

Summit Gem March 2016

Summit Lapidary Club, 244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221
Phone 330-929-3798 www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org

Board Members: Pres. – Andy Carey, V-President – David Frazier,
Treasurer – John Kerr, Secretary – Laurie McElroy, Trustees – Tom McLaughlin,
John Tryon, and Frank Mack, Newsletter Editor – Pat Powers 440-237-6170
SLCnewsletter@AOL.com or mail to 18270 Buccaneer, North Royalton, Ohio 44133

Mission Statement

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



**Monthly Meeting: Tuesday,
March 1st at 7PM
At The Quirk Center
1201 Grant Street Cuyahoga Falls**



Hostess: Laura McElroy

Dues: Joining fee \$25 then \$48 per year

President's Message – by Andy Carey

Hello Everyone!

Well, I guess, Spring has sprung?!? At least for a week we had it. But, during that week my mind did a wander... down to Nethers Farm! Always contemplating how cold is too cold to collect some awesome flint!

Our spring Gemboree is right around the corner. This is always exciting for me. The Gemboree is one of the main reasons Dawn and I joined the Lapidary Club. I know for me it was the members' display cases that got me interested. Realize, the cases are one of the first thing people see as they enter the show. The display cases are the best way to show what we "do".

The display cases spark curiosity, that lead to questions, that leads to our demonstration table! At the demonstration tables is where our main job starts as Ambassadors for our club, (YOU). I LOVE seeing and hearing the passion our members have for our club! The willingness. and passion you show to share your love for the lapidary arts truly inspires me! Please see Mari to get your case. Be proud of what you have made and learned. I am proud of you.

A BIG **THANK YOU** to the Gemboree Committee for making our show ONE of THE BEST shows in the Midwest region!

See Everyone Soon!
Andy

Summit Lapidary Club, February 2nd, 2016 General Meeting - Respectfully submitted by Laura McElroy,
Secretary SLC

Andy Carey presided.

Hostess: Thank you to Suzanne Shoffner for bringing in the supplies & drinks. Thank you all for snacks.

Visitors, David Macseoinin: Cindi Chilbert visiting from Cedarville WI, Gary DeFrance, Randall Poindexter, & Tammy Coleman. New members Jayne Smith & Scott King.

Classes, David Macseoinin: 2/9 Beaded Heart with Deb Salay, 2/20 Advanced Caning in Polymer Clay with Mari Takai-Manley, & 3/13 Beginning Metal Smithing with Dave Macseoinin.

Treasurer's Report, John Kerr: no report

Sunshine, Mari Takai-Manley: JoAnn Harrison is having a second cataract surgery. Merry Ann McLeod-Wolf is recovering at home from her spinal surgery, & prepping for her next surgery. Tammy Lang has had a second round of chemo.

Library, Mari Takai-Manley: Waiting to buy agate books at the Agate Symposium.

Newsletter, Pat Powers: Extra newsletters are available for visitors. Email your email address to Pat if you'd like to receive your newsletter by computer & save us some money. slcnewsletter@aol.com

Gemboree, Bob Powers: Need volunteers to do postcards, & Saturday mornings to do silent auction prep. Suggestions for celebrating our 40th Anniversary Gemboree? Sandy Shorter is working on an emblem. Station sign-up sheets will be out next month. Evelyn Tryon needs 80-100 mini gem trees made for the Kid Crafts. We will start making these & gem tree kits for adults Tuesday 2/16 6:30pm, and 2/27 9am- please plan to help.

GeoJr, Evelyn Tryon: Meeting this Sunday. Science Olympiad in Medina requested a class for them, will be in April. We are also getting a new member from that contact.

Machine Maintenance, David Moore: All working. Temporary repair on #4. People need to disconnect the chain before moving the carriage! You need to know what you're doing when you use our machines. David fixed the trim saw & it no longer flashes. A grinding wheel needs a new splash guard. Do NOT try to fix the machines-if anything breaks or is not acting right please call David Moore or David Frazier- these numbers are over the sign-in book.

Property Maintenance, Frank Mack: New floor mats for the workroom. Thank you Mike Ball.

Old Business:

National Rock Tumbling Championship, Andy Carey: The club will sponsor the \$30 fee. Anyone interested contact Andy. Need your own tumbler. They send you rocks & you send your best ones back to them to be judged. Mark Morrow & Deb Salay expressed interest.

Name tag order, Jing Wang: Sign up for new name tags.

T-shirts, Dave Macseoinin: Not ready yet. Should be ready for Gemboree & Agate Symposium.

New Business:

Suzanne Shoffner found a "gem stone gadget" by the road. A scale. ID if it's yours.

Parma Lapidary Club has invited us to their Rock-A-Rama April 19, in-house rock swap. Info is posted at the club if interested.

Gemboree flyers are available to take & distribute.

Agate Symposium Field Trip, Mari Takai-Manley: \$150/person due by March general meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Evelyn Greene, Sue Shoffner 2nd.

Classes and Events for March – (more details regarding classes and events posted at the clubhouse)

March 13th Silver Smithing

March 15th Mini - Gem Trees for Children's Table

March 19th Polymer Clay

Agate Trip News for this July - by Mari Takai-Manley

For the 40 members who paid the \$50.00 down payment for the July Agate Trip, the rest of the fee for this trip (\$150.00) is due at the March meeting (Summit Lapidary). Please write your check for \$150.00 per person, payable to Summit Lapidary Club.

Gemboree News – by Bob Powers

Gemboree sign-up sheets will be out shortly. Be sure to stop by the clubhouse and sign up for your favorite activity. This is just a reminder that all club members are encouraged (a politically correct way of saying "required") to sign up for four hours over the three day period. If you will not be available, please let the Board know. If you are new with the club and would like to sign up, please do so & talk with the Lead person to find out what you would be doing. Most of the areas require very little training.

Also, please do your part to help spread the word about the Gemboree. While we are trying many avenues for advertising, You, the Club Member, are one of the best advertisers.

How To Identify Synthetic Rough In Gemstone Parcels – by Jeff Graham taken IGS

www.gemsociety.org/jeweler-lapidary

The vast majority of synthetic gemstone material is cut for the finished gem market. However, synthetic rough is also appearing more frequently for sale in gemstone parcels. Buyer beware: some synthetic rough is sold as natural material. In my estimation, 10% to 30% of some supposedly natural gem parcels may be synthetic.

Most experienced gem dealers can spot synthetic rough or at least suspect something is off. Unfortunately, the average consumer may find it almost impossible to identify synthetic stones mixed with natural rough in a parcel. Ultimately, whom you are dealing with is important in the gem trade. There are honest people and reputable dealers out there. There are some questionable individuals, too.

Tips For Spotting Synthetic Rough

A really cheap price for a gemstone parcel is a good indication it may contain synthetic rough. If the deal is too good to be true, so are the stones.

If the gemstones in a parcel look exactly alike in both color and size, they may be synthetic. For example, natural quartz stones usually vary in color and size and may show color zoning and twinning. (However, some manufacturing processes can create these effects, too).

A lack of crystal points can indicate synthetic stones. Most synthetic material is produced in large blocks. The makers break up or cobb them into smaller pieces to make the synthetic rough look real. However, these pieces will likely have no points because they would have to be cut. It's unlikely (but not out of the question) that anyone would spend the time and effort on this for synthetic rough destined for a parcel.

Size is often a good indication of synthetic material. If the stone is very large and has great color, especially for the price, beware.

ROCK SHOW ETIQUETTE – by Deb Hoffmaster Written for The Rocky Reader

A recent discussion with one of our board members asking about the appropriate etiquette regarding bargaining at shows. As I could not answer that question, I contacted the dealers from our 2015 show and asked them. The

overwhelming response was in favor of bargaining, with some caveats. Many of the dealers emphasized that it is HOW a person asks for a discount that really matters. Be polite and don't expect a discount. Wear your club badge or shirt and be helpful. Don't get huffy if a discount is denied.

Many of the dealers indicated that it is unreasonable to expect discounts on inexpensive items unless you are buying in bulk. Most of the dealers were willing to discount expensive items, especially if someone was buying several. Those unwilling to generally discount made an exception for repeat customers.

So, what is an expensive item? That varied depending on the dealers. For some, anything in their booth could be discounted 10%. For others, it was an item/items costing upwards of \$25, \$50 or more. Some of the dealers don't include sales tax. Some dealers are more likely to discount cash payments than credit card payments. Really, it varies, so it doesn't hurt to ask.

Several dealers pointed out the realities of their lives. If people knew what our dealers pay for booths at shows, gas for their vehicles, motels, food, fees for providing charge card services plus the price of buying the minerals and fossils, they would never ask for a discount.

Another dealer said: ...the majority of us do not have another job. We use what we make at shows to pay for groceries, utilities, mortgages and other bills. Most people don't think of the expenses we incur to make this living. We have the cost of the materials, booth fee, usually hotel bills, gas to get there and back, food, packaging materials and sometimes insurance.

As an example, if I make \$2,000 at a show, it sounds like a lot. On average, booth fee runs around \$300 - \$500 for the weekend. Some are as high as \$700. Hotels run around \$200 or more, depending on what's available. Gas is \$150 - \$200 on average, depending how far the show is and the fact that we have to drive a truck to haul the materials. Since there are two of us, food is around \$100-\$300 for the weekend (sometimes we splurge since we don't eat out at home). Then there's the cost of material replacement....

Again, on average, if I factor all those expenses together, I might make \$100 - \$500 for the show. If I did 4 shows a month, that might mean \$2,000 a month on the high end (and that's working every weekend for a year).

Can I pay a mortgage, feed and clothe a family, pay for insurance and other bills on that? If I'm lucky. Finally, since this is an article about etiquette, there are a few other things to mention. Please refrain from commenting on the quality of the inventory. Saying that you think something is not worth the money or that you could get it cheaper elsewhere, is not appropriate. It disrespects the vendor whose continued attendance is critical to the show's success, and it gives other customers uncertainty about the quality of the show. So, once again, being polite and helpful will get you farther than the alternative.

Sunshine News – by Mari Takai-Manley

- Very sad news. Tammy Lang passed away at the age of 54 on February 19, 2016. She successfully fought off her cancer with chemotherapy the first time around; I remember not so long ago she was happy with her coming back. Recently I found out that she was going through the second round of chemotherapy almost over, but struggling. She was graceful, elegant. She was the beloved wife to her husband Jeff, and loving mother to her cutest only son, Michael who joined our meetings occasionally with her. We will miss her smile, and send the deepest sympathy to all of her family.

Just a Quick Note From Me – by Pat Powers

Important reminders and notices:

- March 1st meeting at:
Quirk Cultural Center, 1201 Grant Ave, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223
- Be aware if there is a snow ban listed for Cuyahoga Falls on meeting night the current meeting is cancelled. Check with the Cuyahoga Falls PD for weather conditions before you head out. 330-928-2181

Nothing more to add...see you next month!

