

Official Publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club  
Elmhurst, Illinois

Volume

No. 5

May 2008

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
NEXT CLUB MEETING

May 30, 2008 - 8 pm  
(doors open at 7:00)

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

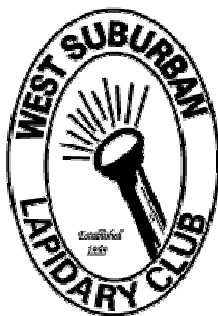
Members of:  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological  
Societies  
Chicagoland Gem and Mineral Association  
Scribe



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	Joanne Samuel
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 & Karen Dave'
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:**  
position open

**Kitchen Supplies:**  
Ed Gallagher

**Gem of the Month:**  
Tony Gass

**Historian:**  
Joanne Samuel

**Publicity:**  
Lee Herrera

**Webmaster:**  
Don Shore

**Hospitality:**  
1 person from the month's team

**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](http://www.westsuburbanlapidaryclub.com)

## MAY PROGRAM

*by Mary Prosek*

The May program is inspired by the speaker from the March meeting. For those of you who missed it, Joe Eddy Brown presented a program on wearable art that he created with “found” objects. Many of the pieces were very whimsical. So check your workshop, tool drawer, old jewelry box and under your bed. With the creativity that flows through members of the West Suburban Lapidary Club, I’m sure there will some very interesting pieces along with some very interesting stories

## MIDWEST FACETER’S GUILD 19th ANNUAL SEMINAR

*by Don Shore*

The Midwest Faceters Guild will hold their 2008 Annual Seminar on Friday, August 15 through Sunday, August 17th at Elmhurst College-190 Prospect Ave-Elmhurst, IL 60126. Registration, check in, introductions and machine set up begins Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. Classes start at 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday at the College, located across the street from The Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Wilder Park. The College is air conditioned, so dress comfortably. Classes include all levels of faceting skill. Beginners will be provided a machine to borrow as well as rough. More advanced faceters must bring their own machines. Other classes include glass fusing, chain making, beading workshops, steam casting and gem cad. The schedule is subject to change. A banquet will be held after classes on Saturday at The Abbey-407 W. St Charles Rd-Elmhurst. Members of the West Suburban Lapidary Club will help coordinate the events.

Registration forms and an information packet can be found at the Guild's website: [www.midwestfacetersguild.org](http://www.midwestfacetersguild.org), by visiting: [www.westsuburbanlapidaryclub.com](http://www.westsuburbanlapidaryclub.com), or by calling John Zaborowski at (440) 949-8242 or Don Shore (630) 279-1610. Elmhurst, IL is a great family oriented community located minutes away from downtown Chicago, Midway Airport, O'Hare Intl Airport and is full of quality restaurants, museums and nearby shopping. Local hotels and attractions are included in the information packet. Prices are very reasonable. Participating in the Midwest Faceter's Guild 2008 Seminar is a great way to become introduced to this fascinating hobby without breaking the bank.

## STONE-OF-THE-MONTH

The stone-of-the-month for April is Tanzanite. Coincidentally, the speaker from the April program is an employee of Tiffany’s, who many say are responsible for introducing Tanzanite to the colored stone market back in the late 1960’s as well as coining it’s name.

Tanzanite is the blue/purple variety of the mineral zoisite discovered in the Meralani (Merelani) Hills (Merelani) of northern Tanzania in 1967, near the city of Arusha. It is a popular and valuable gemstone when cut, although its durability is somewhat lacking; its tendency to break sometimes precludes appropriate use as a ring stone. Tanzanite is noted for its remarkably strong trichroism, appearing alternately sapphire blue, violet, and sage-green depending on crystal orientation. However, most tanzanite is subjected to artificial heat treatment to improve its colour, and this significantly subdues its trichroism.

Please bring in your rough, stones, or wear your tanzanite pieces to the next meeting and check out the story on pg 8

## TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

<b>May:</b>	Dillon, Rich & Linda	Kaplan, James	Strickert, Larry & Gloria
Blake, Jim & Jimmy	Gass, Tony	Polley, Joan	
Dempsey, Lynn	Giannoni, Ed	Reisner, Virginia	

## 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](http://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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ed Gallagher



I cannot believe how quickly this year is flying by for us! There are just a few weeks of spring left. Although the club does not officially meet during the summer, there is a lot going on that may be of interest to you!

By the time you get this, the Elmhurst Art Museum's 11th annual Art in the Park festival will be a fond memory for all those that attended. I hope that I have half as much fun as I did last year.

Coming up in July or August, on a date to be determined soon, is the Elmhurst Park District Art Camp. This is an event where volunteers help put the fun that we have working with stone and jewelry directly into the hands of children.

We also have our annual upcoming event with the Lizzadro Museum and we are working on plans for another summer picnic. Tentative date is Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at The Abrell's. The picnic last year was such fun for everyone that we have to try to do it again.

And let's not forget the Midwest Faceters Guild 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar being held at Elmhurst College with members of the WSLC assisting!

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes out to all those people that volunteered and/or participated in these events in the past and the events we are about to enjoy!

Everyone should get ready for a great summer! Did I forget to mention our club's 50th anniversary is coming up? Field trip anyone?

### MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2008

#### BOARD MEETING

by Barb Freeman

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Karen Dave' at 7:50 PM. President Ed Gallagher presided later. Those in attendance included: Jose Ponce', Susan Wilson, Mary Prosek, Karen Dave, Lee Herrera, Terry Licko, Don Shore, Ed Gallagher and Barbara Freeman

A motion was made by Susan Wilson and second by Lee Herrera to approve the Board meeting minutes of February, as published in the March issue of the OPAL. Motion carried unanimously.

*Treasurer's report:* Jose Ponce, treasurer, present a written and verbal update. The report is held for audit.

*Opal Editor report:* Thanks again for those who submit articles. Member involvement in the club is appreciated.

*Webmaster report:* The website is updated on a regular basis.

*Midwest Federation report:* Terry Licko reported on the current status of the Federation. After 22 years of Midwest Federation representation, Terry submitted her resignation as travel is becoming more difficult. Sincere thanks were expressed by the Board members for Terry's many years of conscientious service. Joanne Samuel graciously agreed to continue with these responsibilities.

*Previous business:* The March meeting was well attended and the speaker, Joe Eddy Brown, presented an enjoyable, inspirational, and informative program. The numerous slides gave examples of his works.

*Lapidary School:* Karen Dave' will discuss with the Park District again about the errors that are made both in the catalog and the website, regarding scheduling and fees.

*Summer activities:* Discussion was held about club participation for Art in the Park, Art Camp, and the Lizzadro demonstrations, and a summer picnic for club members and significant others. Volunteers are requested for these fun activities, which publicize our club.

*New Business:* The Midwest Faceters group has registration available for the August 15-17 event. A schedule of classes is being developed and confirmed. It will be a fun and fact filled weekend. Mark your calendar now; and better yet, plan to volunteer. A volunteer sign up sheet will be available at the next club meeting.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2009) of club: Brief discussion was held about possible ways to celebrate. Joanne Samuel, will research who were the Past Presidents and the years served, for a chronological frame of reference.

Club Constitution review: Due to the length of the Board meeting, discussion was held about the beginning three articles of Section IV addressing the Board of Directors elections or appointments.

Earth Day event in Franklin Park: Our club was invited to participate on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. While this is very short preparation time, the club will participate by having flyers available and volunteers to publicize the club's activities. If the event occurs annually, there will be more planning time in the future.

The next club meeting will be held Friday May 30th the last Friday of the month due to scheduling conflicts with the Elmhurst Park District.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 after a motion by Mary Prosek, and second by Barbara Freeman.

### ARE YOU A SHUTTERBUG?

If you take pictures at any of the meetings or events that are associated with the West Suburban Lapidary Club, please send them to The Opal Editor for possible publication. That would also include any trips you might take that you think would be of interest to members - *thank you-Mary Prosek, Editor, The Opal*

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2008****GENERAL MEETING***by Barb Freeman*

President Ed Gallagher called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM. Minutes of the prior meeting were approved following a motion by Joanne Samuel and second by Susan Wilson.

Jose Ponce read the treasurer's report. He also reported there were 28 members signed in, and three representatives from Tiffany's.

Karen Dave reported that Art in the Park will be held May 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>. Members who will demonstrate lapidary skills will meet after the general meeting to plan for the event. Other members are encouraged to volunteer any available hours during the weekend fun event. This event provides publicity for the club, as there is good attendance. The club also participated in a local Earth Day for the first time.

There is a sign up available for the next session of the beading class. Classes for the fall beading class will be planned around specific projects.

Midwest Federation. There was no report at this time. Terry Licko has served the club as the liaison member for the past 23 years and now has decided to resign from that position. She was thanked for her service, and a cake was provided to recognize her many years of volunteer efforts.

Midwest Faceters Guild: Registration forms are available at the meeting. Members are encouraged to register soon, to obtain their choice of classes. Sign up for volunteers will occur at the next meeting. Reserve the dates for this worthwhile event: August 15-17.

Susan Wilson introduced the speaker for the evening, Cathy Bushman, a graduate gemologist and manager at Tiffany's in Oak Brook, IL. Kathy presented slides and commentary on the work of Jean Schlumberger, a famous jewelry designer at Tiffany's. His works were enjoyed by the elite of his day. Selected pieces are on display at their store and at museums. In addition, a sampling of exquisite jewelry was shown to the attendees. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM for socialization and further discussion about lapidary.

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME: A FUN TIME**

The May General Meeting has been moved to Friday, May 30th and will be at the usual time at The Abbey. Those attending will be guaranteed a fun time and good company. Don't miss it!

**A GEM OF A PROGRAM!***by Barb Freeman*

Program Review: Tiffany representative, Cathy Bushman presented a talk and slide show on the jewelry designs of Jean Schlumberger. The program incorporated information gleaned from recent issues of The Opal such as the article on kunzite, and how they related to Tiffany company. George Kunz, for whom kunzite was named, was a former president of Tiffany's.

Kathy spoke about the Schlumberger designs which were fanciful and elaborate. He brought precious jewelry to the elite as an art form. The designs often included mythological creatures from the sea and forest. He used unusual and prized stones for his whimsical interpretation of natural forms, flora and fauna. Mr. Schlumberger was a celebrated designer for Tiffany's where he had a workshop and was one of only four designers who was allowed to sign their work. He died in 1987.

One particularly famous piece is a brooch, entitled *Bird on a Rock*. It incorporates the impressive 128.54 carat yellow diamond in a fanciful setting. Other slides depicted works of art and quotes by Jean or about his work.



Mary Prosek tries on a brooch inspired by "Bird on a Rock"

Perhaps most stunning was that the representatives brought several pieces of jewelry from the Schlumberger collection for the enjoyment of those in attendance. These valuable pieces included a multi strand necklace of rubies, clip earrings, rings with large stones surrounded by diamonds.

One ring had 2 bees on the sides, and a brooch similar to the Bird on a Rock but with different gems (see picture). This display was a special treat for club members.

In addition, a book was presented to the club. The 2007 book entitled "Tiffany Colored Gems" by John Loring will be available in the club library for review. It is richly detailed with stunning photographs.

The Tiffany representatives were extremely gracious and generous with their time as they welcomed members to any of their stores for your shopping pleasure. Start looking now for that special gift for yourself or a loved one, or favorite newsletter editor.



Karen Dave (left) & Mary Prosek check out the pieces

As a follow up to the program, a brief internet search showed a Schlumberger elephant head brooch made of platinum, 18 K yellow gold, diamonds and sapphire accents for a mere \$95,000.

(photos by Jose Ponce)



## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO TERRY LICKO**

*by The WSLC Board*

Please join the Board of the West Suburban Lapidary Club in extending our special thanks and recognition to Terry Licko for her many years of service to the club and also for acting as a liaison between the WSLC and the Midwest Federation (MWF).

Terry recently advised the Board that she regrettably will not be serving the club in that capacity after the year is up. A cake was presented to Terry during refreshment time at the April General Meeting.

Terry is seen in the picture at the right with West Suburban Lapidary Club President Ed Gallagher admiring the cake. Not only was it good looking, but it tasted mighty fine as well.



Terry has not only served as MWF liaison, she has also spent countless hours doing demonstrations at shows, museums and events throughout the area. Her expert silver work and lapidary skills have been recognized in several competitive events throughout her "career". She has been a smiling face and willing participant in many many WSLC events.

Terry also has given several programs at monthly meetings which detailed her work or one of her contemporary's.

We want to thank her with all our hearts for her devotion to the club throughout the years and hope she will still be a fixture at meetings and events for years to come.

Bravo Terry. You're one of a kind! A real "gem"!



## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

*by Joanne Samuel*

The West Suburban Lapidary Club would like to extend a warm welcome to new members Evangelina (Eva) & Robert Munoz-Martinez. Having worked for many years, Eva now enjoys the time she has to spend at home in domestic pursuits. Eva has taken the silver class thought the Lapidary School several times and has become quite accomplished in her work and design. Eva's favorite stone is an Emerald, her birthstone.

We would also like to welcome Isidro and Rosalua Ballesteros, both of Chicago.

## **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**



*by Don Shore*

There are two major bills, which as present are working their way through Congress that you need to be aware of as they could severely restrict access to public owned lands.

The first one is HR2016, National Landscape Conservation System. If passed, this bill will essentially place 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM under a "National Park" type system which will eliminate or severely limit any type of recreational mining.

The second bill that we should be concerned about is HR5610, Designation of Wilderness Areas, which according to a recent Blue Ribbon Coalition Action alert which will make certain lands designated as Wilderness Areas which would almost completely eliminate public access.

Once the 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM are placed under a "National Park" type system by HR2016, it is very reasonable to assume that at some date in the not too distant future these sites will also be designated "Wilderness Areas" by a bill similar to HR5610. The public may be allowed to visit certain parts of these areas to look, but not to touch. The really disturbing part about all of this is that the millions of acres covered by these two bills are only a small portion of a grandiose plan by special interest groups to eventually join numerous areas like these into plots far larger than your wildest dreams.

*Excerpts from the May 2008 edition of the AFMS newsletter - written by John Wright, Conservation & Legislation Chair, AFMS*



## **Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies News**

*by Terry Licko*

The Midwest Federation's Annual Societies Convention will be held in conjunction with the Nebraska Association of Earth Science Clubs from June 20th through the 22nd. The event will be held at: Pershing Center (lower level) - 226 Centennial Mall South - Lincoln, NE. Hours are Friday & Saturday 9 am to 7 pm and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is \$5 for adults, children 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult. A 3 day pass is \$12. The event will feature nationally known dealers of gemstones, minerals, agates, fossils, jewelry, gem and making equipment and supplies. There will also be lots of demonstrations, educational programs and a lot of children's activities.

Other events include State Directors and Delegates meetings, an awards banquet, newsletter editors workshops and several field trips starting on Tuesday, June 17th & Wednesday June 18th. Pre-registration for the field trips is required. Detailed information can be found at the MWF website: [www.amfed.org/mwf/show2008.htm](http://www.amfed.org/mwf/show2008.htm).

**MGAGS ROCKHOUND SEMINAR***by Mary Prosek*

For those of you who may not know what this event is, please have a look at the flyers available at the May meeting or contact MGAGS direct.

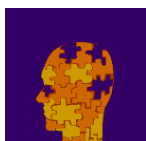
The Rockhound Seminar is a weekend long schedule of classes and seminars that deal with the lapidary arts, silversmithing, beading, wire-wrap, faceting, gem trees, doublets and all kinds of other items related to the hobby. There are lectures, demos and hands on classes. Programs cover a full range of topics which are of interest to the beginner as well as more advance individuals. It's a great way to "test" out a class to see if it's something you would be interested in pursuing.

The cost is relatively inexpensive. A weekend pass costs \$25 in advance and covers both days, all classes. A small fee is sometimes charged for supplies, depending on the class taken. The seminar is being held in Wyoming, MI which is a suburb of Grand Rapids and a short drive from Chicago. The event will take place Saturday and Sunday, June 28th & 29th.

I personally attended this seminar previously and can absolutely recommend this weekend to anyone.

I found myself going from class to class learning about different things and getting some great hands on experience without investing a lot of money.

For info: contact Don Brown 734-421-8159 or Art Edlund at 989-792-8074

**A PIECE OF MY MIND***by Mary Prosek*

I can't believe it's time to take a summer break already. I can't believe the price of gas! I can't believe my children are so old! I can't believe I'm so old! I can't believe I am still living in my house! I can't believe it snowed so late in April! I can't believe how quick a month goes when I have to put a newsletter together!

One of the things I do believe is the spirit and kindness of WSLC members. For those who know me and what I go through in a typical week, many can't believe that: 1) I am still sane 2) I get any sleep 3) Am able to get out The Opal 4) Am able to help with the Lapidary School 5) Have not been abandoned by my poor husband who hardly sees me anymore 6) All of the above. It is because of various members that I have made it through the last couple of months. **Erik Spande** has come through time and time again with great articles. **Joanne Samuel** has taken on the member directory update. **Karen Dave** and various Board Members have pitched in with stories, articles, publicity and just general help. **Jose Ponce** has sent me great pics for the newsletter. And I'm sure I forget some, so please forgive me. (Still working on the sane part )- XXXO - Mary

**MEET YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS:****Name: Barbara Freeman****What year did you join the WSLC?** 2005

**Other club or society affiliations?** None. Did attend the Rockhound Seminar in Michigan a couple of years back. It was great. Also went to Tucson in 2005 and 2006

**Interest/Hobbies:** Lapidary, quilting, new and refurbish collectibles, starting to look at genealogy

**Favorite rock:** Amethyst, my birthstone

**Favorite tool:** My set of pliers. They come in handy for a variety of tasks.

**What book is on your nightstand:** Mostly mysteries; Grafton, Evonovich, Grisham

**What magazines do you read?** AARP! Now I'm officially a senior

**Is your significant other in the hobby or do they humor you?** Family shows interest; "How did you do that?", "What is that?"

**Do you have a workshop?** Not yet. My dining room table is big and I improvise; used the lapidary school!

**One thing you can't live without:** containers and computer

**Favorite food:** Pizza, so versatile and sweets

**Favorite pastime:** beading, quilting, reading, travel, landscape, walking

**Least favorite thing:** housework

**What is/was your profession:** Nurse, public health, teaching

**One thing no one knows about you:** I just retired and am searching for a new focus, other than finish a multitude of projects

**Weirdest thing in your home:** A most unusual Russian type plaque pressed into beeswax

**Biggest collection in your home:** So many loose stones, vintage jewelry and linens, quilts, painting, photos

**One thing you still have from your childhood:** A plaid skirt, second grade class picture

**Favorite TV shows:** Desperate Housewives

**Your involvement with the WSLC:** Secretary

**Favorite thing about the WSLC:** Variety of topics, members interests and expertise

**Least favorite thing about the WSLC:** 40 miles from home

**Personal Motto:** Enjoy the day!

**VICE PRESIDENT KAREN DAVE  
STEPS DOWN**

Vice-President Karen Dave has decided to step down from the position and will fill the role of 3rd year Board Member which is a shared position with Susan Wilson. Joanne Samuel, who once shared the 3rd year position has been appointed to fill the role of Vice-President by President Ed Gallagher.

Please extend your best wishes and any assistance you can provide The Board during this transition.

## STONE OF THE MONTH - TANZANITE

by Erik Spande

When you think of a brilliant blue gemstone what comes to mind? For most people the answer is likely sapphire, which is a good answer. Another good answer would be *tanzanite*, which is a brilliant and iconic blue gemstone. Tanzanite was discovered in 1967, and it was eventually identified as a variety of zoisite. It is, therefore, a relatively new gem with a short but glorious history. Part of the mystique of *tanzanite* is the fact that it is only found on one local, for which is it named – Tanzania, which is located on the south-eastern side of Africa. Adding to the allure was the interest shown in the gem by none other than



Henry Platt of *Tiffany and Company*, who immediately appreciated the beauty of the gem and subsequently coined the name "tanzanite", an obvious allusion to its country of origin. Tiffany's helped publicize and popularize the gem, and it has been well known and well regarded ever since.

Tanzanite is a variety of zoisite, which is a hydrous calcium aluminum silicate mineral that forms in high temperature and pressure metamorphic environments in association with schists, gneisses, and quartzites. It can also form in hydrothermal vents and is associated with sulfides and can be an alteration product of calcic plagioclases. The mineral has elongated and prismatic crystals, but can be found in formless and granular masses. It has a respectable hardness (Mohs scale 6-6.5), vitreous luster, and gem grade zoilite is transparent.



Tanzanite specimen

Tanzanite is best known as a vivid violet blue which is due to trace amounts of chromium and strontium, although in lesser stones the color can grade to brown or green. Other varieties of zoisite can be white, pale green, or pink.

So what makes tanzanite special? Part of the answer is the mystique of Masai tribesman finding the beautiful crystals in the one place they are found in the world – Tanzania. There is also the brilliance of the gem and the characteristic deep blue with a hint of violet. Moreover, the best tanzanite crystals have a strong trichroism, which means they can show three colors depending on orientation. Some gems

will be blue, violet and sage green depending direction of view. Most tanzanite (and especially lower grades that are less blue) is heat treated to improve its color, and this heat treatment can diminish or destroy the trichroism. Heat treatment can easily cause fissures to form if inclusions are present, or the color can be destroyed by a moment of inattention. For the cutter the crystal's strong cleavage in one direction can be a challenge, as can trying to highlight the trichroism while retaining the best color. That said, tanzanite can be cut into almost any form, from a classical round to a more fanciful shape.



Tanzanite rough and cut gem



## WSLC Summer Picnic

by Susan Wilson

The Annual WSLC Summer Picnic is just around the corner. Gary and Lorel Abrell have graciously agreed to host the event at their home in Morris, Illinois.

For those of you who attended last year, you know how much fun it was. "Captain" Gary gave people rides on his pontoon boat on the lake. There were games and lots of fun activities.

The food was great. Everyone brought a dish to pass. The Abrell's generously provided the chicken and yummy cake. President Ed Gallagher, also known as "Mr. Party in a Truck", barbecued some interesting meats.

It was great just to get to know everyone in a relaxed, comfortable and beautiful setting and also meet their significant others.

Maps and detailed information will be sent out during the month of June for those interested. Morris is just a little further north than Joliet, right off of I55.

The date is tentatively Sunday, July 27th.

Hope to see you all there - Susan

## SUMMER TRIPS

Going somewhere good this summer? Taking an interesting class? Working on a special project you've been saving just for the summer? Write it down, take some pictures and send them in to your favorite newsletter editor (that would be ME for those of you who might not realize you your favorite is). If it's not related to the Lapidary Arts, don't worry, send it anyway. If it is, then bonus.

Have a safe and wonderful Summer! - Mary Prosek



## WSLC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MEETING LOCATION:

THE ABBEY: 407 West St. Charles Road, Elmhurst, IL 60126  
Ab- bey 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, May 30, 2008

### WSLC BOARD MEETINGS:

The Abbey  
The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.  
Next Meeting: Friday, September 5, 2008

## UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

**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 Street 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

**Aug 15-17: Elmhurst, IL-Mid-West Faceters Guild** - "19th Annual Seminar" - Elmhurst College-190 Prospect Ave-Elmhurst. Featuring weekend long classes that include faceting for beginners, intermediate & advanced as well as beading, glass fusing, chain making and others. Reasonable class rates. Must register by July 15, 2008 Info: John Zaborowski 440-949-8242 bor@roadrunner.com, Linda Sharkey 989-382-9141 visit: [www.midwestfacetersguild.org/](http://www.midwestfacetersguild.org/)

### LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART - SUMMER 2008 EVENTS

**June 7 "Stone Hunt":** This hands-on activity allows children and adults to search for gemstones and mineral specimens among more common rocks and minerals. Learn the difference between rocks and minerals and how to distinguish between them. Each rock or mineral found is identified and can be taken home. Activity - Ages 5 yrs. to Adult - 50 minutes. 2:00 p.m. - Reservations Recommended, \$4.00 per person, Museum Members Free

**June 21 "Geode Collecting Field Trip":** Collect geodes near the Mississippi River in Illinois. A hilltop quarry yields abundant and fascinating geodes. A geode cracker will be on hand to open geodes in the quarry. Other minerals and fossils are available to collect. Trip fees include tour guides, collecting fee and motor coach. Field Trip - Ages 8 yrs. to Adult - 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fee: \$98.00 per person, Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

**July 12 "Fossil Discovery":** This interactive presentation allows children to learn how fossils are formed, where to look for fossils, and study fossils. Activities include: a fossils quiz game to win prizes, polishing amber, searching for shark teeth, and breaking casts for dinosaur bones. Children can keep all the fossils they find and win. Interactive Lecture/Activity - Ages 7 yrs. to Adult - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Fee: \$15.00 per person - Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616 ,

**July 26 "Fossil Collecting Field Trip":** Travel by motor coach and collect fossils at the Lone Star Quarry in LaSalle, Illinois. The quarry contains Pennsylvanian Period (300 million years old) marine fossils in shale and limestone. Collectable fossils include: several types of brachiopods, gastropods, corals, crinoids, and shark teeth. Field Trip - Ages 8 yrs. to Adult - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fee: \$38.00 per person - Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

The Museum is located at: 220 Cottage Hill - Elmhurst, Illinois 60126 - in Wilder Park, across from Elmhurst College or visit their website at: [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)

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For More Information: CALL 630-377-0197 WEBSITE [www.chicagolandgemshow.org](http://www.chicagolandgemshow.org)EMAIL [cgma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgma@sbcglobal.net)

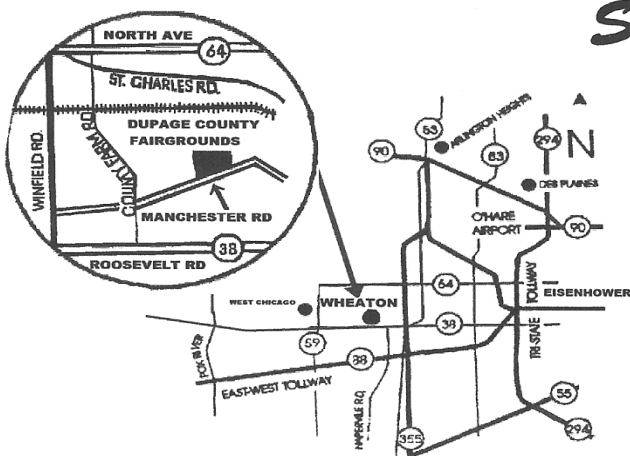
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Chicagoland Gems &amp; Minerals Association (CGMA)

# **BEADS - CRYSTALS - GEMS JEWELRY - FOSSILS - MINERALS**

*Save The Date!*

**Memorial Day Weekend**  
 Saturday, May 24, 2007 10 AM - 6 PM  
 Sunday, May 25, 2007 10 AM - 5 PM

**Dupage County Fairgrounds**  
 2015 W. Manchester Road  
 Wheaton, IL

**20+ Nationally Known Dealers:** Details on Back

**Demonstrations:** Details on Back

**Exhibits:**

**Silent Auctions:**

**Children's Activities:**

Adults - \$5.00  
 Seniors - \$3.00  
 Students - \$3.00  
 Children (Under 13) - FREE!  
 Service Personnel w/ID - FREE!

**FREE PARKING**

**INDOORS - AIR CONDITIONED - FOOD AVAILABLE**  
**CAMPING AVAILABLE**

CALL 630-377-0197 EMAIL [cgma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgma@sbcglobal.net) WEBSITE [www.chicagolandgemshow.org](http://www.chicagolandgemshow.org)

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