



Chippers' Chatter

Newsletter of the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society
Baltimore, Maryland <chesapeake.rockclub.us>
Volume 53 Number 04
April 2009

Winter Weather Policy

If Baltimore county schools are closed on a meeting day, then our meeting is cancelled. Please listen to WBAL [1090 A.M.] or T.V. channel 11, or visit their website [wbalv.com] to be sure.

Who We Are:

The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society is a Member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society was established in order to allow its members to gain knowledge and skills in various phases of the Earth Science field. Through field trips, exhibitions, and cooperation with other societies, we endeavor to further not only our own knowledge, but also that of the general public.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month except August at the Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.m. and visitors are always welcome.

Deadline for submitting articles or comments in this Newsletter is the 15th of each month.

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2009 Calendar of Events

April	10 - Regular Meeting 17-23 EFMLS Wildacres Workshop*
May	8 - Regular Meeting 23 - Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show*
June	12 - Club Auction
July	10 - Picnic Meeting
August	-- No meeting --
September	11 - Regular Meeting 7-13 - 2 nd Session Wildacres*
October	9 - Club Auction
November	13 - Regular Meeting
December	11 - Holiday Party

*See Show Information, page 6

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President's Message:

We had a really nice turnout for the March auction. A special thanks to those who donated all of the great items that were auctioned for the Club Side.

Thanks to the auctioneers, Bernie, Richard and Steve who kept us entertained with their gems of humor.

April's program as I understand it, is to be a golden one.

See you then,

Gil

Goodies 'N Such

by Liz & Wendy Stanne

Thanks to our great members, our refreshment table was full of delicious treats! They kept us all fueled up and bidding on the wonderful array of Auction items at our March meeting.

The following members have signed up to bring in the treats for April :

Gil & Jo Charlton	Richard Hoff
Susan Mitchell	Lois Schwartz

Personals

Leslie Meszler is doing fairly well and still in ICU. Her heart is no longer the problem as the surgery repaired the valve and it is working quite well. The problem is that she is having difficulty getting weaned off the ventilator so she can breathe on her own. It looks like this will be a long term process. Carolyn W

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Field Trip Announcements

General Instructions for all trips:

1. **No attendee under 16.**
2. **All safety equipment required (hard hats, steel-toed boots, eye protection, gloves)**
3. **Quarries do not allow collecting under high walls.**
4. **Usually there will be a safety instruction talk before collecting that all are required to attend and sign off on, including release of liability.**
5. **Obey all quarry directives strictly.**

Trip 1. Tentative dates for collecting at Hunting Hill Quarry (Rockville MD) have been achieved by Fred Parker. They are all Sunday mornings, meeting at 8:15 am. Dates are 19 April, and 17 May. Chip-in fee of \$5.00.

Trip 2. SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2009, 9:00 A.M. TO NOON. LAFARGE MARRIOTTSVILLE QUARRY, 11411 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104.

Register by email with your field trip leader well in advance, because we must advise the quarry of the expected attendance.

by David Fordyce

Copper Country Mineral Retreat - August 2-9, 2009

by Keith Kaneda

The Copper Country Mineral Retreat (CCMR) is a week of field trips, talks, mineral shows, and open houses, which is put on by the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Tech. Details on the events are available by following the links on the web page at the URL below. Any club members interested in attending that with questions about the CCMR can contact me at kaneda@jhu.edu or 410-366-1186. Date Listed on URL is wrong.

((See http://www.museum.mtu.edu/copper_country_mineral/index.html)))

Minutes

Submitted by Earle Pfetzing

The meeting was called to order at 7:48pm at the Catonsville Woman's Club on 13 March 2009 by Gil Charleton, President. Approximately 70 members were in attendance.

The President extended sympathies to the family of previous member Ray Petrinko, who had passed away about a week earlier. Also sympathies were asked for Marilyn Cornish, whose mother passed away in early February. He then asked for abbreviated committee reports in order to have more time for the auction.

The Treasurer reported that the club is financially sound.

The Legislative Rep reported that the Senate's Omnibus Bill 22 had failed by one vote. However, later information indicates that the Public Land Management Act of 2009 had been attached to another "must pass" bill and was coming up for vote later in March. The outcome of this latter move is unknown at this time.

The Field trip Rep reminded everyone that there would be a field trip to Cornwall, Pa., on Saturday, March 14th at 8:00 AM. Members were to meet at the mine entrance.

The Newsletter Editor is still seeking graphics and or articles for the newsletter.

Program: Tonight's program was a club auction of numerous items which are in the club's areas of interest. The auction began at 7:58 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24PM.

New Business:

Club Show: Members were reminded of the club's annual show, which will be at the Ruhl Armory on Saturday, May 23rd from 10AM to 4PM.

Help Needed: We will have sign up sheets at the April meeting. You can also call or email one of us to indicate your time preference. The following are the committees we need to volunteers for:

Information Table - Lynne Luger

Silent Auction - Wendy Stanne

Children's Activities Table - Liz Stanne

April Program

Gold in SE Penna and Neighboring States

Historically, gold is mentioned in many of the older references of mineralogy and geology across southeastern Pennsylvania. However, it was not until 1973 that a group of dedicated mineral collectors from York County found gold. After consulting several geologists, using geologic maps and doing some research, the first gold was found near Hunterstown, Adams County. From there, interest moved eastward into southern Lancaster and York Counties.

As their knowledge of why gold occurs in the Piedmont region grew, their success continued. The gold region is confined to two sections of the Piedmont: the Newark-Gettysburg Section containing large diabase intrusions and the Uplands Section containing metamorphic rocks.

If these gold belts are extended southward into Maryland and Virginia, larger and more profitable gold mines worked along the Great Falls region on the Potomac River and near Gold Vein, Virginia. Today a number of streams in the tri-state area can still be panned for gold. Annually, the York County Parks holds a gold panning day in Spring Valley County Park in southern York County.

About the Speaker: Mr. Jeri Jones holds a degree in Geoarchaeology from Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina. He is a native of York, PA and has been studying the geology of the area for 30 years. He operates Jones Geological Services in Spring Grove, PA and specializes in educational geologic programs, conducts research projects and is a consultant for several local quarries. He loves to study the area's mining history, mineral resources and earthquake activity.

Mr. Jones has authored four books on the local geology, including "Gold in southeastern Pennsylvania" co-authored with Donald Schmerling. His latest book "TimeWalk -- A Journey through time in Adams, Lancaster and York Counties" is available at the meeting. Jeri has also produced three videos on the local geology which are used in schools today. His most recent research project is the Dillsburg earthquake swarm in northern York County where he is working with Dr. Charles Scharnberger of Millersville University.

Mineral of the Month

Galena – PbS – Lead Sulfide

Cubic, cubo-octahedral; H = 2.5 – 3; D = 7.4 – 7.6



This important source of lead has a strong metallic luster, grey color, is opaque and produces a black-grey streak. Fresh surfaces are very shiny, dulling over time.

Galena is found world-wide with U.S. locations in Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Wisconsin and Tennessee.

The cubic form often exhibits octahedral modifications as well as twinning.



Why not bring in some of your examples of galena for the mineral-of-the month table. Just be sure to not drop any of them on anyone's toe!

((The single crystal is from the Tri-State District of Missouri. The cluster is from the Galena District, Daviess Co., IL))

References: Sinkankas, John, Mineralogy for Amateurs Guastoni & Appiani, Minerals Bernard & Hyrsl, Minerals and their Localities

Feature Articles

Buying Rough Smartly!

By M.S. Hakulin Sr

Several months ago, in the December 2008 issue of *Jewelry Artist*, I read an article by Helen I. Driggs, *Managing Editor of Jewelry Artist*, about 10 tips for buying cabochons. I got to thinking that the same restraints that applied for buying cabochons could also be applied to buying any rough material for cutting cabochons or faceted stones. Remember, that a major constraint in jewelry making is *time*—time to cut the stone and, time to make the setting and time to set the stone. *((The other major constraint is cost of material, but that can be covered in a later article.))* Here, then, are 10 factors that should be considered, in my opinion, from the cutter/jewelry maker's point of view.

1. Size – If you are cutting a stone for a piece of jewelry, that gigantic stone with the wonderful color and pattern might be beautiful, but size means weight, larger and thicker bezels and settings that will have to be fabricated piecemeal. You may end up having to settle for a desk piece or a display case stone.

2. Shape – Don't go wild with your cabochon or faceted shape. Funky shapes are cool and interesting, but they may be the devil to cut and polish, and almost impossible to construct a setting to fit. When I first started cutting, back in the 1960's, yes I am that old; I bought a number of booklets showing fancy cuts. Most of them took hours to cut, and for some, I had to construct strange devices to polish them. Also, remember, if you are cutting to sell your piece so you can afford to buy more material, time adds cost and strange shapes mean you will lose a lot more material—adding to material costs also.

3. Workmanship - Is the back of your cab flat? Do you have a reasonably narrow girdle? If it isn't, you'll have to adjust your design to support the irregularities. That will add to your fabrication time and the need and cost of purchasing more metal. For easier setting of fancy shapes that are thick, try making the setting deeper with an extra set of bezels.

4. Material - Is the stone brittle or otherwise delicate? Trust me _ buy an extra piece. You never want to break a stone, but it happens. If I am in a good mood, some time I will tell the story of how I turned a 14 carat Kunzite into a 2 _ carat Kunzite. And, that nice 30x40 cab that I dropped on a concrete floor after polishing.

5. Cost – This, I believe is the most important factor of all--Does it fit your budget? Will it fit your customers' budget when you're done making the piece? If not, move on to more comfortable material. It's not a good idea to buy a piece of rough material and then be afraid to cut it because you might make an error.

6. Skills -- Do you have enough confidence or experience to set the stone you're working with? It might be a good idea to practice with a less expensive stone— maybe quartz first, or second or third. By all means, buy that wonderful stone if it's a good price, but realize practice makes perfect, and you might hold it for a while before you use it. You'll know when you're ready.

7. Color -- Just because you like certain colors doesn't mean everybody does. Sure, that blazing,

hot pink drusy is just fantastic -- but will your customers think so? If you plan to sell what you make, try to purchase raw material in many colors to offer choices to your customers. Look in some of the professional journals to see what colors are popular this season.

8. Supporting Cast -- Don't forget to buy smaller accent stones. It might seem boring to get a bunch of plain round, 3-5 mm stones, but at 3 a.m. on a Sunday morning, when you decide you need an accent stone to finish a pendant, you'll be glad you have them on hand. Make a list and follow it. ((For myself, I try to keep about a dozen each of 1-3 mm accent stone--rubies, CZ's, emeralds, sapphires, etc. on hand.))

9. Quantity -- It often pays to purchase stones in quantity. If it's material you love and your customers love it, buy enough to get a price break ((and also to make more later)). Ask the seller how much you need to buy to reach the price break and go for it. Sometimes you will be surprised that the discount pays for, or nearly pays for, the additional quantity.

10. Love Eternal -- If you see something so fantastic you have to have it, if you can afford it, and will make a piece from it, even if it's for yourself, buy it. *The funny thing about gem material is that it is a limited commodity. You may never, ever see that kind of stone again, and regret really is a terrible thing.* When I talk to people about cutting material I continuously emphasize this latter point. If you think you'll be "haunted" by the rough to make a particular cab or faceted stone if you love it, buy it, and make a present for yourself. (Copyright, 22 Feb 2009)

April Birthstone – Diamond

Diamond is the April Birthstone, and an alternate Zodiac stone for the Constellation of Aries.



Diamond is a perfect "10", simply the hardest natural substance known by a wide margin. Nothing can scratch a diamond other than another diamond. And a diamond can scratch anything, even a sapphire. Pure diamond is completely

colorless and transparent over a larger range of wavelengths (from the ultraviolet into the far infrared) than is any other solid or liquid substance - nothing else even comes close. Diamond conducts heat better than anything - five times better than the second best element, Silver! This characteristic is the basis for "diamond tests", as it is simple and cannot be faked. Diamond has a relatively high index of refraction (ability to bend light), which gives it the high luster called adamantine. Diamond has a relatively high optical dispersion which gives diamond the "fire" that makes it so desirable.

Diamonds may be nearly any color in the



rainbow plus browns, grays, and white. Shades of yellow are most common, followed by colorless. Blue, black, reddish, and greenish are more valuable (some extremely so).

Diamonds are found in a type of rock called "Kimberlite", which comprises the core of certain volcanoes over especially thick portions of the earth's crust. This hard stone is mined and then crushed between giant steel rollers. The kimberlite is reduced to fine gravel, yet the extremely hard diamonds come out unharmed! Water is added and a grease covered roller sorts the diamonds from the gravel, as the diamonds stick to the grease. Typically, a single carat of diamond is recovered from a ton of rich ore.

Diamonds are found in many areas including South Africa, Russia, and even in Arkansas in the USA. In all cases, diamonds formed deep within the earth's mantle, and were brought to the surface in volcanic eruptions. In many cases, the diamonds weathered out of the kimberlite by natural processes, and were transported downstream by water. Many diamonds are mined in the resulting alluvial deposits in areas such as along the coast of South Africa.

((<http://www.galleries.com/minerals/ELEMENTS/DIAMOND/diamond.htm>; www.wikipedia.com/april_birthstone/diamonds.html))

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Recipe of the Month

White House Onion Soup Recipe

By "One Million Cooking Recipes"

- One quart of milk
- 6 large onions, cut into thin slices
- 4 egg yolks
- 3 tblspns butter
- 1 tblspn flour
- 1 cup (8 oz) cream
- salt, pepper to taste

Melt butter in frying pan and add onions, stirring until they begin to cook and then cover tight and set back to simmer for half an hour.

Now put the milk on to boil, and then add the dry flour to the onions and stir constantly for three minutes over the fire; then turn the mixture into the milk and cook fifteen minutes.

Rub the soup through a strainer, return to the fire, season with salt and pepper.

Beat the yolks of the eggs well, add the cream to them and stir into the soup. Cook three minutes, stirring constantly. ((If you don't have cream, use milk, but add a tablespoonful of butter at the same time.))

Pour over fried croutons in a soup tureen.

"This is a refreshing dish when one is fatigued."

Quotable Quips:

"I like to think of cabochons as faceted stones with infinitely many meet points..."

Bob Keller, Bob's Rock Shop

On Salt, Saltiness Of:

Content: SALT

Warning: High in Sodium

Warning label on salt container

"Yesterday is history; Tomorrow is a mystery; today is a gift, and that's why it's called the present." Frank

Upcoming Meetings & Shows:

2009

April 17 - 23: EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. Speaker for the week will be Mike Wise from the Smithsonian.

May 23: Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show hosted by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd (MD 45 just off I-695), Towson, MD

September 7 - 13: 2nd EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. Speaker in residence - Brenda Foreman

2009 Officers:

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Steve Dyer Carolyn Weinberger
Gary White Bernie Emery

Committee Chairs

Auctions - Lynne Luger & Bernie Emery

Directory - Lloyd & Arlene Gleeson

Field Trips - Dave Fordyce

Greeters - Al Pribula, & Earl Pfetzing

Hospitality - Liz & Wendy Stanne

Legislation - Dave Fordyce

Library - Tony Wilner

Mineral of the Month - Steve Weinberger

Personals/Announcements/ - Patricia Smith & Lynn Luger

Robinson Award - Patricia Smith, Richard Hoff, & Elizabeth Stanne

Sunshine Pgms - Richard Hoff, Keith Kaneda & Tony Wilner

Safety - Johnny Johnsson

Show - Bernie Emery & Lynne Luger

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Phyllis Dyer 410-349-1630 Dawn Johnsson 410-833-5508

This 'n' That

By Mike H

A step-by-step guide to cabochon making can be found at: www.tradeshop.com/gems/howcut.html

Amber Polishing Tip:

"When working with amber, very small pieces are difficult to handle, but it may be necessary in order to get a better view of an insect inside. Try placing a piece of double-faced Scotch tape on a finger tip and press the piece of amber on it. With extreme caution you can work pieces down to a thickness of two to three millimeters." ((See complete instructions and other tips at

www.americawest.com/working.html.) This technique can be used with other small stones. <Ed>

Occasionally someone inadvertently gets some steel or iron contamination in the pickle-pot. The metal gets an instant copper flashing on the piece of jewelry. The copper flashing can easily and quickly be stripped off the metal item by getting a scoop of pickle from the pickle-pot and adding an equal amount of hydrogen peroxide to the pickle. Put the plated object in this solution, and the plating is stripped in about two minutes or less. Note: The hydrogen peroxide is the same hydrogen peroxide sold in drug stores and is part of almost all first aid kits. (Source: Tom Wright in The Backbender's Gazette, 2/2006)

Black rouge is for gold, silver, and German silver. It gives a high polish.

Green rouge is for platinum, chrome, stainless steel, and hard materials.

Red rouge is for gold, silver, and soft metals and materials.

White rouge is for the harder metals such as platinum, chrome, stainless steel, and some of the harder material.

Yellow rouge is for roughing in, as it cuts faster. It usually has a base of beeswax to hold the polish in. It is for hard materials such as chrome and stainless steel. (Source: Homer's Corner, date unknown, via Rockhound Rambling, 8/2003 via Blue Agate News, 3/2009)

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Upcoming Classes at the Patuxent Lapidary Guild

Provided as a service to our members <ed>

Mold Making Techniques: Apr 5th and Apr 11th,
10 am-6 pm Sign up by March 27th

Basic PMC: Apr 7th – 28th, 6-9 pm
Sign up by March 27th

Ring Carving: Apr 9th, 6-9 pm
Sign up by March 27th

Cabbing With Dave Hanna:

Apr 11th-May 30th, 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Sign up by March 27th

Enameling on PMC: Apr 19th & Apr 25th, 10 am-4 pm
Sign up by April 4th

PMC Bezel Making:

Apr 25th and 26th, 10 am-6 pm Sign up by April 11th

Mold Making Techniques:

May 2nd & May 3rd, 10 am-6 pm Sign up by April 18th

Keum-Boo (Oriental gold overlay) on PMC:

May 5th-May 26th, 6-9 pm Sign up by April 20th

PMC Bezel Making:

May 23rd and 24th, 10 am-6 pm Sign up by May 9th
Contact: Christine Keys for more
info: [chriscoli@earthlink.net

2009 EFMLS Wildacres Registration

PLEASE, ONLY one person per form per session

CHECK ONE: April 17 - 23: _____ September 7 - 13: _____

Please fill out a separate registration form for each person attending and return to BARBARA EDGE, Registrar at 1639 Fowler Rd; Woodruff, SC 29388. No registration will be accepted prior to January 1, 2008. (To make it easier for the registrar and others, please do not change or revise this form. You may photocopy it as needed.)

Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge): _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number with area code: _____ e-mail: _____

Club/Society Affiliation: _____

Fee for each session is \$345.00 per person. Deposit is \$175 per person, payable with registration. Make checks payable to "EFMLS". Balance of \$170 is due 30 days prior to start of session.

Cancellation policy: If unable to attend, fees paid will be refunded if notification is given prior to one month before the session begins. No refund will be made after that date.

Circle appropriate responses:

Have you been to Wildacres before? Yes No Is your Club sponsoring you? Yes No

Name of roommate: _____ (If none, one will be assigned).
Are you: Male Female (No single rooms are available). Are you a smoker? Yes No

Do you have any physical handicaps and / or special dietary needs? Yes No
If YES, please explain on reverse side.

Do you have material for exhibiting that you would be willing to display at Wildacres? Yes No

Do you have a skill to demonstrate or a program to share (up to 40 minutes)? Yes No

Class Pre-registration.

See EFMLS Newsletter or Website for class offerings. <www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>
All participants must take classes.

Which of the classes being offered would you like to take? We will be preregistering you for classes you indicate. When a class is full NO others will be assigned to that class, and you will be assigned your next class choice(s). No class placement is guaranteed.

1st _____ 3rd _____

2nd _____ 4th _____

(No registrations accepted prior to January 1, 2009)

Mail to: Barbara Edge, Wildacres Registrar
1639 Fowler Rd
Woodruff, SC 29388

If you have any questions, please contact either
Barbara Edge, Registrar at <barbara.edge@gmail.com> or 864-433-1692 or
Fran Sick, Director at <ednfran@epix.net> or 570-928-8313.



Chippers' Chatter
Mike Hakulin, Editor
8240 Ahearn Rd
Millersville, MD 21108



Wildacres Fall Classes

from Steve Weinberger

Wildacres in the fall is wonderful. The leaves usually have begun to turn, the temperatures are warm and the evenings comfortable. If you've never been to an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, this year would be a great time to come. The week is relaxed, you learn some new skills (or refresh old ones), and share a pleasant week with others from around the U.S. who share similar interests. The peace and quiet of the mountain retreat will absolutely soothe you. There are no TV, radios, loud city noises etc.– just the peace and quiet of the mountains and the laughter of people having fun.

Each session features a variety of classes to select from plus a guest speaker who lives on campus with the group and gives 5 or 6 talks during the week. For fall, the speaker is Brenda Foreman, whose specialty is the history of various periods of jewelry.

The classes that are being offered this fall are listed in the next column. Cost for the week is a modest \$345 plus a materials fee that varies depending

on the class (es) you take. An application for the fall session is on the preceding page.

Fall Classes at Wildacres

4-day (You can only take 1 of these)

Exhibiting & Judging - Jay Bowman
Faceting - Reivan Zeleznik
Pewter Fabrication - Bruce Gaber

2-day (You take 2 of these)

Cabochons - Basic - Al DeMilo
Cabochons - Intermediate - Al DeMilo
Fused Glass - Basic - Becky Edmundson
Fused Glass - Advanced - Becky Edmundson
Lampwork Beads - Pat Baker
Silversmithing - Basic - Ruthie Cohen
Silversmithing - Intermediate - Ruthie Cohen
Wirewrapped Jewelry - Ginger Posthumus

Need more information? Just ask!