Christmas dinner.
- Bob Franks has recovered from both of his knee surgery nicely. You should have seen the way he was climbing up and down digging crystals in Diamond Hill mine, S. C.
- Greg Dojlidko and Bob Franks continue to fight for their healing form cancer. It was good to see their smiling faces at our Christmas Dinner.
- John Cutlip (grandson of Shirley Andrews) is supposed to be home in late Dec. 2007. We sent our last packaged goodies to him early Dec. Hope he will enjoy his reunion with his family.
- Capt. Met M. Berisha is our new club soldier (son of Ellen Berisha in Stow). We sent our first package to him in Baghdad in mid-December. This is his second tour of duty for him.

- Chris York is receiving a fuzzy blanket and a cuddly teddy bear (stuffed animal) with our thank you card.

“BOBSERVATIONS” - by Robt. Spore

“Raiders of the Lost Wax”

I wasn't there for the second attempt at lost wax casting. Oh, I was there for the initial, Friday night attaching of the sprues and the pouring of the investment, but I missed out on the real fun; the melting of the silver and the pouring into the mold and the outcome.

But let me tell you a little bit about the first time we tried it.

At any given time, there were at least 6 people in the casting room, which you all know is roughly the size of a large walk-in closet. So, we had a half dozen people, a furnace at about 1400°, containers with alcohol, cardboard boxes, and a lit torch that was being passed around like a literal hot potato. What could possibly go wrong? Just about everything, apparently. This is what it sounded like:

“OK, on three, you're going to move away.” “What?” “Are you ready?”
“No” “Wait!” “We can't wait!” “Now?” “No!” “Wait!” “OK, I'm going
to move under your arm with the torch.” “What???” “Move.” “Where?”
“There.” “What?” “Don't point the torch there!” “Where?” “Here!” “Now?”
“Wait!” And so on.

No one was physically hurt, but there was mucho bumming out, all way round. We had maybe a 25% success rate, which, thankfully, was upped to about 80% the second time around.

I know what went wrong with my first attempt. If you're going to force molten metal into a little tiny hole, it's always important to make sure the molten metal is at least close to the little tiny hole. Not halfway across the crucible. Like mine was.

I cast two rings the second time, figuring maybe I'd have one of them turn out, but both turned out not too shabby. I'm still working on them; cleaning them up and such. I hope they look as nice as some of the other people's pieces when I'm done.

Bob Flick used something called Argentium (Sounds like mythical land from an old Robert E. Howard, Conan story; “I am Hrothgar! Barbarian king of Argentium! Please excuse my obviously poor personal hygiene!”). When his pieces came out of the mold, They were already polished and even had stones set in them! Of course Bob didn't tell any of us about this wonder metal.

Bob Flick gets all the nice things and keeps them for himself. Bob Flick hates us. Well, he loaned me his rotary tumbler so I could clean up my two rings, so I guess he doesn't hate me after all. Just the rest of you.

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

- Just wanted to send a thank-you to those who were involved with organizing the Christmas Party this year. The evening included good food, drinks and most of all - the fellowship of our members. Also, a big thank you goes out to Art Andrews for providing the stained glass table favors.
- Please note- if a Snow ban is in effect on a meeting night, the meeting is cancelled and automatically rescheduled for the following Tuesday evening. Please call the Cuyahoga Falls Police at 330-928-2181 to find out the weather conditions.

Bye and see you next month!

MWF Calander of Events 2008

January

26: LINCOLN, NE, Annual Indoor Swap, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc, Bethany Park Shelter House, Cotner & Vine Sts, Sat 1:00-5:00, Contact Pat Akins, Jr, 5017 NW 6th St, Lincoln, NE 68521, (402) 477-1322

Jan-Feb

MT CLEMENS, MI, 3rd Annual Rock & Mineral Workshop, Mt Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society, Classes to assist students grades 3-6 in Science Olympiad Competition, Contact: Richard Brzozowski, 40217 Spitz Dr, Sterling Hts, MI 48313, (586) 264-5576