

**Official Publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club
Elmhurst, Illinois**

Volume XXXXV

No. 1

January 2006

**NEXT CLUB MEETING
January 27, 2006
(Doors Open at 7:30 pm)
THE ABBEY
407 W. St. Charles Road
Elmhurst IL**



**Member of:
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Chicagoland Gem and Mineral Association**

**West Suburban Lapidary Club
Mary Prosek
PO Box 783, Lyons, IL 60534**

**First Class
Dated Material**

THE OPAL



WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mission Statement:

**To foster the development of the lapidary arts and the jewelry craftsmans
and to increase public interest in handcrafted
gems, jewelry, and their materials.**

Regular meetings of the West Suburban Lapidary Club are held on the fourth Friday of the month, 8:00 pm, with the exception of June, July, August & December, at the Abbey, 407 W. St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst, IL. Parking in East and West parking lots. Visitors are welcome. Board meetings are held as announced in the OPAL. Annual Membership Dues: \$17.00 per household/family. Dues are due January 1, delinquent January 31.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS - 2006

President	Don Cronauer
Vice-President	Don Shore
Treasurer	Barbara Petry
Secretary	Jose' Ponce
OPAL Editor	Mary Prosek
MWF Liaison	Terry Licko
Past President	Karen Dave'

Committee Chairpersons

CGMA Delegate
Sabrina Ugorek

Kitchen Supplies
Lorraine Maher

Gem of the Month
Yo Watanabe
Tony Gass
Paul Pavesich

Historian
Lillian Keck

Publicity
Mary Prosek

Hospitality
Jeni Entwistle

The OPAL
Mary Prosek

Librarian
Gwyn Roland

Activities Coordinator
Karen Dave'

MWF Delegate
Terry Licko

Museum Liaison
Jack Maher

Webmaster
Don Shore

Silent Auction
to be announced

Field Trip
to be announced

Lapidary School
Karen Dave'
Instructors
Tony Gass
Lyle Backus
Frank Morales
Max Schultz

Assistants
Lucy Backus
Mary Prosek
Alberta Schultz
Don Shore
Jose' Ponce

The OPAL is the official publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club and is issued September through May. It is mailed, one copy per family, without further charge to members of WSLC. Articles may be copied if full credit is given the author and this bulletin. The deadline for material to be published is the fourth Friday of the month (the general meeting night). Our web site is <http://www.compu-classic.com/WSLC>

JANUARY PROGRAM

The program for January will be "Fossil Jewelry", presented by The West Suburban Lapidary Club's own Randall Bultman. Randall, or Randy as we know him, has been a member of the WSLC for several years. He is also a member of The Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois and is quickly becoming the resident expert on fossils. Randy has lead many field trips for ESCONI to local quarries in search of fossils and spends a lot of his free time in the pursuit of more knowledge of the same. He also has contributed articles to The Opal for publication.

STONE-OF-THE-MONTH

Tourmaline is the stone of the month for January. Please bring in samples of rough, stones or jewelry items to share with other members of the club. Make sure your samples and pieces are properly identified as your own.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

The complete listing of teams is given on page 9 of this month's Opal for your reference. Following are the next 2 month's as published in each Opal.

January (Aquamarine):

Anderson, Fred & Florence	Feistamel, Doug	Wattanabe, Yo
Bultman, Randy	Freeman, Barbara	Williams, Jean Carol
Cronauer, Don	Kelmis, Jeff & Donna	
Entwhistle, Jeni	O'Daniel, Neal	

February (Diamond):

Abrell, Gary & Lorel	Matthew, Robert & Jacqueline	Walter, George
Bergman, Dave & Sheila	Norton, Betty	Wozniak, Charlene
Keck, Lil	Schultz, Alberta & Max	
Mac Leon, Mark & Karen	Sobczak, Bernie & Irene	
Martinelli, Sandy	Ugorek, Sabrina	

WSLC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the WSLC is \$17 per year, per household/family. Dues should be paid by January 31st for that year. Please submit them along with your name, that of your spouse, your address and phone number to the WSLC Treasurer, Barbara Petry. This can be done at any General Meeting or by mailing the same to her at: 1N480 Swift Road, Lombard, IL 60147. Tel: 630-627-3245

Members of the WSLC receive in district rates with the Elmhurst Park District for classes taken at the Lapidary School regardless of their residence

WSLC BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are open to all members of the West Suburban Lapidary Club. The schedule of meetings is provided on page 10 of The Opal.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*by Don Cronauer*

I and all of the members of the Board hope that the New Year finds everyone in good health and looking forward to a happy and active year!

Again, I'd like to say that it's great to be a part of an interesting club like WSLC. I appreciate your confidence in reelecting me as President of the club. Please feel free to suggest new ideas for the club.

One of the real features of WSLC is the wide variety of programs and articles that are presented at the meetings and in the OPAL. When a new thought or technique arises, just jump in, and we'll see how it can be developed!

I wish to acknowledge the wide list of individuals that have served the WSLC during the past year. Don Shore has served as Vice-President and Webmaster with numerous suggestions and leadership participation in our activities. In addition to serving as club treasurer, Barb Petry has been important in the financial aspects of the auction, sales, membership and the likes. Jose' Ponce has served as Secretary in addition to being very active in the physical operation of the club. The publication of the OPAL has been great with Mary Prosek as editor. This effort also includes getting members to do things on time so that they can be reported. Mary was also significant in getting the successful auction underway and completed. As MWF Liaison, Terry Licko has provided the needed communications link with the overall lapidary field; this has included attendance at the Federation meetings when possible. Karen Dave' has continued to serve an active role in the running of the club along with serving as Activities Coordinator and liaison with the Elmhurst Park District. Of particular importance, she serves as director of the Lapidary School which both directly helps club members and leads others to join WSLC. The elected Board Members, Lynn Dempsey, Ione Piche', and Lorraine Maher have served as active participants in the planning and operation of the club in addition to working with other committee jobs .

Ed Gallagher has been elected to the position of Board Member (1st of a three year term), Gwyn Roland and Jack Maher will continue as Librarian and Museum Liaison, respectively.

The Gem of the Month activity will continue with Yo Watanabe, Tony Gass and Paul Pavesich. I suggest that we make their job harder by submitting more pieces for their evaluation and comments.

Again, the WSLC is very appreciative of the Pavesichs' for allowing us to have the storage shed on their property.

Of course, we are all thankful for the high level of activity of the club members at large. We are one of the few clubs that continues to grow. This confirms that we are presenting a good program, a good school, and good interaction between both "old" members and new members joining our hobby.

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2005
GENERAL MEETING***by Jose Ponce'*

President Don Cronauer called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM.

Announcements:

Don Cronauer announced The Geodon Show at the DuPage Fairgrounds the weekend of Thanksgiving. The Holiday Luncheon is still scheduled for December 4 at Villa Nova restaurant in Village Park. Tickets will not be distributed as in the past. Upon arrival, check in. There will be a list of guest somewhere by the door. There will be "live" entertainment by club member Jeni Entwistle who will play the harp. Motion to accept the Opal minutes were called by Leroy Petry and seconded by Terry Licko.

Treasurer Report made by Barbara Petry:

Barbara reported the expenses, income and balances on the accounts. Some money from the checking account has been transfer to a new CD.

Business Items:

Nominating Committee: The following is the list of nominations presented by Mary Prosek:

President: Don Cronauer Vice-President: Don Shore
Secretary: Jose Ponce'

Returning Board Members: 3rd year Ione Piche', 2nd year Lorraine Maher new 1st year: Ed Gallagher.
Treasurer: Barb Petry

The Lizzadro Museum in Elmhurst's free admission day on November 19 was a success. There was a large turn out of people who attended, many of them children. Suggestions were made for next year's activity with the museum to try and rearrange the demonstration area and hopefully come out with a more open plan.

Membership Report by Barbara Petry: 2 new club members signed up at the meeting. The WSLC is one of the few clubs that keep growing. There were 29 members and 2 guest present. Club members are reminded not forget to sign-in so that the attendance at each meeting is accurate.

Library Report: none for November

Stone of the Month:

Bead drilling: the only comment was "to be extra careful because you may have accidents, and it is really hard and tedious work.

Lapidary School report by Karen Dave:

Classes for Silversmithing, and Wire-wrapping are over for the fall. It is not known if there will be a winter session yet.

Field Trip: none for November

Midwest Federation Report by Terry Licko:

The report will be published on the next issue of the Opal.

CGMA:

Sabrina: No report.

Program:

Enameling by Terry Licko, Terry started by taking lesson in Chicago's Humboldt Park and also at the Arrowmount Art School in Gatlinburg Tennessee. Cloisonné is fine wire formed into cells and filled with enamel. Enameling dates back to ancient times, there is four type of enameling: Opaque, Transparent, Opalescent and glazed. Different colors melt at different temperatures; sometimes several firings are necessary to achieve desired effects. The steps involved in enameling are:

1. - Anneal Cooper
2. - Clean
3. - Shape
4. - Wash in detergent, handle on edges only
5. - Counter enamel use scale

6. - Add fluxes, allow to dry and put in Kiln
7. - Add Color, reapply more if necessary, fire

There are different techniques, which involve using various metals, and color placement, the temperature in the kiln should be 1700 degrees. Lacquer on bare edges of cooper will prevent oxidizing. Enameling is enjoying a revival. Lapidary Journal recently featured enameled pieces with gemstones; there are many books in the subject. The talk was very interesting and very insightful.

Don Shore read team lists for both January and February and encouraged both groups to meet after the general meeting.

Don Cronauer called a motion for the meeting to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Refreshments and fellowship followed.

**MINUTES OF THE WSLC DECEMBER 4,
2006 ANNUAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY
DINNER**

by Jose Ponce'

Members and guests started arriving at Villa Nova Restaurant at noon. WSLC member, Jeni Entwhistle delighted all in attendance with the melodic sounds of her harp. Cocktails were available, and at 1:00 Vice President Don Shore welcomed everyone and asked Erv Licko to say a prayer prior to the meal.

A delicious meal followed and included a salad, roast beef, chicken, mostaccioli, rolls, and green beans, followed by a delicious desert.

Many ladies arrived wearing lovely hats and everyone attending dressed for the special occasion. Several members wore exquisite hand wrought jewelry pieces.

After dinner, Terry Licko shared a fascinating story with the group about a favorite pet she had for many years. For those of you who missed it, make sure to catch up with Terry so she can share her memories with you.

The meeting was called to order at 2:15. A motion was made and passed to dispense with the business meeting.

Don Shore then called for the annual election. Mary Prosek read the names of those nominated:

President: Don Cronauer
 Vice President: Don Shore
 Treasurer: Barbara Petry
 Secretary: Jose' Ponce
 Board Member: Ed Gallagher

A call for the nominations from the floor was invited. There being none, Paul Pavesich made a motion to accept the slate as read. The motion was passed.

The live poinsettia centerpieces were given to the person at each table whose birthday was closest to Christmas. Don Shore thanked everyone for coming. Jeni Entwistle entertained once again playing several Christmas favorites on her harp. Afterwards, fellowship and an exchange of holiday greetings continued until 3:15 P.M.

MIDWEST FEDERATION REPORT

by Terry Licko

The Midwest Federation has a change of command with the election of the new officers. The new president is Sandy Fuller and we wish her good luck. John Blue is now past President.

The St. Louis convention was a success. The activities raised enough money for the American Federation Scholarship Foundation and now will be able to fund all scholarships.

The A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum is on the move. They have purchased land north of the Quincy Mine Hoist of the Keweenaw National Historical Park on US Highway 41 in Hancock, near Houghton, Michigan.

The conventions for the coming year were set in to motion. In 2006, The Midwest Mineralogical Society will be hosting the event in Michigan at the Southgate Arena on May 19 thru May 21, 2006. The 2007 convention is scheduled to be sponsored by the Copper County club in Houghton, Michigan in conjunction with Keweenaw Week. No other details are currently available at this time.

In the past President's message, John Blue noted that successful clubs have a bulletin; all have a show, and all have field trips or workshops. So if you want your club to grow, this is the recipe.

EDITOR'S CORNER

by Mary Prosek

Did you make New Year's Resolutions at the beginning of 2006? How many have already been broken or forgotten about? Perhaps they were related to your health (quit smoking, lose weight, exercise more) or maybe to your character (help others, no cussing, more volunteering).

Here are some items that we, as members of the West Suburban Lapidary Club should all consider:

- 1) I will give more of myself to the WSLC in the way of volunteering my time and energy to the benefit of the club instead of waiting for others to step forward.
- 2) I will organize my collection of rocks and specimens, identifying and labeling each piece along the way.
- 3) I will give away or donate my extra items to others who are just starting out in the hobby or to the WSLC for upcoming sales and auctions.
- 4) I will share the knowledge I have with others without expecting anything in return.
- 5) I will not criticize others in the club for the way they handle club business.
- 6) I will listen more than I talk.
- 7) I will be patient with the older/younger members of the club who do not talk/walk as fast/slow as me.
- 8) I will learn a new technique this year.
- 9) I will write articles and stories for publication in The Opal (sorry, couldn't help that one)

Maybe you have some more of your own. One of my favorite resolutions is to never make resolutions, but to keep on trying to improve myself through constant self evaluation. They say hind sight is 20-20. It also helps to look at yourself through an Opti-visor every now and then. Sometimes you don't like what you see, but like a scratched cabochon or tarnished piece of silver, all you need is a little polish and determination to get a beautiful finish.

I really enjoyed publishing The Opal in 2005 and sincerely appreciated the words of encouragement that many of you have given. Writing really does have curative effects on the soul. So many of you have submitted some great articles for publication and I hope you will continue to do so. I welcome suggestions for upcoming articles. All the best to all of you for the upcoming year!

TOURMALINE

by Mary Prosek

The name "Tourmaline" is derived from the Singha- lese expression "tura mali", which translates as "stone of mixed colors". Tourmalines come in a wide range of colors from black or brown to green, pink, rose, blue and violet. Many tourmalines are more than one color, which is the case with watermelon tourmalines which is a mix of red and green, red being the center and green the "rind".

The stone is mined everywhere in the world with the most important finds being in Brazil, Sri Lanka and South and Southwest Africa. Other occurrences are situated in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Tourmalines are also found in the U.S., mostly in Maine and Utah. Although the occurrence of Tourmalines is quite common, good qualities and fine colors are only rarely offered in the market.

Designers, faceters and lapidaries are fascinated by the stone because of the wealth of colors. Scientists are intrigued due to its astonishing physical characteristics. Heating the stone and subsequently cooling it down will result in the Tourmaline being charged up. The stone will then show a positive charge on one end, and a negative charge at the opposite pole.

Tourmaline is a very durable stone and is 7 to 7.5 on the Moh's scale of hardness. Tourmaline's colors come from iron, manganese, vanadium and chromium. Stones found in Brazil are thought to include copper. Rubellite is the best known of the tourmalines and comes in many different shades of red.

Tourmaline is also used by many lapidaries for carving. Many specimens found are quite large which lend themselves to this type of work.

FOR SALE

For sale advertisements are offered at no charge to WSLC members, space permitting. The Opal will not knowingly print or accept For Sale ads from dealers or business owners. The WSLC cannot confirm the condition or price of any merchandise offered. All transactions must be handled directly

between the seller and buyer.

Please contact Opal Editor, Mary Prosek if you are interested in placing an ad. Contact information can be found for her and all board members on page 2 of The Opal or via email: mitty27@sbcglobal.net.

LIZZADRO MUSEUM

January 21: "Life on the Space Shuttle"

Children's book author and NASA educator, Diane Sipiera, presents an all new look at the space shuttle. Learn about the construction of the new space shuttle and the daily routine of astronauts in space.

Interactive lecture – Ages 6 yrs to Adult
2 pm: 60 minutes

Admission: \$3, Museum members free
Reservations recommended

January 10 thru April 30: Special Exhibit:-

Scrimshaw – See modern scrimshaw by Richard Kovanda featuring ink etching on whale teeth and ivory. Mr. Kovanda, Downers Grove resident, will do a live demonstration and lecture on Saturday, April 8th at the Museum.

February 4: "Dinosaur Discoveries"

Children become dinosaur detectives with "Paleontologist Illinois Bones" to learn about the world of dinosaurs. The discovery of fossils creates an awareness of the dinosaur's special characteristics. Live animals show how dinosaurs are related to animals living today.

Interactive Lecture – Ages 4 yrs to Adult
2 pm: 50 minutes

Admission: \$4 per person, Museum members \$3
Reservations recommended

Visit the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art – 220 Cottage Hill – Elmhurst, IL 60126 tel: 630-833-1616 or online: www.lizadromuseum.org

WEBSITE

Check out www.yourgemologist.com. I came across this website while on the William Holland Lapidary School site (they have a lot of interesting links). The site was built and is maintained by Certified Gemologist Robert James. There are lots of interesting and free downloads covering a wide variety of gem and lapidary related subjects.

VACATION DESTINATION

Looking for a great place to go on vacation this year and learn a new technique or sharpen up the one's you have? Make a point to learn about The William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris, Georgia.

The school was founded in the mid 80's by former President of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Harold C Sparks, and his wife Mary Lou, as a means to have a place where people from all states and countries could come together to learn in a peaceful atmosphere and to share with one another.

They purchased a mountain top retreat, and with the help of various clubs, volunteers and donations, built the school that is today. The school continues to grow through fund raising and donations.

The school was named after William Holland the only deceased past president of the SFMS at the time. The first classes were held in the Sparks basement until completion of the lodge in the spring of 1986.

Classes begin the week of April 16 through November 3rd this year. They last for one week each. Accommodations include rooms with private baths or a campground hook up. Prices are very reasonable and include meals. Rooms are available for double or single occupancy. The classes run Monday through Friday with many activities planned throughout the week. There is an auction on Tuesday night, field trips on Wednesdays, tailgating on Thursdays.

The instructors are volunteers. In addition to the nominal fee, some classes require the purchase of a class kit. The kit fees are very nominal. Many classes require you to bring your own tools. Classes run the whole gamut from lapidary to silversmithing, faceting, beading, gem id's, jewelry repair, stained glass, chain making, intarsia, polymer clay, glass fusing, enameling, casting, cabochons, silver clay, gold, flameworking, wirewrapping and chain making.

The WSLC's own Rich Dillon will be teaching glass fusing at the school this summer, accompanied by his wife Linda.

The cost to attend is \$310 per week, double occupancy and includes 3 meals a day, lodging and the class fee. Campground fees are somewhat lower. Complete fees can be found at the School's website, along with the class schedules that give the instructors name, description of the class, and the cost of the class kit. Also available on line is the list of tools to bring with.

The school is located in the upper part of Georgia, northeast of Atlanta, near the border of Tennessee and is about 700 miles from Chicago.

You can either visit their website at:

www.lapidaryschool.org, or write or call for more information at:

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts – PO Box 980 – Young Harris, GA 30582-0980

tel: 706-379-2126 email: lapidary@alltel.net



Wanda Ensminger Memorial Library

Book Review
By Don Cronauer

#349 – The Jewelry Engravers Manual
author: R. Allen Hardy and John J. Bowman

The Jewelry Engravers Manual is a good reference to check before even trying to engrave jewelry. It presents numerous designs for lettering, monographs and decorations, along with instructions for step-by-step practice and final projects. This includes preparing and maintaining the needed tools for the job. The authors also include many figures showing the various types of lettering and the approaches to be used to get that good looking scroll and finished edges. Another important aspect is their discussion of designing and layout of the overall piece of jewelry.

This book, and many others like it, including videos and monthly magazines, can be found in the WSLC library, which is available to all members in good standing and is open at the general meetings.

**WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB
TEAM LIST SEPTEMBER 2005 THROUGH MAY 2006**

Team Duties: Our programs are a team effort. We depend on and need each other's help to make them work. Each month's team, as listed below, is responsible for the meeting set-up, program, refreshments, and take-down. Out-of-state and honorary members are requested to contribute to any team.

Meeting Set-Up/Take-Down: The team members should arrive early on their program day to help set-up the chairs and tables. They also need to remain after the meeting to clean up and put everything away.

Program: Each team should meet during the two club meetings prior to their program date and plan a program. A team leader will be elected to chair the team meetings during which everyone on the team will contribute ideas for a program. The team leader is not expected to do the program; only coordinate it. The Vice-President will meet with the team and help if required. If the team is unable to formulate a program, the Vice-President should be consulted as soon as possible.

Refreshments: The refreshments will be discussed at the team meeting and each team member will contribute an item. Any team member who cannot attend the team's program should arrange to send a refreshment or donation of money (that will be used to purchase an item). All team members should lend a hand in the kitchen. Serving dishes and utensils will be provided by the team members.

September & December	October – Garnet	Nov – Amethyst	Jan - Aquamarine
	Cooper, Caroline	Lundin, Bruce & Lillian	Anderson, Fred, Florence
	Gallagher, Ed	Maher, John & Lorraine	Bultman, Randy & Roland, Gwyn
The official board	Granat, James	Malava, Peter & Zastrow, Rebecca	Cronauer, Don
will be responsible	LevVintre, Jim & Diane	Penny, Tom & Monica	Entwhistle, Jeni
for the program and	Licko, Terry & Erv	Poineal, Mary	Feistamel, Doug
refreshments	McCormick, Emily & Gene	Ponce, Jose & Lydia	Freeman, Barbara
	O'Connell, Chas & Marlene	Prosek, Mary	Kelmis, Jeff & Donna
	Pachay, John & Ginny	Quail, Mary & Garrett	O'Daniel, Neal
	Piche, Ione	Richardson, Christine	Watanabe, Yo
	Reames, Ed	Ziemba, Barb & Rhonda	Williams, Jean Carol
	Zaluba, Jim & Kathryn	Simon, Rob & Kathleen	

February – Diamond	March – Emerald	April – Opal	May - Topaz
Abrell, Gary & Lorel	Backus, Lyle & Lucy	Dave', Karen	Dempsey, Lynn
Bergman, David & Sheila	Brunsen, Catherine	Kamp, Sandra & James	Dewbray, Ed & Ginni
Keck, Lil	Gadeke, Russell & Marion	Knudsen, Jacqueline, Bob	Dillon, Rich & Linda
Mac Leon, Mark & Karen	Gibbons, Ronald	Mangano, Chris	Gass, Tony
Martinelli, Sandy	Herrera, Lee & Devane, Jeannete	Morales, Frank & Mary Ann	Giannoni, Ed
Matthew, Robert & Jacqueline	Maple, James & Marion	Naegel, Barabara	Kaplan, Jim
Norton, Betty	Muskus, Meryl	Quirk, Frances	Kubala, Thomas & Barbara
Schultz, Max & Alberta	Pavesich, Paul & Ruth	Rios, Pat & Patty	Miles, Barbara
Sobczak, Bernard, Irene	Petry, Leroy & Barbara	Scudder, John & Tobey	Polley, Joan
Ugorek, Mike, Sandy & Sabrina	Phipps, Jean	Shore, Don	Reilley, Lenore
Walter, George	Thode, Kris & Johnson, Lisa	Wilson, Susan	Reisner, Virginia
Wozniak, Charlene	Zink, Paul & Kathy	Yankielun, Ed	Strickert, Larry & Gloria

WSLC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETING LOCATION:

THE ABBEY; 407 West St. Charles Road; Elmhurst, IL
Abbey Public Phone: 630-530-9874

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m.
Friday, January 27, 2006

WSLC BOARD MEETINGS:

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 3, 2006

Scheduled Board Meetings - 2006

January 6; February 3; March 3; April 7; May 5; September 8; October 6; November 3; December 1

Scheduled General Meetings – 2006

January 27; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 19; September 22; October 27; November 24

SHOW CALENDAR

Jan 21-22 – KEOKUK, IOWA: Worthen Earth Searchers - Annual Show: Keokuk Mall, contact: Merlin Tobias, 1765 E Co Road 900 , Carthage, IL 62321, tel: 217-743-6259, email: ktobias@adams.net

Feb 12 — PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS: South Suburban Earth Science Club – Silent Auction, Freedom Hall, 410 Lakewood Blvd, Park Forest, IL – info contact Bob Frank @ 708-388-7365. There will be a 14” table saw featured.. In addition to the day of the auction, bids will also be received for the saw via email at: ssescus@yahoo.com. The Silent Auction will also include gemstones, jewelry, rough and lapidary supplies.

March 11 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: Chicago Rocks and Minerals: Silent Auction, Salvation Army, 4065 N. Pulaski Ave, Chicago, IL 5:30 to 10 p.m. For info contact Ron Gutkowski @ 773-775-9549

March 11-12 – MACOMB, ILLINOIS: Geodeland Earth Science Society – 26th Annual Show, WIU Student Union, Murray Street, Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. For info contact Dean Stone at 900 Willard St, Galesburg, IL 60141 or tel: 309-342-7132 email: stonerocks@hotmail.com

March 25-26 – DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS: Des Plaines Valley Geological Society – Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil Show, Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch Street, Saturday 9:30 am to 5 pm, Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. For info contact Paul Okolowicz at 847-215-7345 email: minerals411@comcast.net or visit the club’s website at: www.desplainesgeologyclub.org

Please show your support of the local clubs and societies by attending their shows, auctions and sales.

Quotes of the month: An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. - *Bill Vaughn*

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better person.- *Benjamin Franklin*