



Summit Gem - November 2020 Newsletter

Website: SummitLapidaryClub.com
244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221
Phone: (330) 929-3798

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*

November's 2020 Monthly Meeting – held online

On the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM
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 November is scheduled for online as a Zoom meeting at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday in October, 10/07/2020, hosted by Courtney. The invitations to the Zoom meeting for all members will be sent by Courtney to those who have provided their email addresses.

Program: No report

President's Message – by Becky Kosco:

"I do gneiss under pressure, metaphorically speaking."

This past weekend would have been our Fall Gemboree. We all miss the opportunity to be together, engaged in one of our favorite activities. It is a bit depressing to see Covid surging back to record levels. Everyone please stay safe and healthy and wear a mask! I want to have a Spring Gemboree!

This has been a beautiful, colorful Fall. Unfortunately that means colder weather and longer nights will soon be upon us. We need to become inventive in ways to engage with our club and friends. Remember our club has a Zoom account you can use.

I have enjoyed being President of SLC but have agreed to move on to be Gemboree Lead. We need a new President to begin serving in 2021. Please give this request due consideration – contact any member of the Board or any trustee.

Thank you – Keep Rockin'
Becky

Classes and Events:

So who is ready to teach a class as soon as the social distancing restrictions ease and the club reopens? 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 would be interested in offering a class, please contact Dave Macseoinin! (OK, I know our county is in the red as I compose this newsletter, but let's think positively!)

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. Please take COVID precautions!

Sunshine News from Mari: No report

Gemboree from Becky: We are currently scheduled for our next Gemboree to be held on April 24th and 25th, 2021 – isn't that wonderful? Please mark your calendars (and hope for the best)! Becky is taking on this tremendous endeavor, with the help of Bobbie King and Guy Kotch. Stand by to assist them in making this show the best ever!

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

Library news from Doug Shorter: No report.

Newsletter from Mary: Do you have anything that you might 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 are to be sent either to Nancy Halloran or the clubhouse. See 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. But remember that 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 at the addresses below:

Nancy Halloran	Summit Lapidary Club
9432 Outlook Dr	244 Chestnut Blvd
Brooklyn, Oh 44144	Cuyahoga Falls, Oh 44221
(216)409-4209	

New Members

Though we are not meeting in person we have had requests for membership. Dave MacSoeinin and Becky met with the potential members and they did not scare them away. We hope you will have an opportunity to meet and welcome Tom and Heather Wiles of Alliance as well as Richard and Maria Dudley of Fairlawn. Please make them feel welcome!

Miscellaneous items:

Congratulations go to David Rich!

David Rich is not only a Trustee for SLC - He has just been elected as 3rd Vice President of the American Federation of Mineralogical Society (AFMS). Our Federation, the Midwest Federation (MWF) is talking about restarting the Poster Contest for Geo Juniors. The creation of the Poster Contest is largely accredited to SLC. Way to go David!

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

It was a rocking success! There is still some equipment in the clubhouse, if you are interested. A big Thank you to all of you who helped! We were fortunate to have several donations over this past year that left our storage areas busting at the seams. I am grateful to everyone who helped me collect the donations and to those who helped organize the sale October 25th. Best of all our storage is available again. I hope everyone who helped found a treasure to enjoy.

Virtual Holiday Tree Festival

This is an Annual Event put on by Akron Children's Hospital. For many years John Hite created and provided our donation and received many awards. Dave MacSoeinin and Susane Shoffner created last years and this year is being spearheaded by Annette Long. Joyce and Skeeter Kish donated a large slab of Kentucky agate for the base. We are requesting members to donate a stone/metal ornament or pendant that can be left at the clubhouse in a box clearly marked. Any questions please contact Annette.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT for your participation in this worthwhile project!!! **Donations must be turned in by Nov 15th**. Please help us to decorate our four-foot tall tree that will be bejeweled with our stones, glass beads, and metal ornaments. (No plastic or wood please). There is a box at the clubhouse for your ornament donations – Please be sure to contribute to this worthy cause! It's simple – just make a string of some pretty rock(s) or glass beads.

Dave MacSoeinin honored

I am grateful to everyone who has kept our club going during 2020. We are all indebted to Dave for keeping an eye on our clubhouse this entire year. It gave tremendous peace of mind knowing that Dave took care of the mail, answered and forwarded phone calls, handled trash pickup, and cleaned up a flood in the basement. We voted during last month's General Meeting to pay Dave's dues for 2021 to thank him for all his time and effort.

Gemboree for Spring 2020 – April 24 & 25 2021 has been reserved for Emidio's. Several vendors have already responded. Not being able to anticipate what our Pandemic future is we wish to move forward with plans for the Gemboree even if it is abbreviated or altered. At this point we are looking for Back Up people for the Lead positions. Especially important is the Back up for the Vendor Chair.

William Holland trip:

2020 Class enrollment has begun! Please check their website for additional information. Also, please remember that the club has a week there beginning on 09/12/2021. 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!** We would love to have more members come. Contact Sandy at Sandyshorter25@gmail.com.

William Holland's website: <https://lapidaryschool.org/main.aspx> and their facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/913773268679924/>

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. Please see their website for info.

October Shop Tender Days

During the month of November, 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. **Who else with keys would be willing to volunteer occasionally as a shop tender?** Please let Mary know.

Shop tenders 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 with one of our shoptenders. Dave can be available on Monday evenings - call or text him at 1-234-706-1523. Mary can be available for a couple of hours early evenings or on weekends generally, and sometimes during the day on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays – text her at 330-696-4315 or leave a message 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 availability and informal gatherings in the clubhouse - on 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 ESPECIALLY because Summit County is in the red zone right now. We do not want to become a superspreader! 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.

Election 2021 News:

The election committee comprised of volunteers of the executive board elected Becky the Chair of the committee this year since she is not running for an office next year. (Becky is going to accept the primary responsibility of running the Gemborees we hope to host next year and is not running for President again). In these COVID times, the election committee has developed a slate of members who are willing to accept one of the leadership roles for our club in 2021. To attempt to make this more transparent for all members (because not all members participate in our Zoom monthly meetings), this potential slate is being presented in this newsletter, although additional nominations can be made at our November meeting, or by contacting Becky before the Zoom meeting this coming Tuesday. Voting will take place during our December meeting (which will most likely be another Zoom meeting). The members who have volunteered are:

For President – Gene Willis

For Vice-President – Courtney Cable

For Treasurer – Nancy Halloran
For Secretary – Kathi Hampton
For Membership Chair – Cathy Milhoan
For Newsletter Editor – Mary Myers
For Trustee – Bob Spore

Old News:

We had a wonderful speaker for the month of October - Nirali Shah-Schrader. She has a Facebook page, "Akron Henna Art" where you can see her beautiful work. She is a Henna Artist who also uses this talent to paint lovely rocks. Henna Art comes from the India Culture. Nirali was born in India; she started learning Henna at 8 years old and she has lived in Akron for 14 years. Nirali has done 12 Henna "crowns" for cancer patients going through chemo-therapy, where their heads are decorated with Henna designs. The henna helps to keep them cool. She donates her time and work to these patients and that makes her a rock star!

We have two new members, Tom & Heather Wiles. Welcome to you both, glad you joined.

Kathie Hampton had surgery on her left shoulder; we wish her a speedy recovery.

Mary Myers' oldest brother, Patrick Myers, passed away, we would like to extend our condolences to her. We love you Mary.

Fall Gemboree™ was cancelled due to Covid-19 unfortunately, it makes us all very sad. Spring 2021 Gemboree™ is moving forward, it will probably look a little different but that is ok. Floor plans can be altered; eliminate the kid's table, etc. These are still plans in the discussion stage. Evelyn sent contracts out and at the time of this meeting had received one back. Contracts are not due till Jan 2021.

Rob Rothschild was happy to report that the Geo-Juniors had a Zoom meeting last month, with a small turnout but an excellent program on gold mining & panning. They planned a field trip visit to Nelson's Ledges in Oct, for a hike and to try to pan their own gold. Very excited to see how it went.

William Holland info was sent out to those who previously signed up. It is the week of September 12, 2021. Please see Sandy Shorter or Becky for more info.

On Oct. 25, 2020 there was a successful cleanup sale at the Clubhouse. It helped to clean up the clubhouse & provided some needed income for the club.

Jim Watson took down a dead tree at the clubhouse. Thank you, Jim

Skeeter & Joyce Kish donated a tumbler to the Club – a big thank you to them

Children's Hospital Tree Season is upon us. The leads for the tree are Annette & Joyce. Skeeter & Joyce donated a beautiful slab of agate for the tree base. They are working on a tree topper. They want ornaments delivered to the clubhouse by Nov 15th; please email, call or text Annette that you are dropping something off. There is a box by the mail slot for your drop offs. Thank you

Chris Green- Around Akron link is on the club's Facebook page, if you would like to watch the piece done about the club. Becky & Courtney did a wonderful job.

A motion was made to pay for the 2021 lapidary dues of Dave Macseoinin for all he does at the clubhouse.

Motion: Sandy 2ND: Rob Motion passed

Motion to close meeting: Courtney 2nd David & Paulette
Respectfully submitted by Cathy Milhoan

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.

Christmas Party – We are planning to hold our next Christmas Party in December of 2021! Watch for details next year. (And hopefully, it won't be a 'masquerade!')

Gems provided by members:

November birthstones: by Mary Myers

November's birthstone is Golden Topaz (and Citrine is also sometimes listed.)

Topaz is a popular gem. Although it is frequently associated with a golden yellow color or a medium peachy orange color, it can also be found in blue, colorless, and ranges of pink, red, and fine golden orange (and these shades are much more rare). The highest prices go to the rare pink and red stones. The intense, reddish orange topaz is sometimes called imperial topaz. The yellow, lighter oranges, and brown stones are somewhat more common and their prices are correspondingly lower. Colorless topazes are common and are low-value gems in any size.

Blue has become one of the most popular color for topazes in today's markets but is also a typically very inexpensive stone. Almost all of these beautiful blue topazes began as colorless or pale blue colored stones and very common heat and radiation treatment was used to change these light or colorless topazes into very striking and darker blue colors.

Ultrasonic or steam systems should not be used on topaz as both vibrations and heat could cause the stone to split along natural cleavage planes. Instead, use a soft brush, mild detergent, and gentle warm water.



Lapidary and Metal Smithing Tips from Daniel's Workbench

Source: <http://www.lopacki.com/lopacki/tips/index.html>

Polishing Stone – by Daniel Lopacki Co.

In 1981 I bought my first Sugilite at the Tucson Gem Show. While admiring it outside a person at another table made the comment “good luck polishing it” Go figure

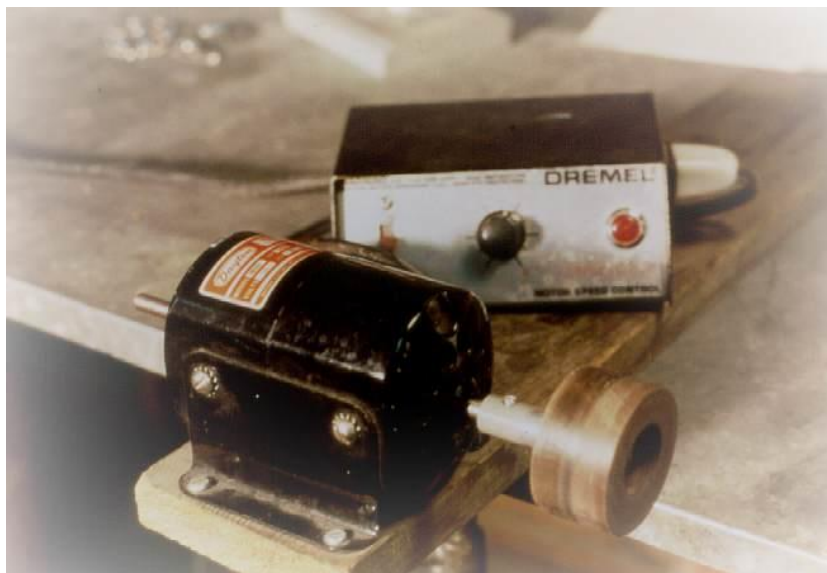
(Note from Wikipedia: Sugilite is a relatively rare pink to purple cyclosilicate mineral with the complex chemical formula $KNa_2(Fe, Mn, Al)_2Li_3Si_{12}O_{30}$. Sugilite crystallizes in the hexagonal system with prismatic crystals. The crystals are rarely found and the form is usually massive.)



Photos from Wikimedia Commons

This was my first experience with a stone that was a true pain to get an excellent polish on. After much experimentation I finally came up with a way to polish literally any material hard or soft to a **“WATER WET SHINE”**

It's too simple to be true but it works great Use wood.... I recommend using a softer wood over a hard wood. The first machine I made used a small 1/15th HP 3000 rpm motor, as you never run the motor near its top speed, a slower motor will work fine. At this time I think one of the best motors for this and many other applications is the [Foredom Bench Lathe](#).



I hand made my first wood polishing wheel from pine. I drilled a hole the arbor size through the board. I then used a compass to lay out a 2 1/2” circle, using a jewelers saw I cut as near a true

circle as I could. This done, I mounted my rough wheel onto the arbor and then turned the motor on; with the wheel spinning I freehand cut the wood wheel perfectly true. I don't recommend doing this as it is a little dangerous, find a friend with a wood lathe.

Once I had a true running wooden wheel I then charged it with 50,000 mesh diamond powder and light honing oil. I tried this on my hard to polish sugilite Lo and behold ... "WATER WET"...No water.

Since this time in 1981, my wood of choice is now redwood for wheels and high grade sanded plywood for flat laps. I work all my stone whether cabs, mosaic or beads to a 600 mesh wet sand. I then go to wood in three steps, 1200, 14,000 and 50,000 mesh diamond powder mixed with any light oil.

If you decide to try this out you will need three wheels, one for each mesh size I recommend keeping the wheels on their own arbor so you will also need three arbors. Keep each wheel in its own Zip Loc to keep from cross contamination.