

Pat Koko, Opal Editor

Official publication of the West Suburban
Lapidary Club

Volume LII, Number 1

First Class Dated Material



Established in

1959

in our 54th year and
still rockin'!The Opal is published January thru
May; September thru NovemberMeetings are usually held the 4th Friday of the month, January thru May,
Sept thru November. Please check The Opal for changes.

Next Club Meeting

Friday, January 25, 2013

8 pm, doors open at 7:00

The Abbey

407 W. St Charles Rd

Elmhurst, IL 60126

Next Board Meeting

February 1, 2013

Meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Wagner Center

615 Northwest Ave

Elmhurst, IL 60126

West Suburban Lapidary Club Membership Info

Membership in the WSLC is \$17 per year, per household/family. Student memberships are available for \$10. Students are identified as 22 years of age and younger and currently enrolled in an accredited school and have a valid school I.D. Dues are payable by January 31st for that calendar year regardless of the date you joined. Please submit a completed application for Board Approval to the

WSLC Treasurer, Karen Davé.

This is to be done at any General Meeting. Applications will not be accepted via mail or at a WSLC function other than a meeting.

Visitors are welcome at all General Meetings. Members of the WSLC are expected to serve on

various committee's and volunteer their time where needed. Applications may be found on the WSLC website (see pg 2)

Members of the WSLC receive in district rates with the Elmhurst Park District for classes taken at the Lapidary School, regardless of their residence. Contact information for all Board Members are located on page 2 of 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 craftsman's 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 at 8 p.m. with the exception of June, July, August & December at The Abbey, 407 W. St. Charles Road, Elmhurst, Illinois. Parking in the East and West parking lots. Visitors are welcome. Board meetings are held as announced in The OPAL. Annual membership dues are \$17 per household/family. Dues are due January 1, delinquent January 31.

President	Ed Gallagher
Vice- President	Vikki Peterson
Treasurer	Karen Dave'
Secretary	Ellen Clough
OPAL Editor	Pat Koko
MWF Liaison	Lee Herrera
Board Member (3rd of 3 year term)	Rich Dillon
Board Member (2nd of 3 year term)	Jose Ponce'
Board Member (1st of 3 year term)	OPEN
Past President	Open

Committee Chairpersons

CGMA Delegate: Rich Dillon	Hospitality: Ed Gallagher	Silent Auction/Club Show: to be announced
CGMA Alternate: Mark Gordon & Debbie Ballot	The OPAL: Pat Koko	Field Trip: position open
Kitchen Supplies: Ed Gallagher	Librarian: Gwyn Roland	Lapidary School: Karen Dave'
Gem of the Month: Sakina Bharani	Activities Coordinator: Karen Dave'	Instructors: Joanne Samuel
Historian: Joanne Samuel	MWF Liaison: Lee Herrera	Mary Prosek Jose Ponce
Publicity:	Lizzadro Museum Liaison: Jack Maher	Don Shore
Webmaster: Don Shore		

The OPAL is the official publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club and is issued September through May with the exception of December. It is mailed, one copy per household, without further charge to members of the WSLC who do not have e-mail. Otherwise the newsletter is sent as a pdf by e-mail. Articles may be copied provided full credit is given to the author and this bulletin. The deadline for material to be published is the fourth Friday of the month prior. Visit the WSLC website at: www.westsuburbanlapidaryclub.com

Established in 1959
Rockin' into our 54th year

JANUARY PROGRAM—B I N G O

Hosted by our January Team — Carl Hausman, lead team member

It's a new year and the team promises a rocking game.

Be prepared to have fun!

Stone of the month

Tsavorite Garnet

Sakina Bharani G. G.

Tsavorite the untamed beauty !!

The shining green Tsavorite is a young gemstone with a very long geological history. Its home is the East-African bushland along the border between Kenya and Tanzania. The few mines lie in a uniquely beautiful landscape of arid grassland with bare, dry hills. It is a dangerous country, the habitat of snakes and lions, on lookout for prey. It is there, near the world-famous Tsavo National Park, that this history began.

In 1967, British gem prospector and geologist Dr. Campbell Bridges discovered a deposit of green grossular garnet in the mountains of north-east Tanzania in a place called Lemshuko. The specimens he found were of very intense color and of high transparency. Attempts were made to export the stones, but the Tanzanian government did not provide permits.

Believing that the deposit was a part of a larger geological structure extending possibly into Kenya, Bridges began prospecting in that country. He was successful a second time in 1971, when he found this mineral variety there, and was granted a permit to mine the deposit. Dr. Bridges was murdered in 2009 when a mob attacked him and his son on their property in Tsavo National Park. It is believed that the attack was connected to a dispute over access and control of Bridges' gemstone mines.



Tiffany & Co launched a marketing campaign which brought broader recognition of the stone. At a later date deposits were also found in southern Madagascar near Gogogogo village.



The name Tsavorite was proposed by Tiffany & Co president Sir Henry Platt in honor of Tsavo National Park in Kenya.

Tsavorite or also called Tsavolite is a variety of the garnet group species grossular, a calcium-aluminium garnet. Trace amount of vanadium and/or chromium provide the green color. (cont'd on Page 8)

General Meeting Minutes—November 30, 2012

By Dawn Johnson, Interim Secretary

Meeting called to order at 8:11 pm.

Jack Maher and Barb Petrie approved the minutes in the Opal.

Karen Dave reported on the finances. Joanne S. and Peggy W. moved and seconded a motion to approve the report and file it for audit.

Midwest Federation Report was given by Lee. He talked about happenings in Quartzite in January on the 23rd through the 27th.

The Christmas Party was discussed. Angelo's December 9th.

There were good items for the raffle.

PROGRAM

Speaker: Joe Eddy Brown

Joe Eddy gave a slide show showing some of his work. He had items made from found objects to show. There was a give away of found objects. He talked about what was needed to be an artist: passion, time, plans and tools were discussed with gusto.

The meeting was adjourned bit after nine.

West Suburban Lapidary Club

General Meeting Minutes —December 9, 2012

The meeting was held just prior to the holiday luncheon and was called to order at 2:05 pm. Thirty nine people attended the party.

The election slate for the WSLC Board was presented. A motion was made to approve the election slate by Pat Koko, and was seconded by Paul Koko. There were no dissenters. The motion passed.

The Board members are:

President Ed Gallagher

Vice- President Vikki Peterson

Treasurer Karen Davé

Secretary Ellen Clough

OPAL Editor Pat Koko

MWF Liaison Lee Herrera

Board Member (3rd of 3 year term) Rich Dillon

Board Member (2nd of 3 year term) Jose Poncé

Board Member (1st of 3 year term) Ella Budinski

Ed Gallagher thanked everyone who has worked to make the Club and Club meetings a success, including: CGMA liaisons Rich, Mark and Debbie; Historian Joanne Samuel; Liaison with Lizzadro Jack Meyer; Webmaster Don; Librarian Gweyn; Jose Poncé for electrical support during the general meetings.

Karen Davé gave a very short report on the status of the schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 pm.

**DUES ARE OVERDUE — \$17 PER FAMILY
DUES WERE TO BE PAID TO THE TREASURER
BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.**

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Do you have any items that you no longer need/want but are still valuable to donate to the club for our monthly silent auction. We will gladly accept books that aren't too out of date, slabs of nice material, finished cabs, lapidary equipment or supplies. Let your imagination be your guide. If it has been sitting around your workshop collecting dust, perhaps your unused item is just what a fellow member needs/wants. Bring to a meeting and share with José or Karen.

SCHOOL !! ELMHURST PARK

DISTRICT IN CONJUNCTION

WITH

WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB

DON'T WAIT UNTIL LAST MINUTE TO
SIGN UP. FIVE WEEK CLASSES.

Cutting and Polishing Stones

Feb. 12—Mar. 12

Silversmithing

Feb 25—Mar.25

Basic Wirewrapping-Jewelry

Feb. 13—Mar. 13



**MID WEST FEDERATION
REPORT — Lee Herrera**

MWF 2013 CONVENTION

2013 – Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club in Lincoln, Nebraska will host the 2013. April 6-7.

CANCELED STAMPS

Still looking for cancelled stamps.

NEW DVDS FOR MWF PROGRAM

LIBRARY

Submitted by Marge Collins

To request programs from MWF Program Library contact:

Pat Powers, Librarian 18270 Buccaneer, North Royalton, OH 44133 Phone: 440-237-6170 E-mail: SLC Newsletter@aol.com

Please include Club name with request. The shipping and handling fee is \$5.00 per program, payable in advance or upon return.

Funded from 2012 AFMS Endowment Fund al-

lotment

Mystery Of The Giant Crystals -- 50 minutes Produced by Madrid Scientific Films (DVD suitable only for laptop / PC use**)

**Produced in Spain, this DVD format is available to USA viewers only using a computer or laptop despite assurances to the contrary. We tested it in numerous DVD and Blu-ray players without success. This is an excellent presentation. Please be prepared to show / view it with a relatively new computer or laptop.

What's Beneath America - 45 minutes Produced by Discovery Education – Curiosity Series

Opal Fever - Four 27-minute segments From an Australian TV series

Flintknapping - 45 minutes (Same as VHS sent 1989)

Rock Markings – Stories in Stone (petroglyphs) - 40 minutes (“K’uu T’ahn”) produced by Urraca Filmworks

Arches National Park - up to 50 minutes Finley-Holiday Production

Funded from 2013 AFMS Endowment Fund allotment

Rhodochrosite: Red Gem of the Rockies - 87 minutes (can be divided into two segments*) (Same as VHS sent 2005)

Cindy's Cuttlebone Casting - 30 minutes Cindy Moore

WE HAVE LOST A FRIEND (MWF)

by Donna Moore

George Burton, 78, of Good Hope, Illinois, passed away Saturday, October 20. He was born August 7, 1934 in St. David, Illinois.

We are reminded that our Representative, Lee Herrera is the Chair of ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR for MWF. Lee sent information about another club's nominee....WE NEED TO CONSIDER SOMEONE TO NOMINATE FROM OUR OWN CLUB?

BOARD MEETING DATES—2013

FEBRUARY	1ST
MARCH	1ST
APRIL	5TH
MAY	3RD
SUMMER VACATION	
SEPTEMBER	6TH
OCTOBER	4TH
NOVEMBER	1ST

GENERAL MEETING DATES—2013

FEBRUARY	22ND
MARCH	22ND
APRIL	26TH
MAY	17TH **
SUMMER VACATION	
SEPTEMBER	27TH
OCTOBER	25TH
NOVEMBER	29TH ##

General Meeting Dates are generally the 4th Friday. EXCEPTIONS ARE: ** May 17th is the 3rd Friday and ## November is the 29th to avoid conflict with Thanksgiving.

THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 8TH, 2013

BOARD MEETING MINUTES—JANUARY 4, 2013

By Ellen Clough—Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. Board members present were: Ella Budinski, Ellen Clough, Karen Davé, Ed Gallagher, Pat Koko, Jose Poncé, and Vikki Peterson.

1. There were no prior meeting minutes to be approved.
2. Karen Davé presented the treasurer's report with an update on the finances for the club. Income came from split the pot, the action and holiday party. Expenses were reported for the OPAL and the holiday party.
3. L. Herrera was not at the meeting to present the Midwest Federation report.
4. The Opal Editor reported that the published guidelines concerning meeting programs will be readdressed to ensure that they are clear and helpful to the membership. A basic bead stringing class will be taught by Pat Koko at Lizzadro on Feb. 9, 2013.
5. The Webmaster reported that it is time to renew the WSLC domain name. A new five year renewal for the .org and .com addressed was agreed. Also, the meeting schedule will be moved to the home page so that visitors will not have to go further into the website to find the schedule.
6. Previous Business
 - o The December General Meeting was held at the holiday luncheon. The party and food were excellent. The November meeting featured a very enthusiastic speaker. Both the mini-auction and Split the Pot were held. Thanks for everyone who

helped with these meetings. And thanks to everyone who donated a gift holiday lunch raffle.

- o A Constitution update meeting will be scheduled in March.
- o The Board passed a proposal to amend the Constitution to add the Webmaster as an appointed position on the Board. This proposal now will go before the membership.

- o Next general meeting: To be held on January 25th, 2013

The speaker will be Carl Hausman. There will be a mini-auction and Split the pot

- o New Business

- o Upcoming events – The Club will have a booth on the Lizzadro Museum grounds during Art in the Park in May, 2013. Graue Mill – possibly July, 2013 on a weekend. We will look into other community events for 2013. CGMA – Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers are welcome!

- School status

- o The 5 week winter session classes (silver, stone and wire) are set to start in February. Sign up for the classes is open now and will close when the classes are full or one week before the classes start.

- o The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2013. The next general meeting is Jan. 25th.

- o The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB

TEAM LIST - 2012

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 each team to confirm and approve the program. If the team is unable to formulate a program, the Vice-President should be consulted as soon as possible. A member from each team is asked to assist Past President, TBD, our Hospitality chair, at the entrance to greet members & guests.

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.

JANUARY --	FEBRUARY --	MARCH--Aquamarine
Abrell, Lorel & Gary	Bryant, Fred	Blake, Jim & Jimmie
Herrera, Lee & Jeanette Devane	Cronauer, Donald	Howerton, Julie
Houseman, Carl & Gloria	Dalesandro, Jim	Koko, Patricia
Kaplan, James	Fishman, Constance	Peterson, Vikki
Spande, Erik	Ponce, Jose' & Lydia	Samuel, Joanne
	Shore, Don	Wojtowicz, Peggy

ALAA Strives to Keep Public Lands Opens for Rockhounds

There are many threats to the use and access of our public lands. Access restrictions have taken place through presidential, legislative and Land Use Plan (LUP) decisions, because we, the users, have not effectively represented our wants to political leaders, and have not participated fully in the LUP process. ALAA is the advocate and the leader for positive action to change the pattern of ever-increasing restrictions to our use and access. Apathy and not being involved are our greatest threats. . . .

Compared to the anti-access organizations, we are a small, minimally funded organization. We do not have a paid staff. We are volunteers dedicated to fighting for the rights of all rockhounds and everyone who wants to recreate on our public lands. There are many opportunities for you to be involved in our efforts to save access and retain the right to use these lands.

Does this catch your interest? Would you like to be more involved? Do you have the spark of an

idea for something that you would like to do to make a difference? Find out more about us at www.amlands.org. ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

(Excerpted from the April to June, 2012, ALAA Newsletter)

Thanks to Tom Noe, the Midwest regional director for American Lands Access Association.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO MEMBERS WITH HEALTH CHALLENGES OR JUST FAR AWAY... Lill Keck, Lyle and Lucy Backus, Larry and Gloria Strickert, Diane Dare and Paul and Ruth Pavesich. Several have since sent their holiday greetings to the club either by calling members or sending a card. Keep them in your thoughts please.

Tsavorite occurs in form of nodules which vary in size from 20 to 50 centimeters. These nodules are called Porphyroblasts. They resemble big potatoes with eyes. These may not always be full of Tsavorites.

Properties

Composition: $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$

Hardness (Mohs): 7 to 7.5

Specific Gravity: 3.60- 3.68

Refractive Index: 1.740

Optical properties: Singly refractive

Crystal System: Cubic

Colors: Light to deep green

Pleochroism: None

Dispersion: 0.028

Phenomena: None

Enhancements: Generally none

Synthetic: Not available

Porphyroblasts



Tsavorite occurs in form of nodules which vary in size from 20 to 50 centimeters. These nodules are called Porphyroblasts. They resemble big potatoes with eyes. These may not always be full of Tsavorites.

Tsavorite usually are not available in large sizes. More than two carats is rare and precious. A special feature of this gemstone is that it can display its great luminosity even in small sizes. It's brilliance is exceptional because of high refractive index (1.734/.744). Legend has it that a garnet is difficult to hide. Its sparkling light is said to remain visible even through clothing!

Another positive characteristic is its robustness. On Mohs hardness scale it is 7.5 (same as emerald) but it is far less sensitive than emerald. This feature is important when it comes to setting the stone and for its wearability. It will not crack or splinter as a result of incautious movement. It is, therefore well suited for "invisible setting" in which the stones are set close to each other. This technique ought not to be used with the more sensitive Emerald.

In conclusion, Tsavorite obviously has the requisite qualities to make it an extremely popular gemstone; however adequate and consistent supplies are lacking.

TRIVIA: Dr. Bridges lived in a tree house (to avoid the lions) and was using a python to guard the gems (locals feared snakes). These were just two examples of his incredible resourcefulness.



Members of:
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies,
Chicagoland Gem and Mineral Association,
and Scribe



Brad Smith Bench Tips

ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS

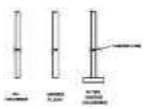
Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.



The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.

A simple and inexpensive (\$10) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or model making outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES



After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear when you solder the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder dissolves a little bit more into the base metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering. Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation will prevent you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. In that case I coat the finished solder joint with ochre to prevent a furrow.



The set is a one-of-a-kind created from the mineral Quartz.

It has the theme of comical drunk Vikings each unique and doing something different with his/her mug of mead.

Pieces range from 30mm to 40mm in height and vary in weight from 54.15 to 131.55 carats.

The Kings are different, the Queens similar but different, Bishops are hiding their

mugs, Knights are sort of sitting on comic horses in various positions, Castles are in or out of barrels, and no two pawns are the same.

Every piece has a name including the horses - one named drinkalot and where possible these names are of Viking origin. The set took 2,560 hours to complete over many years

Sent unsolicited by Kath McBurney. The complete set can be seen at www.kcarving.com

UPCOMING EVENTS—2013

FEBRUARY 2013

10: LINCOLN, NE. Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s Geology Day; Pioneer Park, Prairie Life Center, Coddington & West A; Sun. 1-4; CONTACT: Karen Messenger, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, 402.946.2281, kamessenger@hotmail.com, www.lincolngemmineralclub.org.

23-24: ROSEVILLE, MN. Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Winter Show; Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling; Sat. 10-6, Sun. Noon-5; CONTACT: Martha Miss, 651.459.0343, info@rock-biz.biz.

Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society Announces 64th Annual Silent Auction of Rocks, Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Treasures. Saturday, March 9, 2013, 6 to 9 p.m. St. Peter's United Church of Christ Gymnasium, 8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie. (across the street from the public library on Oakton) Bid on rocks, crystals, minerals, fossils, geodes, handmade jewelry, lapidary materials, books, magazines and much more! Special selection just for kids. First table closes at 6:30 p.m. Free admission and parking. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments available. For more information, call Jeanine N. Mielecki at (773) 774-2054 or email jaynine9@aol.com.

LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART, 220 Cottage Hill Ave. Elmhurst, IL 60126

www.lizzadromuseum.org/ 630/833-1616



February 9 — "Basic Bead Stringing"

Pat Koko of the West Suburban Lapidary Club will teach how to design a piece of jewelry using the basics of bead stringing. Use flexible wire and crimp beads to complete a single strand necklace or bracelet. Instruction includes: discussion of beading techniques, use of beading tools, choice of beads and toggle clasp. Take home a bracelet or necklace of your own creation.

Ages 15 yrs to adult – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Fee: \$30.00 per person Museum Members \$25.00
Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

March 9 — "Echoes of Earth"

Echoes of Earth is the story of a life changing journey taken by L. Sue Baugh and her colleague, Lynn Martinelli, to document some of the world's oldest rock and mineral sites in Western Australia, Greenland, Northwest Canada, and the Grand Canyon. The two women journeyed over 54,000 miles, traveling by camper car, fishing boat, float plane, and river raft. Ms. Baugh's multimedia presentation, Echoes of Earth, shows not only the breathtaking beauty of these ancient sites but also our deeply intimate connection to this remarkable planet. Book signing and rock samples on display after the lecture. 2pm – 60 minutes, Youth to Adult Regular Museum Admission Reservations Recommended



March 23 — "Mazon Creek Fossil Collecting Field Trip"

Join Jim Fairchild of the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois on a trip to Braidwood, Illinois to collect Mazon Creek fossils at the world famous site Pit 11. Learn what to look for when collecting these special fossils and how to open them. Travel by motor coach, bring a sack lunch and get ready to collect. Make reservations early, this field trip fills up fast! Field Trip - 8 yrs. to Adult 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$30.00 per person Museum Members \$25.00 per person Reservations Required:

