

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

Volume XXXXV

No. 3

March 2006

**NEXT CLUB MEETING
March 24, 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
Board Member	Ione Piche'
Board Member	Lorraine Maher
Board Member	Ed Gallagher
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

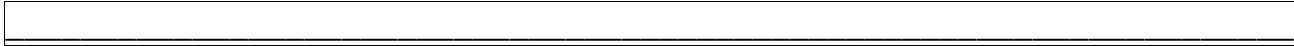
Silent Auction
to be announced

Field Trip
don't even ask

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>



MARCH PROGRAM

The program for March will be “*Growing Quartz for Industrial Uses*” and will be presented by WSLC member Leroy Petry. Leroy and his wife Barbara have been members of the WSLC for several years and have been active in various club activities. The presentation will include a slide show and talk. Leroy’s knowledge comes first hand, having worked in the quartz division for Motorola Corporation.

STONE-OF-THE-MONTH

The stone-of-the-month for March is malachite and coincides with the wearin’ o’ the green. Malachite is a very popular green stone which is widely used in jewelry and in making decorative objects. Please wear your malachite pieces and bring in your rough or interesting pieces for others to share. Make sure to properly mark your pieces that are out for display by affixing your name to the back with either a label or piece of masking tape. Check out the wonderful article on page 8 of this month’s Opal to learn more about malachite.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

March (Emerald):

Backus, Lyle & Lucy	Herrera, Lee & Jeanette Devane	Petry, Leroy & Barbara
Brunsen, Catherine	Maple, James & Marion	Phipps, Jean
Gadeke, Russell & Marion	Muskus, Meryl	Thode, Kris & Lisa Johnson
Gibbons, Ronald	Pavesich, Paul & Ruth	Zink, Paul & Kathy

April (Opal):

Dave, Karen	Morales, Frank & Mary Ann	Scudder, John & Tobey
Kamp, Sandra & James	Naegel, Barbara	Shore, Don
Knudsen, Jacqueline & Bob	Quirk, Frances	Wilson, Susan
Mangano, Chris	Rios, Patty	Yankielun, Ed

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.

 Articles appearing in The Opal may be reprinted provided they are done so exactly the way they are originally printed and full credit is given to both the author and reference is made to the WSLC and The Opal publication and its date.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's that great time of the year when things are starting to warm up and things just feel better. This should be a good time to be creative and design new jewelry. Have you noticed that women's ear rings and pendants have gotten bigger and showy? Our colored stones can be put to good use now!

This is also a good time to support activities that may introduce new people to the lapidary-jewelry-art hobby. A start would be getting the word out about the spring classes of the Elmhurst Park District. These classes are always interesting and a lot of effective techniques are taught. Another action would be participating in the demonstrations at the upcoming Chicago Gem and Minerals Show (May 27 and 28) to be held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton. Of course, it will be necessary to make new pieces to display there.

I've always been impressed by the level of interest and activity in our West Suburban Lapidary Club. This starts with the ability to have great speakers at meetings as a result of the work of the individual monthly teams. We also have an active board with high levels of participation. Do you have any suggestions that will increase interest and participation even higher? Perhaps a field trip or joining the Park District in a show.

Just a reminder, the May meeting will occur on the third Friday, the 19th, instead of the typical 4th Friday. The location has yet to be arranged, but it will be announced soon.

Best wishes, and see you at the next meeting

Don Cronauer

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2006 BOARD MEETING

by Mary Prosek for Jose Ponce'

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Don Cronauer.

The following board members were in attendance: Don Cronauer, Don Shore, Barbara Petry, Terry Licko, Lorraine Maher, Karen Dave, Ione Piche, Ed Gallagher & Mary Prosek.

Approval of minutes as published in The Opal: A motion was made by Don Cronauer for acceptance. Karen Dave' and Lorraine Maher made the motions to approve as published.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Barbara Petry read the current balances of accounts and stated that all is ready for audit.

Audit Committee: The Audit Committee will meet one hour prior to the next board meeting on March 3rd in order to conduct the proper audit. The committee will consist of Gary Abrell, Lorraine Maher and Don Cronauer.

Midwest Federation Report: Liaison Terry Licko said the annual MWF Show will be held in Southgate, MI on May 19 thru May 21. This year the show is hosted by The Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society. Check the American Federation website for more information: www.amfd.org Or contact Cecilia Duluk – 6700 Amboy – Dearborn Heights, MI 48127-3966 (tel) 313-278-9109, email: ceduluk@wowway.com.

There is also a week long Mineral Retreat near Houghton, MI in August, which is held in conjunction with local club's shows. A flyer will be available at the March general meeting.

Business: Committee Chairs: Don Cronauer thanked those who have stepped up to the plate.

CGMA: Sabrina Ugorek will attend the first meeting on March 6th. Previous CGMS delegate Ione Piche will accompany her.

Stone-of-the-month: Malachite for March

February program: Purchasing Gems on the International Market by Chuck O'Connell

School Status: a ten week session will start the first week of April

Demo at Graue Mill: Karen Dave' will check for the dates

Opal Editor: It was noted that more and more articles are coming from WSLC members and many more members are receiving their edition via email

Webmaster: nothing to report

Next board meeting: Scheduled for March 4th

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Don Cronauer at 7:58

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2006
GENERAL MEETING**

by Jose Ponce'

President Don Cronauer called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

Announcements:

Don Cronauer reminded everybody about the mini auction that was going on in the back of the room. Motion to accept the Opal minutes were called by Lynn Dempsey and second by Ed Gallagher.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Petry. Barbara reported the expenses, income and balances on the accounts. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the report and would like a copy, please contact Barbara. The Audit Committee will be auditing the books before the next Board Meeting. The committee members are: Gary Abrell, Lorraine Maher and Don Cronauer.

Business: Frank Morales was assigned, (I mean volunteered) to manage the gem-of-the-month display. If you have any questions or would like to display any of your handiwork, please contact Frank. The gem-of-the-month is open to anyone who has work or pieces that they would like to display during the general meeting. We know you are out there. Do not be afraid. We like to see other people's handiwork as long as it is your own.

Membership Report: Barbara Petry. There are 57 paid memberships as of February 24, 2006. If you have not paid your dues and to plan on continuing with the WSLC, please remit your dues as soon as possible.

Library Report: Gwyn Roland. Nothing this month

Stone of the Month:

Garnet: There were some in the display box. Thank you to the club members that provided them for everybody to admire.

Lapidary School: Karen Dave. A ten week spring session will be offered starting in April for Silversmith, Lapidary and Wirewrapping classes. Do not forget to sign up. WSLC members are entitled to the resident fee.

Field Trip: I'm not touching this subject with a ten foot fossil

Midwest Federation: Terry Licko. Terry reported that this summer's Midwest Federation Meeting will be in Southgate, MI. There are many interesting things in the immediate area to see such as the Greenfield Village/Ford Museum. There is also a week long Mineral Retreat coming up in August. One must register ahead of time. Terry has given Mary Prosek a copy of the information which will be copied and available at the next general meeting in March

CGMA: Sabrina Ugorek. No report yet. Sabrina is scheduled to attend the first meeting on March 6th.

Program: Gary Abrell introduced Chuck O'Connell. Chuck spoke of his experiences in purchasing gem material in the foreign market. He described how pricing fluctuates depending on the dealers and how having someone that another buyer recommended could be beneficial. Without a solid connection, most dealers will not even talk you at all unless you provide the name of a person and phone number that had recommended you and it checks out. Only then will they will trust you and show you their stock. This is because most of the time their inventory is valued in the millions of dollars.

Don Cronauer called a motion for the meeting to adjourn at 8:55 PM, motion by Leroy Petry and second by Terry Licko.

FOR SALE

Interested in selling something?

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.

FAN MAIL FROM SOME FLOUNDER

by MaryProsek

Many of you have sent me emails or stopped me in person at the monthly meetings to mention something about a particular article or edition of the Opal you enjoyed. Your comments and well wishes are very much appreciated and very welcome.

To be honest, I wasn't quite sure if the comments were made in order to keep me doing the job, lest that person got it, or if the person was actually sincere. I do admit that I can be a little cynical from time to time. (Blame it on my evil older brothers).

I thought maybe after the February issue I might receive some type of correspondence of the legal nature from Randy Bultman and was pleasantly surprised to receive a piece of fan mail from Diane Dare. Diane is the historian for the Midwest Federation who resides in Florida and receives The Opal via mail each month. She not only said nice things about The Opal, but also about the WSLC and its members. I would like to share it with you.

The post card arrived with a cute picture of a white kitty on a sandy beach with a tropical drink nearby with the wording: Florida is Purr-fect. The message reads as follows:

"Hi Mary-Gee, I sure hope Randy Bultman gets your subtle hint and accepts the Field Trip Chairmanship! I enjoyed the February Opal, having been subject to a similar "campaign" to be on our homeowners association board for another year. WSLC is a great club with a lot of active members. Keep up the good work-Diane Dare"

It's nice to know that others outside the club realize what a great group we have in the WSLC.

Diane: thanks for taking the time to send a note. (Did someone put you up to it?)

EDITOR'S NOTE

The articles on page 7 & 8, are authored by Susan Wilson and Karen Dave' respectively. Both are members of the WSLC. Keep those articles coming! The editor extends her thanks to both contributors!

LIZZADRO MUSEUM**March 25 : "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 and other locations. 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 - 9 yrs. to Adult

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - \$25.00 per person

Museum Members \$20.00 per person

Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

editor's note: This Mazon Creek trip is fun, fun, fun and very interesting. I went on this one last summer and really enjoyed it. I would highly recommend it to anyone – Mary Prosek

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

Friday is free admission. Free is good.

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE YOUR OPAL?

Many WSLC members are receiving their Opal via email. By doing so, this method cuts down on the cost of printing and mailing. If you would like to receive your Opal via email, please drop me a line or let me know at the next meeting. My email address is: mitty27@sbcglobal.net. Some members receive both regular mail as well as email. The choice is yours! Opal Editor – Mary Prosek

MEMBER TO MEMBER SALE

Last September's member to member sale was quite popular and well received. For those of you who missed it, the event was held at the first meeting of the year, in September 2005.

A similar event for September 2006 is being planned as well, possibly combining a live demonstration consisting of various club members' talents and techniques. More info to follow, so stay tuned!

POLISHING MEETS HIGH TECH*by Susan Wilson*

I'm sure you all have heard the phrase "what a small world it is" and I too, found out once again how true this statement is. While attending the International Society of Optical Engineering conference in San Jose, CA this past January, I was walking through the huge vendor/exhibition hall, which runs concurrent with the technical conference. There were actually 3 separate halls full of vendors (over 1,000 in total) exhibiting products and services for the global optical engineering community. Some of the products included are optical devices, mirrors, lenses, detectors, sensors, etc with big names attending like Hughes, Ball Aerospace and Lockheed Martin.

During my sojourn through the exhibition hall I was so surprised to see **UltraTec**, the faceting machine manufacturer. I myself own and use an **UltraTec** machine and have been quite pleased by the ease of use and quality of workmanship.

I stopped by the booth and had a chance to chat with Robert Rubin who is the son of the owner. Robert's mother (Vera) was also sitting behind the booth and was surprised to hear me mention that I was a faceter. She asked me what types of stones I like to cut (amethyst, garnet and tourmaline) and how I liked my machine (quite a bit). We commiserated about the loss of interest these days in rockhounding as well as gem cutting. She asked me whom I had learned faceting from and I replied "Al Huebler from Rio Rancho, NM." She said that she had known Al years ago and he was one of the finest gem cutters.

The son, Robert then proceeded to explain to me why UltraTec was at this show. He said many years ago a scientist from one of the optical companies had called his father and asked if he could polish the end of an optical fiber that was needed in an experiment. Mr. Rubin figured he'd give it a try and soon he was designing and building special polishing tools that could hold the long, thin optical fiber securely during the polishing process. Some of these polishing tools were on display and running real-time and I could see the similarity of that platform to my machine. The same rotating platen was present but the polishing head had been modified greatly to accommodate the optical fiber.

Robert told me they were doing quite well making machines to support specialized polishing for the

optics community since there is not a large market for faceting machines anymore. Robert gave me his business card and invited me to take a look at their website www.ultratecusa.com. He later sent me an email thanking me for stopping by their booth and talking with them and if there was anything they could do for me to not hesitate in contacting them. Maybe I should start polishing some optical fibers during the time my machine sits idle and make some extra money!

ROAD TRIP #1*by Mary Prosek*

The 32nd annual Rockhound Seminar, sponsored and run by M.G.A.G.S. (Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society), will be held the weekend of June 10th & 11th in Carrolton, MI, which is just north of Saginaw. The cost is very inexpensive. A 2 day pass purchased in advance to attend any of the classes is \$20. Local lodging is available as well as camping.

For those of you who are not familiar with this fantastic event, it consists of a weekend of various classes, workshops and seminars. There is a full schedule that runs from 9 a.m. to 4-5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. One is free to design their own schedule to attend any of the sessions. The level of experience required goes from beginning to advanced. Topics range from silversmithing, faceting, beading, wirewrapping, micro mounting, mineral i.d., cabbing, scrimshaw and others. There are also open workshops set up where one can drop in to chat, discuss techniques, or spend the day.

Some classes offer a project or item which is made and finished within the length of the class time. A minimal fee to cover materials or a class kit is sometimes required, depending on the class. The event wraps up with a raffle on Sunday afternoon.

Several WSLC members, including myself, have attended these wonderful weekends in the past. It's a great way to learn about other things without a big cash or time outlay. I highly recommend it.

General flyers will be available at the March general meeting. For a complete schedule and more info, ctc Bill Hapiuk-26099 Dover St-Redford, MI 48239, email whapiukjr@twmi.rr.com. Or Don Brown 734-421-8159, or Art Edlund 989-792-8074.

MALACHITE*by Karen Dave'*

Malachite is one of those beautiful distinctive semi precious stone that once you've seen you'll never forget it. It is known to have been mined as early as 4000BC in Egypt. It has been used in jewelry and it may be the oldest known green paint pigment. It was also used at that time as an eye shadow.

There is some disagreement as to the derivation of the name. It is agreed that it comes from Greek but it may be from the word malakos meaning soft or a similar word for the green herb "hollyhock" referring to the color.

Malachite is used as an indicator for locating massive copper ore deposits. Wherever there's malachite, there's sure to be lodes of copper. It is a secondary mineral in oxidized zones of copper deposits. It's chemistry is: $Cu_2(CO_3)(OH)_2$, - copper carbonate hydroxide. It is frequently found associated with azurite and produces striking combinations of blue and green. Malachite occurs when carbonated water interacts with copper minerals or when a solution of copper interacts with limestone

Malachite is commonly carved and used as an ornamental stone. Some of the most amazing uses of malachite were in Russia in the 18th and 19th century – whole rooms, halls, columns, floors, furniture, and vases were created from it. A most astounding find was made in 1835 in the Mednorudyansky mine in the Urals. A single 48 ton malachite rock was found. It took nine years to free this piece from the body of rock without breaking it. The discovery of large high quality deposits of malachite in the Urals was the beginning of a special type of mosaic technique in Russia. The malachite master's aim was the place the small malachite slices together in such a way as to create the illusion of a single monolithic piece.

For jewelry, it is usually fashioned into cabochons or beads and is seldom faceted. It is easily scratched (hardness 3.5 to 4) and its polish can become dull if not protected. It is not advisable for use in rings, bracelets or other jewelry that gets rough usage unless it is resin coated. Earrings, pendants, brooches, tie tacks and such work well. It is sometimes coated with wax or other artificial resins so care should be taken when cleaning a jewelry

piece of unknown origin.

Good quality malachite can be cabbed and polished as any of the softer stones. As it is high in copper, ZAM can be used for polish. A word of caution: the copper content of malachite is so high that it should never be worked dry, the dust is extremely toxic. Use plenty of water and consider wearing latex gloves.

The majority of the world's malachite rough comes from The Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), Namibia, Russia and the American Southwest.

ROAD TRIP #2*info from Terry Licko*

Another road trip to think about this summer is the Copper Country Mineral Retreat, held August 6 thru 12. The event is being sponsored by the A.E. Seaman Museum which is located in Keweenaw, MI, the heart of copper country.

The event starts off with The Annual Upper Peninsula Gem and Mineral Show on Saturday, August 5th. There is registration, a mineral sale and a lecture at the museum on Sunday, August 6th. The keynote speaker this year will be museum curator Dr. George Robinson, who will give the same talk he gave at the 2006 Tucson Gem Show titled "Canada's Mineral Heritage".

The rest of the week consists of many, many field trips, several which include collecting. There will also be mine tours, swaps, auctions, sales and various speakers throughout the week.

All events will be filled on a first paid basis. There is a minimal registration fee which is reduced if completed by June 1st and further reduced for couples and families. Activity fees for the various tours and collecting trips range in price but are very reasonable.

The week is capped off by another show, the 11th Annual Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club Gem and Mineral Show on August 11 & 12th.

Local lodging is available at a reduced fee for attendees. For more info, please visit the museum's website at: www.museum.mtu.edu. Flyers will be available at the WSLC March general meeting.

SPRING 2006 LAPIDARY SCHOOL

Now is the time to sign up for the Spring 2006 Lapidary School. The cost is very reasonable compared to similar classes. WSLC members enjoy in district rates through the Elmhurst Park District.

The Opal Class is only offered once a year in the spring and is taught by Lyle Backus with the assistance of his wife Lucy. It is a very informative class and is quite different than anything else that is offered in the Chicagoland area.

Please contact the Elmhurst Park District for registration information at 630-993-8989.

SILVERSMITHING:

Classes for both beginning and experienced students will offer an opportunity to work with both sheet and wire silver. Students will learn to cut, solder and polish projects such as a bracelet, ring, pair or earrings and/or pendant to be worn alone or as a setting for a cut and polished stone. Silver and stones must be purchased (as needed) for projects completed in class.

Ages 16 to adult – Fee: \$70R/\$88NR (no tools)
\$107R/\$134NR (includes starter kit of tools)
Code: 309-1 Mondays: April. 3 thru June. 12 7 – 9 p.m.

CUTTING AND POLISHING STONES FOR JEWELRY:

First time students will learn to cut, shape and polish onyx, dolomite, sodalite, aventurine, jasper and agate into a variety of cabochon shapes such as ovals, rectangles and triangles, suitable for display or mounting in jewelry settings.

Ages 13 to adult – Fee: \$88/R \$110/NR
Code: 308-1 Tuesdays: April. 4 thru June. 6 7 – 9 p.m.

WIREWRAPPING:

Learn to wrap copper, silver and gold wire into jewelry shapes. Each student can create a ring, chain, bracelet and earrings. No soldering is involved with this relatively new form of the jewelry making arts. Students can purchase wire, beads and some cabochons in class.

Ages 16 to adult – Fee:
\$70R/\$88NR (no tools) \$100R/\$125NR (includes starter kit of tools)
Code:336-1 Wednesdays April 5-June 7: 7 – 9 pm

CUTTING OPAL FOR JEWELRY:

Offered only once a year in the Spring. This class includes a lecture series and hands-on instruction from what an opal is and where it is found to orienting, cutting and polishing opal in calibrated and free-from sizes. Also covered will be an introduction to doublet and triplet making. This program is for new students and need not be repeated. Cutting and Polishing class is recommended for those interested in more advanced programs.

Ages 13 to adult – Fee: \$70/R \$88/NR
Code: 348-1 Tuesdays: April. 6 thru June. 8 7 – 9 p.m.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Isn't the Wanda Emsniger Memorial Library a great place to check out books and films? With the cost of brand new books, it's a good way to get a good look prior to deciding if you want to add it to your own collection.

If you read a book or view a tape and enjoy it, please feel free to write a quick review for publication in The Opal. Submit the review to Mary Prosek in any form: handwritten or typed, email or snail mail

THRIFTY

A great place to "shop" for things for your "shop" is at a second hand store or thrift shop.

There are usually crock pots at very reasonable prices which make great pickle pots. I recently picked up 2 wooden knife blocks, minus the knives. The blocks are seated on an angle and have several slots cut in to them to hold knives. They are great for holding files. A couple of the slots were thin, so I adjusted them accordingly. At \$3 a piece, they were a bargain.

The kitchen section of the store held a bevy of different and useful items. Small wooden rolling pins make good mandrels. I picked up a couple of bunches of old fondue forks. Not sure what I will do with those yet, but at \$1 for 12, the price was right. Also found was a pasta drying rack which I figure will hold things while they dry. Old tools are great finds as well. Knitting needles are good when used for shaping wire and metals. With a little imagination, thrift stores are great places to shop and to recycle still useful items. – *Mary Prosek*

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, March 24, 2006

WSLC BOARD MEETINGS:
The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 7 2006

THE MAY GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED. THE MEETING WILL NOT BE AT THE ABBEY. PLEASE WATCH FOR THIS INFORMATION IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE OPAL OR CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER.

SHOW CALENDAR

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

April 1-2 – CANTON, ILLINOIS: Fulton County Rockhounds 46th Annual Show – Wallace Park, Canton, Illinois; Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5, free admission. Contact Steven Holley, (309) 231-8861; or email: ilfossil@hotmail.com

April 6-8 – GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN: Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show – Rogers Plaza Mall, 28th St, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Frid thru Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Contact Eldon Potter, (616) 532-0239, email: eplapidary@aol.com

April 8-10 – MACOMB, ILLINOIS; Mid-America Paleontology Society National Fossil Exposition XXVII, Western Illinois University, Western Hall, Macomb, Illinois: 8th & 9th, 8 to 5 p.m., 10th 8 to noon. Contact Dr. David J. Kaplan, 313-961-1606: email: aa1609@wayne.edu, website: <http://midamericapaleo.tripod.com>

Week of April 10th – Elmhurst, Illinois: The WSLC in cooperation with the Elmhurst Park District will offer classes in Silversmithing, Lapidary, Wire Wrapping and Cutting & Polishing Opals. See page 9 of this month’s Opal for more information.

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



Quotes of the Month:

St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time - a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic
Adrienne Cook

Anyone acquainted with Ireland knows that the morning of St. Patrick's Day consists of the night of the 17th of March flavored strongly with the morning of the 18th. - *Author Unknown*

