

Summit Gem Newsletter May 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: May 4th at 7:00PM

Program: Annual Club Auction

Hosts: Wende Taylor & Carol Pleskovic



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

President's Message - by Ted Maringer

Thanks to all the SLC & AMS members who volunteered to help at the Spring Gemboree. The Spring SLC Auction is scheduled on Tuesday, May 4th. Any and all donated items for the auction are greatly appreciated!

With Gratitude, Ted Maringer, President

April 6th Meeting Minutes - Respectfully Submitted by Helen Franks

The meeting was called to order by President Ted Maringer.

Treasurer's report was given and approved as read.

Guests

Dave M. introduced Bruce Klocinsky, Mike and Summer Hashem and Robert.

Board Report

Ted reported the club will again sponsor Adopt-A-Spot in Cuyahoga Falls. Dave Rich will organize.

Frank Regan will organize the roof repair.

Bob Powers and Laura Thomas will work with Tom McLaughlin to audit the books.

The trip to the Cincinnati Gem Show is closed to SLC members.

The Midwest Federation Newsletter omitted our show.

Classes

Classes are listed on the bulletin board for April and May. Dave M. reminded members that at the teacher's discretion, a deposit may be required to take the class and the amount will be posted on the sign-up sheets.

Library – No report

Sunshine

Sue Paserba is in the hospital
 Russ Green had surgery on 4/5.
 Several get well cards were passed around for signing.

Property and Maintenance

Frank Regan reported all machines are running properly now.

New Business

*Bob Flick has organized an outside working party for 5/17. Bring your paint brushes.
 *The club auction will be held during the May meeting.
 *Dave Rich made a motion to sponsor Tim Antes to enter the Midwest Federation's rock tumbling contest. The entry fee is \$40.00 and the winner can receive \$250.00. Second by John Tryon. Motion passed.

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

May Calendar of Classes and Events

May		May			May	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 SLC Meeting 7PM	5	6 Forged Cupper Cuff	7	8
9 Mother's Day	10 10	11 Chainmaille	12	13	14	15 Beggining Faceting
16 Beginning Faceting	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Board Meeting	26	27	28	29

See sign-up sheets at the club for more information about the listed classes for the month.

Gemboree News - by Ted Maringer

No matter how many hours of planning and preparation we do before each Gemboree, our show would not be successful without the dedication of our volunteers. Thank you. Attendance was great on both Saturday and Sunday with approximately 1800 attendees. I will be scheduling a post Gemboree meeting in the near future to report on the financials along with other items related to the overall success of the show.

Ted Maringer, Show Chairman

Gemboree Display Cases - by Sue Barnett

Another great gem show under our belts. I am hearing rumors of maybe record attendance? Our dealers must have been pleased, I never heard them applaud the end announcement of the show before.

I will thank all of those who created the wonderful works of art in our display cases for this show. As many noticed, the floor plan changed somewhat and we had fewer display cases so that we could add a few more dealers. It did not diminish the creative force of our group, but seemed to distill it. So many different voices and points of view of what our combined clubs have produced and the diversity of items shown in the display cases was outstanding, as usual. I loved the intricate beading of Barb Bittingers stained glass piece, the classic rhinestone jewelry from Grace Babak, Drake Collin's chain mail, the fossils from under the sea from the Shoffners, and just the variety of cabs and faceted stones that were displayed. And a special nod to our Geo Jrs. and the two outstanding cases that they provided.

We have an exceptional group of members from our very youngest to our most mature and I want to sincerely thank all of those exceptional people that make our display cases so very interesting and diverse. Thank you. Sue Barnett

Emerald, May Birthstone <http://www.galleries.com/minerals/elements/diamond/birthapr.htm>

The Gemstone Emerald is the green variety of the mineral Beryl. Emerald is both the May birthstone and the Zodiac stone for the constellation of Cancer.

The wonderful green color of emerald is unparalleled in the gem kingdom. Emerald's precious green color is caused by small amounts of chromium and enhanced by traces of iron. Unlike other beryls, emeralds usually contain inclusions and other flaws. These flaws are not looked on as negative aspects for emerald like they would be for other gemstones. Indeed, these flaws are considered part of the character of the stone and are used to assure the purchaser of a natural stone.

Even artificial emeralds often contain flaws, however, as the process of growing artificial emeralds mimics the way nature does it (slow crystal growth from a molten mix).

Nearly all emeralds, even many "natural" stones, have been treated to improve clarity, generally by immersing them in oil. For gemstones, a green colored oil is sometimes used, "improving" the color as well. Unfortunately, this oil may evaporate over the years, making flaws appear where none were visible at the time of purchase. A high-grade mineral oil may be used to improve the appearance again.

Rock Collecting Trips and Shows in Arizona - by Wally Frlich

This winter Oma and I didn't go on our usual number of rock trips for a couple reasons. By the end of April, our Apache Junction club will have gone on 45 trips, October through April. When we first arrived in Apache Junction at Thanksgiving, our club was going through a period of turmoil. Our president had stepped down because of a family situation and our weak vice-president was forced to take over. The VP allowed a couple of dominant people to control her and they tried to make a lot of changes to the club. About 70 people quit the club over the fighting that took place because of the changes they wanted to make. Our president took control again, we voted those people

out of the club, and things are great again in Apache Junction. Our club membership was up to 280 at the time we left Apache Junction to return to Ohio. A bad U-joint on our Jeep Cherokee also caused us to miss several trips. Our mechanic went on a two-week vacation at the time we needed him to replace the U-joint, and the Jeep sat idle. We also missed a couple trips when our trip leader, Harry, scheduled some of the same trips as we had gone on several years in a row. We missed two trips when I substitute-monitored at the club's lapidary shop, and rainy weather also cancelled a couple planned trips.

The club usually has two rock trips per week, sometimes three. We always meet at a different McDonald's between 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the morning of a rock trip, and Harry leads the caravan to the rock collecting site. Harry is 85 years old and likes to start his morning with his coffee and a \$1.00 biscuit. That way we get to do some socializing the first thing in the morning. On some trips, we travel over 100 miles after meeting at a McDonald's.

11-28 Burro Creek near Wikiup, AZ- We collected Burro Creek agate which is almost unlimited there. We've been told that Apache Tears have been found a few miles from there. On the way back to AJ, Apache Junction's nickname, a gem and mineral show was being held in Wickenburg, AZ so we just had to stop at the show for a couple hours.

12-19 Sheep's Crossing in the middle of nowhere about 35 miles north of Cave Creek, AZ at the end of Seven Springs Rd. at the Verde River- Seven Spring Rd. is almost totally dirt and gets rougher the more you travel north. We hard-rock mined purple agate. We learned the hard way that the purple bleaches out when left in the Arizona summer sun. Last year, we found a small amount of Bloody Basin agate along the nearby Verde River, but this year the river was too high.

1-8,9 &10 Our Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club had a booth (tent) set up at the outdoor Flagg Rock Show at Mesa Community College to promote our own show in February. The Flagg show is very much like Desert Garden in Quartzsite. Our club members took turns manning the booth and shopped for rock the rest of the time.

1-13 Brenda, AZ near Quartzsite- The Quartzsite rock club has a large claim of red Brenda jasper. Our club found another red jasper site about a mile north of their claim. Sometimes we were able to find some red and green jasper in the same rock.

1-15 Globe, AZ about 50 miles east of AJ- We went to The Gila Valley Gem and Mineral Society rock show at the county fairgrounds right beside a state prison. It's a small show, but we enjoy it. The trip there takes us through mountains and past some very large copper mines.

1-20, 21, & 22- Quartzsite, AZ- For the fifth year in a row, we went to Quartzsite for the beginning of the PowWow. While we were there, we also went to Tyson Wells and Desert Garden looking for rocks for the Gem Mine. The first day the weather was almost perfect. The second day, it began to rain on our way to Quartzsite from our motel in Ehrenberg and rained harder as the day went on. Only two dealers were outside were

1-30 Green Rock Area near Florence, AZ- We searched through mine tailings for small pieces of chrysocolla and malachite. Oma found one nice larger chunk, but we lost it somewhere.

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

With the Gemboree past us, how about the history of the Gemboree...

I don't know the date of the first show but it was first held at the Stow Armory in Stow, Ohio. Now this was a small venue and a lot of vendors and our club stuff was crammed into a room maybe about 2/3 the size of the show now. I mean were talking the Gem Mine, Silent Auction, Pony Cases with our personal displays and a kitchen.

A kitchen you say! Yes, a kitchen. The womenfolk would start to cook two months before the show and freeze tubs upon tubs of food to be sold at the show. I have been told that some of our customers would pay to get in just to eat at our kitchen. That's a testament to good cooking!

Now the wood cases that we put our display equipment in were built by our members and stored at one of those U-store-it type yards. They would then hire a truck and pick up the show equipment, bring it to the event site, set it up.

After the show they would reverse the process. That's a lot of work for everyone!

I wish I could find the financial records from this time because I have been told by many a seasoned member that as many as 3,000 people would attend our show. That's a lot of people in a smaller room and with limited parking to boot! Now of course our show was the only gem show in the area. Things have changed with other clubs having shows and of course other types of shows too.

We still come out very well, not just because we are the first but because we still have the same enthusiasm as our forbearers and we continue to pass on to the next generation.

So my hat is off to those first rockhounds that started a wonderful show and I hope we continue and evolve just as they had planned. Your friends, were trend setters!

Lapis Lazuli - by Chuck Boblenz, Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society, 10th Place AFMS Adult Advance Article Competition copied from May 2010 AFMS newsletter

Introduction

Lapis lazuli has intrigued people around the world for centuries. Its vivid, exciting blue color has mesmerized those admiring the works of art and jewelry. The list of admirers includes people from every walk of life, even kings and emperors. This intrigue is caused by the spectacular deep, vivid blue color. In fact, it is so distinct a color that it is hard not to notice it when worn in jewelry or seen in the rough.

History

In the early years of 3300 BC, in the country we know as Iraq and along the Euphrates River, pieces of lapis lazuli were found. The pieces being found at this time were finished gems and jewelry found in Sumerian tombs from earlier civilizations. These pieces had been carved into dishes, vases, beads, and cylindrical seals used in the times of the Sumerians.

Later in the 1300 BC years thousands of similar jewelry items were buried with King Tut. These pieces used lapis lazuli extensively, making use of the contrast of gold and the deep blue color to attract one's eye. Many of these items were shown in a traveling display several years ago. Pliny writes of sapphires of both "light and dark blue" in the year 79 AD. It is believed that his reference to sapphires of dark blue was aimed at describing lapis lazuli. In fact, so little had been written before this time, some historians were concerned about the interpretations of these early writings.

In the years of the 1200s the Pope had heard of vast lands to the east called the Mongol Empire. He learned from the many traders and adventurers returning to Rome of this vast land and its people. This information caused him to follow his tradition and introduce these peoples to Christianity.

In 1245 the Pope selected Giovanni de Piano Carpini to go to the east and seek the lands of Genghis Khan. Carpini was able to travel to the northern reaches of the Gobi Desert. In these travels he did meet the Khan, but was not successful in converting him to Christianity. Upon hearing of Carpini's return to Rome and receiving his report, the Pope sent Guillaume de Rubrouck with the same charter: to locate the Great Khan and to convert him to Christianity. Rubrouck traveled further east, surpassing Carpini in his travels, and succeeded in getting to Karakorum, the capital of the Mongol Empire; however, he was equally unsuccessful in converting the Khan before returning to Rome.

In 1260 two brothers, Niccolo and Maffeo Polo, set out from Venice eastward toward Constantinople. Soon after they started their journey they decided to extend their trip and to allow geography and economics to direct their travels. This decision was monumental in that it allowed them to be the first "Latins" to cross the full Asian continent. These travels allowed the brothers to meet Kublai Khan's cousin, Barka. This friendship caused them to spend a year in Barka's domain dealing in fine gems and jewels from the area. As the second year was beginning, a war was brewing, causing the brothers to continue their journey.

As they were leaving, they found that their way was blocked by the war, so they chose to go north into an area governed by the Khan of Turkistan. They remained in this area for three years. Barka's domain included the present country of Afghanistan and slowed the Polo brothers to see the many mines in the northern part near the Oxus River.

This is the locale where early lapis lazuli is found. The brothers' keen interest in gems and jewelry caused them to barter and trade for this fine material.

During the brothers' stay in this part of the Mongol Empire, they succeeded in meeting the Great Khan. During one of their meetings the great Khan gave them a message to be given to the Pope, and he assured their safe passage back with a golden tablet with the mark of his seal upon it. With the passport they safely returned to Venice with great wealth and many stories of adventure. They were soon preparing for a return trip to the Khan's empire. On this trip Niccolo's son, Marco, joined the brothers and found great acceptance into the Mongol Empire by the Khans. This began a number of trips for Marco over the next two decades where he acquired and traded the prized lapis lazuli throughout these journeys. Leonardo da Vinci sought honest paint dealers that would take lapis lazuli powder and mix it into their paints, which he wanted for that particular blue in his paintings.

It should be noted that there were also dishonest paint dealers during this time. They found that they could substitute azurite for the bluing agent and sell a similarly colored paint. The unfortunate thing that happens to the paint mixed with azurite is that after a period of time it will turn a very bright green, much to the embarrassment of the artisan and causing a deep concern for the paint dealer. This green color is caused by the copper in azurite turning it to malachite over time.

Detail

Lapis lazuli can be pronounced lap'is laz-yoo'le. The first word has the emphasis placed on the "lap," and the smaller emphasis on the "is"; in the second word "laz" has a long a, and the "yoo" sounds like "you"; the "le" sounds like "lay." Go ahead and try it. It's easy to pronounce, isn't it?

The dictionary describes it as: 1. an opaque, azure-blue to deep blue gemstone of lazurite; 2. a mineral, lazurite. (Latin lapis, stone + Medieval Latin lazuli, genitive of lazulum, [lapis lazuli, from Arabic lazaward, from Persian lazhuward.] Lapis lazuli is a rock. The blue material that first strikes our eye is lazurite. It is the midnight blue material and is sodium aluminum silicate. The next attractive material is metallic and looks very bright and shiny. It is pyrite, and the remaining white streaks are calcite.

The most prized of this material is extremely dark blue in color, almost midnight black; it is very hard and takes a very good polish, has very small amounts of pyrite, and almost no calcite. This dark blue color of lapis lazuli is much more intense than sodalite or azurite and is much more valued. Each of the lesser grades of lapis lazuli will have varying amounts of pyrite and calcite with varieties in color from light blue to the most vivid of blues. The Chilean and Russian lapis lazuli is often lighter in color due to the higher content of calcite and results in a lower value. All material shows an amount of pyrite, but if too much is prevalent the stone can gain a green patina with age.

Lapis Lazuli:

Formula: $\text{Na}_8(\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24})\text{S}_2$, sodium aluminum silicate

Color: Blue

Hardness: 5-6

Specific Gravity: 2.4-2.9

Streak: Light Blue

Fracture: Conchoidal, Grainy

Localities: Afghanistan: West Hindu Kush Mts., Russia: Baikal Lake, southwest end, Chile: North of Santiago

Lapidary Treatment

Use normal lapidary treatment through the number of grit sizes; however, be cautious of heat build-up when going above 600 grit. Too much heat can cause the piece to fracture and/or shatter. Lapis lazuli can be used in any silver, gold, or platinum jewelry and will provide instant appeal in its contrast to the metal work.

Conclusion

I hope you have now been introduced to lapis lazuli. 'Tis a stone through the ages and is fun to work with. I hope this will cause you to find the pieces you may have stashed away, get them out, and work them into some super piece of jewelry. As you have noted here, it would undoubtedly draw much attention to you wherever you may wear or show it. So take that step right now, and I believe you will find it very enjoyable.

Sunshine News - by Mari Takai-Manley

- Shirley Andrews passed away on April 24th. She was only 67 years old. She had been hospitalized and received many different medical treatments before passing. She had a kind, generous heart with a gentle sense of humor. She loved beads and beading. We will miss her greatly. We send sincere sympathy to Art and her daughters and the rest of her family.
- Russ Green's intestines were recently operated on. His surgeon found cancerous tumors on them. He is recovering from his surgery nicely, however, further testing has revealed that he also has liver cancer. He is going to be scheduled for chemotherapy after he recovers from the surgery. We send many prayers his way.
- Berrie Butrick was hospitalized recently after her fall. She experienced congenital heart failure in the past. We hope she will receive the necessary medical treatment and recover from this incident soon.
- Carl Miller is scheduled for knee surgery on this coming Thursday. We hope his surgery goes well and that his recovery will be speedy!
- Sue Paserba was hospitalized from an infection of her knees. She is also having radiation treatment for breast cancer. The doctors are concerned that she might develop blood clots. Currently she is in the nursing home for her rehabilitation. We hope that she feels better soon and is able to get stronger.

BOBSERVATIONS - by Robert Spore

And, we're back...

Monday: 1:30 AM

I've had some beers and now I'm hitting the wine. Cheap wine. Really, if you pay more than three bucks a bottle, you're just paying for the label. Hopefully, my body will stop aching before my head hits the keyboard, but I make no promises.

And apropos to nothing, the concept of reincarnation is pretty cool. I mean, a whole religion predicated on, "Better luck next time!" Just thought I'd throw that out there. Talk amongst yourselves.

And a big shout out to ladies who cooked for the show! The baked goods I consumed ROCKED!! And they provided me with the sugar buzz I needed to make it through both days of the show without collapsing into a huge puddle of despair.

"Despair", you say? "Por quoi?" After 26 years, the foot switch for the mule went belly up. But fear not! Wayne said he'd come up with an alternative. And utilizing his new nursing skills, I'm sure he'll engineer a device composed of used tongue depressors and an enema bag. But I'm not going to test it out.

OK, a couple more things before I pass out (And you don't know how lucky you are I'm typing this, because if I tried to talk right now, you'd notice that I'm no longer even bothering with consonants. My speech has become one complete vowel movement).

Anybody going down to Flint Ridge – we need more flint for tumbling. And try to find some of the colorful stuff. Beige and grey just doesn't cut it, if you know what I mean. This is for the Gem Mine and we like to give the kids something they can "Ooh" and "Ahh" over.

And although this may not be the best economic time to try this and this also might not be the proper venue, I'm selling some of my faceted stones. So if any of you might be interested in owning a Bob Spore Cut-Stone-Extravaganza-A-Go-Go, let me know and I'll provide a selection. What can I say? Times are tough and my cats refuse to get jobs.

Thank you and good nighzzzzzzzzzz.....

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

Nothing to add. See you next month!

MWF May Calendar of Events

1-2: KALAMAZOO, MI, Annual Show, Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society, Kalamazoo Co Expo Ctr, 2900 Lake St, Fri 4:00-9:00, Sat 10:00-6:00, Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact Kitty Starbuck, 7636 East V Av, Vicksburg, MI 49097-9307, (269) 649-1991, greenstone@iserv.net or Bill Mitchell, 3605 Woodcliff Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49008, (269) 375-5678, mitchellvickybill@sbcglobal.net

1-2: MARSHFIELD, WI, 37th Annual Show, Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society, Marshfield High School Fieldhouse, 1401 Becker Rd, Sat 10:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00, Contact Cynthia Kelman, 1403 N Broadway Av, Marshfield, WI 54449, (715) 387-8782, kelman@tznet.com

1-2: AITKIN, MN, Annual Show, Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society, Aitkin High School, 306 2nd St NW, Sat 9:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00, Contact: Kat Thomas, 45962 Tame Fish Lake Rd, Aitkin, MN 56431, (218) 678-3298, katmoose@wildblue.net

14-16: SOUTHGATE, MI, Annual Show, Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society, Southgate Arena, 14700 Reaume Pkwy, Fri 4:00-8:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM-6:00 PM, Sun 11:00 AM-5:00 PM, Contact : Michael Bomba, 1419 Gregory, Lincoln Park, MI 48146, (313) 381-8455, bombasrocks@yahoo.com

15-16: BEREA, OH. 42nd Annual Show, Parma Lapidary Club, Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd, Sat 9:00-6:00, Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact: John Zaborowski, 926 Lake Breeze Rd, Sheffield Lake, OH, 44054, (440) 949-8242, j751@centurytel.net

15-16: WAUWATOSA, WI. 53rd Annual Show, Wisconsin Geological Society, Hart Park Muellner Bldg, 7300 Chestnut St, Sat-Sun 10:00-5:00, Contact: Paul Schmidt, 8213 Red Arrow Ct, Wauwatosa, WI 53213, (414) 771-8668, pvs@wi.rr.com