

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

Volume XXXXV

No. 5

May 2006

**NEXT CLUB MEETING
May 19, 2006 7:30
Joanne B. Wagner Community Ctr
615 N. West Avenue
Elmhurst, IL
Multi Purpose Room C**



**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**

THE OPAL

**First Class
Dated Material**



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
to be announced

The OPAL
Mary Prosek

Librarian
Gwyn Roland

Activities Coordinator
Karen Dave'

MWF Delegate
Terry Licko

Museum Liaison
Jack Maher

Webmaster
Don Shore

Silent Auction
to be announced

Field Trip
to be announced

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

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

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

MAY PROGRAM

The May Program will be Gem Identification for the Hobbyist (The Hanneman Method), presented by Rich Dillon, WSLC member and all around lapidary and lapidary related artist.

Rich and his wife Linda own and run Nature's Creations. There will be a talk on the basics of gemstone identification and what is needed for the hobbyist to do this on their own. The talk will cover basic steps for identification, how to make the instruments and also how to use these instruments. Some the instruments talked about will be a polarscope, 2 forms of a dichroscope, and a Hanneman/Hodgekinson refractometer that will give refractive index, dispersion, and birefringence.

Rich originally took this class from Terry Monagle at The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts 2 years ago. He co-taught the class with her last year and will be co-teaching again this year at the end of June.

STONE-OF-THE-MONTH

The stone-of-the-month for May is Amber & Copal. Please refer to the article on page 7 of this months Opal. Be sure to bring your rough, stones and jewelry to share with others.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

May (Topaz):

Dempsey, Lynn	Giannoni, Ed	Polley, Joan
Dewbray, Ed & Ginni	Kaplan, Jim	Reilley, Lenore
Dillon, Rich & Linda	Kubala, Thomas & Barbara	Reisner, Virginia
Gass, Tony	Miles, Barbara	Strickert, Larry & Gloria

September :

The WSLC Board Members are responsible for the refreshments and program for September.

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

Visitors are welcome at all General Meetings.

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.

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.

Please contact Opal Editor, Mary Prosek with any articles of interest or notices to be published. Articles should be original works or those where proper credit and previous publication can be referenced.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's time to look back on WSLC activities to check where we're going as a club.

First, "back to basics." A leading reason why people join the WSLC is to learn about stones, jewelry and the likes. This includes the finding, cutting and polishing of stones, the fabrication of jewelry to both stand alone and to serve as mountings for stones and other art objects, preparing and evaluating a wide range of artistic designs, and just plain getting new ideas. In many ways, the program speakers, the Opal, and interaction with other members at the meetings answer this need. Karen Dave's program last month on micro folding techniques generated a lot of interest. In addition, WSLC members have strongly supported the Elmhurst Park District School which has classes on stone cutting, silversmithing, wire wrapping, and the cutting of opals.

Second, "learn for the sake of learning." Many members like to be exposed to new and different ideas.. Examples include the Opal, programs, and "The stone-of -the month" which includes "The technique-of-the-month" when appropriate.

Third, "opportunities for evaluation and advice." It was noted that several pieces were submitted for "Gem-of-the-Month" evaluations in the last couple of months. It would be great if this activity could again become important. I always remember Yo's suggestions to me back a number of years ago; namely "too much solder." I kept reducing it, and the appearance did improve. It makes polishing a lot easier, though.

Fourth, "opportunities to purchase equipment and rough." The small meeting auctions and the sale notices included in the Opal serve this purpose. The up-coming September meeting will also present such an opportunity.

Fifth, "just getting together." The meetings are great for both friendship and the exchange of information. The snacks are exceptional.

With the summer coming, it's also a good time for you to tune up your areas of expertise and prepare programs and articles for the Opal.
Best Wishes – *Don Cronauer*

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2006
BOARD MEETING**

by Jose Ponce

President Don Cronauer called the meeting to order at 7:34pm at the Abbey. In attendance were: Don Cronauer, Don Shore, Barb Petry, Terry Licko, Lorraine Maher, Karen Dave, Ione Piche & Jose Ponce. Motion to accept the minutes from last month Board Meeting as published in The Opal by Ione Piche and second by Terry Licko.

Treasurers report: Barb Petry: The status of the club finances were read, motion to accept the report by Karen Dave and second by Don Shore, If you are interested into finding more details please contact Barb and she will print you a copy of the report. The Audit Committee has completed the audit. Please contact Barbara or Don Cronauer if you would like to review it.

Midwest Federation: Terry Licko,
Terry will explain and go over the information for the Midwest Federation summer event in Dearborn, MI and the Copper County extravaganza in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan during the next general meeting. If you think that you are interested and would like more information please contact Terry.

Business:

The May 19 meeting will be decided by the next general meeting. Karen is looking at the Elmhurst Library or the Station Depot. Both locations are very close to the Abbey. Stone / Activity of the moth: Cameos and Intaglios. The April program will be Microfolding presented by Karen Dave. The Silversmith and Lapidary classes are going on right now, a 5-week course is being planed for after the completion of the current courses and the fall session will be split into two 5 weeks session.

CGMA: Sabrina will be reading her minutes during the next group meeting.

Opal editor: Not present.

Web Master: Lots of activity on the website

Motion to adjourn by Don Cronauer at 8:45 PM.
Lorraine Maher and second by Terry Licko

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28, 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 silent auction that was going on in the back of the room and that the bidding will be closed 15 minutes after the meeting had adjourned.

Motion to accept the minutes as published in The Opal were called by Chuck O'Connor and second by Lynn Dempsey.

Treasurer Report:

Barbara was not present. Don Cronauer reported the expenses, income and balances on the accounts for the month of April. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the report and would like a copy please contact Barbara Petry. Request motion to accept report for file and audit by Lynn Dempsey and second by Terry Licko.

Business Items:

The May 19 general meeting will be held at the Wagner Community Center at 7:30pm on Crockett Ave and West Ave. West Ave is the first light west of the Abbey, turn right or north for about one and a half miles, after North Ave it is at the third stop sign, if you go past the stop sign the next light is Lake St.

Membership Report:

There were 36 members present and no guests. Do not forget to sign in at the meetings so we can have an accurate count of membership participation.

Library Report by Gwyn Roland:

The library will not be available at the May 19 general meeting at the Wagner Community Center.

Stone of the Month/Gem Display:

Cameos and Intaglios: thank you Don Shore for the fine article in the Opal and to the people that shared their cameos with the rest of us.

Ribbons were awarded to the following club members who displayed their work in the Gem of the Month case. They were: Don Shore, 1st Novice-faceting: Ed Gallagher, 1st Novice-Malachite/Azurite: Ione Piche, 1st Novice-Silver/Malachite

Congratulations to all!

Lapidary School: Karen Dave

Classes for Silversmith and Lapidary are currently going on. A short summer program will be offered for the experienced only. contact Karen with any questions.

Field Trip: Lyle & Lucy Backus

The Franklin Park District is going to Cedarburg Wisconsin for the Strawberry Festival on June 24th. Contact Lyle or Lucy Backus for more information and do not forget that resident fees apply for being a member of the WSLC regardless of where you live.

Midwest Federation: Terry Licko

Terry described the Midwest Federation convention that will be happening outside Detroit, for things to do and places to go. Contact Terry Licko or check out the Midwest Federation web site for more information at <http://www.midwestfederation.org/>.

CGMA:

Sabrina had more information regarding the CGMA needs for volunteers, they need help at the kids corner, set-up and tear down and if you would like to demonstrate or are a dealer contact Sabrina for more information. There is free admission for all volunteers

Program: Micro-folding Techniques

Karen Dave started by explaining what Micro-folding was and the tools and materials required.

She had a vast supply of samples that she had made using a simple washboard to a complicated barrel type. From looking at the durability of the samples, it was hard to believe that metal gauges 28 to 32 were used. All of the folding and creasing with the pliers really work hardened the metal, creating a strong piece that with regular use will not be easily damaged. She also had a slide presentation to show even more beautiful creations from various artists. Samples and the various tools were passed around for all to see. Karen also brought in a very interesting and well illustrated book on the subject

Don Cronauer called a motion for the meeting to adjourn at 8:55 PM, motion by Lynn Dempsey and second by Barbara Ziembra

IN MEMORIUM

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Tom Penny on May 1, 2006 after a long illness. Tom was a long time member of our group. He participated in many WSLC projects and was generous with his time and energy whenever any help was needed. He enjoyed many facets of the hobby and had a real love of rocks. He was always ready to join in a rock hunt and quick with a smile. He was a real gentleman and a pleasure to know. Our sympathies to Monica, Melissa, and the rest of his family. He will be missed.

MEMBER TO MEMBER SALE

Back by popular demand is the perennial favorite, Member to Member Sale. The sale will take place at the first meeting of the year, which will be Friday, September 22, 2006. The sale is self explanatory. WSLC members only are permitted to sell. Visitors and guests are welcome to attend and purchase items.

Tables are on a first come, first serve basis and MUST be reserved in advance by contacting Don Cronauer at 630-357-6570. The deadline is Sept 15th. Those who show up on the night of the sale without prior reservations will be turned away.

Items should be in good working order or their condition disclosed to the buyer. The WSLC is not responsible for any sales transactions. Each seller is responsible for their own merchandise. Items to be sold are limited to those that are related to the lapidary hobby or meet similar criteria.

CGMA SHOW

Volunteers are needed for this year's show. Please contact Sabrina Ugorek at: 630-653-5689

A TRUE MASTER, CONGRATULATIONS!

Our long time (former junior member, inching her way up to senior member), Rhonda Ziemba is graduating with a Master of Arts in Community Counseling from Concordia University on May 6th. Rhonda is the daughter of WSLC member Barbara Ziemba. We wish her the best in her future endeavors (and hope to see her at a future meeting).
Way to Go Rhonda!

SUMMER TRIPS RECAP

Below is a listing of the various trips that have been mentioned in The Opal this year. If you need more information about a particular trip, please refer to The Opal from that month. If you need another copy, please feel free to contact me and I will be more than happy to send a copy to you either via mail or email.

April 16 thru Nov 3rd: William Holland Lapidary School, Young Harris, GA. Features week long classes focusing in on one subject. Visit the website at: www.lapidaryschool.org or call 706-379-2126. Refer to January 2006 edition of The Opal

May 19 thru 21: Midwest Federation Convention & Show, Southgate, MI. Exhibits, vendors, talks, field trips. Visit the website at: www.amfed.org/mwf or call Cecilia Duluk at 313-278-9109. Refer to the February 2006 edition of The Opal.

June 10 & 11th: Rockhound Seminar, Carrollton, MI (near Saginaw). A reasonably priced weekend filled with various classes one is free to attend at will. No website available, call Don Brown at 734-421-8159 or Art Edlund at 989-792-8074. Refer to the March 2006 edition of The Opal.

June 24: Cedarburg, WI. Main attraction to folks like us, The Gem Shop, best rock shop in the area. Through the Franklin Park District. Visit their website at www.fpparks.org. Or call 847-455-2852. Refer to the April 2006 edition of The Opal.

Aug 6 thru 12th: Copper County Mineral Retreat, Keweenaw, MI. A week long of great field trips and activities in the heart of Copper County, MI. Capped off by a Show on the 11th & 12th. Visit the website www.museum.mtu.edu or call 906-487-2572. Refer to the March 2006 edition of The Opal.

Aug 18 thru 20th: Faceters Seminar in Flint, MI. Faceters with all levels of experience welcome. Visit the Midwest Faceters Guild Website at www.midwestfacetersguild.org or contact Ty Miller at 810-655-6530.

Something to do all summer! Pair up with someone and split the cost of gas & lodging. And....be sure to write an article for The Opal detailing your trip.

Contact Opal Editor: Mary Prosek mitty27@sbcglobal.net 708-442-5452

AMBER & COPAL

by Don Cronauer

The subject of amber can be approached from three different but interlocking aspects. First, it is often a beautiful stone that can be mounted in jewelry, carved as a display piece, or strung as beads in necklaces. Secondly, it has chemical characteristics that help in its identification and/or separation from fakes. Third, it is often formed with the inclusion of specimens from fairly well defined time periods, so it is of interest to paleontologists.

The ultimate of amber jewelry is to have a richly colored amber piece that has a well-defined insect with a beautiful setting as a pendant. The color of amber ranges from colorless to yellow to orange to brownish red to brown. It is transparent and inclusions or air bubbles can often be seen. Most often it is carved or presented with a smooth surface (such as cabs) to bring out its transparency. It may be somewhat fluorescent, particularly at breaks. From a jeweler's point of view, amber is soft (2 - 3 Moh scale) and easily scratched (white streak test). It is also brittle and can easily break, particularly after aging. There is a wide range of amber prices depending upon its color, clarity, inclusions, and mounting.

Amber is also often imitated at the inexpensive price level using plastics, resins, colored glass. As the potential price gets higher, the sophistication in making fakes increases. When I was at the library, the librarian commented about getting a beautiful pendant from a friend who visited South America. Another friend, who was an entomologist, told the librarian that it contained a modern insect. Even a number of museum pieces have been shown to be fakes. Specifically, a piece of good amber had been drilled out, an animal inserted with an amber-like resin, and the plug replaced.

Amber is fossilized tree sap that is typically about 10 to 140 million years old. As a note, "copal" is also a semifossilized material with an age of about one to five million years. Amber has been found in numerous places throughout the world, such as the Baltic, Dominican Republic, Mexico, & China. Each has its own typical age range. Amber formed as the sap that flowed from a tree wound, and it collected plant remains such as bark, seeds, pine

needles, leaves and the like. In some cases, it also collected insects such as flies, ants, spiders, beetles, etc. Even some small animals were trapped in the sap. Much of this collected debris was effectively sealed in and preserved during the fossilization process. In many cases these trapped specimens have become extinct or have undergone mutations such that these species are no longer found today. As a note, not all tree sap could have been converted to amber. The sap had to age under pressure, temperature, the presence of the right microorganisms, and the right rate of decay prior to burial.

A series of tests has been suggested for amber, as follows (note the following section for references):

1. Hardness: Mohs scale of 2 - 3.
2. Hot Needle: a glowing needle when pushed into the sample in a hidden area will melt copal and many plastics faster than amber. Copal has a light fragrant odor and emits sooty fumes while amber may only soften and the smoke is usually dark with an acrid odor.
3. Solubility: Acetone will soften or dissolve copal, but not amber.
4. UV (short wave) light: Amber fluoresces a pale shade of blue while copal shows little change.
5. Friction: On rubbing, copal may soften and become sticky while amber may only emit a slight fragrance of a resin.
6. Flotation (Specific Gravity): Various salt solutions of differing densities will sink or float various plastics, copals and amber. It is best to check references for good guidelines.
7. Inclusions: Check the trapped insects for authenticity.
8. Polarized light: Place the amber between two sheets of polarizing glass or plastic. Rotate the sheets and observe the internal rainbow of colors of the light. Again check the following references and establish a reasonable level of experience before using this as a criteria for grading.

References and Suggestions: A search of the internet gives a wide range of background literature. The above discussion is a combination of information derived from the following references:

1. Poinar, G. O., Life in Amber, Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA, 1992.
2. Anderson, K.B., "The Nature & Fate of Natural Resins in the Geosphere - IV," Org. Geochem. Vol. 21, No.2, pp.209-212,
3. Platt, G., "Identifying True Amber (Succinite)" <http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/trueamber.html>
4. -, "The Mineraloid Amber", <http://www.galleries.com/minerals/mineralo/amber/amber.htm>

ATTENTION ACHTUNG ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ ATENCIÓN
ВНИМАНИЕ ATENÇÃO LISTEN UP

The May 19 meeting will be at the

Joanne B. Wagner Community Center

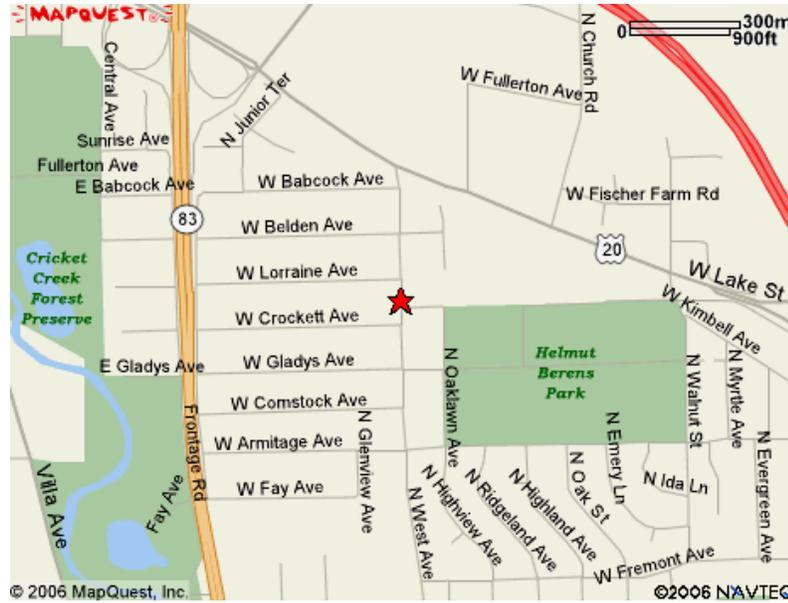
615 N. West Avenue

Multi purpose room C

The meeting will start at 7:30 and we must be out of the building by 9 sharp

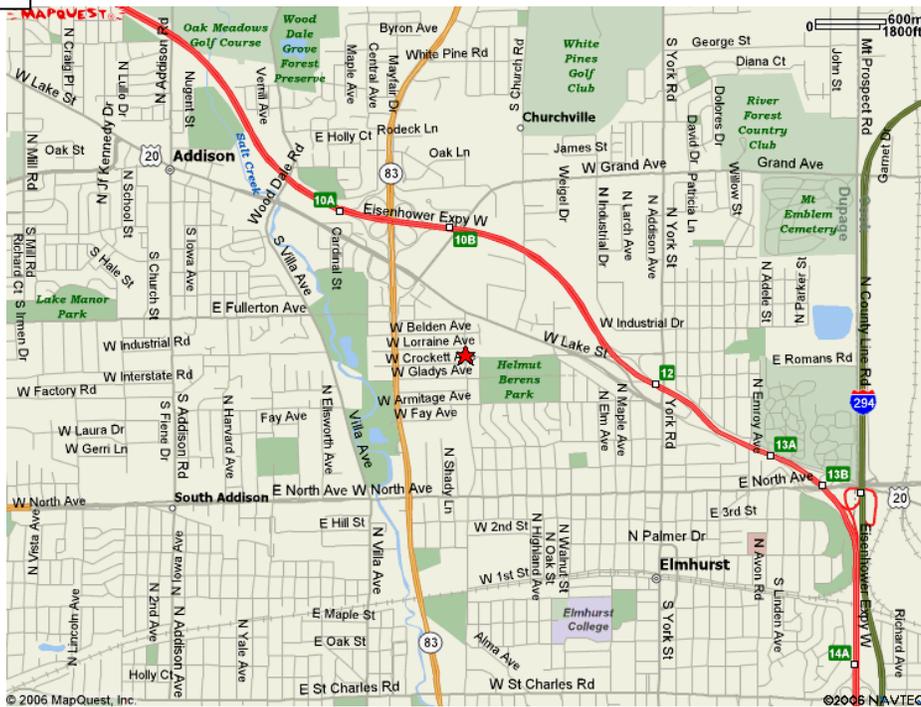
FROM THE ABBEY:

Go west to the 1st stop light, West Ave. Turn right (North) and continue to go past the first light, which is North Avenue. Go to the 3rd stop sign. The center is on your immediate right.



FROM NORTH AVE & 83

Go east on North Ave past Rte 83 to the 1st stop light, West Ave. Turn left (North). Go to the 3rd stop sign. The center is on your immediate right.



WSLC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2006 ONLY MEETING LOCATION: JOANNE B. WAGNER COMMUNITY CENTER
615 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst
Multipurpose Room C

SPECIAL TIME MAY 2006 MEETING ONLY: Meeting begins at 7:30 . WSLC must be out of the building by 9 p.m. sharp

WSLC BOARD MEETING: Next Board Meeting is Friday, September 8, 2006. Begins at 7:30 at THE ABBEY; 407 West St Charles Rd, Elmhurst, IL

SHOW CALENDAR

May 13-14: PEORIA, IL: Edwards River Earth Science Club, Rock, Reptile & Aquatics Show-Wildlife Prairie State Park, Peoria, IL Sat & Sun 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Contact Lyle or Colleen Kugler, 612 SE 3rd St, Aledo, IL 61231, (309) 582-7364, lekugler@frontiernet.net

May 19-21: SOUTHGATE, MI; Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society Annual Show & MWF Convention, Southgate Arena, 14700 Reauvne Pkwy, Fri 4 -8 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Mike Bomba, 1419 Gregory, Lincoln Park, MI 48146, (313) 381-8455, bombasrocks@hotmail.com

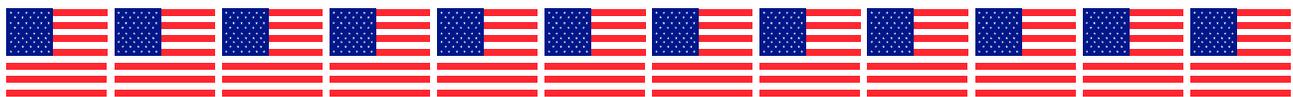
May 27-28: WHEATON, IL: Chicagoland Gem & Minerals Association, Gem, Jewelry, Fossil & Mineral Shows, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2014 W. Manchester Rd, Wheaton, IL, Sat & Sun 10 am to 6 pm. Vendors, displays, demonstrations, kids corner, silent auction. Ctc Rhea Britton, 630-896-7133 www.chicagolandgemshow.org

May 26-28: ROSEMONT, IL; International Gem & Jewelry Show, Donald E Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd, Rosemont, IL many vendors, lots of finished jewelry, some supplies and demonstrators Frid 12-6 pm, Sat 10-6 pm, Sun 11-5pm. www.intergem.net

Please support the various clubs and organizations by attending their shows and events.

The CGMA Show is in need of volunteers for various tasks. Please contact Sabrina Ugorek if you can help.

Have a great summer everyone. Be safe. Be healthy. And most importantly, be happy. – *Mary Prosek*



For love of country they accepted death... ~James A. Garfield

And they who for their country die shall fill an honored grave, for glory lights the soldier's tomb, and beauty weeps the brave. ~Joseph Drake

