Official publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club

Pat Koko, Opal Editor

Volume LI, Number 7

First Class Dated Material



Established in 1959

in our 53rd year and still rockin'!

The Opal is published January thru May; September thru November

Next Club Meeting

Friday, October 26, 2012 8 pm, doors open at 7:00 The Abbey 407 W. St Charles Rd Elmhurst, IL 60126

Next Board Meeting
November 2, 2012
Meeting starts at 7:00 pm
Wagner Center
615 Northwest Ave
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Meetings are usually held the 4th Friday of the month, January thru May, Sept thru November. Please check The Opal for changes.

West Suburban Lapidary Club Membership Info

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, Karen Davé.

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 WSLC website (see pg 2)

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

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.

President Ed Gallagher

Vice- President Vikki Peterson

Treasurer Karen Dave'
Secretary Ellen Clough

OPAL Editor Pat Koko

MWF Liaison Lee Herrera

Board Member (3rd of 3 year term) Rich Dillon
Board Member (2nd of 3 year term) Jose Ponce'

Board Member (1st of 3 year term) OPEN Position to be filled

Past President Open

Committee Chairpersons

CGMA Delegate: Hospitality: Silent Auction/Club Show:

Rich Dillon Ed Gallagher to be announced

CGMA Alternate: The OPAL: Field Trip:
Mark Gordon & Debbie Ballot Pat Koko position open

Kitchen Supplies: Librarian: Ed Gallagher Gwyn Roland

Gem of the Month: Activities Coordinator: Karen Dave'
Sakina Bharani Karen Dave'

Instructors:

Historian:
Joanne Samuel

Publicity:

Lizzadro Museum Liaison:
Jack Maher

Historian:
Joanne Samuel

Joanne Samuel

Mary Prosek
Jose Ponce

Don Shore Don Shore

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 who do not have e-mail. Otherwise the newsletter is sent as a pdf by e-mail. 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

Established in 1959

Rockin' into our 53rd year

OCTOBER PROGRAM—TERRY LICKO'S ARTISTRY

Back in 2009, Terry shared her DVD with the club and the projector broke....We will now be able to revisit this requested program. So, the October program will be a DVD presentation by longtime WSLC member Terry Licko, an accomplished silversmith and lapidary who has won many awards for her intricate and detailed original designs.

The professionally made DVD is a compilation of Terry's work over the years. She will explain where her inspiration came from, what problems she encountered, and how she solved them. Don't miss it!

STONES OF THE MONTH FOR 2012

OCTOBER—Thundereggs NOVEMBER—Bertrandite

Stone of the month THUNDEREGGS by Sakina Bharani, G.G

A thunderegg is a nodule like geological structure, that is formed within a rhyolitic lava coating.

According to Pacific Northwest native legend the spirits lived at the highest reaches of Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson and when they became angry at each other, they threw these spherical rocks at each other. They obtained these weapons by stealing eggs from the thunderbird's nests. Thus the source of the name 'thundereggs'.

History: Oregon deposit for thundereggs was recognized in 1893. Thunderegg was designated Oregon's official state rock in 1965. Without a question the thunderegg is by far the most popular rock in Oregon. However thunderegg is not actually a rock. It is a nodule like geological structure, similar to geode that is formed within the lava capsule.

Appearances and composition: Thundereggs are rough spheres usually with a russet colored shell that is often knobby and at times has a characteristic ribbed pattern. Frequently, the inside of the —(Cont'd on Page 8)



(Cont'd from Page 8)

a-double-chambered-thunderegg

President's Message

I'm not sure which is more frightening; Halloween or the knowledge that once it passes us by winter and the "BIG Holidays" are bearing down on us. Regardless which scares you more, the upcoming Holiday Season



is exciting for many of us. In many ways we are very lucky in that as the season of giving approaches, we can not only give gifts to those around us, but we can give of our time and talents in creating objects of beauty and charm. At this time of the year I find myself gathering together my materials and my mind. Trying to spark my imagination into creation. All in order to bring presence to the presents for friends and family.

Whether the gifts you give are expressions of love, kindness, friendship or thanks, please don't forget to give to those in need.

I hope to see you all at the Club Holiday Luncheon..

Ed Gallagher, President WSLC

Board Meeting Minutes — September 14, 2012 Ellen Clough, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm. Board members present were: Ellen Clough, Karen Davé, Ed Gallagher, Lee Herrera, Pat Koko, Jose Poncé, and Vikki Peterson.

- 1. There were no minutes to approve from the May general meeting.
- 2. Karen Davé presented the **treasurer's report** with an update on the finances for the club. P. Koko moved to file for an audit, V. Peterson seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 3. L. Herrera presented the **Midwest Federation report**, including a recap of the Celebration of Agates show in Minnesota over the summer. The Board felt it would be worthwhile to buy the DVD from the event for the WSLC library.
- 4. P. Koko presented The **Opal editor's report** and stated that the Opal was distributed earlier in the week. The club calendar for the remainder of 2012 was published in the Opal, including the date of the Christmas luncheon, which will be the second Sunday in December (the 9th).
- 5. There was no **Webmaster report**.

6. Previous Business

- O The May general meeting was very well received. Both the mini-auction and Split the Pot were held.
- O Audit and budget planning will be completed when the computer has been updated.
- O Next general meeting—To be held on September 28, 2012. The Board will have responsibility for this planning the food and content for this meeting. There will be a miniauction and Split the pot

O New Business

- O Upcoming events The "stone of the month" for the upcoming months will be agreed at the Oct. Board meeting.
- November 17th, 10-4 is Lapidary Day at the Lizzadro Museum
- The holiday luncheon will be December 9th.
- The Club will have a booth on the Lizzadro Museum grounds during Art in the Park in May, 2013.
- School status
- O The 10 week silver and stone classes have started and are full. Two wirewrapping classes will each run for five weeks.

O The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 5. The next general meeting is Oct. 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

General Meeting Minutes—Sept. 28, 2012

Ellen Clough, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 8:10pm

Announcements were made concerning:

Mini Auction – bidding to end 15 minutes after the presentation. There was a "Split the pot." There were no general meeting minutes published in the Opal.

Six reports were presented:

Membership Report: 36 members and 3 visitors were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: The total amounts in the checking account and in a CD were announced.

Library Report: Please return overdue books

Lapidary School Report: The 10 week fall session is running now. The silver and stone classes are full. Wire wrapping is running in two 5 week segments. The second five week session will start on October 17. Anyone wanting to sign up should do so soon, since registration for the class will close 1 week before the start or on October 10.

Midwest Federation Report was presented by Lee Herrera. Lee gave an overview of the Celebration of Agates show in Minnesota this summer. Very Important: Lee is Chairman for the committee that is going to choose the recipient of the "Rockhound of the Year" award. If you know someone you would like to nominate, please contact Lee for nominating information.

The CGMA report was presented by Rich Dillon. He thanked the many volunteers from WSLC that helped with the spring event. The wholesale area was a big success and will be incorporated into future events.

Several people well-known to the club are ill: Lucy and Lyle Backus and Larry Strickert. If you would like to send a card, please contact a Board member to get the address. Business and Reminders:

(Cont'd on Page 4)

(Cont'd from Page 5)

Lapidary Day at the Lizzadro Museum will be on Novem-

ber 17, 10am to 4pm. Volunteers are needed for demonstrations and to help with the activities for children.

- —-The next Board Meeting is October 5, 2012 at 7 pm
- —The next general meeting is October 26, 2012 at the Abbey. **Save the Date**: The Holiday party will be on Dec 9th at Angelo's Ristorante in Elmhurst.

Program:

The Stone of the Month was Agate The gem display was a display of agates.

The program was a presentation by Gwyn Kaitis about mosaics. Kaitis is a founding faculty member of the Chicago Mosaic School and vice president of the Society of American Mosaic Artists. . She was scheduled to give a presentation at the Lizzadro museum on September 29th and so agreed to give a part of that presentation at our meeting. It was great. Thank you Gwyn!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.



MWF 2013 CONVENTION

2013 – Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club in Lincoln, Nebraska will host the 2013 Convention April 6-7. The Marburgers had packets for any clubs and executive committee members present. The rest will be mailed. Jim Marburger said they will give away 2,000 emeralds in honor of their 55th anniversary. The show and meetings are in a fantastic building with plenty of free parking. The banquet is set up for the same building. The host hotel is about 41/2 miles away. There will be field trips prior to the show. Tom Whitlatch noted that he and Julie were demonstrators at this year's show. The facility is easy to get to, and well lighted. He encouraged people to attend.

AFMS RECOGNITION AWARDS WINNER

Submitted by Bob Miller and rewritten by Carolyn Weinberger Previously printed in the A.F.M.S.

Newsletter, - Volume 65, Number 8 – September 2012

Our 2012 Recognition Award recipient is no stranger to the AFMS since she's been involved with the Federation for the past 20+ years. A mineral collector, she and her late husband, Bill, began their involvement exhibiting at shows and then becoming judges for competitive displays at first the regional and then AFMS levels. Her interest led her to get involved with the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee (URC) where she has helped refine the competitive exhibiting rules, kept the records of who has displayed, scores earned and trophies won. On numerous occasions she has served as Secretary for the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee. This year, she was chairman of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee and, in that capacity, formulated the agenda, worked with numerous URC committees charged with reviewing the existing rules, and kept all on the committee apprised of proposed changes to the rules.

It gives us great pleasure to bestow the 2012 AFMS Recognition Award to Anne Cook.

MINERAL EXPLORATION IN WISCONSIN

Bill Cordua, PhD., University of Wisconsin- River Falls

Mineral exploration in Wisconsin has recently yielded encouraging results. Aquila Resources Inc., a Canadian-based company with local offices in Wisconsin and Michigan, is actively prospecting at two northern Wisconsin sites. These are the Bend deposit in Taylor County and the Reef deposit in Marathon County. Both are known primarily from geophysical and drill core data. If either or both of these deposits are eventually worked, they could yield some interesting minerals for collectors

CANCELED STAMPS

Still looking for cancelled stamps.

MWF CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

Lee Herrera was nominated to be MWF CLUB ROCK-HOUND OF THE YEAR Chairperson. I will have more information once I receive the criteria for nomination. I do know that each club can nominate one person from their club to be

EXECUTIVE MEETING

I attended my first Executive Meeting in Springfield Illinois on October 6. Primary focus was the Celebration of Agates show earlier this year

Board Meeting Minutes—-October 5, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Board members present were: Karen Davé, Ed Gallagher, Lee Herrera, Jose Poncé, and Vikki Peterson.

- 1. There were no minutes to approve from the May general meeting.
- 2. Karen Davé presented the treasurer's report with an update on the finances for the club. The winners of Split the Pot at the Sept. meeting donated it (plus \$5) to cover 2 memberships as a grant to the club. Thank you!
- 3. L. Herrara presented the Midwest Federation report.
- O Nov shows: Cleveland 11/2-4, Taylor MI 11/3, Midland MI 11/3-4. Sturtevant WI 11/3-4
- O Annual MWF convention in April in Lincoln Nebraska
- O AFMS recognition award to Anne Cook
- Article on exploration in Wisconsin
- O The Opal editor was not present.
- O The Webmaster was not present.
- O Previous Business
- O The September General Meeting was wonderful. Thank you to Gwyn Kaitis. Both the mini-auction and Split the Pot were held.
- O The Treasurer is starting to get checks from the Park District.
- O The Constitution update will be scheduled.
- O Next general meeting To be held on October 26, 2012.
- O The speaker will be Terry Licko
- O There will be a mini-auction and Split the pot

New Business

- O Upcoming events –
- The "stone of the month" for the upcoming months was agreed and the schedule will be published in the Nov. issue.
- November 17th, 10-4 is Lapidary Day at the Lizzadro Museum
- The holiday luncheon will be December 9th.
- The Club will have a booth on the Lizzadro Museum grounds during Art in the Park in May, 2013.
- Grau Mill possibly July, 2013 on a weekend.
- We will look into other community events for 2013
- CGMA
- School status
- O The 10 week silver and stone classes are in progress. There is no wire wrapping class for the second five weeks of this term.
- O The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 2nd. The next general meeting is Oct. 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

BOARD MEETS: CLUB MEETS:
October 5th October 26th
November 2nd November 30th (5th)

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON—DEC 9TH

Tentative upcoming dates—2013

2012	January	February	March	April	May	September	October	November
Board	4 th	1 st	1 st	5 th	3 rd	6 th	4 th	1 st
General	25 th	22 nd	22 nd	26 th	17 th	27 th	25 th	29 th

WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB

TEAM LIST - 2012

Team Duties: Our programs are a team effort. We depend on and need each other's help to make them work. Each month's team, as listed below, is responsible for the meeting set-up, program, refreshments, and takedown. Out-of-state and honorary members are requested to contribute to any team.

Meeting Set-Up/Take-Down: The team members should arrive early on their program day to help set-up the chairs and tables. They also need to remain after the meeting to clean up and put everything away.

Program: Each team should meet during the two club meetings prior to their program date and plan a program. A team leader will be elected to chair the team meetings during which everyone on the team will contribute ideas for a program. The team leader is not expected to do the program; only coordinate it. The Vice-President will meet each team to confirm and approve the program. If the team is unable to formulate a program, the Vice-President should be consulted as soon as possible. A member from each team is asked to assist Past President, TBD, our Hospitality chair, at the entrance to greet members & guests.

Refreshments: The refreshments will be discussed at the team meeting and each team member will contribute an item. Any team member who cannot attend the team's program should arrange to send a refreshment or donation of money (that will be used to purchase an item). All team members should lend a hand in the kitchen. Serving dishes and utensils will be provided by the team members.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCHAquamarine		
Abrell, Lorel & Gary	Bryant, Fred	Blake, Jim & Jimmie		
Herrera, Lee & Jeanette Devane	Cronauer, Donald	Howerton, Julie		
Houseman, Carl& Gloria	Dalesandro, Jim	Koko, Patricia		
Kaplan, James	Fishman, Constance	Peterson, Vikki		
Spande, Erik	Ponce, Jose' & Lydia	Samuel, Joanne		
	Shore, Don	Wojtowicz, Peggy		
APRIL - Imperial Topaz	MAY – Sunstone (Oregon)	SEPTEMBER-Agate		
Backus, Lucy & Lyle	Blaha, Arlene	Board responsibility		
Bharani, Sakina	Davé, Karen			
Davis, Clete	Dillon, Rich & Linda			
Droszcs, Jerry	Freeman, Barbara			
Horn, Meredith	Maher, Jack & Lorraine			
Johnson, Scott	Peterson, Judee			
O'Connell, Charles & Marlene	Reisner, Virginia			
Vanderbark, DeeDee				
Wohlfart, Melanie				
OCTOBER Thunderegg	NOVEMBER – Bertrandite	DECEMBER		
	(also called-by some-Tiffany stone)	Annual Meeting		
Ballot, Debby & Gordon, Mark	Bultman, Randy & Kaitis, Gwen	Board responsibility		
Gallagher, Ed	Clough, Ellen			
Gass, Tony	Johnson, Dawn			
Gooch, Eugenia	Petry, Barb & Le Roy			
Licko, Terry & Erv	Prosek, Mary			
Schultz, Max & Alberta	Quail, Mary			
Sisinni, Linda				

outer shell has a relatively thin intermediate or transitional lining. The center of an egg is usually filled with chalcedony in form of agate, jasper or opal, either individually or in combination. Also frequently encountered are quartz and selenite crystals, as well as various other mineral growths and inclusions. Thundereggs look like ordinary rocks on the outside, but slicing them in half and polishing them may reveal intricate patterns and colors. On an average most of the thundereggs are about size of a baseball although they can range from less than an inch to over a meter across.



b-double-chambered-sickle-and-stellatethunderegg

Thundereggs are found globally wherever conditions are right. In USA, Oregon especially, remains one of the most famous thun-

deregg locations. Germany is also an important center for thunderegg agates (especially sites like St Egidien and Gehlberg.) Other countries known for their thundereggs include, some places in Africa, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Mexico, Argentina, Canada, Australia and France.

Thundereggs are made into beautiful jewelry, especially bolo ties and pendants, pen stands, bookends and other decorator pieces.





d-thunderegg-radiating-inclusions

Resources: Agates: Treasures of the the Earth by Roger Pabian et al.—-Agates and Jaspers by Ron Gibbs.——Google, Wikipedia.



e-thunderegg-with-agate-center

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Do you have any items that you no longer need/want but are still valuable to donate to the club for our monthly silent auction. We will gladly accept books that aren't too out of date, slabs of nice material, finished cabs, lapidary equipment or supplies. Let your imagination be your guide. If it has been sitting around your workshop collecting dust, perhaps your unused item is just what a fellow member needs/wants. Bring to a meeting and share with José or Karen. Thanks.





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





SCHOOL!!

ELMHURST PARK DISTRICT IN CONJUNCTION WITH WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB

FALL 10-WEEK CLASSES HAVE STARTED FOR CUTTING/POLISHING AND SILVER.

*All members of West Suburban Lapidary Club are eligible for "in-district" tuition. Please see the Elmhurst Park District website for full details. You do need a membership card available from the treasurer at any meeting. EPD- https://secure.epd.org/registration/brochidxregfs.asp

BRAD'S BENCH TIPS

TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc, but if you need other shapes, it's easy to make your own. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic, copper or brass.



The brass template let's me quickly trace the design of these ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet, and the nickel template makes it easy to drill the pin inlay pattern into the ironwood.

After finding a poor selection of stock templates for ovals at my local art store, I was pleased with the wide selection on Cool Tools at http://www.cooltools.us/ If you order, be sure to look for the 10% off code each month on their Home page. Kingsley North also has some nice templates at http://www.kingsleynorth.com/

DENTAL TOOLS

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort. A special note however - don't try to bend one of the tips to a different shape - the steel will snap. To change the shape, heat the tip to red hot and bend it with pliers while it's hot.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you.

FAKES & FRAUDS

Unfortunately, there's a growing amount of deception and outright fraud these days at gem and mineral shows and in some of the online venues that sell these items. Often "genuine turquoise beads" turn out to be dyed magnesite, and I've been told that the majority of colored stones being sold typically have had some "enhancement" done to them. If you're interested in what kind of fakes and frauds have been uncovered, there's a well-done page at http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugfakes.htm

More BenchTips can be found at facebook.com/BenchTips or groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

UPCOMING EVENTS—-NOVEMBER

- **2-4: CLEVELAND, OH.** Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Micromineral Symposium; Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, University Circle; Fri. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3; CONTACT: Dick Green, 1745 13th St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223, 330.929.2395, jgreen2@neo.rr.com.
- **3:** TAYLOR, MI. Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society's Annual Auction; Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd.; Sat. 10-5; CONTACT: Leonard Swischer, 30 Orchard, River Rouge, MI 48218, 313.841.1606, skyhook1932@aol.com.
- **3-4: MIDLAND, MI.** Mid-Michigan Rock Club's Annual Show, Midland Convention Center, 1500 W. Wackerly St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Deb Acord, 55 Star Rd., Sanford, MI 48657, 989.689.4840, jackdanred1@aol.com.
- **3-4: STURTEVANT, WI.** Racine Geological Society's Annual Show; Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand; Sat. & Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: John Lowman, 3223 Spruce St., Racine, WI 53403, 262.554.5370

LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART, 220 Cottage Hill Ave. Elmhurst, IL 60126 www.lizzadromuseum.org// 630/833-1616



ONGOING—Visiting Artist: Gwyn Kaitis (OUR OWN MEMBER!!)

"Contemporary Stone Mosaics" September 25 through December 30,

Artist, Gwyn Kaitis, is known for incorporating natural materials into her mosaics. Kaitis is a founding faculty member of the Chicago Mosaic School and Vice President of the Society of American Mosaic Artists. Her work is included in national and international art collections. Pictured left: "Meltdown" combines red calcite, pyrite, petrified wood, chalcedony, stibnite, orange quartz, and smalti (glass). The piece is a 3D sculpture measuring 11"x 6"x 6".

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

"Florentine Mosiacs" October 2, 2012 through January 6, 2013

Lizzadro Museum is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. This special exhibit features amazing pictures created from natural stone. This unique art form began in Florence, Italy centuries ago. Florentine Mosiacs are still being created today. This exhibit includes contemporary and traditional styles of figural, landscape and floral pieces. (Regular Museum Hours & Admission)

MUSEUM SHOP—Annual Holiday Sale — November 16 to December 9, 2012—-Museum members receive a 20% discount on all purchases.

NOVEMBER 17 IS LAPIDARY DAY AT LIZZADRO MUSEUM from 10 am to 4 pm. This is our day to shine. Artist members of West Suburban Lapidary Club will demonstrate various Lapidary techniques. From cabochon cutting, wire wrapping, beading and silversmithing to free jewelry cleaning we will showcase our club and our art.

DECEMBER 1, "Create a Gem Tree" with Lois and Bill Zima. From 1 to 3 pm this workshop is \$20 per person (\$15 for Museum Members) Reservations required -(630) 833-1616.