

Official publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club

Elmhurst, Illinois

Pat Koko, Opal Editor
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Volume XXXIX, Number 6

First Class Dated Material



*Established in
 1959*

*in our 51st year and
 still rockin'!*

The Opal is published January thru May; September thru November

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

Next Club Meeting

Friday, September 24, 2010

8 pm, doors open at 7:00

The Abbey

407 W. St Charles Rd

Elmhurst, IL 60126

Next Board Meeting

October 8, 2010

meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Wagner Center

615 Northwest Ave

Elmhurst, IL 60126

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, Jose Ponce.

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	Joanne Samuel
Vice- President	Don Shore
Treasurer	Jose Ponce'
Secretary (shared position)	Barb Freeman Arlene Blaha
OPAL Editor	Pat Koko
MWF Liaison	Lee Herrera
Board Member (3rd of 3 year term)	Barb Petry
Board Member (2nd of 3 year term)	Karen Dave'
Board Member (1st of 3 year term)	Mary Prosek
Past President	Ed Gallagher

Committee Chairpersons

CGMA Delegate: Rich Dillon	Hospitality: Ed Gallagher, Past President	Silent Auction/Club Show: to be announced
CGMA Alternate: Lynn Dempsey	The OPAL: Pat Koko	Field Trip: position open
Kitchen Supplies: Ed Gallagher	Librarian: Gwyn Kaitis	Lapidary School: Karen Dave'
Gem of the Month: Mary Prosek	Activities Coordinator: Karen Dave'	Instructors: Tony Gass Mary Prosek
Historian: Joanne Samuel	MWF Liaison: Lee Herrera	Max Schultz
Publicity: Mary Prosek	Lizzadro Museum Liaison: Jack Maher	Assistants: Jose Ponce Alberta Schultz Joanne Samuel
Webmaster: 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. 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



Established in 1959
Rockin' into our 51st year



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Our program for September will be

“WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION“

Bring stories and examples!


SAVE THE DATE
Dec 5th
for the Christmas Luncheon
AT
Angelo's Ristorante
& Banquets,
Elmhurst, Illinois.
See details on Page 8

President's Message - by Joanne Samuel



Hi everyone!

I Hope everyone is doing great. It is already September. I cannot believe the summer is nearly over. I Hope everyone had a great summer.

Did anyone do anything really fun over the summer? I didn't do too much, but was able to spread a little joy about jewelry to a friend of mine. She had never made jewelry before and was a pleasure to teach some chainmail. We made these really nice flower earrings. What was even nicer was she taught me a really interesting found object project that you can use to make jewelry. It involves old target and Michael's bags used as shrink wrap. Works with a heat gun or even a hairdryer. It was so much fun.

If anyone has had any great summer ad-

ventures, think about writing an article about it. It is a great way to spread the craft. Even if you didn't go any where, if you have any knowledge of stone cutting, jewelry making or even opal polishing there are a lot of us that would love to learn from your knowledge.

The stone of the month for September is "Sapphire". If you have any items that use Sapphire bring them to the meeting. You never know what you can find made out of sapphire.

It cannot be overstressed that while the Club Board members provide much of the planning and organization of these events for your enjoyment, none of it would be possible without the participation of the club members as a whole group. If you have any special skills, knowledge, resources or even just some spare time to volunteer, please contact a board member and let us know. *Happy Creating!* – Joanne

STONE OF THE MONTH
SAPPHIRE



The sapphire is one of the two or three gem-varieties of [corundum](#), with another one being the red or deep pink [ruby](#). Although blue is their most well-known hue, sapphires are made up of any color of corundum except for red (red ones are called [rubies](#)). Sapphires may also be colorless .

Star of Bombay Sapphire—
182 Carats. (Wikipedia)

423 carats blue [Logan Sapphire](#) (Wikipedia)

Color in gemstones breaks down into three components: [hue](#), [saturation](#), and [tone](#). Hue is most commonly understood as the "[color](#)" of the gemstone. Saturation refers to the vividness or brightness or "colorfulness" of the hue, and tone is the lightness to darkness of the hue.^[4] Blue sapphire exists in various mixtures of its primary (blue) and secondary hues, various tonal levels (shades) and at various levels of saturation (brightness).

Blue sapphires are evaluated based upon the purity of their primary hue. [Purple](#), [violet](#), and [green](#) are the most common secondary hues found in blue sapphires.^[5] Violet and purple can contribute to the overall beauty of the color, while green is considered to be distinctly negative. Blue sapphires with up to 15% violet or purple are generally said to be of fine quality. Blue sapphires with any amount of green as a secondary hue are not considered to be fine quality. Gray is the normal saturation modifier or mask found in blue sapphires. Gray reduces the saturation or brightness of the hue and therefore has a distinctly negative effect. The color of fine blue sapphires can be described as a vivid medium dark violet to purplish blue where the primary blue hue is at least 85% and the secondary hue no more than 15% without the least admixture of a green secondary hue or a gray mask. (information from Wikipedia)

Minutes of the May 7, 2010 Board Meeting - by Arlene Blaha.

The May 7, 2010 Board Meeting held at the Joanne Wagner Center was called to order by President Joanne Samuel at 7:05 pm. Those in attendance were: Joanne Samuel, Pat Koko, Karen Dave, Barb Petry, Don Shore, Arlene Blaha, Terry Licko, Lee Herrera, Ed Gallagher. Joanne welcomed the members and thanked them for their attendance.

Barb moved and Ed seconded the motion to accept the prior Board meeting minutes as published in the Opal. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Karen gave the Treasurer's report on Jose's behalf. Pat moved, Barb seconded the motion to accept the report as read. The report will be filed for audit.

Midwest Federation Report: Lee indicated he is still not receiving the MWF newsletter, but he was able to get a copy by downloading it from the Internet. There are quite a few activities and shows scheduled for the Summer including the August MWF Show and Convention in Peoria. To date, there is no agenda published for the Convention, but he did say that Monday to Wednesday after the show there were tours and lectures planned. MWF indicated that the goal for students was met.

Opal Editor Report: Pat said the Opal was going to be sent out late and that the general meeting was going to be early for May because of CGMA. Karen suggested we publish the ad again for the CGMA to be held over the Memorial Day weekend. Pat said we need an article for the stone of the month – Jade.

Webmaster Report: Don indicated there is nothing new to report.

Previous Business: The group agreed the presentation by Mike Hettwer on the 40 foot "Super Croc" was well worth the wait. Our presenter was caught in traffic and while waiting for his arrival the meeting temporarily adjourned for refreshments. The meeting reconvened about 30 minutes later with a wonderful slide presentation on the Middle Eastern dig to uncover the 40 foot "Super Croc" and other fossils. Mike also brought a large (6 feet plus) fossil bone for the group to look at and touch and smaller fossils that were passed around for the group to see. There was so much Mike had to impart that he agreed to come back in the future to show us more of his interesting and dangerous travels and photos. Thanks to Chuck and Marlene O'Connell for setting up the presentation.

Ed showed the members the Facebook page for WSLC that is under construction in the "not for profit category." He needs a copy of the club's logo and possibly some pictures. Ed will fill in the short blurb about the club before it is activated.

It was announced that WSLC will not participate in Art in the Park this year due to a paperwork snafu by the Park District. Art Camp is still scheduled to be held by the Park District. The board agreed to support this one day event. Grau Mill and EPD Festival are still on the agenda and Karen will get more information for these 2 events.

The board agreed to keep October 23, open for an auction or other fundraising event.

Pat said she is working on establishing a price to advertise in the OPAL for the 1/4 and 1/2 page ads that we will accept for publication.

Ed is working with Mary on the New Member packet that he will hand out.

An extra meeting(s) need(s) to be scheduled during the summer months to finish the club's Constitution.

Stone of the month for September is: Sapphire

New Business:

Lee indicated that he would not be at the next general meeting on May 21 and Joanne said she may not be there either. Karen said if Ed were going to be there he would be able to conduct the meeting as Past President.

The presentation for the coming meeting needs to be finalized by Monday at the latest.

A discussion regarding being a vendor at next year's (2011) CGMA was initiated.

Pat said she is participating in an art fair in Oak Park called "What's Blooming on Harrison". She will be representing WSLC at the fair.

It was suggested we ask the general membership at the September meeting to set a date for the 2011 picnic.

School Status: Karen reported all is going well at the classes.

No further business appearing, Karen motioned and Barb seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

"For sale" advertisements are offered at no charge to WSLC members (a policy for the frequency and size of ads will be decided by the Board soon), space permitting. The Opal will not knowingly print or accept "For Sale" ads from dealers or business owners. The WSLC cannot confirm the condition or price of any merchandise offered. All transactions must be handled directly between the seller and buyer

**Minutes of the General Meeting,
May 21, 2010 - by Barbara Freeman**



The WSLC met May 21, 2010 for the final session, until meetings restart in September. The meeting was called to order by the president at 8:06 PM.

The minutes of the prior meeting, as published in the Opal, were approved following a motion by Barb Petry and second by Ed Gallagher.

The treasurer's report was read and expenditures noted. Barb Petry moved and Pat Koko seconded the motion to file the report for audit.

21 members signed in, with 3 guests.

CGMA gem show will be held next weekend, both the 29th and 30th. Volunteers are needed, so please consider this opportunity. Information was included in the OPAL for review.

WSLC is now on Facebook. Members can sign up as a friend, and make comments to share with others.

Gem of the Month is Jade. Thanks to those members who brought or wore samples of jade. Terry Licko brought several slabs which included: Jadeite from Burma, Nephrite jade from Wyoming, Chrome select jade, and black jade from Edwards mine. Also on display was a floral pendant/brooch that included jade leaves. Virginia Reisner wore a delicately carved large jade pendent on a knotted cord. The pendant was carved on both sides and showed different shades of green. She also had a bracelet with lighter jade beads. Others may have brought items as well.

Pat Koko, editor of the OPAL, referred members to a handout from Lee Herrera, MWF liaison. Congratulations to Lee on his musical accomplishments, especially a song on his band's new CD being nominated in the category of Native American-Contemporary.

Pat also shared a crossword puzzle handout and education about earthquakes. See how much you can complete. The puzzle and info was referenced. This topic is particularly relevant to members, and has been in the news with recent local and national earthquakes.

A clarification was made about MWF request for cancelled stamps. The stamps will be used to make bookmarks and will not be shredded.

The next general meeting is scheduled for September 24th. The hope is that all members will have a pleasant and safe summer. Enjoy the time with family, friends, and lapidary related activities.

Congratulations to Carl Hausman who won the Split the Pot event.

The silent auction contained numerous slabs for further cutting and polishing. There were also vises, polishing pads, and other items. Thanks to members who donated these items, and who bid. Proceeds are added to the club funds.

Thanks to the team members for providing a nice variety of snacks.

A gemologist from Tiffany's provided the outstanding program. The speaker commented on each designer's style. Examples of their signature style was shown in an audio-visual format. Another highlight was showing examples of the high quality of rings and a bracelet. The gemstones exhibited outstanding color and brilliance and were seen up close by members. Probably the most exquisite pieces of jewelry that member's have handled.

**Program Review May 21, 2010
- by Barbara Freeman**

Steven A. Snyder, graduate gemologist of Tiffany & Co., presented the final program before the club's summer break. The surprise topic was a special treat for those in attendance. His knowledgeable presentation was accompanied by examples of rings and a bracelet from their collection. In addition, the Blue Book 2009-2010 was made available. The first page of the famous blue Tiffany color book states "The world's rarest gems meet the world's greatest jeweler, and by hand and heritage, art and inspiration become the wonders of Tiffany & Co.". The book contains numerous photographs and illustrations of the timeless designs. The company is known for stunning color, flawless clarity, and exceptional cuts.



Members are encouraged to visit Tiffany & Co. to view the wide assortment of jewelry. There are items in more modest price ranges not only rare and exceptional items. One could enjoy the beauty and visual experience of the shopping excursion.

Approximately \$480,000 worth of jewels were shared



MID WEST FEDERATION REPORT — by Lee Herrera

Those of you who missed the Show missed stellar presentations by noted speakers: Dr. Michael Henderson on the Triceratops, Homer; Scott Elrick of the Illinois State Geological Survey, talking about the discovery of a fossil forest in Illinois; Dr. Merrill Foster of Bradley University, talking about the famous Mazon Creek fossils; Ed Wagner talking about the famous Keokuk geodes; and Dean Stone talking about Illinois fluorite. Banquet attendees each received a DVD program to take back to their home clubs to use as a program, as well as commemorate the Show!

There were also field trips to Scheffler's Geode Mine, Jacob's Geode Mine, Funk Gem & Mineral Museum, and the Dickson Mounds Museum.

We did the Dickson Mounds Museum field trip. It was a behind the scenes tour and lecture by the Museum Director Dr. Michael Wiant. It was interesting to see artifacts that were yet to be defined. There were only five of us on the tour and Dr. Wiant took us on a tour of the museum itself and explained many of the displays. It was only to be a one hour but we were there for several hours.

LIVINGSTON METEOR FALL—by Dan Trocke, Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.

Just a quick update on the Livingston Meteor Fall. I stumbled across a relatively new webpage (link below) that generously shares a very detailed strewnfield map that pinpoints the locations of about 50 meteorite finds, and shows better resolution radar images than I had seen before. The site offers some good analysis of why the meteorites ended up where they were found and suggests some promising locations to continue the search. If you have any interest in this meteor fall, I'm sure you'll appreciate this website.

<http://www.meteoritesusa.com/meteorite-articles/wisconsin-meteorite-strewnfield-map/>

NOLTE AGATE—By Kevin Ponzio

In 2007, Donna Nolte discovered something that changed the way we would view sedimentary rock in Wisconsin. Donna Nolte and Dan Broeder were out with the grandchildren scouting for rock samples. The grandkids found a small sparkling rock in the gravel along the road. "What's this?" they asked. "It is a small piece of Hematite/Quartz druse," Donna replied. "There must be a quarry near here that it is coming from." They continued their search for the rest of the day without finding any more druse. Donna talked to Jim Paddock about the druse and asked if he knew of any quarries in the area. A couple

days later, Jim Paddock invited Donna to go with him into a small quarry that he was granted permission to enter. They made their way to the small quarry in Green Lake, Wisconsin. As they stepped out of the vehicle, they immediately started to find druse quartz with hematite inclusions. The red Quartz druse sparkles and glitters in the sun, so pieces can be seen from long distances. The quartz druse was everywhere they looked. They were amazed at how much of the druse was present. Later in the day, Donna picked up a piece of chert with concentric banded chalcedony. Could this be an agate? Donna knew an agate when she saw one and this was definitely an agate! Finding an agate that wasn't brought to the area by a glacier was phenomenal. She immediately knew how important this discovery was. Jim and Donna continued to collect specimens until it was time to leave.

Donna was eager to show everyone her new find. She began showing a couple specimens to people at a local rock show. Some of the specimens had red hematite/quartz druse on them. The druse made it difficult to see the agate bands clearly. Donna was met by rejection and nay-sayers. One was quoted as saying, "Oh, that is found all over the state." They were looking at the druse and not the agate banding. Although disappointed by the reception, Donna didn't give up. For the next few years she continued to visit the quarry, finding better specimens each time.

In the spring of 2010, I received a call from Jim Paddock to do some field collecting. We made several stops and found something interesting at each place we visited. In the afternoon, we pulled into a small quarry located in Green Lake County, Wisconsin. At first, all I could see was the sparkling red hematite—quartz druse. After collecting a handful of the druse, I began to notice some of the other things lying about. Just then, I looked down and found a geode. It was no ordinary geode. It had pink, orange and white alternating bands of Agate around the clear Quartz center. Wow! Agate from matrix and not from glacial debris! In the words of Donna Nolte, "Cool Beans!" I collected a variety of specimens to study before it was time to leave. I thanked Jim for the fun day collecting and drove home.

At home, I eagerly cleaned the specimens I had found. As with all finds, I needed to label the new specimens. It was a no-brainer, as I recalled Donna was the first person to show everyone this wonderful new discovery. Nolte Agate was born! It was the perfect fit for someone who has given so much of herself to the hobby. Nolte Agate can finally take its place in agate history.

Important Note: When asked to return with a group, the quarry owners requested that groups not enter the quarry at this time. We were thankful for the visit they granted. Honoring their wishes may give rise to future visits for rock-hounds. (cont'd on page 9)

WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB

TEAM LIST - JANUARY 2010 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2010

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 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, Ed Gallagher, 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.

September & December	October – Garnet	Nov – Amethyst	Jan - Aquamarine
	Gallagher, Ed	Crepeau, Scott & Lee	Abrell, Gary & Lorel
	Gass, Tony	Dempsey, Lynn & Brian Musker	Ballesteros, Isidro & Rosalua
	Gooch, Eugenia	Giannoni, Ed	Herrera, Lee & Jeannette Devane
The official board will be responsible for the program and refreshments	Licko, Terry & Erv	Petry, Leroy & Barbara	Housman, Carl & Gloria
	Lundin, Bruce & Lillian	Prosek, Mary	Johnson, Kim & Jim
	Maple, James & Marion	Quail, Mary	Kaplan, James
	Munoz-Martinez, Eva	Roland, Gwyn & Randy Bultman	Naegel, Barbara
	Phipps, Jean	Sinclair, Elaine	Simon, Rob & Kathleen
	Piche, Ione	Sobczak, Bernie & Irene	Spande, Erik
	Schultz, Max & Alberta	Wilson, Susan	

February – Diamond	March – Emerald	April – Opal	May - Topaz
Bryant, Fred	Blake, Jim & Jimmy	Backus, Lyle & Lucy	Dave', Karen
Cronauer, Don	Blaha, Arlene	Davis, Clete	Dillon, Rich & Linda
Cooper, Caroline	DePesa, Art & Sandy	Flynn, Tom	Freeman, Barb
Jonikas, Al & Zivi	Feistamel, Doug	Keeley, John & judy	Pavesich, Paul & Ruth
Keck, Lillian	Gadeke, Russ & Marion	Netecke, Bill	Maher, Jack & Lorraine
Ponce, Jose & Lydia	Koko, Pat	Norton, Betty	Reisner, Virginia
Schwer, Kimberly	Moustakas, Luke	O'Connell, Chuck & Marlene	Roman, Mark & Ianna
Shore, Don	Penny, Monica & Melissa	Salajka, Kory	Rupp, Bob
Sterling, Kurt & Amy	Peterson, Judee	Shannon, Tony & Jill Quas	Zimmerman, Thea
Walter, George	Samuel, Joanne Ashani	Wharton, Donald	

SCHOOL !!

ELMHURST PARK DISTRICT IN CONJUNCTION WITH WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB offers several classes.

During the Fall Silver Smithing class will be offered. Please see the Elmhurst Park District website for full details. All members of West Suburban Lapidary Club are eligible for "in-district" tuition. You do need a membership card available from the treasurer. <https://secure.epd.org/registration/brochidxregfs.asp>



SAVE THE DATE!

Please be sure to mark Sunday, December 5, 2010 on your calendar. That is when the West Suburban Lapidary Club will hold our Holiday Luncheon.

The year's annual event will be held at Angelo's Ristorante, located at 247 N. York Rd, Elmhurst, Illinois from noon to 4 pm. The banquet will be served buffet style with a cash bar. Coffee, tea and soft drinks are included in the cost of the meal which is \$20.00 per person.

Angelo's has been in business since 1976 and is known for their quality food and excellent service and is located on the east side of York Road, just south of North Avenue. The private banquet rooms are located on the second level which is accessible via elevator. Rest rooms and the cash bar are also located in the same area.

The buffet will consist of: mixed green salad, bread salad, pasta salad, antipasto tray, minestrone soup, chicken noodle soup, bowtie & mostaccioli pastas, alio-olio & tomato vodka cream sauces, Italian roast beef, chicken oreganato, fresh fruit, unlimited pitchers of pop, coffee and tea. Something for everyone!

Doors will open at noon with the luncheon being served at 1 pm. The election of the club's officers and board members will take place after the meal, followed by a raffle of door prizes.

If you plan on attending, please let club Treasurer Jose Ponce know your intentions. We need to get a head count by November 20th. Payment is due by the November 26th meeting.

If you would like to go but you are unable to drive, please contact me ahead of time and I will do my best to make arrangements for you. *thank you - Mary Prosek*

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RAFFLE

The WSLC Holiday Luncheon will be quickly approaching on Sunday, December 5, 2010. At this time we are asking for donations to be raffled away to club members. Items can include but are not limited to finished jewelry pieces, specimens, cabochons, or objects of art relating to lapidary. Pieces that have been hand wrought by the giver will mean the most to the recipient.

Please contact Mary Prosek with your donations. If you are unable to make the event and wish to make a donation, please let me know and arrangements can be made. Thank you!



Nolte Agate: An independent, sedimentary, fortification, agate/agate geode and as lace, stringer, plume, moss agate structures within chert nodules associated with hematite/ quartz druse in the Stromatolitic domes of the Oneota Formation, Green Lake County, Wisconsin. Discovered by Donna Nolte, Omro, Wisconsin, 2007.

WSLC Member Barbara Freeman attended the Midwest Federation Convention and gave us the following account.

MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION 2010

This year’s convention of the Midwest Federation clubs was held in Peoria, IL August 27-29. This was the first year I was able to attend, primarily because it was relatively close, and with easy driving on the expressway. If you have the opportunity to attend in the future, the convention is well worth your time and effort.

The vendors have a wide assortment of displays. It is always interesting to shop with new vendors, and also see some familiar displays. This regional gathering includes vendors from a wide geographic range. Each person was informative and offered insights about their products.

In addition, there were numerous demonstrations including wire wrap, forming arrowheads, and creating colorful glass beads in a variety of shapes. The sluicing exhibit was a favorite for all ages. Breaking geodes produced awesome displays of hidden color and sparkle. Another interactive and fun event was the ongoing silent auction. Lots of enthusiastic participation and smiles, and retrieval of items by the winners made this area a destination. The auction was very well organized with defined and frequent time intervals.

The exhibits brought people together to be amazed at the skeletons and other items. In fact, each vendor had displays that invited further exploration.

An entire section of one room held many activities that were targeted for children of various ages. There was much enthusiasm among the participants, especially for the grab bag surprises. The older folks and youngsters alike seemed to enjoy these educational

and fun games and activities.

Numerous experts presented on a wide variety of topics. The designated room on the lower level created an atmosphere of learning for the attendees. It was intensive weekend learning experience.

Other events were specific to the organization delegates. Lee Herrera, our club delegate, was involved in those discussions.

Hopefully, this brief synopsis of the convention will encourage you to attend in the future, if at all possible. Enjoy the experience; the convention, meeting new people who share a common interest, and even to explore the city and trip to the destination. Have fun! Learn at the same time, and support other clubs and vendors.

Submitted by: Barbara Freeman

YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND IF... with thanks to a list written by members of the GMEDITORS e-mail swap group...amfed.org/rockhoun.htm

You think road cuts are built as tourist attractions
 “You describe your vacations by the rocks you brought home.

When friends say they're going to Tucson, you assume it'll be in February.

You are thinking about giving out rocks for Halloween.

You purchase things like drywall compound just to have another nice bucket to carry rocks in.

The first thing you pack for your vacation is a chisel and a hammer.

You bought the ugliest boots available cause they were water proof.

The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.

The city sends you a letter informing you a landfill permit is required to put any more rocks in the back yard.

You're retired and still thinking of adding another room to your house.

You send your family on ahead into McDonalds so you can check the gravel in the flower beds.

We received information in July of the passing of Bess Novak, an Officer of the Chicago Rocks & Mineral Club. Some of you may remember Bess from the Chicagoland show. Visitation was held on July 25th.



Established in 1959

Rockin' into our 51st year

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

24-26: Joplin, MO. Tri-State Gem and Mineral Society's 12th Annual "Rock-a-thon" Gem and Mineral Show, Joplin Museum Complex, 504 Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; CONTACT: Chris Wiseman, jmccwiseman@sbcglobal.net.

25-26: Oshkosh, WI. Oshkosh Earth Science Club's 39th Annual Gem & Mineral Show; Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Road Y; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Bob Fox, (920) 235-4669.

25-26: Traverse City, MI. Grand Traverse Area Rock and Mineral Club's Annual Show; Grand Traverse Heritage Center, 322 Sixth St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; CONTACT: Cynthia Vaughn, 231-276-6150, maple2b@aol.com.

OCTOBER

2-3: Jacksonville, AR. Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society's 38th Annual Gem and Mineral Show; Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Dr.; Sat. and Sun. 9-5; CONTACT: Pat Kissire, (501) 821-2346, pkissire@sbcglobal.net, www.centralarrockhound.org.

2-3: Jefferson, WI. Annual Show, Rock River Valley Geological Society; Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Paul Novitzke, 503 N. Jackson, Jefferson, WI 53549, (920) 674-7148.

2-3: Springfield, IL. Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society's Annual Show; Illinois Bldg., Illinois State Fairgrounds; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: John Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Rd., Rochester, IL 62563, (217) 498-7713, jrwashburn2@att.net.

8-10: Warren, MI. Michigan Mineralogical Society's Annual Greater Detroit Show; South Macomb Community College, Expo Center, Bldg P, 14500 12 Mile Rd.; Fri. 9-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; CONTACT: Carol Werner, 3401

Briarhill Rd., Hartland, MI 48353, (248) 887-3906, briarhillwerner@comcast.net.

9-10: Roseville, MN. Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Fall Show; Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Martha Miss, 8445 Grange Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN 55016, (651) 459-0343, rockbiz8@cs.com.

15-17: Ft. Wayne, IN. Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society's 49th Annual Show; Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Rd.; Fri. & Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Michele Yamanaka, 4336 Charter Ln., Ft. Wayne, IN 46815, (260) 424-6070, yamanakam@cs.com.

16-17: Cottage Grove, MN. Minnesota Mineral Club's Annual Show; National Guard Training & Community Center, 8180 Belden Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Sandy, rockbiz8@cs.com or Rita (651) 457-4285.

16-17: Springfield, MO. Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society's 43rd Annual Show; Expo Center, 675 E. St. Louis; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Eddie Maples, 2621 W. Wildwest Rd., Nixa, MO 65714, (417) 725-3001 or Janet McWilliams, 4466 S. Appleton, Springfield, MO 65810, (417) 886-8532, janmcw@mchsi.com.

16-17: Clio, MI. Flint Rock & Gem Club's 43rd Annual Show; Carter Middle School, Rogers Lodge Dr.; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Ed Hearn, 10395 Ataberry Dr., Clio, MI 48420, (810) 687-2339, edleo324@att.net.

23-24: Davenport, IA. Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Club's Fall Rock, Gem and Jewelry Show; Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W Locust St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-3:30; CONTACT: (563) 445-3034, msrocks2@charterinternet.com.



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