

Official Publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club
Elmhurst, Illinois

Volume XXXXVII

No. 3

March 2008

NEXT CLUB MEETING

March 28, 2008 - 8 pm
(doors open at 7:00)

THE ABBEY
407 W. St Charles Rd
Elmhurst, IL 60126



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

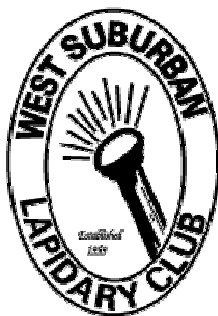


West Suburban Lapidary Club
Mary Prosek, Opal Editor
PO Box 783 - Lyons, IL 60534

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 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.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS - 2008

President	Ed Gallagher
Vice- President	Karen Dave'
Treasurer	Jose Ponce'
Secretary	Barb Freeman
OPAL Editor	Mary Prosek
MWF Liaison	Terry Licko
Board Member (3rd of 3 year term) (shared position)	Susan Wilson & Joanne Samuel
Board Member (2nd of 3 year term)	Lee Herrera
Board Member (1st of 3 year term)	Barb Petry
Past President	Don Shore

Committee Chairpersons

CGMA Delegate:

Sabrina Ugorek

Kitchen Supplies:

Ed Gallagher

Gem of the Month:

Yo Watanabe

Tony Gass

Historian:

Joanne Samuel

Publicity:

Mary Prosek

Webmaster:

Don Shore

Hospitality:

needed, please step forward

The OPAL:

Mary Prosek

Librarian:

Gwyn Roland

Activities Coordinator:

Karen Dave'

MWF Liaison:

Terry Licko

Lizzadro Museum Liaison:

Jack Maher

Silent Auction/Club Show:

Field Trip:

to be announced

Lapidary School:

Karen Dave'

Instructors:

Lyle Backus

Tony Gass

Max Schultz

Assistants:

Lucy Backus

Jose Ponce

Mary Prosek

Alberta Schultz

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. Email in addition to or in place of mail is also available by contacting the Editor. 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

March Program - Don't Miss It!

by Barbara Petry

The program for March will be a lecture, slide show, discussion and hands on talk entitled "Back in the Day; Street Jewelry circa 1975 & Beyond" presented by Joe Eddy Brown. Mr. Brown is a master jeweler who graduated in 1970 from SIU in design (under Buckminster Fuller). He also took Willard Smith's jewelry class in 1972, taught jewelry at College of DuPage for 8 years while attending NIU where he received his Masters of Art and Master of Fine Arts in metals and jewelry.

Mr. Brown's accomplishments include runner up for Illinois Teacher of the Year in 1980 as well as having sold his jewelry pieces to some very famous people while having his work displayed in seven galleries at one time. He figures he had over 70 student teachers in his career and 35 to 40,000 students. His classrooms were often filled with electric guitars, tools and disassembled appliances. Visitors were often astonished and one even remarked they resembled a "small independent country within the boundaries of Glen Ellyn".

Besides the wonderful slides, Mr. Brown will bring in 8 vintage pieces from the Jan Voogd collection, 3 sculptures and recently unearthed slides found while cleaning out his old art room at COD. He will be accompanied by several students and Professor Smith, another Jewelry Arts teacher at College of DuPage.

Sounds like we're in for an interesting evening with an interesting gentleman!

Other clubs and students of the Jewelry Arts are encouraged to attend the meeting. All are welcome!

STONE-OF-THE-MONTH

The stone-of-the-month for March is Kunzite. Kunzite is a beautiful stone that is usually faceted and fashioned in to wonderful and unique jewelry pieces due to it's gorgeous colors and translucency.

Please bring your rough, finished pieces or loose stones to the meeting for all the share. Be sure to mark your specimens or pieces with your name so you can be recognized. The club is not responsible for missing or misplaced objects.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

March:	Herrera Lee & Jeannette Devane	Pavesich, Paul & Ruth	Thode, Kris & Lisa Johnson
Backus, Lyle & Lucy	Maple, James & Marion	Petry, Leroy & Barb	
Gadeke, Russ & Marion	Muskus, Meryl	Phipps, Jean	

April:	Dave', Karen	Munoz-Martinez, Robert & Evangelina	Wilson, Susan
Ballesteros, Rosalua & Isidro	Dove, Sherry & John	Naegel, Barbara	
Bryant, Fred	Knudsen, Jacqueline & Bob	Shore, Don	

WSLC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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, Barbara Petry. **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 website at: www.westsuburbanlapidary.com

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



PIECES AND BITS

Mary Prosek

I don't know about everyone else, but I for one am looking forward to some milder weather. I did manage to catch up on my reading the last few months with the weather being what it is and all, but enough is enough. It is within reach now. I can't decide if cutting stones or the feel of the earth between your fingers in the spring does it more for me. Stone cutting has definitely kept me from the psychiatrist's couch all these years and the garden keeps my blood pressure at an even keel, so I guess I'm lucky to have both things in my life.

Along with the warmer weather brings lots of shows and lapidary related activities. Take a peek at the calendar on the back page (10).

Check out the great story about Red & Green Andesine on page 8 that was submitted by WSLC club members Rich Dillon. I didn't know that. Very interesting!

Or the stone of the month story on page 7 on Kunzite by Erik Spande, my new best friend, who has been published a few times in The Opal even though he is a new member. Remember: Friends don't let other friends write the whole newsletter by themselves.

Joanne Samuel went to the Tucson Shows with Karen Dave and submitted an account on page 8 along with a couple of pictures. (I'm pretty good at sneaking specimens and "finds" in the house so my better half doesn't know, with the exception of that 300 pounds of Montana Agate I got caught with, but I don't think I could manage the specimens they are shown with! My old Buick could never handle them).

Anyway, enjoy the myriad of articles and keep those articles coming! - *Mary Prosek - Opal Editor*

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2008 BOARD MEETING

by Barbara Freeman

The February board meeting was rescheduled due to weather held on the Friday the 15th

The meeting was called to order: at 7:55 PM by the president Ed Gallagher. Those in attendance included Jose Ponce', Susan Wilson, Karen Dave', Mary Prosek, Ed Gallagher, Lee Herrera, and Barbara Freeman.

A motion was made by President Ed Gallagher to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2008 Board Meeting as published in The Opal and were unanimously approved by The Board

Treasurer's report: The audit for 2007 is scheduled for February 20. The newly elected treasurer, Jose Ponce' is

Midwest Federation: Club Liaison Terry Licko was not present.

Opal Editor Report: Mary Prosek commented that several members contributed excellent articles that will be of interest to the membership as a whole and noted how helpful this was in getting out the monthly publication. Ed Gallagher and other members noted the value of The Opal and how quickly it was received after mailing.

Webmaster report: Don Shore will register the domain names for 5 years with the web hosts.

Previous Business: Discussion was held about continuing and encouraging volunteers for the three annual summer projects including Art in the Park, demonstrations at the Lizzadro Museum, and the summer day program for children at the Art Museum. These programs provide club publicity and/or are bring in club funds. Split the pot will continue. Barbara Petry will sell the tickets at the meetings.

Discussion was held about continuing and encouraging volunteers for the three annual summer projects including Art in the Park, demonstrations at the Lizzadro Museum, and the summer day program for children at the Art Museum. Without additional help, the club will not be able to participate in these activities that provide club publicity and bring in much needed club funds.

Lapidary school: Classes are being held and are full. The rescheduling of classes for a later start date has worked well to avoid the severe driving weather and conditions. If there are problems with registration, members are to contact Karen Dave' who can expedite the registration process. Lapidary club members are to receive in-district rates regardless of their residence and should not be subject to the "lottery system" when classes are full. All those who sign up should have their name placed in the order they call regardless of their actual residence.

Membership: The Blake Family was accepted as new members.

Midwest Faceters group. Publicity was noted on their website about the relocation for the summer seminars to Elmhurst. Karen Dave and Don Shore continue to be involved in planning the accommodations for this program. Contracts are pending. WSLC members will be needed for a variety of different jobs associated with this event. Discussion was held about varied methods of publicity.

Hospitality: Each month the team who presents the program will also assign a member to be at the sign-in table and greet guests and members. This new procedure will be announced at the meetings to help remind teams of this is new process. The goal is to encourage club member involvement and to assure interaction with the prospective new members. This provides an opportunity to answer questions and highlight our personal benefits of the club.

Club Constitution update: Board members have a copy of the most recent 2004 WSLC Constitution. This document

will be reviewed starting at the March Board meeting for possible changes in wording, and updating of content. Members will have an opportunity to give input and vote on the revised document after the Board presents suggested revisions. The April board meeting will include time set aside for spring cleaning of the club storage cabinet.

It was noted that the club is nearly 50 years old! This longevity is notable and further discussion will occur about how to celebrate the event. There is a rich history of club activities and accomplishments.

Program for February will be a DVD on a pertinent topic. Program teams are encouraged to have speakers to allow more group interaction.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM following a motion by Karen Dave', a second by Susan Wilson, and unanimous approval.



MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2008 GENERAL MEETING

by Barb Freeman

The meeting was called to order by the President Ed Gallagher at 8:15 PM. Minutes of the previous meeting, as published in The Opal, were unanimously approved following a motion by Erik Spande and seconded by Lee Herrera.

Treasurer's Report: A full report was deferred pending transfer of financial records to new banking services.

Membership: There were 39 members present. New member Jim Blake and his son were welcomed to the club. Guests for this month included Robert and Eva Martinez. Ed Gallagher announced that a new system is in effect to rotate greeting of guests and new members. The team for the month will have one representative at the sign in table to greet and welcome guests and provide club information. This will help guests feel more comfortable in the group and will also increase member involvement for the one meeting. Teams were asked to initiate this practice immediately.

Stone of the Month-Topaz. There were several displays of the stone in various shapes and colors. Completed rings and loose stones were admired by the membership. The collection included concave cut large pieces that were brought in by Rob Simon. There was also a jewelry set of large stones obtained from a trip to Brazil about 50 years ago. Special thanks to Karen Dave', Pat Koko, Lee Herrera, and Max and Alberta Schultz for items in the exhibit; and thanks to others who may not have been mentioned.

Also on display was a large selection of crystals collected and brought by Tony Shannon. These stones came from a mine in Missouri where he dug through clay in order to

retrieve them. A sampling of the results of his efforts were shared with the group. Tony also brought in his extra crystals for members to take home for their future enjoyment. Thanks Tony.

Field trip: Tony Shannon has done some research about possible field trip locations. He welcomes additional suggestions and then will follow up to compile a list that the club may choose from.

It was announced that long standing member, Ed Reames, recently died at the age of 90. He was one of the members who contributed over the years to the success of the club. In addition, a request for prayers was voiced, for member George Walter, who will soon be having surgery.

Library: The audio-visual offerings are enjoyed by club members and is a tangible benefit to the club. Gwyn Roland keeps inventory current and reports that new items are included. Most recent additions are Metalsmith journals Vol. 27, number 5 and Vol. 28, #1. Also new this month is the Jewelry Artist January 2008 edition.

Special thanks also to Max and Alberta Schultz who contributed the book: Create Your Own Jewelry edited by Ann Kay. This recent book has multiple pictures and directions on creating innovative jewelry.

Mini-Silent Auction: Congratulations to the lucky winners of the multiple items that were for auction. There was quite a variety of slabs, findings, nearly completed cabs, and other assorted specimens. Thanks to the members who donated items, and for those who participated. There were some bargains that were had.

Handouts were available from the Lizzadro Museum in Elmhurst. This edition highlighted the programs for spring 2008. An article highlighted the special exhibit of Walter Arnold Stone Sculptures from February 3 to May 25, 2008. The article entitled Gargoyles and Sculpture was informative about the art and the artist, myths and legends.

Program: Membership enjoyed the slide show and commentary on Sedimentary Agates, primarily from the USA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM following a motion by Karen Dave' and second by Mary Prosek

PROGRAM REVIEW

by Barb Freeman



The program this month was a 2005 award winning slide show and commentary borrowed from the Midwest Federation's Program Library. Not only were members entertained by the focus on Sedimentary Agates but they also enjoyed the freshly popped popcorn during the show. Doug Moore created the documentary which showed many different and dramatic specimens. There were pictures of the various sites where the specimens were discovered. The commentary clearly reviewed the characteristics of the stones and their evolution. (continued on page 6)

PROGRAM REVIEW (continued from page 5)

The sedimentary agates were primarily located in the middle section of the USA, including South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri. Mexico and Argentina was also noted as a source. The fluorescent properties were shown and described. While some areas were collecting areas for 50 plus years, it is still possible to locate specimens. The agates have a variety of vivid colors and striations and other shapes or designs. The wide open spaces, and secluded areas that were shown illustrated that finding these agates takes considerable dedication.

It is interesting to note, that while members may have vacationed in these areas, many were unaware of the treasures nearby. The program presented possible outcomes of a focused search. If members have samples of sedimentary agates, you are encouraged to bring samples to the next meeting. Max Schultz happened to be wearing a striated large gray and white stone. Or was it a sedimentary agate?

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The WSLC warmly welcomes new members, The Blake Family.

Jim Blake and his wife Tami reside in Joliet with their children Jimmy and Olivia. Jim is a Firefighter in Joliet. He and Jimmy are the rockhounds of the family. Jimmy is a 3rd grader who likes to play football. His favorite stone is topaz. Jimmy has been seen at recent meetings hovering over the mini silent auction tables, adding to his collection and emptying his father's pockets. Welcome aboard!

**FOR SALE**

Long time WSLC member Lee Hodges has some equipment for sale. Lee is also noted as one of the founding Fathers of the Lapidary School..

Complete Polishing Unit - contains: Saw, 2 grinding wheels, sanding drum, polishing wheels, an extra concave wheel and also has storage below. asking \$150

Lee may be contacted at: (630) 834-3133
 ++++++
 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.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

by Don Shore



Members of the WSLC are also members of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Society (MWF), who in turn is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. As members of both societies, we agree to endorse the following code of ethics when we are out in the field in pursuit of a "find":

*I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

*I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

*I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

*I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

*I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

*I will leave all gates as found.

*I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

*I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

*I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

*I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

*I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

*I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

*I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

*I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

*I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

*I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

*I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

The Code of Ethics may be found on the AFMS's website: www.amf.org.

STONE-OF-THE-MONTH:**KUNZITE***by Erik Spande*

I have to admit I'd never heard of Kunzite before it was identified as the March 2008 Stone of the Month in *The Opal*. I'm sure I've seen the gem in museums (and in particular the wonderful LA Natural History Museum *Hall of Gems and Minerals*) even if the name never quite stuck in my long term memory.



So I did a little research and it didn't take long to make up for my shocking lack of gemological knowledge. It turns out that kunzite is a variety of spodumene. Spodumene is lithium aluminum inosilicate that has prismatic crystals, and as such it is a lithium ore. Gem quality spodumene is transparent (of course!) and has colors that vary from yellow, yellow-green, emerald, pink, lilac, and purple (among others). Crystals can be heavily striated parallel to its principle axis.

What makes a spodumene crystal into the variety kunzite? Much of the kunzite is pink, lilac (light purple), violet, or more rarely purple due to trace amounts of manganese, but that isn't apparently diagnostic. Other types of spodumene can be this color. The key is pleochroism, which means that the gem seems to change color depending on its orientation – it doubly refracts light. Polarized light that enters the crystal is bent in differing amounts, and then follows different paths in the crystal. When the crystal is viewed at certain angles a portion of light is visible. This has the effect of making the crystal have different colors based on orientation. Pleochroism is a diagnostic physical property (particularly when viewed under a petrographic microscope), and is therefore one of the keys to identifying kunzite. Note that kunzite's close cousin 'hiddenite' (also a variety of spodumene) is generally green and also has pleochroism.

What else is there to know about kunzite? There are the mineralogical properties it shares with spodumene such as hardness (6.5-7, similar to quartz), a vitreous luster, and specific gravity of about 3.2 (for reference quartz is 2.65). But more than these mundane properties there is the physical and aesthetic property that makes kunzite uniquely desirable – pleochroism. The color can range from a rich and deep violet to a delicate pink or even a clear color depending on the angle at which they are viewed. Well cut kunzite gems will have the most vivid pleochroism when viewed from the top, and gem quality crystals have a clarity and color that makes the pleochroism brilliant and pretty spectacular. Most kunzite is light colored, and kunzite gems that have dark colors and strong and aesthetically pleasing pleochroism are rare and more valuable.

Kunzite is also a 'new' gem, being first comprehensively described by the New York jeweler George Kunz in 1902. The stone had been first discovered in large quantities in California, and as Kunz was the first to formally describe the gem he is the gem's namesake (there is some controversy on who discovered and first described the gem, but Kunz gets the credit). He popularized both the gem's delicate color and pleochroism. As kunzite can be found in rather large crystals it can be cut into large gems. But, the gem is brittle due to its perfect cleavage, and without a light touch it may shatter during cutting and shaping. Likewise, even though the gem is relatively hard, care should be taken to protect a finished gem from impacts – otherwise you'll have several irregularly shaped and sadly smaller gem fragments. Along this line, jeweler web sites said to never clean kunzite with an ultrasonic cleaner since it may damage the crystal. Most kunzite is treated (irradiated) to enhance its color, but be aware that the color in kunzite can fade with exposure to sunlight or heat. Therefore, kunzite is called an 'evening gem' since it is best to wear it at night to avoid both light and heat. The best color tends to be in larger gems since its generally pale color can make smaller gems seem almost colorless.

The kunzite and associated spodumene gemstones are generally mined from lithium-rich granites and pegmatites in Brazil, Madagascar, Mexico, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Western Australia, Sweden, Manitoba (Canada), and the United States (South Dakota, North Carolina, and California). Some kunzite finds from Afghanistan show a deep pink color with gorgeous violet shades. Kunzite crystal faces are often pitted and etched with triangular markings, another tell-tale indicator if you're looking at an uncut specimen. Crystals or fragments of crystals can be several kilograms in size, and some prismatic spodumene crystals have been found in the Black Hills that are 50 feet long (!!!) [author's note – I want that one!].

Sources: *Simon and Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals*, 1978

Wikipedia - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spodumene#Kunzite>

International Colored Gemstone Association: <http://www.gemstone.org/gem-by-gem/english/kunzite.html>

IN MEMORIAM - EDWIN L REAMES*by Chuck O'Connell*

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of yet another long time WSLC club member, Ed Reames. Ed recently passed away at the age of 90.

Ed was a retired printer who was well known for his faceting skills. He helped founded and was involved in a Faceting Group that met in Bellwood where Ed was a long time resident.

He was a regular at most shows where he could be seen faceting and talking to folks about his hobby. Problems driving at night kept Ed from attending meetings the last few years. He will be sadly missed.



RED AND GREEN ANDESINE

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

by Rich Dillon

Almost all of us rockhounds are familiar with iridescent labradorite which is recognizable by its play of colors. It is a member of the feldspar family, specifically plagioclase feldspar. It is a member of the triclinic crystal system whose axis are all of different lengths none of which cross at 90 degrees. Gem quality (transparent facet grade) material in this crystal system is fairly rare. (Kyanite, Rhodonite, Axinite, Microcline Feldspar, **Plagioclase Feldspar**, Turquoise)

A lot of hobbyists may be unaware that labradorite is only one member of the plagioclase family. (Albite, Oligoclase, **Andesine**, **Labradorite**, Bytownite, Anorthite) All of these feldspar minerals are basically sodium - calcium aluminum silicates with the only difference being in the amount of sodium and calcium. For labradorite, it is defined by a chemical composition range just past the midpoint between albite ($\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$) and anorthite ($\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$), expressed as $\text{Ab}_{50-30\%}\text{An}_{50-70\%}$.

Within the past couple of years, you might have noticed that there is more gem quality labradorite on the market. The yellow labradorite from Mexico was part of a find by Jewelry Television (JTV) when they were looking for Mexican opal. Also appearing in the market was a red labradorite, green labradorite, and a color shift and color change versions of the green labradorite.

According to JTV first reports, the yellow labradorite was known to be natural because they had found it, mined it, cut it, and marketed it! They were cautious about the red and green labradorite because they did NOT originally know the source of the material. These stones were sent to several labs for identification and it was thought to be labradorite but since these laboratories did not have the necessary equipment to make a final determination of the sodium-calcium %, they could not be sure. It was concluded that they were **NATURAL & UNTREATED** gemstones.

After additional testing by more sophisticated labs, it was further determined that this material was **ANDESINE** not labradorite because of the sodium-calcium concentrations. After more than 2 years of searching for the source of this material, the mines were finally located in China (Outer Mongolia). They found the raw material was not red or green but actually **YELLOW** in color and that the material **WAS** being **HEAT TREATED by the Chinese to get the REDS, ORANGE, GREENS, and color shift and color change versions.**

Buyer beware!

MEET YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS:



Name: Joanne Samuel

What year did you join the WSLC? 2006

Other club or society affiliations? American Chemistry Society

Interest/Hobbies: Silversmithing, Stone cutting, belly dancing, paper crafts, running & cycling

Favorite rock: Jasper

Favorite tool: I don't have one. I have lots!

What book is on your nightstand: Mysterious, by Nora Roberts

What magazines do you read? Jewelry Art, ones related to Stamping, Shape

Is your significant other in the hobby or do they humor you? don't have a significant other

Do you have a workshop? No, sort of. I have everything for a workshop but the space

One thing you can't live without: Oven and cell phone

Favorite food: anything Mexican

Favorite pastime: Cooking

Least favorite thing: smoke

What is/was your profession: Chemist

One thing no one knows about you: Don't know, I'm an open book

Weirdest thing in your home: Rocks, and lots of them-

Biggest collection in your home: Stamp sets and kitchen accessories

One thing you still have from your childhood: A stuffed bunny rabbit I had since I was three

Favorite TV shows: Create TV, One Tree Hill, October Road

Your involvement with the WSLC: Third year Board Member, attend classes at the Lapidary School

Favorite thing about the WSLC: The people

Least favorite thing about the WSLC: no answer given-

Personal Motto: Live, laugh, love.

THE FACETER'S ARE COMING! THE FACETER'S ARE COMING!



The Midwest Faceter's Guild will be holding their 20th annual Faceters Seminar on August 15, 16 & 17th at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois.

The WSLC will be assisting the Guild in organizing the classes, with accommodations, and events surrounding the seminar, including the banquet that will be held on Saturday night. Classes will be available for beginner, intermediate and advanced. Those taking the advanced classes will be required to bring their own faceting machine.

The classes are very reasonably priced and are a great way to test out the hobby to see if it is for you prior to buying expensive equipment or taking expensive classes.

A detailed brochure and more information will be forthcoming. Their website is: www.midwestfacetersguild.org

MY FIRST TUCSON EXPERIENCE

by Joanne Samuel



Two days can be more than overwhelming if it is your first time to Tucson for the annual Gem and Minerals shows. I was fortunate to be able to go it year. I had heard about it from so may club members and had been waiting a long time to go. It was also nice to get away from the cold and snow. Karen Dave, a Tucson regular, was kind enough to show me around and take me to many good dealers and displays. We were able to hit several of the shows; GJX, JOGS, and G&LW. We were able to see Gerhard Pauly at the Idar-Oberstein area of the WGJ show. Mr. Pauly was recently at the Lizzadro Museum in Elmhurst to demonstrate cameo carving. My favorite of all the shows was the Gallery of Artists at the Inn Suites hotel. Below there are some pictures of the displays at Inn Suites. Being able to see the best in stone cutting gives you a good appreciation for the art. Being able to purchase rough from the rockhound who owns the rights to the mine is pretty nice because you know you are getting good material. The finished jewelry is also nice. You can find items that you cannot find any where else. By the end of the trip my wallet was empty but I came back with some nice pieces of rough and some nice cabs. I will definitely go again. I am already looking forward to next year. It is definitely a learning ex-



Joanne Samuel (the author at the Inn Suites by a rather large specimen



Karen Dave' at the Inn Suites with a huge piece of petrified wood

THIS MIGHT BE YOUR LAST EDITION OF THE OPAL

This might be your last edition of this highly collectible publication, The Opal. That is if you haven't paid your club dues. If you cannot pay in person, remit to the club Treasurer, Jose Ponce. His address is found on page 2, along with the other Board Members.

MARCH TEAM RECIPE



Coming to the March meeting for the speaker? Stay for the treats afterwards. One of the delicious treats will be a cracker dip made by March Team Member Barbara Petry. Her recipe follows;

Cracker Dip:

1 small tub cream cheese, softened (I like Lucerne brand)
handful of green onions, cut up
1 sm package of Buddig brand corned beef

Mix all ingredients together and chill. Serve with crackers of your choice - *Barbara Petry*



Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies News

by Terry Licko

The Midwest Federation will hold their Annual Convention in conjunction with the 50th Annual Show held by the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club on June 20 thru June 20th in Lincoln, NE. The event will be held at Pershing Center - 226 Mall S in Lincoln.

More details will be forthcoming or you may contact Roger Pabian at (402) 465-0144 or via email at: rpa-bian@neb.rr.com

LAPIDARY SCHOOL

by Karen Dave

The Spring session of classes will soon begin. The WSLC offers these classes in conjunction with the Elmhurst Park District and are held at: Crestview Park - 245 E Crestview Ave - Elmhurst, IL. Most classes are offered in two sessions, each 5 weeks with the exception of Wirewrap which runs for 10 weeks. Classes offered are:

Silversmithing: Mondays - 1st session: 3/24 to 4/21, 2nd session: 5/5 to 6/9

Cutting and Polishing Stones: Tuesdays - 1st session 3/25 to 4/22, 2nd session 5/6 to 6/3

Wirewrapping: Wednesdays - 3/26 to 5/28

Basic Beading: Thursdays - 1st session 3/27 to 4/24, 2nd session to be advised

WSLC members are entitled to resident fees and status regardless of where you live. Please identify yourself as one when you enroll.

Prices and class descriptions can be found at the Park District's website: www.epd.org or by calling the Wagner Center at (630) 993-8901

WSLC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETING LOCATION:

THE ABBEY: 407 West St. Charles Road, Elmhurst, IL 60126
Abbey public phone: 630-530-9874

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting begins at 8:00 p.m.
Next Meeting: Friday, March 28, 2008

WSLC BOARD MEETINGS:

The Abbey
The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
Next Meeting: Friday, April 4, 2008

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

March 29-30 - Monroe, WI - "38th Annual Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show" - **The Badger Lapidary & Geological Society** - Monroe High School - 1600 26th Street - Monroe, WI - Saturday & Sunday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Dealers, speakers, educational exhibits, gold panning, mineral tent demonstrations, hourly door prizes, videos and a "fish pond" for the kids.

April 12-13: Des Plaines, IL - **Des Plaines Valley Geological Society** - "43rd Annual Show" - Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 222 Birch St. Sat 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jewelry, gem, fossil, rock and mineral dealers. Live lapidary arts demonstrations, silent auction, educational exhibits, kids' room, raffles and door prizes. Contact Lois Zima at (847) 298-4653 or Jeanine N. Mielecki, jaynine9@aol.com.

April 26: St Joseph Twp, MI - **Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society** - "Swap n Sell" - St Joseph/Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Ave, St Joseph Twp, MI - \$15 per table, maximum 2 tables per person. Minerals, fossils & rocks. For info call: (269) 983-4900 or email: blossomlandgemandmineral@yahoo.com

May 2, 3 & 4: Kalamazoo, MI - **Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society** - "Michigan Magic" - Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St (Fairgrounds), Kalamazoo, MI. Over 50 displays, dealers, games, door prizes, geode cracking, gold mine. Also demonstrations and a Silent Auction. Friday 4 pm to 8 pm - Saturday-10 am to 6 pm - Sunday-10 am to 5 pm.. Donation \$3, kids under 12 free with adult. For information contact Kitty Starbuck (269)649-1991, Eric Peterson (269)781-7062, Kathie Rush (269)343-8131

May 24 & 25: Wheaton, IL - **Chicagoland Gems and Minerals Association** - "32nd Annual Gem, Jewelry, Fossil & Mineral Show & Sale" - DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187. Dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, kids corner, silent auction, special displays. Food available. Saturday-10 am to 6 pm. Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Adults \$5. Seniors & students \$3. Children under 13 free with adult. Free parking. For more information call (630) 377-0197 or email CGMA@sbcglobal.net

June 20-22: LINCOLN, NE, "50th Annual Show w/ MWF Convention", Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Pershing Ctr, 226 Centennial Mall S, Contact: Roger Pabian, 5301 X St, Lincoln, NE 68504, (402) 465-0144, rpa-bian@neb.rr.com

June 28 & 29: Wyoming, MI - **Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society** - "Rockhound Seminar" - Godwin High School (SW Metro Grand Rapids), 50-35th Sreet S.W., Wyoming, MI. Hands on workshops, demonstrations and lectures to attend both days beginning thru advanced. Courses will include faceting, wire wrap, beading, gem trees, silversmithing, lapidary and much much more. Adult admission in advance: \$15 per day - \$25 for 2 days. At the door \$18 per day - \$30 for 2 days. High School students \$5 per day. For further information and a complete schedule, contact Don Brown (734) 421-8159 or Bill Hapiuk at (313) 937-3228 or email mgags2008@yahoo.com

Please support the local clubs and societies by attending their events. Road trip!

