

Official Publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club
Elmhurst, Illinois

Volume XXXXVI

No. 6

September 2007

NEXT CLUB MEETING

September 28, 2007 - 8 pm
(doors open at 7:00)

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



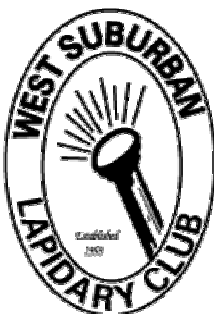
Members of:
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
Chicagoland Gem and Mineral Association
Scribe



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 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 - 2007

President	Ed Gallagher
Vice- President	Karen Dave'
Treasurer	Barbara Petry
Secretary	Barbara Freman
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

Kitchen Supplies:

Ed Gallagher

Gem of the Month:

Yo Watanabe

Tony Gass

Historian:

Lillian Keck

Publicity:

Mary Prosek

Webmaster:

Don Shore

Hospitality:

needed, please step forward

The OPAL:

Mary Prosek

Librarian:

Gwyn Roland

Activities Coordinator:

Karen Dave'

MWF Liaison:

Terry Licko

Lizzadro Museum Liaison:

Jack Maher

Silent Auction/Club Show:

to be announced

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

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. 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

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM - Double Header - Let's Play Two!

by Mary Prosek

Game 1: MEMBER TO MEMBER SALE: In lieu of a monthly program, The WSLC Board will coordinate the 3rd annual Member to Member Sale. The event will take place at the first meeting of the 2007-08 year, which will be Friday, September 28, 2007. While WSLC members only are permitted to sell, visitors and guests are welcome to attend and purchase items. Doors will open at 7 pm for those selling to set up.

Table reservations are being coordinated by Don Shore and is on a first come, first served basis. The actual table space for each seller will be determined by the amount of people who want to sell. Each seller will get at least half of an 8 foot table. Those who show up on the night of the sale without prior reservations will be turned away. Don't have a lot to sell? Consider sharing a table with a fellow club member. It's a great way to clean your shop and make some extra cash.

Items should be in good working order or their condition disclosed to the buyer. The WSLC is not liable for any sales transactions. Each seller is responsible for their own merchandise and the handling of their own cash. Items to be sold are limited to those that are related to the lapidary arts or meet similar criteria such as tools, equipment & rough. They do not include items specifically purchased for the purpose of resale. Jewelry for sale should be hand wrought by the seller.

Game 2: WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?: Ever wonder what that strange little tool is that you purchased or found so long ago? Do you have rocks or slabs with no names? Is there a box of "Mystery Parts" that calls out your name every time you walk by? Do you stay awake most nights pondering these infinite questions the universe has thrust upon you?

Well, lose sleep no more. Bring in those items to the first meeting and hopefully someone there will be able to help you in your quest for these answers. Please make sure each item is properly marked or labeled with your name. Everyone is responsible for their own "treasures".

Extra Innings: (Can you tell I've been subject to countless hours of baseball this summer? My husband has "ivy" growing between his toes these days. He even taught Sandy, (a.k.a. The Wonder Dog), how to roll out a tarp in the back yard every time it rains! Actually, I think some of my wiring got mixed up when I was being assembled: I don't like shopping, but I LOVE sports. Always have. If I can just get him to pay \$7 for every refreshment I serve.....)

It's **Show & Tell Time** at the first meeting. If you attended a class over the Summer, took a trip, visited a place you think others might be interested in, made a work of art, or just have something really neat to show, let the WSLC members know! Please bring in what you want to **show** and be prepared to **tell**.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

September: The WSLC Board Members are responsible for refreshments and program for the first meeting. All WSLC members are assigned to a monthly team. Please see page 9 of The Opal for a complete listing of teams.

October:		
Bischoff, Vince & Jo Ann	Gallagher, Ed	O'Connell, Chas & Marlene
Cooper, Caroline	LevVintre, Jim & Diane	Piche, Ione
Davis, Clete	Licko, Terry & Erv	

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Ed Gallagher

What did YOU do on your summer vacation?

Your fellow members are eager to know! Are there some interesting places that you visited? Do you have some new skills and techniques that you have learned? Maybe you found a new cool tool or attended an exciting show. Consider yourself invited to share your experiences with the club at our next meeting. (Or at any meeting for that matter.) If you would like to bring something for show and tell or have some digital pictures that we could show with the projector, we'll do our best to make it happen.

I am really looking forward to our next meeting. Over the summer, I've missed the camaraderie and sharing of our knowledge with fellow club members. And all those smiling faces!

We did find some time to have a little fun this summer! Some new events and some repeated from past years. While having technically occurred in the spring on May 5th and 6th, we started off the celebrations of summer with the Art in the Park event sponsored by the Elmhurst Park District. We had live demonstrations and instructional videos along with a few fun things for the kids that stopped by. Many thanks to Karen Dave' and everyone else that made it such a success for the club! I cannot wait until we do it again next year.

On July 15th we had a summer picnic at the home of Gary and Lorel Abrell in Morris, Illinois. I think I ate more at the picnic than any other day all summer. Thanks to the hard work of Joanne Samuel and Susan Wilson, the volunteers that made up the picnic committee, we had a variety of activities and food to keep us all thoroughly entertained. Many thanks to the Abrell's for graciously providing us all with the perfect venue and to everyone else that participated!

While I have yet to hear all the details, Karen Dave' has reported that the Art Camp on August 1st was also a success for all concerned. Thank you Joanne Samuels!

Many thanks to those of you for making our organization the fantastic, fun and friendly group that it is! Stay tuned for some exciting announcements regarding upcoming events! What a great time to be a WSLC member!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ever notice it's always the same people volunteering their time for events? It's up to all of us to get out there and get involved. It's fun and enjoyable when a lot of members help. It's *work* when they don't. Without the volunteers, there is no club. Please: get involved today! See a Board Member for details. Any little bit helps! *Mary Prosek - WSLC Opal Editor*

MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2007

BOARD MEETING

by Barbara Freeman

The meeting was called to order by the President, Ed Gallagher at 7:14 PM.

Board members present were: Ed Gallagher, Mary Prosek, Karen Dave', Don Shore, Jose Ponce, Barb Freeman, Susan Wilson, Lee Herrera, Barb Petry, Terry Licko, and Joanne Samuel.

Minutes of the April board meeting as published in the OPAL were approved following a motion by Barb Petry and seconded by Jose Ponce.

Treasurer's report: Details were provided by Barb Petry and will be on file for the audit.

Midwest Federation: Terry Licko presented further information on the Midwest Federation and will report at the next general meeting. A donation will be made, and a book purchased, in memory of former member Russell Kemp who recently passed away.

Opal Report: Mary Prosek reminded members that news articles for publishing in the OPAL needs to be submitted early since the next general meeting is May 18th to allow for member participation in the upcoming CGMA show. The club receives an honorarium for publication of the CGMA flyer in the newsletter.

Webmaster report: Web site is up and running. The OPAL is available online with name, address and phone numbers of members deleted for privacy.

Previous business: All those present agreed that the recent presentation by member Susan Wilson was excellent and informative. The recently purchased projector was utilized in the presentation and has proven to be a great asset for the club and monthly programs.

Mini-auction at the last meeting had items related to the program which was very successful. General donations for mini-auction items are welcome.

Split-the-pot proceeds helped to provide for purchase of the projector. It was motioned that further funds be used to purchase a green laser light for use in demonstrations. The motion was made by Karen Dave, and seconded by Susan Wilson passed.

2007 Silent (Big) Auction: The annual Silent Auction will be held Saturday, October 27th from 9-3. Donated items need to be clean and in working order. There is limited space for consignments. Demonstrators at the event will be allowed to sell their own hand honed items. Demo space is limited and is on a first come method to reserve table. There will be selected items which may be purchased on a "buy it now" basis. Those items will start with a fair price. However, when a bid price is posted, the

buy it now option is no longer in effect. Set up for the event will occur following the October general meeting. Parking space may be at a premium if other activities are occurring on the same date.

Summer events: Art in the Park will be held May 5 and 6. Final plans were made and volunteers thanked. Demonstrators are recognized.

Art Camp will be discussed further for those members who have volunteered. The club will receive payment for the one day event. No date has yet been set.

Planning and discussion was held about the Summer Picnic to be held July 15th, Sunday, starting at noon.

Thanks to members Gary and Lorel Abrell for offering use of their home and property in Morris, IL, in Grundy county for the event. Details will be forthcoming at the next general meeting and in publication of the OPAL.

Field trips: There is a field trip planned to Cedarburg WI by two park districts. There is a well stocked rock store nearby in addition to the local shops.

New member, Pat Koko, was welcomed to the club. She will teach beading this summer at the school.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM following a motion by Jose Ponce and seconded by Terry Licko.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN



MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2007

GENERAL MEETING

by Barbara Freeman



Who says the WSLC members do not think on their feet? Upon arriving at The Abbey, it was discovered that the facilities were also being used for a Garden Club Meeting. The options on hand were 1) cancel the meeting 2) arm wrestle the Garden Club for meeting rights or 3) move the meeting to another facility. The Garden Club members appeared to have impressive biceps, so it was decided to move the meeting to the Wagner Park District community building which is located about 1 mile north. Items and food were quickly packed up and transported.

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

The minutes of the last general meeting and board meeting as published in the Opal were approved following a motion by Chuck O'Connell and seconded by Meryl Muskus.

Treasurer's report: 67 members are paid for the year. New member Pat Koko was welcomed. Pat will be teaching the beading class this summer.

Library Report: Gwyn Roland reported for the library that Mary Prosek has graciously put 12 videos on DVD

so the quality of the video will be preserved. Donations of books and lapidary related magazines are welcome.

School report: Summer classes will start the week of June 25th on silversmithing, stone cutting, wirewrap, and newly offered beading. The classes will be offered in 5 week sessions.

Stone of the Month: The stone of the month was fluorite, with several members bringing in specimens to show. WSLC member, Clete Davis, brought in wonderful examples of Navajo Indian silver and turquoise. His display was only a portion of his collection but showed large and old pieces including squash blossom necklaces with and without turquoise, several large bracelets, and a large specimen used as a bolo tie. He was able to speak about the history of each of the pieces which he has been collecting for several years.

Midwest Federation: Terry Licko gave a prepared and interesting report on current legislation regarding criminalization of fossil collecting. Members are encouraged to contact their legislators to oppose these bills. Contact Terry for more specific information and refer to the recent article provided in the Opal.

CGMA: Members were reminded and updated by Sabrina Ugorek about the CGMA show over Memorial Day weekend. The club provides a showcase so individual members can include samples by giving them to Sabrina for display. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Members who participated in marketing the program were thanked. Postcards were sent to 1400 people who previously attended. The mailing list is now compiled in a computer program. The task of addressing and mailing out postcards for this event was previously done by hand.

Summer Events: All members, prospective members, and spouse/significant other of members are welcome to attend the WSLC club picnic on Sunday, July 15 at the Abrells' lake home in Morris, IL. Flyers were available at the meeting. Members will be reminded of the date, and directions, as the date approaches. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Gary and Lorel, we will have a great event and an opportunity to socialize, relax, and talk/show favorite lapidary stories. Remember to bring your favorite potluck dish. Chicken and beverages will be provided. For your safety, no alcoholic beverages will be served.

Art in the Park was a great success thanks to the volunteers, the event itself, pleasant weather, and planning. It is estimated that 250-300 people went through the booth and enjoyed the displays and activities. The children's activity drew a crowd. Special thanks to the volunteers who donated their time, expertise, and energy and had fun for the two day event. Each member is welcome to participate in this annual event, sponsored by the Elmhurst Park District.

The September meeting will feature the member to member sale in lieu of a monthly program and also be

focused on identifying stones or tools that you may have which until now are unidentified. Bring any reference materials you find useful. Members are also encouraged to share summer trips and finds with the group.

2007 Silent Auction: The event is scheduled for October 27th and will include a “buy it now” concept. A fair price will be listed for an item which allows a participant to buy it now, and thereby not have to wait until the end of the auction to obtain the desired item. Volunteers will be needed in preparation for the event and on that day. All proceeds will go to the club for future use.

May Program: A program was presented by Rich Dillon detailing a trip he and his wife Linda took to Australia in search of Opals. Please see the program review to follow.

Since the Wagner Center officially closed at 9 pm, the “official” meeting had to be adjourned at 8:55. The ever resourceful members moved the remainder of the meeting, which usually consists of refreshments and camaraderie to the parking lot. President Ed Gallagher came to the rescue with folding portable tables and chairs he just happened to have in his vehicle from a recent camping trip. Members quickly pitched in to set up. Ed even provided music.

As the sun set, it was the perfect way to end the last meeting before summer break. Thanks to the May team for providing the food and drink, and to Ed Gallagher for having tables and chairs. This was a unique way to end the first half of the year’s meetings with plans in place to reconvene in September.

The cows came home, so everyone decided to leave.

MAY PROGRAM REVIEW

by Barbara Freeman



Members were attentive and interested in fellow WSLC member, Rich Dillon’s video and slides on his trip to Australia. Both he and his wife Linda enjoyed the adventure which included arranging to visit and explore the opal mines, meet the miners, and even assist them in re-engineering their equipment to remove rock from the mine. He showed amazing opal specimens, and described the travel to this dry, outback land.

He compared the atmosphere in the nearby town where they stayed as similar to that of the gold mines in the old wild west. While he was out visiting some of the mines, Linda had to stay behind not only for her own safety, but to keep an eye on their belongings & cash! Needless to say, he made it back safe.

They also visited some local rock swaps and shops and had the opportunity to pick up some gorgeous specimens.

Because the building was going to close, the program was somewhat rushed. Seems this happened last year when Rich presented the monthly program. It was déjà vu’ all over again!

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Persistence pays, and in the competitive atmosphere of getting stamps subjects into print, the AFMS believes that it is very important to continue to endorse our request for gems on stamps. It is a “first class” idea, really an extension of the “Our Mineral Heritage” theme of the two prior mineral stamp sets issued in 1974 and 1992. It’s a gem of an idea! We think that the stamps would be beautiful and welcomed by not only gem and mineral collectors, but also postal customers as well. Did you send a previous request to the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC)? Help by sending another. Persistence pays.

Perhaps a more persuasive approach would be for each of us to send a personal letter rather than a form which might just be disregarded. I realize it now costs \$0.41 per letter to do this, but hopefully we can stick ‘em on envelopes in the near future.

Send your letters to: The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee - Stamp Development - US Postal Service - 1735 N. Lynn St., Room 5013 - Arlington, VA 22209-6432



Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies News

One of the hidden treasures and benefits of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies is their wonderful library of programs that are available for clubs to borrow and use.

A listing of programs are available in the MWF GOLD PAGES, which are distributed to each member club. You just need to choose a program(s), send the request form to John Blue with \$5.00 for postage, and you are set! You can choose such subjects as archaeology, museums, paleontology locations, lapidary arts, junior programs, mining and mineral products.

There are 287 programs in the library to choose from. Take a look at the MWF directory and send John your request for a program or two or three.

Be sure to allow ample time to receive your choice. 30 days is generally needed in order to get the program in time. Some programs are on VHS, slides and DVD. It is suggested that the program be viewed in it’s entirety prior to presentation. A complete listing and order form can be found on the MWF website at: www.amfed.org/mwf/resources. John Blue can be reached at: 16155 Shurmer Rd - Strongsville, OH 44136 - (440)238-4412 or via email at jblue@n2net.net (include club name). If you don’t receive a reply in a couple of days, call John to be sure he received your message.



BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S

by Susan Wilson

On October 23, 2007, the Tiffany's Store in Oak Brook Mall will have an extensive collection of rings with colored gemstones at the store. The collection will include both contemporary and vintage designs.

WSLC members are encouraged to stop by and check out this rare exhibit. Graduate Gemologist Steve Snyder will be on hand to answer questions and has also indicated he would be interested in possibly presenting a program at a future WSLC meeting.

There will also be another display at the downtown Michigan Avenue Tiffany's from September 28th until October 1 of historic and noted Tiffany pieces that were done by one of their top designers who worked for them from 1956 until 1984 when he passed away. There is a new coffee table type book out by John Loring on Tiffany's Colored Gems which would make a great addition to the WSLC library.

If you stop by, please mention that you are a WSLC member. Enjoy!

"FACET" NATING WEBSITE

contributed by WSLC supporter Fred Beyer

For those of you that are into faceting or those who want to learn more about faceting, check out the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club's website at: www.lapidaryclub.org. Click on "faceters cd" at the top. There you will find one of the most extensive sources for information on faceting. Not only are there designs for every skill level of faceting, there is also a lot of good technical information, equipment sources, articles, tips, schools, CAD freeware and lots more! You can either view the Faceters Companion online or download it, all for free!

These folks really put a lot of hard work and energy in to putting this together. Check it out!

Editors Note: Thank you for the wonderful info, Fred! The WSLC (and myself) appreciate your kindness and generosity - Mary Prosek - Opal Editor

CHILDREN'S ART CAMP



A special thanks to Karen Dave', Joanne Samuels and Jim Burrell for their hard work and time spent at the children's Art Camp this past summer in Elmhurst.

Not only do activities like this spread the good word about the WSLC and fosters a better relationship with the Park District, it also provided a small cash donation to the club's funds. Please plan on helping out next year and get involved in this rewarding experience!

WSLC SILENT AUCTION 2007 UPDATE

by Karen Dave' & Mary Prosek

The WSLC Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2007 from 9 am to 3 pm at The Abbey. As with any successful venture, pre-planning is the key.

Preliminary set up will begin directly after the General Meeting the Friday night before. Final set up will start at 7 am Saturday morning. Volunteers are needed in several areas.

If you have specimens, rough, equipment or tools you want to donate for the auction, please contact Karen or Mary so arrangements can be made well in advance to pick up the items. Contact info for both can be found on page 3 of The Opal. If you have equipment or tools to sell on consignment, please let us know ASAP so space can be reserved in advance. Make sure your items are in working condition and are clean. We will not accept items for donation or consignment on the morning of the auction. Used books and magazines related to the various lapidary hobbies are also welcome.

Volunteers are needed to help in several areas. Physical prowess is not a prerequisite to volunteer. Just a smiling face and the willingness to help! Together we can make this an event to remember and have lots of fun along the way. It's also a great way to get to know other members.

If you are going to be at an event where you can leave flyers or know of a good place to put them out, please let us know so a supply can be gotten to you.

BITS & PIECES THAT DIDN'T FIT ANYWHERE ELSE

by Mary Prosek

Get well wishes: Longtime WSLC member Bernie Sobczak recently underwent heart surgery and is recovering at home. Best wishes!

Yo Watanabe was sighted at the recent Rosemont Show after his recent stroke and subsequent rehabilitation.

Pat Koko recently suffered a bad intestinal virus and is on the mend after a brief hospitalization.

World travelers Lynn Dempsey and Brian Musker are taking a trip to Africa! Wow, sure beats a weekend at the lake. Can't wait to hear all the details!

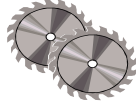
Wait 'till next year: There are some really great things happening with the club and the lapidary school. Announcements are forthcoming. What a great time to be a WSLC member!

Don't miss me too much: Chances are good I will miss the first meeting due to my job. Take copious notes and fill me in with all the details! - Mary Prosek - Opal Editor



SCHOOL REPORT

by Karen Dave'



I am happy to report that the classes are up and running for the Fall Session. Silver class is completely full with a waiting list. The Stone Cutting and Wirewrapping Classes both have good attendance. The Beading Class, however had to be cancelled due to illness. Get better soon Pat! We miss you! Classes are held at the Crestview Park Building in Elmhurst. Feel free to stop by to check out the classes and see what's going on. Silver meets on Monday; Stone Cutting on Tuesday; and Wirewrapping on Wednesday all from 7 to 9 pm. Next session will be in early 2008. Hope to see you there!

ANOTHER EDITOR'S NOTE: Earlier in the month I sent out an SOS for articles to include in The Opal expecting maybe no one would respond or at best, I would receive one response. Among the several articles or suggestions (or jokes) I received was 2 separate stories about the Summer Bead Class. Pat must have really cast a spell on the students. Not only did Pat contribute the below on her first class, but 2 students co-wrote the story immediately thereafter. What a first! I certainly hope the trend continues. It's good to get feedback and help with The Opal! - *Mary Prosek - Opal Editor*



REFLECTIONS ON THE FIRST BEADING CLASS

by Pat Koko

When Karen Dave asked me to teach a Beading Class at the Lapidary School, I did not hesitate, as I had already done so a couple of times at the Senior Center in Oak Park,. So I eagerly agreed. It was somewhat daunting to meet the Lapidary Classroom face-to-face, with all the machinery and tools, but I soon felt comfortable.

The 5 week summer session started with 5 students. Barb Freeman showed up the first night to check it out and wound up joining the class. As the weeks progressed, so did the expertise of the "students." Our youngest was Cristina Ponce, daughter of our own beloved Jose Ponce, and our oldest -- well we won't go there! However, by the end of class, my assessment was that we have at least 6 new "bead addicts". The more the merrier!

Each person created completely different pieces from virtually the same starting pool of supplies. As the weeks went along, the beaders began to find new sources to help increase their personal stashes and were trying new ways to get to their original visions. We learned how to keep necklaces light enough to be wearable and I think all might agree the most productive was Cristina, with 5 necklaces and earrings--all different--all very much reflective of the person who was planning to wear them. Ah, the exuberance of youth!

SCRAM - BEAD IT!

by Barb Freeman & Meryl Muskus

The lapidary school offered several 5 week classes over the summer, with beading being introduced for the first time. While beading may sound very easy to some, we learned that it wasn't all that simple. Our instructor, and new club member, Pat Koko, was most helpful and enthusiastic to us novices.

Our projects included a necklace and a bracelet to be completed in the five week session. These assignments took longer to complete than one might expect. We first had to decide on the correct or desired length as well as the stringing material, which included cord, flexible wire and leather. Considerable time was spent creating the item of our own design. There were unlimited choices when choosing the beads themselves: color, size, shape, weight, and the spacers. Most students started with a simple one strand and a focus bead. To complete the item, we also needed to select closures or make them ourselves.



Now that the design, choice of beads and colors was completed, it was time to actually string these creations. Even that became more complex as some were too heavy for actual use, or had to be extended or shortened when strung. In fact, most everyone dropped at least some beads on the floor as we concentrated on one end, while the beads were falling off the other end! We soon learned how to use a stop gadget of some sort. Learning the use of a crimp bead also took some dexterity and finesse to have it achieve it's intended purpose. Crimp beads or tubes also were varied in size and shape and composition.

The class was taught around one long table which was the perfect setting to exchange ideas, discuss techniques and just get to know one another.

Who might enjoy this class? Most anyone who has an interest to make something special for themselves or others can certainly complete the projects. Or silversmiths and lapidaries who want to use something more than an ordinary chain for their creations. Our group consisted of a teenager, a Mom, youngsters, oldsters; men and women. The completed projects included a wide variety from larger glass beads, to very tiny colorful beads, and charms as well as pearls, and faceted crystals. Group members readily complimented other students, offered advice or opinions, and shared equipment or beads. The instructor shared her experience, and also presented new products that she obtained while visiting a crafting convention in at the convention center in Rosemont. If you want to learn a new skill, or new techniques, the beading class offers many opportunities to be even more creative. With some patience and coordination this hobby can be just as addicting as other lapidary arts. Further information and pictures can be enjoyed from books or articles from the WSLC library, the public library, or even at the craft shops.



WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB

TEAM LIST - SEPTEMBER 2007 THRU MAY 2008



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 take-down. 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 with the team and help if required. If the team is unable to formulate a program, the Vice-President should be consulted as soon as possible.

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. Please contact Vice-President Karen Dave' with any changes or corrections.

September & December	October – Garnet	Nov – Amethyst	Jan - Aquamarine
	Bischoff, Vince & Jo Ann	Lundin, Bruce & Lillian	Anderson, Fred, Florence
	Cooper, Caroline	Maher, John & Lorraine	Bultman, Randy & Roland, Gwyn
The official board will be responsible for the program and refreshments	Davis, Clete	Netecke, Bill	Cronauer, Don
	Gallagher, Ed	Penny, Monica & Melissa	Entwhistle, Gehl, Dianne, Jenni
	LevVintre, Jim & Diane	Poineal, Mary	Feistamel, Doug
	Licko, Terry & Erv	Ponce, Jose & Lydia	Freeman, Barbara
	O'Connell, Chas & Marlene	Prosek, Mary	Samuel, Joanne Ashani
	Piche, lone	Quail, Mary & Garrett	Shannon, Tony & Jill Quas
		Simon, Rob & Kathleen	Watanabe, Yo

February – Diamond	March – Emerald	April – Opal	May - Topaz
Abrell, Gary & Lorel	Backus, Lyle & Lucy	Bryant, Fred	Dempsey, Lynn
Keck, Lil	Gadeke, Russell & Marion	Dave', Karen	Dillon, Rich & Linda
Koko, Pat	Herrera, Lee & Devane, Jeannette	Dove, Sherry & John	Gass, Tony
Norton, Betty	Maple, James & Marion	Knudsen, Jacqueline, Bob	Giannoni, Ed
Schultz, Max & Alberta	Muskus, Meryl	Naegel, Barabara	Kaplan, Jim
Sobczak, Bernard, Irene	Pavesich, Paul & Ruth	Shore, Don	Polley, Joan
Ugorek, Sandy & Sabrina	Petry, Leroy & Barbara	Wilson, Susan	Reisner, Virginia
Walter, George	Phipps, Jean		Strickert, Larry & Gloria
	Thode, Kris & Johnson, Lisa		

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, October 5, 2007

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

Sept 22 - 23: PALO, IA - The Cedar Valley Rocks & Mineral Society - Two day rock and mineral auction. Community Center, Palo, Iowa - Saturday 9 am to 7 pm. Sunday 10 am to 3 pm. Viewing hours Friday, Sept 21 from 5 to 7:30 pm, Saturday 7:30 am & Sunday 8:30 am. Rocks, minerals, artifacts, fossils, jewelry, lots of equipment. A flyer can be found online at: www.angelfire.com/ia3/cvrms. Contact Marvin Houg 319-364-2868 or Sharon Sonnleitner 319-396-4016

Sept 29 - 30: QUINCY, IL - Gem City Rock Club - 42nd Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. John Wood Community College - 1301 S. 48th St (48th & Harrison) - Quincy, IL 62305. Displays, demonstrations, dealers, machinery & hobby tools, minerals, fossils & artifacts. Admission \$1 over 16, .50 cents 15 and under, \$3 per family.

Oct 19 - 21: FT WAYNE, IN - Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society - 46th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Lapidary & Jewelry Show. Allen County Fairgrounds - 2726 Carroll Rd - Ft Wayne, IN 46818 - Friday & Saturday 10 am to 7 pm. Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Many dealers, displays, silent auctions, door prizes, kids activities. Adults \$3, Seniors over 55 \$2, Students \$1, under 12 free with paying adult. Information Chet Perkins (260) 638-4914, email cwperk@aol.com.

Oct 20: ELGIN, IL - Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois (ESCONI) - Mazon Creek Open House - Elgin Public Museum - 225 Grand Blvd - Elgin, IL. 10 am to 3 pm. Speakers, silent auction and fossil identification. Bring your Mazon Creek fossils if you need them identified. Advance registration by phone is required for most programs. Call 847-741-6655. Admission free. Contact Jim Fairchild for more information at (630)497-6278 or Frank Pranschke at (773)283-2650, email: fapranschke@cs.com. Visit their website at: www.esconi.org

Oct 20 - 21: CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL - South Suburban Earth Science Club - 38th Annual Fossil, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show - Prairie State College - 202 S. Halsted St - Chicago Heights, IL. Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Free Admission. Demonstrations, classes, children's area, tours of the science lab, dealers, exhibits, view sun-spots (weather permitting) and rock & fossil identification. Scouts can earn their Geology & Oil Badges (program is about 1 1/2 hours starting at 10:30. Bring your badge book). Information contact Helen Funk at (708)747-3536 or email ssescus@yahoo.com.

Oct 20: ELMHURST, IL - Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art - Lapidary Activity Day - Lizzadro Museum - 220 Cottage Hill - Elmhurst, IL - Join members of the West Suburban Lapidary Club and learn more about lapidary art and making jewelry. Club members will demonstrate cabochon cutting, silversmithing, wire wrapping, beading & carving. Children can participate in beading and make "rock critters". Free jewelry cleaning! A great way to find out more about lapidary art and learn a new hobby. 10 am to 4 pm. Free Admission. Group reservations recommended. For information tel (630)833-1616, email info@lizzadromuseum.org, website www.lizzadromuseum.org

Oct 27: ELMHURST, IL - West Suburban Lapidary Club - Silent Auction - Save the date, watch for details!



Thought for the day: Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain, and most fools do - Benjamin Franklin