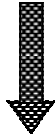




LOOK!!



Official Publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club
Elmhurst, Illinois

Volume XXXXVI

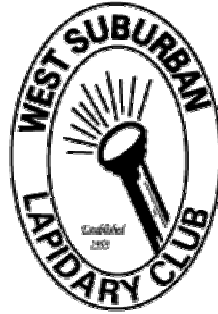
No. 5

May 2007

NEXT CLUB MEETING

May 18, 2007 - 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 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 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.

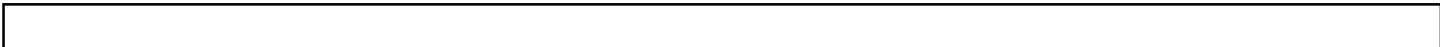
OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS - 2007

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

Committee Chairpersons

CGMA Delegate: Sabrina Ugorek	Hospitality: needed, please step forward	Silent Auction/Club Show: to be announced
Kitchen Supplies: Ed Gallagher	The OPAL: Mary Prosek	Field Trip: to be announced
Gem of the Month: Yo Watanabe Tony Gass	Librarian: Gwyn Roland	Lapidary School: Karen Dave'
Historian: Lillian Keck	Activities Coordinator: Karen Dave'	Instructors: Lyle Backus Tony Gass Max Schultz
Publicity: Mary Prosek	MWF Liaison: Terry Licko	Assistants: Lucy Backus Jose Ponce Mary Prosek Alberta Schultz Don Shore
Webmaster: Don Shore	Lizzadro Museum Liaison: Jack Maher	

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



MAY PROGRAM

The program for the May meeting will be a presentation by the WSLC’s own Rich Dillon focusing on a trip he and his wife Linda took to Australia. Imagine it: In a land where Crocodiles have roamed for thousands of centuries, and Aborigines have invoked the dream world for more than 40,000 years, where Opals reign as a national treasure one finds awe in the extremes of nature. Let us wonder about what it is like in the land down under where the majority of precious opals are found. We’ll take a trip into the Outback to visit a couple of Opal Mines and while we are there, we’ll see some of the most unusual scenes of nature. The short presentation will include visits to such places as Coober Pedy, Urulu, Kakadu, Kuranda & the Rainforest, and Yowah to see where opals really come from.

Rich and his wife Linda are both accomplished artists and instructors. Self taught in the lapidary arts, Rich has been collecting, mining and cutting stones for over 20 years. Besides teaching at local shops and park district, he also teaches several classes at the famed William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Georgia.

Editor’s Note: Sounds like a great program!

STONE-OF-THE-MONTH

The Stone-of-the-month for May is Fluorite. Fluorite is the state mineral of Illinois. It can be found in abundance and is mined in southern Illinois. The story on page 7 was reprinted with permission from the Illinois State Geological Survey website. What a great website! Be sure to check it out if you can. It is chock full of wonderful information on the natural resources of this wonderful state we live in. The website is: www.isgs.uiuc.edu. The person who gave me permission to use their fluorite article said that some improvements were coming by summer to the website to make it even better. Hard to improve on what they have. I can’t wait!

Please bring in any specimens of fluorite to share or show off.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

<u>May:</u>		Polley, Joan
Dempsey, Lynn	Gass, Tony	Reilley, Lenore
Dewbray, Ed & Ginny	Gianonni, Ed	Reisner, Virginia
Dillon, Rich & Linda	Kaplan, Jim	Strickert, Larry & Gloria

September meeting: The refreshments and program for the September meeting will be covered by The Official WSLC Board. A list of these fine folks can be found on page 2 of The Opal. The last 2 year’s September program has been a member-to-member sale. Since the Silent Auction will take place on October 27th, The Board would like to request that you save your money and spend it all at this event.

A “What the heck is this?” event is being planned instead. Ever wonder what that tool you picked up at an auction was actually used for? Do you have a large box of slabs or rock that you just can’t identify? Gather these mystery items together and be prepared to bring them to the September meeting. Collectively we will try to find the answers that have been dogging you all these years.

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.



PICNIC INFO/PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The WSLC is pleased to announce another "first" for the club. The club will have their first annual summer picnic on Sunday, July 15, 2007 at the summer home of Gary & Lorel Abrell, located near Morris, Illinois. Board members Susan Wilson and Joanne Samuel are organizing the event, so it goes without saying that there will be lots of fun for everyone. The picnic will start at noon and go until we can't stand each other anymore. The Abrell's will supply chicken, soda and a cake. Everyone attending is asked to bring pot luck according to what letter your last name starts with. A thru E bring appetizers/munchies: F thru L bring an entrée type dish: M thru R bring salads/veggies: S thru Z bring desserts/fruit. If you are unsure of what to bring, please contact Joanne or Susan. Alcoholic beverages are not welcome and will not be served. Those not complying with this rule will be publicly flogged and severely ridiculed. If you are thinking about coming, please RSVP as soon as possible to either Joanne or Susan. Their contact information can be found on page 3 of The Opal.. The Abrell's will need to have a head count. Maps and more detailed information will be available.

This event will be a great way to get to know your fellow members. If you cannot make the drive to Morris but want to go, please let Joanne and Susan know. Transportation may or may not be available through another member.

Don't forget about the Silent Auction in October. Everyone is expected to participate in some way. Have a great summer and be safe! *Ed Gallagher, WSLC President*

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2007 BOARD MEETING

by Karen Dave'



The meeting was called to order at 8:10pm at the Abbey. Present were: Ed Gallagher, Don Shore, Karen Dave', Lee Herrera, Susan Wilson, and Joanne Samuel.

As there was no quorum, no votes were taken.

Webmaster Report: Don was able to arrange for us have our domain names free for the 1st year. The domain names will be included on all new printed materials.

Previous Business:

General Meeting Review: The meeting went well. The projector was a huge improvement over slides. Popcorn was discussed as a nice addition for future projector programs.

Mini Auction: The mini auctions have been going well. People seem to be pleased to have it return.

Split the Pot: The STP has been received well and will continue.

Big Auction: The Big Auction committee: (Mary Prosek, Karen Dave') are working on publicity materials and will be organizing sub committees to handle particular functions. Oct 27, 07, all day. Specifics to come. Everyone is expected to participate in some way, shape or form.

There will be an equipment area with the usual consignment option. Only working, clean items will be allowed.

There will not be a real time auction, jewelry area or a kids corner. A raffle may be held. A "buy it now" option will be available

Food will be available for club members who are working the auction. Interesting grilling ideas were discussed

Summer Events: Art in The Park: We will be participating the Elmhurst's "Art in the Park" art festival. May 5-6, 07. WSLC is partnering with the Park District to publicize our classes and the club. We will demonstrate various lapidary related techniques plus a kid's corner. The possibility of showing lapidary related videos was discussed along with ideas for displays. New club signage will be produced. A number of interesting techniques for cooking food without electricity or running water were discussed. A pre-event meeting will be held on April 20, 07, 7:30pm at the school.

Art Camp: WSLC will run a children oriented activity afternoon at the Elmhurst Art . Museum for their summer art camp. The date has not been set. Volunteers will be needed. A sign up sheet will be passed at the next meeting for volunteers. This is a daytime event .

Picnic: Gary and Lorel Abrell have graciously agreed to have the summer picnic at their lakeside home. The proposed date is July 15, 07. The picnic committee (Susan Wilson and Joanne Samuel) are planning some interesting activities so this one will be a bit different. A reminder postcard will be sent in June. Various methods of coordinating the food were considered. Lorel will be consulted. A number of various food dishes (bison, ostrich) and cooking methods were discussed.

Next General Meeting Status: The program for the next meeting has been finalized. A proposed program demonstrating certain optical effects of stones was discussed. A laser would be needed and, given the inexpensive cost these days, consideration was given to purchasing one. A discussion exploring other uses for a laser (cooking, searing food) followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm. Everyone was hungry.

ITEMS ARE NEEDED FOR THE MINI-SILENT AUCTIONS THAT HAPPEN AT THE GENERAL MEETINGS. PLEASE SEE JOSE PONCE' WITH ANYTHING YOU MAY HAVE. Items needed include books, specimens, tools, slabs, cabs, findings, and finished pieces or just plain old interesting items you do not want anymore.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20 , 2007 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

by Barbara Freeman

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by Ed Gallagher.

Those in attendance were Ed Gallagher, Barb Petry, Joanne Samuel, Lucy and Lyle Backus, Jose Ponce, Karen Dave, Lee Herrera, and Barb Freeman

The purpose of the special meeting was to plan for the club's participation in the Art in the Park to be held May 5 and 6th in Elmhurst. Set up will occur from 8:00-10:00 AM and the event to follow.

Discussion focused on parking, unloading vehicles, set up of the booth, tables, chairs, umbrellas, and activities. A children's event is planned if prizes can be obtained. This event is designed to have children enjoy the participation without lingering; all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Several members, as in the past, will provide demonstrations. Thank you. The club will provide for lunches to those volunteers.

Plans were made for signage, advertising the club, and other audio-visuals.

Members will be asked to volunteer as well, at the next general meeting to be available for the event.

There was also discussion of a summer picnic. The Abrell's have graciously offered their summer home for the festivities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.



MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27 , 2007 GENERAL MEETING

by Barbara Freeman

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM by president, Ed Gallagher

Announcements: The mini-silent auction was going on in the back of the room with several nice items that members and attendees are encouraged to bid on. A motion was made by Karen Dave' and seconded by Terry Licko to approve the minutes of the last board meeting as published in The Opal.

Greetings were extended to longtime members and past president Bruce Lundin and his wife Lillian who were in attendance.

Tony Shannon brought some jasper slabs from his recent trip to California. He indicated he will either give them away or accept other items in trade. He brought back a few

hundred pounds of jasper. He makes spheres and has a large amount of cut offs available. He also reported on his recent week long experience in the Mojave Desert with a mineral club where the group collected the jasper. There were several hands on classes as well to creatively utilize the finished stones. Sounds like a great experience.

Treasurer's Report : There was no treasurer's report or attendance as Treasurer Barb Petry was not present.

Lapidary School: All 4 classes are in session now. This summer new classes will be available including beading, taught by Pat Koko and Virginia Reisner. Pat Koko was welcomed as a guest and also joined the club. Pat indicates she will join the club so we look forward to seeing her at future meetings.

Library Report: Gwyn Roland reported on the library items. We have a few books to be purchased which are on back order. A list of recommended items to be purchased is by the library, or talk directly to Gwyn so she can look into purchasing the item. Mary Prosek is beginning to transfer a few videos to DVD which will better maintain the quality.

Midwest Federation: Terry Licko urged members to attend the various AFMS & MWF Shows that are upcoming. She explained these experiences will provide great learning opportunities and socialization. The MWF event is in Houghton, Michigan which a couple of members plan to attend and the AFMS is in New Mexico in June 5-10 which will be about a week of festivities.

CGMA: Sabrina Ugorek provided information on the upcoming CGMA show in DuPage County in Wheaton.

Club Business There is a summer Picnic planned for July 15, at the Beaver Lake home of Gary and Lorel Abrell. Additional details will be in the upcoming OPAL for the fun filled event in Grundy County. Current and prospective members and spouses or significant others are welcome. Business cards are being designed to be used for publicity and to increase membership. Karen Dave' presented on the planned participation in Art in the Park sponsored by the Elmhurst Park District. The event is well attended, over May 5 and 6th, and is a great volunteer activity for the club. Volunteers are needed especially to set up out booth and take it down. Also, volunteers are needed even for short periods of time during the event to provide some relaxation time for the demonstrators. Be sure to stop by the booth and say "Hi" and support other members. Remember, the May meeting will be held one week early on May 18th so as not to conflict with the Memorial Day weekend. The next board meeting is May 4th. Ed Gallagher reported that he received information from Primedia, the publisher of the Lapidary Journal. They will donate a subscription to the journal, to a member of the military. See Ed for further details if interested in the project. Mark your calendars now and get ready for the club auction scheduled for Saturday, October 27. Lapidary related items may be donated or

sold on consignment. All items must be clean and in working order. Only equipment, loose stones, findings, and rough will be auctioned; not finished items for sale. Art camp which is open during the summer and sponsored by the park district, will pay the club a nominal amount if the club provides demonstrations and activities for the children for a day. There are two groups of children, grouped according to age. Mary Prosek was recognized for her time consuming work as editor of The OPAL. Each newsletter is interesting and informative. The last special article on faceting was very informative.

It was announced that a former member Russell Kemp, died April 14, 2007 at the age of 86. He and his wife Doris were married for over 60 years. She preceded him in death last year. He was well respected in the lapidary field and was editor and member of the Board of Directors of the Lizzadro Museum and was recently inducted into the national Lapidary Hall of Fame.

Program: The WSLC's own, Susan Wilson, Ph.D. gave a most informative and thorough presentation on turquoise. She spoke on the gem lore, chemical composition, the difference between natural and synthesized, fakes, and where the stone is located. In addition there were several photos within the audiovisual presentation. Many wonderful stones and jewelry were available for viewing from the collection of Karen Dave', Lee Herrera, and Susan.

Thanks Susan for sharing information in an understandable and meaningful way and answering questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM following a motion by Max Schultz and second by Joanne Samuel.

IN MEMORIUM - Russell Kemp

It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of Russ Kemp at the age of 86 on April 14, 2007. Russ held numerous leadership positions in the MWF and AFMS, including past president in both. He also served on the boards of several Chicago area clubs as well as on the Board of Directors for the Lizzadro Museum in Elmhurst. He was recently inducted into the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame in Murdo, SD.

Russ was preceded in death by Doris Kemp, his wife of over 60 years. Doris passed away in mid 2006. Together, he and Doris traveled extensively and presented interesting talks and programs detailing their adventures. They were a matching set of bookends that complimented each other and held each other up over time and through life.

He and Doris' generous contribution of time, energy and knowledge to the rockhound community is immeasurable. They will be missed and remembered for many years to come.

The Kemps moved from the Chicago area several years ago to Houston. They are survived by their 3 sons Wayne, Craig and Roy as well as several grandchildren.



AFMS & MWF **HAPPENINGS**



There has been an awful lot written lately about some legislation in Congress regarding the collection of Fossils in both the MWF and AFMS newsletters. The bill in question is called "The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, Senate Bill S-320 and House Bill HR554".

The biggest concern is that if these bills pass, others like it may follow that are geared to rock and specimen collecting. The bill essentially says that specimens may only be collected for and by the scientific community. Commercial use is prohibited, which would mean that quite possibly things in your collection could be subject to seizure.

Following is an excerpt from the the AFMS President's Message in the May 2007 edition of their newsletter:

"I recently received a letter from one of our members who was extremely incensed over the fossil bill, and the fact that it is backed by many paleontologists. The individual felt that the bill indirectly insinuated that only qualified personnel should be allowed to do Science. Quite correctly, this individual pointed out that science is for everyone, not just an elite few. This individual went on to vent against paleontologists for supporting the fossil bill, and suggested that rockhounds boycott the activities supported by paleontologists to reduce their funding, when (not if) the fossil bills passes.

While I don't believe that a boycott would be effective (it would be too late, and we are too small an organization to materially affect funding levels), it got me to thinking.

Some kind of fossil bill will eventually pass, maybe not this session of Congress, but it will pass. We can fight it, we can modify it, but we cannot stop it. Too many paleontologists and their allies are behind it. So, what do we do then?

What if all the fossil collectors in clubs affiliated with the AFMS become "professional collectors"? There are all kinds of schools that offer degrees in a wide variety of subjects. Why couldn't the AFMS find a school or university that would offer an Associates Degree in Paleontology for the purpose of collecting specimens? Since the vast majority of new fossil finds have been made by rockhounds, a school or university that is interested in fossils would be happy to have an army of collectors sending them specimens for evaluation. The proviso would be that common fossils be kept by the collector.

When some form of the bill passes, we need to carefully read the wording about what constitutes a "professional" collector. I don't think a PhD in Paleontology would be required. I suggest that some lesser degree might do the trick. - Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President

Full text of this bill can be viewed online at:
<http://thomas.loc.gov> using the Bill numbers

STONE-OF-THE-MONTH

FLUORITE

reprinted with permission of the Illinois State Geological Survey website

Fluorite is the stone-of-the-month and is the state mineral of Illinois. The General Assembly made fluorite the State Mineral in 1965 when flourspar mining was a multimillion dollar-per-year industry in Illinois.

Just how was this mineral formed in Illinois?

Hot water containing fluorine and other dissolved chemicals rose from deep in the earth during the Jurassic Period, about 150 to 200 million years ago. The water flowed through northeast-trending faults and fractures in limestones laid down earlier in the Mississippian Period, about 330 million years ago.

When the hot brines reached the calcium-rich Mississippian rocks, the temperature and other conditions were just right for crystallizing fluorite along the walls of the faults and in flat-lying layers parallel to the beds of limestone. These host rocks dissolved and were replaced with the fluorite.

Since the early 1800s, fluorite has been mined in southeastern Illinois. The flourspar-rich region, which reaches from southeastern Illinois into parts of Kentucky, was called the Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar Mining District.

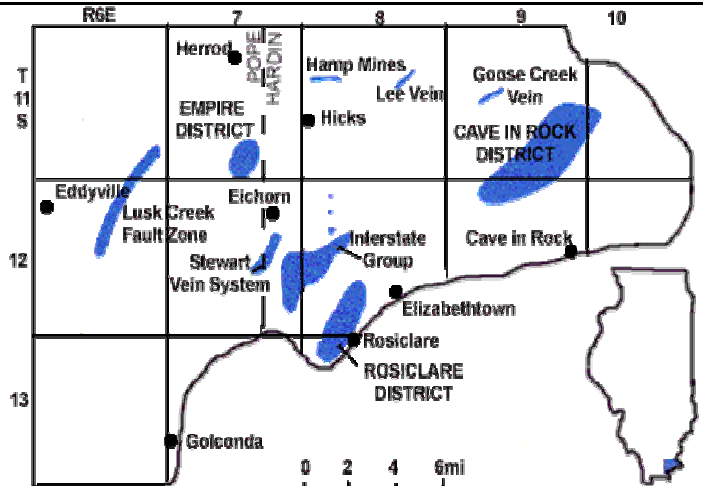
In Illinois, fluorite was mined almost exclusively in Hardin and Pope Counties. The main production came from fissure-vein deposits in the Rosiclare district, and stratiform (bedding plane) deposits in the Cave in Rock district (see map to the right). Other areas in the two counties yielded smaller amounts of the mineral.

Most mining was underground, as much as 1,300 feet deep. But open-pit mines operated where fluorite deposits intersected land surface.

Illinois displaced Kentucky as the country's leading producer of fluorite in 1942. For many years, Illinois accounted for more than 50% of total U.S. flourspar production. But by 1990, more than 90% of the fluorite used in the U.S. was imported. Illinois was the only remaining domestic producer.

Competition from foreign producers coupled with high costs of underground operations made Illinois' flourspar mining unprofitable. The last flourspar mine in Illinois closed in December 1995. Fluorspar is no longer mined anywhere in the United States. -source: Illinois State Geological Survey - www.isgs.uiuc.edu

WE NEED TUMBLED STONES!! The club is in need of tumbled stones, rocks/geodes or similar items that would be suitable to give to children at the various events that the club volunteers to do demos at. Please contact Karen Dave'. Pick up can be arranged.



The arrow to the right indicates the region of the State where most of the flourspar mining took place.

MORE FLUORITE INFORMATION

reprinted from Rock Trails, vol 45, issue 6 - June 2005

Besides being one of the most popular minerals for collectors (known as "the most colorful mineral in the world"), fluorite is a very important raw material for many industries, with uses as diverse as a flux for smelting metals (hence the name, from the Latin for "to flow"), refining uranium fuel for nuclear reactors, oil well stimulation, and making rocket fuel; to adding fluorite to toothpaste and making herbicides, medicines, anesthetics, and special lenses for long-range telescopes -and much more. It's also used to create opalescent glass - melted into molten glass, it separates out into tiny crystals of sodium fluoride which bounce the light around inside the glass, creating opalescence.

Not only is fluorite found in a dazzling array of colors blue, green, yellow, purple, magenta, red, black, brown, pink, and most everything in between but some specimens have the added effects of simultaneously glowing a different color under shortwave and long-wave UV light, and phosphorescing a third color (the term fluorescent is derived from the mineral fluorite). Still others are thermo luminescent (glowing when heated)! The purest fluorite is colorless, but the presence of impurities in the hydrothermal solution containing fluorine that was forced through fissures in the earth hundreds of years ago, melting calcium-rich rocks to re-form as fluorite, created the rainbow of colors we see today.

Chlorophane, a variety of fluorite, will actually glow green in a dark room when activated by the heat of a person's hand- but only once! That same specimen will never glow again, because electrons that were trapped in an excited state during crystallization have been allowed to "relax" after emitting the photons of light. So, if a piece of fluorite ever glows in your hand, don't try to prejudice it for anyone else with the same piece they'll think you're crazy! (continued on page 8)

MORE FLUORITE INFORMATION

continued from page 7

Fluorite is also formed in a wide variety of shapes and patterns. The cube is the typical crystal habit, with un-cleaved octahedrons forming much less often, and penetration twins creating more complex shapes. Perfect cleavage in four directions creates one of the favorites of collectors both young and old fluorite octahedrons, or "fluorite diamonds". Fluorite mine workers are reported to cleave octahedrons on their lunch breaks for extra cash.

For those of you who believe in the healing powers and properties of gems and minerals: The range of metaphysical uses for fluorite is no smaller than its range of colors. In general, it is believed to clear the mind, heighten the ability to concentrate, and encourage orderliness. Therefore, a chunk or slab of fluorite makes a great addition to your desk and a terrific gift for a student.

Here's a breakdown of the uses of some other popular colors:

Blue: creates order, calm, and clear concise communications

Sea Green: clears emotional baggage and eliminates negativity

Purple: a third eye stone; brings order to psychic and spiritual growth

Bright Green: creates a connection with ones environment and attracts money

Colorless: stimulates the brain and clears and energizes the aura

editors note: these facts have never been scientifically proven and are provided for your information only - Mary Prosek, Opal Editor

Properties and Characteristics:

- *Fluorite: CaF₂, Calcium
- *Fluoride (also known as Fluorospars)
- *Hardness: 4
- *Luster: vitreous
- *Transparency: transparent to translucent
- *Cleavage: perfect in 4 directions, forming octahedrons
- *Fracture: irregular and brittle
- *Specific gravity: 3.1+ (average)
- *Streak: white
- *Other: often fluorescent, displays color zoning

BITS AND PIECES - WORDS OF WISDOM TO ENJOY YOUR SUMMER

THE FLYERS ARE FLYING: Please check the back table at the next General Meeting on May 18th. There will be flyers and hand outs available for the many events available this summer throughout the Midwest area. If you can't make it to the meeting, give me a call and I will gladly mail you copies.

CEDARBURG TRIP: A trip to Cedarburg, WI is being planned by The Park District of Franklin Park and also The Elmhurst Park District for Saturday, June 22nd. This coincides with the annual Strawberry Festival and will give you an opportunity to visit the best rock shop in the Midwest, The Gem Shop.

Information for both trips can be found at:
Franklin Park District Website: www.fpparks.org or by calling: (847) 455-9053

Elmhurst Park District Website: www.epd.org or by calling: (630) 993-8989

LAPIDARY SCHOOL: 5 week classes are being offered at the Elmhurst Park District in cooperation with the West Suburban Lapidary Club. Another first for the club: Basic Beading! Also available will be Silversmithing, Cutting & Polishing Stones and Wire Wrapping. Classes start the last week of June. More information can be gotten online at: www.epd.org or by calling (630) 993-8989 or by contacting Karen Dave' (info on page 2 of The Opal)

ESCONI GOES HI-TECH: The Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois now has their club's newsletter available online at their website: www.esconi.org. Along with the newsletter are a lot of links that you might find interesting. Check it out!

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?? Instead of having the member to member sale at the September meeting, The WSLC Board has decided to have a "What the heck is that??" night. Please bring in that mystery stone or strange tool or part you might have. Someone might be able to identify it! Or if you are one of those folks who have all of your things marked, labeled & identified, you can also bring in something for show and tell. Just don't brag too much.

ROAD TRIP TIME: Lots of goings on this summer. Between the Rockhound Seminar in June, picnic in July, Faceting Seminar in August, Copper County Mineral Treat and MWF Convention in August, I just don't want to hear that any of you are bored. There is plenty to do. The price of gas seems to be on an upward trend. Find someone to drive with and share the expenses. Look for handouts at the May 18th General Meeting;

Editors note: Thanks to all you wonderful WSLC people who helped me keep my sanity this year and put up with my ranting. You know who you are and I am grateful to have you as a friend - Mary Prosek, Opal Editor

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, September 28, 2007

WSLC BOARD MEETINGS:

The Abbey
The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
Next Meeting: Friday, September 7, 2007

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

May 26 - 27: WHEATON, IL - Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association (CGMA) 31st Annual Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - 2015 W. Manchester Rd - Wheaton, IL. Dealers, demonstrators, displays, children's corner, silent auctions. Saturday, May 26th: 10 am to 6 pm. Sunday, May 27: 10 am to 5 pm. Indoors, air conditioned, refreshments available. Adults \$5, Seniors & Students with an i.d. \$3, Children under 13 free when accompanied by an adult. For info call: 630-377-0197, email; cgma@sbcglobal.net

Jun 9 - 10: FRANKFORT, MI - 33rd Annual Rockhound Seminar - Frankfort High School - 534 11th St - Frankfort, MI 49635 - A weekend full of various hands on workshops, lectures and classes. Saturday, June 9: 9 am to 5 pm. Sunday, June 10: 9 am to 4 pm. Too many classes to list. Weekend passes only \$25 for both days purchased in advance. Presented by the Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society. For more info and a complete list of classes and weekend events, contact: Bill Hapiuk - 26099 Dover St - Redford, MI 48239 (313) 937-3228 or Don Brown at (734) 421-8159, email: mgags2007@yahoo.com

July 15: MORRIS, IL - 1ST Annual WSLC Summer Picnic - The summer estate of Gary & Lorel Abrell. Please contact Susan Wilson or Joanne Samuel (contact info on page 2 of The Opal) for more information. Maps and such will be available at the next General Meeting, May 18th.

Aug 4 - 12: HOUGHTON, MI - 4 Huge Events over 9 days - Upper Peninsula Gem/Mineral Show - Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Show - Midwest Federation Convention - Copper Country Mineral Retreat: Way too many things to mention. Complete info available online at: www.museum.mtu.edu or at: www.amfed.org/mwf. Complete flyers are available at the May 18th General Meeting of the WSLC or contact Mary Prosek. A copy can be mailed to you if desired. Contact info for Mary Prosek on page 2 of The Opal.

Aug 17 - 19: FLINT, MI - 19th Annual "Faceting, Facts, Friends, Fun" Weekend Seminar - Mott Community College - A weekend loaded with various seminars covering a wide variety of different subjects and/or techniques. Faceting machines are available to use for those who do not own one. A great and inexpensive way to see if faceting is for you. Besides beginning faceting, advanced classes are offered as well as Gem CAD. Steam casting, Beading and Chain Making. More information can be obtained online at: www.midwestfacetersguild.org or by contacting John Zaborowski at (440) 949-8242. Flyers will be available at the May 18th General Meeting of the WSLC or by contacting Mary Prosek. A copy can be mailed to you if desired. Contact info for Mary Prosek on page 2 of The Opal.

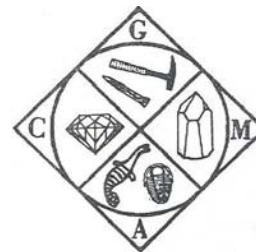
Please support your local clubs and societies by attending their various events!



Quotes of the month: Those who miss WSLC summer picnic miss good time. - *Mary Prosek, Opal Editor*

Those who do not travel to one of the exciting lapidary/faceting or rock & mineral events this summer miss the train big time - *Mary Prosek, Opal Editor*

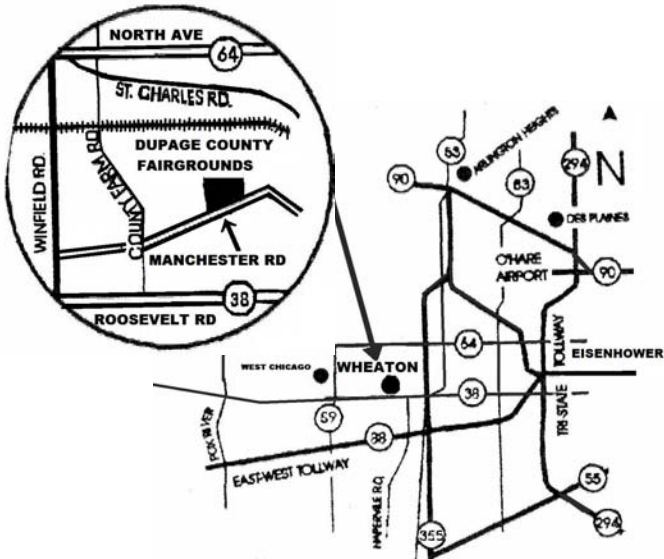
Those who do not believe Mary Prosek, Opal Editor provides sage wisdom miss the point - *Mary Prosek, Opal Editor*



Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association (CGMA)

BEADS - GEMS - JEWELRY FOSSILS - MINERALS

“ A GEM OF A SHOW ”



Memorial Day Weekend
Saturday, May 26, 2007 10 AM - 6 PM
Sunday, May 27, 2007 10 AM - 5 PM

Dupage County Fairgrounds
2015 W. Manchester Road
Wheaton, IL

20+ Nationally Known Dealers:

Demonstrations:

Exhibits:

Silent Auctions:

Children's Activities:

Adults - \$5.00
Seniors - \$3.00
Students - \$3.00
Children - FREE!
 (Under 13)

INDOORS - AIR CONDITIONED - FREE PARKING - FOOD AVAILABLE
CAMPING AVAILABLE

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2007

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