



Summit Gem - December 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

December'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 December was scheduled for online as a Zoom meeting at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday in December, 12/01/2020, hosted by Courtney. The invitations to the Zoom meeting for all members were sent by Courtney to those who have provided their email addresses.

Program: No report

President's Message – by Becky Kosco:

“And suddenly you just know it’s time to start something new and trust the magic of the beginnings.”

This will be my next to last President’s message for now. I have agreed to pursue the Gemboree Chair position and I don’t think I can handle both jobs. It has been a pleasure to help the club navigate through the past three years.

The SLC Bylaws state our purpose: To afford the opportunity to share interest in lapidary knowledge and working techniques. My main goal was to encourage teaching and sharing of our members’ talents. Though we have been limited by Covid our club is still talking and learning with each other. I know we all look forward to the time we can all meet again in person. Until then we are reliant on other creative means to share our ideas. I want to thank Cortney Cable, Sandy Shorter, Mary Myers, and Evelyn Tryon for being our Leaders of Technology to enable our meetings and communications.

Thank you to all members of the Board and all club members who have kept our club moving. We will come out of the Pandemic in a dead sprint to FUN!

“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.” – Dr Seuss
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 or scheduling time at the clubhouse, please contact Dave Macseoinin or Mary Myers!

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 still currently scheduled for our next Gemboree to be held on April 24th and 25th, 2021. Please mark your calendars (and hope for the best)! Becky, Bobbie King, and Guy Kotch are working on this. Please mark your calendars to assist them in making this show the best ever!

GeoJuniors from Evelyn: No report.

Library news from Doug Shorter: No report. Lot of resources in here if you are interested!

Newsletter from Mary: Do you have anything that you might like to share? I welcome participation from our members – a short paragraph about something you’ve learned or a special location related to our lapidary interests would be most welcome! Don’t worry about ‘polishing’ your piece, I’ll do that for you (haha!) Please email me!

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

or send them to

Summit Lapidary Club
244 Chestnut Blvd
Cuyahoga Falls, Oh 44221

New Members

Please make them feel welcome!

Miscellaneous items:

SLC Executive Board Election 2021 News:

As with everything else this year our elections will be affected by the Pandemic. Our December 1st meeting will be via Zoom - so no cookies and no in person voting. Because 2020 has been such an odd year the majority of the Board has agreed to remain in place unless another club member wished to take their place. If members wanted to run for an office or wanted to nominate someone, members were urged contact Becky.

Officers of the Executive Board serve a one year term. The positions are available to all club members. This year the Nominating Chair was voted to be Becky Koscsco. If you want to be considered for any office or wish to nominate anyone please contact Becky before the December meeting. According to our bylaws the winner of these elections is determined by majority vote. The simplest solution was to vote at our December 1st Zoom General Meeting. Because not all members like to zoom or were able to attend the meeting, members could still vote by contacting one of our trustees or Becky.

Voting will take place at the December meeting. If you cannot attend but wish to vote please contact Becky or one of our trustees (David Rich, Tom McLaughlin, or Robert Spore).

The slate of officers:

President – Gene Willis
Vice President – Courtney Cable
Treasurer – Nancy Halloran
Secretary – Kathi Hampton
Member Chair – Cathy Milhoan
Trustee – Robert Spore
Newsletter - Mary Myers

I thank you all in advance for being flexible this past year. We all look forward to the day we can meet in person, have classes and comradery.

See you at the meeting - Becky

The Christmas Tree for the Children's Hospital festival:

A big thank you goes out to Annette Long for heading up the creation of our donation to the Akron Children's Hospital Annual Xmas Tree Sale. With help from husband Andy, and Joyce and Sketter Kish they fashioned a beautiful bejeweled tree resting on a Kentucky Agate base (donated by Skeeter and Joyce). The tree sold for \$100 dollars. Thanks to all club members who donated decorations for the tree.

William Holland trip:

Don't forget that the 2021 Class enrollment has begun! Please check their website for additional information. Also, please remember that the club has reserved a week there beginning on 09/12/2021. 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

A word about volunteering from your newsletter editor – this is our club and our clubhouse. That means that each member ‘owns’ some responsibility for these. Personally, I think that those who have been stopping in to use the machines downstairs have typically been doing a **great** job in cleaning up after themselves. But I do see that a note has been left in the sink – to “wash your own coffee cups/dishes/etc.” Please note: We don’t have a janitor here. If you leave something in the sink, no one is going to pick up after you. So please, could someone, (please?) volunteer to wash the dishes that have been left in the sink for about a month now? (Hint: Dave Macseoninin does not have the role of janitor here. He very graciously volunteers to take out the trash and bring the containers back, he answers phone calls and mail, and forwards messages. He often stops in here at the clubhouse and also welcomes new members, often showing them the ‘ropes’ about using our machines downstairs. But he is not our janitor, so let’s not take advantage of him.)

We need volunteers!

- We are still looking for members to help with the Rock Tumbler Role. Could you do that? I think they usually meet about once a month for a couple of hours to change out the rocks.
- We are still looking for our traveling members willing to serve as providers of source materials for the Gemboree and GeoJuniors. Any members planning to go out west?
- We also need someone who would volunteer to vacuum once in a while, and wipe down surfaces, and
- I don’t think that our floor (or counters) have been washed in, oh I don’t know, maybe as long as it takes a rock to grow? So, could we have a volunteer who might take on one or more of these jobs? And if you think of any jobs that need to be done – please let me know and I’ll be more than happy to post them here in the newsletter and help keep track of who’s doing what around here! We need your help! It’s OUR clubhouse!

December Shop Tender Days

During the month of December, 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 or Dave 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. You can call or text David Macseoinin at 1-234-706-1523. You can text Mary Myers at 330-696-4315 or leave a message for 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 mist, rock dust, and chips are dangerous to your eyes and your lungs.

Zoom availability and informal gatherings in the clubhouse - Saturday mornings

There are often members in the clubhouse for Saturday mornings coffee klatches, 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. We do not want to be labeled as a super-spreader! Anyone who would like to host a Zoom meeting for a group of members, please contact Courtney or Becky and they will help you to host a Zoom meeting.

Old News:

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 in October, with a small turnout but an excellent program on gold mining & panning.

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.

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 look forward to our next Christmas Party in December of 2021! (And hopefully, it won't be a 'mask-erade!' – bada boom!)

Gems provided by members:

An example of an update from one of our members: by Mary Myers

Barbara Kemper recently gave me permission to include the following pictures. She wrote to me that she was laying low and trying to stay healthy by hiking and biking when the weather was good. The cooler weather is cramping her style now. She wrote that she is not socializing in person with anyone except her daughter's family (and they are remaining as isolated as possible given their family circumstances). She is so thankful to have a safe home, a steady income, and ways to safely get food. She wrote that she has not been as creative as she thought she would be during these times, but she did make the earrings below that she had promised to her oldest friend about 10 years ago. Pretty, aren't they!



December birthstones: by Mary Myers

December is the home of not one, not two, but three, (yes three!) birthstones – Zircon, Tanzanite, and Turquoise. Each of these stones carries a unique blue tone (although Zircon comes in a variety of colors).



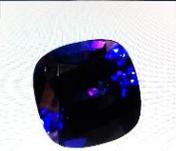
Zircon

Zircons are available in many beautiful tones of blue, green, red, yellow, brown, orange, and diamond-like clearness, but the most popular colors of zircons are the vivid blue and bright blues of the Caribbean Sea. In the Middle Ages, zircons were said to improve one's rest and to bring prosperity, honor, and wisdom to its wearer.



Tanzanite

Tanzanite can only be found in one place on Earth – the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the highest mountain in Africa. When it is worn, one carries a piece of this dormant volcano. The gem is typically an exotic velvety blue with a rich overtone of lighter and darker purple tones, color that are truly unlike any other.



Tanzanite is rarely a pure blue. It almost always carries its signature overtones of purples. Smaller stones often contain lighter purple tones of lavenders while larger sizes contain a deeper, richer, and more beautiful blues and purples.



Howlite



Turquoise

Turquoise - Watch out for 'fake' Turquoise (dyed Howlite!)

Gemrockauctions.com cautioned its readers that approximately 90% of the turquoise on the market was actually dyed Howlite, which is an absorbent white mineral that can be dyed in any color. They noted that real turquoise has a unique and identifiable appearance. They

cautioned that if the price looked too good to be true, it was probably the cheaper Howlite. There are several ways of telling these two minerals apart. Now you, too, can be an expert!

When rubbing a finger nail along the surface of the turquoise, the fingernail will get caught on the matrix spider-web webbing of the turquoise but less so with Howlite. This is a good indication that the stone is natural turquoise. The hardness of the mineral is also a good indicator – Howlite has a hardness of about 3.5, while turquoise is typically between 5 (lower-grade chalky turquoise) and 6 (high quality turquoise) on the Mohs scale. Softer turquoise is often stabilized or treated to strengthen it and help it keep its luster. This may actually make the treated stone a better alternative to the higher grade turquoise which will not last as long. If the stones scratch easily, they are more likely dyed Howlite.

A final means of determining between the two is a destructive color stability test. The color stability test (a destructive test) can damage turquoise if it is dyed. Using acetone (nail polish remover) and a piece of tissue, simply wipe an area of the stone (it is best to choose the back of the stone or an edge which is insignificant). If the tissue turns blue, and the stone has an area of lighter color, the stone has been dyed. The dye which is used on Howlite only penetrates the very superficial surface of the stone so the inside of the stone is actually white while the outside can be a vibrant blue. On the cheapest of dyed Howlite stones, people have actually complained that their pieces have lost color during rainy days. And if dyed Howlite is scratched (in an inconspicuous spot, of course), the white mineral is readily available inside the scratch.

Turquoise is a relatively soft and porous stone which will easily absorb fluids and oils such as perfume, sunscreen, and makeup. These can change the color and longevity of turquoise jewelry by altering the color and chemical stability of turquoise. Turquoise jewelry can quickly become faded, dried out, or might even crack from exposure to direct sunlight. Turquoise jewelry

should never be submerged in water, washed with soap, worn in the shower, or swimming pool and should not be exposed to long periods of time in bright sunlight. Care should be taken when storing turquoise so that it isn't scratched or bumped by harder materials.

Sources:

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Bench Tips by Brad

TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that let's me quickly trace the design of ginko leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.



OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



- **Brad Smith**

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Brad Smith Jewelry

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