



Summit Gem - October 2020 Newsletter

Website: SummitLapidaryClub.com
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Board Members:

President – Becky Kosco
Vice-President – Courtney Cable
Treasurer – Nancy Milton-Halloran
Secretary – Cathy Milhoan
Membership Chair – Lisa Troxell
Trustees – Bob Spore (exp 2021), Tom McLaughlin (exp 2022), David Rich (exp 2023)
Newsletter Editor – Mary Myers slcnewsletter2019@gmail.com

Mission Statement

*To afford the opportunity to share interest in lapidary knowledge
and working techniques*

October's 2020 Monthly Meeting – held online
due to the Covid19 pandemic

*To join the club there is an initial registration fee of \$25, plus
ANNUAL DUES: \$48 per year by March 1st or later.*

Save money – pay just \$44 if dues by paying before March 1st!



The meeting for October was held online at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday in October, 10/07/2020, hosted by Courtney on the Zoom platform. The invitations to the Zoom meeting for all members were sent by Courtney to those who have provided their email addresses. November's meeting will be the first Tuesday in November. We are planning for another zoom meeting.

Program:

Guest Speaker: **Nirali Shah-Schrader**

Title: ***Henna, Indian Imports & Crafting: Using Wood, Mandala Art and Rock Art***

My name is Nirali and I have lived in Akron over 13 years with my husband. I have loved to craft different types of art since I was child. I am the owner of Akron Henna Art and actively participate in the regional community. Henna helps me and many other people in so many ways. It brings a lot of joy and happiness to people's lives as it is relaxing and calming and acts as a positive spiritual process. I love creating handmade pieces of art. My primary medium to create craft is wood. I will talk about the henna process and how to create different craft pieces using wood, mandala art, and of course, rock art.

Get a sneak peek of my previous work by visiting my social pages:

www.facebook.com/akronhennaart and www.instagram.com/akronhennaart

President's Message – by Becky Kosco:

As many of you have heard we sadly had to cancel our Fall 2020 Gemboree due to the pandemic. Our main concern is the health of our members, our vendors and those who attend the show – We did not see how we could safely hold the event. Our next Gemboree will be April 24th & 25th, 2021. We have secured Emidio's as our location. We may have to be inventive to ensure health and safety. That can be our goal.

Courtney Cable and I truly are "Rock Stars". We were interviewed by Blue Green for his "Around Akron" PBS show for a story about our Summit Lapidary Club. The show aired on PBS Channels 45/49 on Saturday September 19th. I have also posted the segment on our Facebook page. We hope this will increase interest in our group and attract new members. I think Christopher Green did an excellent job representing us!

Our club is working on a Xmas tree to submit to the Children's Hospital 2020 Virtual Holiday Tree Festival. Thanks goes out to Annette Long for taking the lead on this. Annette and Joyce Kish recently had a Zoom meeting to demonstrate what decorations they want donated. It is very nice to be doing a project!

And a big Thank You to Jim Watson who took charge of removing the dead tree outside our clubhouse. What – did you not notice it was gone? And my question is – was it petrified?

That's all for now – Keep Rockin'
Becky

Classes and Events:

We are still encouraging members to be ready to offer classes as soon as the social distancing restrictions ease and the club reopens. Let's be proactive with developing some ideas about possible classes that you can offer to the rest of us! Class sizes must be limited by the instructor and cannot be greater than 6 participants. Masks must be worn when at the clubhouse. Sanitizing products will be provided by the club. If you are interested in offering a class, please contact Dave Macseoinin.

Several members have begun to form small groups to slowly begin participating (in small groups, wearing masks) in activities at our clubhouse, such as the regular Saturday mornings coffee klatches, slabbing/grinding/polishing stones, or silversmithing.

Sunshine News from Mari: Kathi Hampton is progressing nicely after her shoulder replacement. Mary Myers' oldest brother, Patrick Myers, died in his home in Florida after a difficult bout with cancer.

Gemboree from Guy and Becky: We are scheduled for April 24th and 25th, 2021 – Please mark your calendars! Latest news from our Vendors is "they want to do a show." Payments for contracts received for Fall 2020 Gemboree have been returned. Invitation Letters and Contracts for Spring 2021 have been sent. Files for Show Chair and Dealer Chair back-up have been prepared.

GeoJuniors from Evelyn: They went to Nelson Ledges for a field trip in October.

Library news from Doug Shorter: No news.

Newsletter from Mary: I certainly hope to be a little more timely in the future with our newsletter! Please forgive me. Look for November's newsletter soon! Would you like to contribute? I would gladly welcome more participation from our members – a short paragraph about something you've discovered or place you've gone related to our lapidary interests would be most welcome! Don't worry about polishing your piece (haha), I'll do that for you.

Membership information: If you know of anyone in the club who is not receiving emails, please forward their email addresses to Lisa Troxell at troxell61@gmail.com . Please update your contact information to Lisa if you move or change your phone number. Membership dues, on the other hand, are to be sent either to Nancy Halloran or the clubhouse. Addresses below.

Reminder for SLC Dues for 2021

This is a reminder that to join the club there is an initial registration fee of \$25, plus members pay their ANNUAL DUES of \$48 per year by March 1st or later.

Members can save money by paying their dues early – dues are just \$44 if paid before March 1st!

With no certainty of meeting in person please send your dues to Nancy Halloran or to the Clubhouse.

Nancy Halloran
9432 Outlook Dr
Brooklyn, Oh 44144
(216)409-4209

Summit Lapidary Club
244 Chestnut Blvd
Cuyahoga Falls, Oh 44221

Miscellaneous items:

Rocks, Rocks, and More Rocks, and Equipment – Clubhouse Clean Out Sale:

We are getting ready to have a sale of donated items and rocks to our club members.

Sunday October 25th 2020 from 11-5pm - at our Clubhouse.

This sale is for members only. Everything is priced to sell – everything must go!

There are some pictures of rocks and equipment on our webpage. Be sure to bring a mask.

William Holland trip:

Our joint trip with Akron Mineral to William Holland was postponed due to the pandemic. Though things remain uncertain and may change for better or worse we have decided to move forward with plans for next year. We were assigned by William Holland the week #23 which begins on 9/12/2021 and they provided us with a class list for that week. At this point all classes will be limited in size to four students so they will fill quickly and covid restrictions are in place (masks, social distancing, etc.) but that may change. Sandy has contacted everyone who had already committed and the first wave of reservations has been submitted. If you are interested in joining in this adventure **it is not too late!** Contact Sandy at Sandyshorter25@gmail.com.

Further information from Sandy Shorter about William Holland:

William Holland has re-opened for registration. They are a bit swamped but information can be found on their website: <https://lapidaryschool.org/main.aspx>. Additional information can be found on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/williamhollandlapidaryarts?epa=SEARCH_BOX

Our club's excursion will be **the week beginning Sept. 12th, 2021 - PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Sandy is handling the confirmations. Members who might still be interested in joining this excursion should contact Sandy Shorter as soon as possible.

Below is William Holland's October Calendar.



Virtual Holiday Tree Festival – Because this event will be entirely virtual, the Festival has imposed some limitations on what can be submitted. Annette has chosen a four-foot tall tree that will be bejeweled with stone and metal ornaments. No plastic or wood please. Joyce and Skeeter Kish have donated a beautiful slab of Kentucky Agate for the base. There is a box at the clubhouse for your ornament donations – Please be sure to contribute to this worthy cause.

Donation – We had a donation by Bill Schweigert of Stow. Because they are moving they contacted Summit Lapidary Club to donate rocks and equipment. A friend's father had been a lifelong rock hound and was from the Amherst area with property that backed up on the Vermillion River – we believe the original donor was Henry Michel of Vermillion, Ohio. Does anyone remember him as a rock hound from that area? We surely appreciate the donation. Now we desperately need to have an auction – so please come to our sale this weekend at the clubhouse!

Calls for Volunteers –

- We are still looking for members to help with the Rock Tumbler Role.
- We are still looking for members who annually go out west to serve as providers of source materials for the Gemboree and GeoJuniors.
- We are still looking for members to make ornaments out of rocks or nice quality glass beads for the Children's Hospital Annual Christmas Tree Festival. The Bead Ornament Sample is 3-4" long, dangle flair, top is jump ring, bottom is tassel or dangle. Nov. 15: Deadline/Drop off for Bead Ornament delivery. Attn: Annette.

The Quirk Center - The Center has reopened, with limited hours. They are calling for items that have been left in the gift shop to be removed and redated. Please see their website for info.

Blue Green Facebook -

Hello everyone: Here is a FB link to the Around Akron with Blue Green page. There are some videos available here: <https://www.facebook.com/AroundAkronWithBlueGreen/>

A link to all of the shows on PBS: <https://www.pbswesternreserve.org/local-productions/around-akron-with-blue-green/>

October Shop Tender Days

During the month of October, Dave Macseoinin and Mary Myers have volunteered to be 'shop tenders' for any of our club members who do not have a key to the club. We can open the club for you and be on hand if you have questions about the equipment downstairs. New members will be able to work on making some slabs or cabochons, but you must make an appointment. Dave can be available on Mondays from 3:00-7:00pm - call or text him at 1-234-706-1523. Mary can be available on Friday mornings from 10:00am-2:00pm –text her at 330-696-4315 or call her at 330-928-3335. We will be available by appointment only – and please remember bring your masks and safety gear! You must wear safety glasses and a mask when working on the machines downstairs. Oil mists and rock dust are not good for your eyes or your lungs.

Zoom (or clubhouse) informal gatherings - Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings

There are often members in the clubhouse who have keys on Saturday mornings or Tuesday evenings, but there are no guarantees about the availability of the clubhouse then. Remember, we are still limited to small gatherings at least for a while yet, and please take proper precautions. Anyone who would like to host a Zoom meeting for the group on those (or any) days, please contact Courtney or Becky and they will help you to host a Zoom meeting.

Old News:

Polish American Club (PAC)

As of the beginning of June 2020 The Health Director of Ohio re-opened Restaurants, Bars, Banquet and Catering Facilities. Terri Steele-Austin of the PAC told me they are capable of accommodating us whenever we are ready to meet in person. They could open up the entire space (triple our usual size) that would allow us to have social distance between tables. She is aware we will not be there in September. What Becky needs from us is what the club consensus is. Meeting at night does not lend itself to an outdoor meeting. Please think about this and be ready with your opinion at the meeting (or contact a board member, a trustee or Becky).

Zoom

As many of you know the Club has purchased a Zoom account. We have been using this for General Meetings and for Board Meetings but it could be used for much more. If you desire any group associated with our Club to meet via Zoom contact Courtney Cable or Becky.

Wally Rocks

As many of you know Wally and Oma Frlich have been our "unofficial" rock suppliers for the Gemboree for years. They winter in Arizona and would collect or buy rocks and minerals in Tucson or Quartzite then ship them to Ohio. Unfortunately we recently heard from Wally that he is having some health issues and wants to resign from his rock buying position. Since March his back has gotten bad and Oma and he had to remain in Arizona because the return trip would have been too much. We are so grateful for all the wonderful rocks and minerals they have provided for the Gem Mine and Geo Juniors over the years. Wally said in the future he may still send us donations that his club members might give him. Perhaps we should consider sending him a box of Ohio Flint for him to share with his club?

Website – Thanks to Sandy Shorter our Website has been updated through 2022. This is an excellent source for information – especially if you don't have easy access to the clubhouse calendar.

Big Dig – No news.

Christmas Party – We are planning to hold our next Christmas Party in December of 2021! Watch for details next year. (And hopefully, the games won't involve a 'Santa mask-erade!')

Gems provided by members:

Flint Ridge Trip: by Kathi Hampton

It was a scenic 2 hour drive down Rt. 77 to Flint Ridge, specifically to Nether's Farm. Several members drove down separately or in small groups on a lovely Sunday last month and there were a couple of other rock hounds there. One person said the last time he was there he got 3 buckets full of rocks. We were armed with sturdy shoes, a hammer, a bucket, and water (to drink and wash our finds). For \$ 7.50 (digging fee) plus 50 cents a pound you could search for the best flint in Ohio (and we each paid for our own expenses). There were many open pits where we could look for rocks. The farm also had a convenient porta-potty for people in need of facilities. I stayed on level ground because I am not too steady on my feet and was able to pick up 18 pounds of flint to make cabochons. Dave was good about finding colorful pieces for me and found a crystal that he could facet. We have already cut some of the rocks into slabs and are very excited about the beauty in the slabs.

October birthstones: October has two birthstones - Opals and Tourmaline, by Mary Myers



Tourmaline

October's Tourmaline is available in a rainbow of beautiful colors and combinations of colors, although one of the best known combinations is the watermelon tourmaline. One of the most intriguing and bizarre qualities of tourmaline comes from its complex molecular structure. It generates an electrical voltage when it is heated or cooled or rubbed by friction. This results in a negative charge and a positive charge at opposite ends of the stone. In its charged state, tourmaline will attract lightweight particles like dust, balloons, ash, and small paper scraps. This quality of warmed tourmaline was used by the Dutch to draw out the ash in their Meerschaum pipes. As one might imagine this mystical property was imbued by many with remarkable powers of positive energy, and insight. It reportedly made its wearers aware of unsuspected dangers. The Romans used tourmaline as an aid for stress reduction and troublesome sleep. Artists have used it to stimulate their creativity. Some African, Native American, and Aboriginal peoples wear rubellite (a fiery deep-red/pink shade of tourmaline) for its reputed powers of protection and healing. Crystal healers believe that the pink shades of tourmaline promote both physical and emotional healing from heartbreak or any kind of abuse, and as well as reducing anxiety, fear, and depression. It is also said to renew vitality, strengthen self-confidence, attract passion, and even enhance sensuality. It's truly a magical, mystical, mythical, marvelous stone!

Sources:

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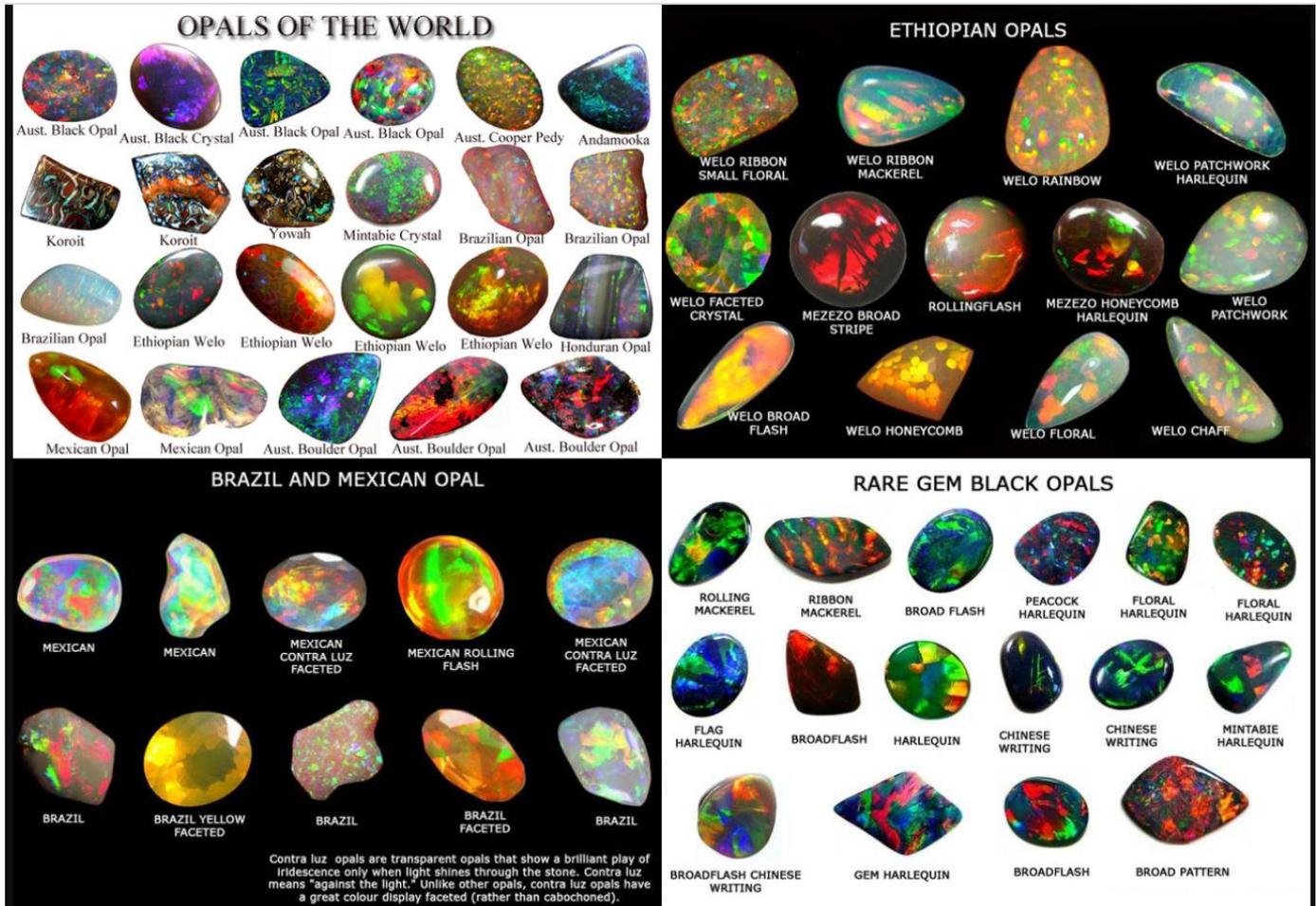


Note: Just don't eat the watermelon tourmaline (or any other kind for that matter). It's not edible.



Opal

The fire in Opal also comes in a variety of colors set in bases typically of jelly, white, fire, and black. Opals are truly unique because each individual gem is adorned with a one-of-a-kind combination of colors and can appear changed when seen in different lights. Black opal is typically considered to be the most precious form with its dark body color (sometimes natural, and sometimes heat-treated) which can be dark blue, dark green to grey, or dark grey to black with bright flashes of color within the stone. White opals have a light body color that contains the fire within. Opals are often set as doublets with a backing of darker material cemented to the back to provide greater strength and contrast, or as triplets which sandwich a slice of opal between the darker backing and a clear quartz cap. This gives the stone a great depth and protects its rather soft and brittle surface. Opals must be treated with care. They are between 5 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale of hardness, harder than pearls but softer than amethyst. Therefore they are soft enough to be scratched and are probably best used as pendants where they receive minimum punishment (really, who would punish a beautiful opal?) Heat and ultrasound cleaning should also be avoided. And if the surface is abraded through wear, the stone can sometimes be repolished. Opal primarily comes from Australia, Mexico, and Brazil, (and other countries). It is quite available which helps to keep its price competitive with other gemstones.



8 Expert Tips on How to Polish Rocks

BY: [TAMMY JONES](#), POSTED ON [SEPTEMBER 23, 2016](#)

Source: <https://www.interweave.com/article/jewelry/how-to-polish-rocks-8-expert-stone-polishing-tips/>

- 1. Grind wet.** Always grind wet to protect your lungs from breathing in the dust from stone polishing. The dust from some stones, such as malachite, is quite toxic. In addition, wet grinding eliminates damage to expensive diamond wheels and stone-polishing tools.
- 2. Judge dry.** Although we always grind wet, we recommend that you always dry the stone completely before judging its surface. Water on the stone surface will only hide scratches and give a false reading.
- 3. Use the whole wheel.** Use the entire width of the grinding wheel, not just the center. This will ensure a longer life and better performance for your diamond wheel.



4. Skip no grit. Work sequentially from the coarsest to the finest grit. Don't be tempted to take a short cut by skipping a grit in order to save a little time. The progression through finer and finer grits is necessary to remove the scratches left by the previous grit. The goal is to have the scratches become finer with each grit size until they can no longer be seen. Our experience has been that if you skip a grit, the final polish will show big scratches.

You will wonder where those scratches just came from! The truth is that they were there all the time, but you just didn't sand them out when you were supposed to. If you skip a grit and find deep scratches, you'll have to go back three or four grits to remove them. It's always faster to do it right the first time than to try to take shortcuts and risk damaging the stone you're working on.

5. Polish slow. Polishing is the final step. There are a myriad of polish and stone-polishing pad combinations; our preference is charging a soft leather pad with a thin paste of Holy Cow stone polishing compound and water. The actual polishing occurs as the pad starts to dry and the stone starts to pull against the surface. We keep the speed of the pad low to eliminate any heat buildup.

6. Keep it clean. Remember, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" is especially important when it comes to lapidary work. To prevent cross-contamination from coarse grits, we are careful to rinse the stone and our hands at every grit change during stone polishing. We also thoroughly clean our machines after each grinding session to prevent contamination when moving through grit levels. Polishing compounds and wheels should be kept in sealed plastic containers when not in use.



7. Believe what you see. Your eyes are your most important tools when it comes to stone polishing. They are your feedback loop. If your eyes tell you that something is not quite right about the surface, believe them. Stop! Figure out what the problem is before continuing, and think through the steps you'll take to remedy it before you begin.

8. Grind a little and look a lot. This is the mantra of the successful lapidary. Taking your time and being very observant during the polishing process is essential to secure the results you want.

—By Tom & Kay Benham, Contributing Editors, Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist, from the February 2010 issue.