



Summit Gem - February 2021 Newsletter



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

Board Members:

President – Gene Willis
Vice-President – Courtney Cable
Treasurer – Nancy Halloran
Secretary – Kathi Hampton
Membership Chair – Cathy Milhoan

Newsletter Editor – Mary Myers slcnewsletter2019@gmail.com
Trustees – Tom McLaughlin (exp 2022), David Rich (exp 2023), Bob Spore (exp 2024)

Mission Statement

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

February 2021 Monthly Meeting – to be 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.



DON'T FORGET! Save money – pay just \$44 if dues by paying before March 1st!

The meeting for February will be held online as a Zoom meeting at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday in February, 02/02/2021, hosted by Courtney. The invitations to the Zoom meeting for all members are sent by Courtney to those who have provided their email addresses.

Here is the Link to Join Our Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83233792599?pwd=Nm1VRWx3SVJBQ2ZKM0YzTGhyY1duQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 3379 2599 Passcode: 903404

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83233792599>

NOTE: This Zoom link is set up as a 'Recurring Digital Meeting'.

Save the link in this message to connect to following future meetings:

Every month on the First Tue, until July 6, 2021,

Feb 2, 2021 07:00 PM

Mar 2, 2021 07:00 PM

Apr 6, 2021 07:00 PM

May 4, 2021 07:00 PM

Jun 1, 2021 07:00 PM

July 6, 2021 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcvdOqvpzkvE91yBtZis9vAA9aPQI5VS0B-/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrrDgpHd2XtRCORpwqAljCb-3xmHpYj_oMhT3xOSIAOxXXF7tDAoNWR7j

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83233792599#,,,,,0#,,903404# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,83233792599#,,,,,0#,,903404# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

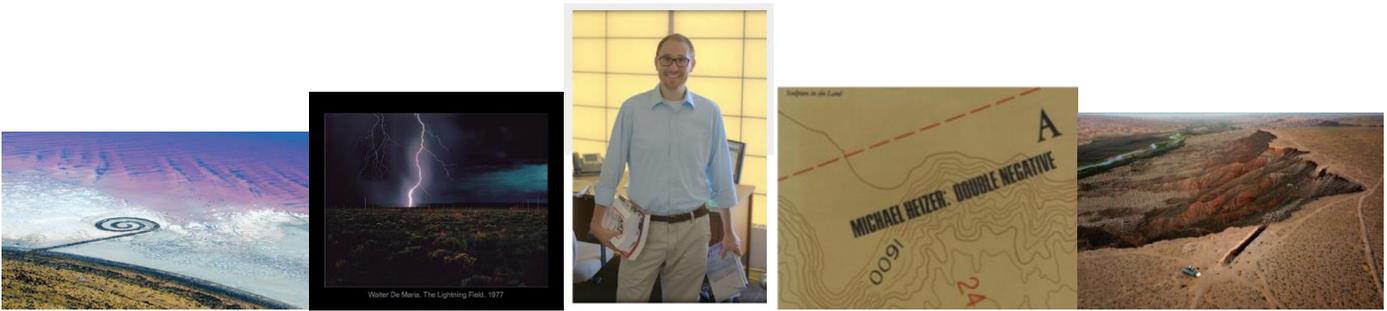
Meeting ID: 832 3379 2599

Passcode: 903404

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc4WbJ95Rn>

Computer or Digital Device: You're welcome to activate your camera and speaker settings. Once inside the Zoom virtual meeting, you can type comments in the chat feature to 'everyone' or to another member 'privately'. **Your attention and participation are appreciated.**

Please **'mute your microphone'** during the administrative meeting to eliminate background noise not related to the meeting, if you are not actively speaking. This will help us run a smooth virtual meeting; appropriately distanced. Once the general meeting has concluded, you are welcome to stay online to chat it up with other members. **Consider reaching out to your friends who may not be as versed in digital capabilities as you and offer to lend a digital-techie hand and help bring them up to speed.*



Program: *LAND ART: The Importance of Earth & Dirt* by John-Michael Warner, Ph.D.

John-Michael Warner, Ph.D., is an art historian, author, and professor at **Kent State University** where he teaches histories and theories of contemporary art, feminist and queer art and theory, and contemporary photography as well as environmental art history. **Land art**, variously known as **Earth art**, **environmental art**, and **Earthworks**, is an art movement that emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, largely associated with Great Britain and the United States but also includes examples from many countries. As a trend, "land art" expanded boundaries of art by the materials used and the siting of the works. The materials used were often the materials of the Earth, including the soil, rocks, vegetation, and water found on-site, and the sites of the works were often distant from population centers.

President's Message – by Gene Willis

As we begin 2021, I'm sure that we are hoping to see an end in sight to the COVID-19 pandemic with a sense of cautious optimism. I am pleased to have been elected as your president this year. My wife, Bonnie, and I look forward to meeting more of the members as we (hopefully) gradually reopen the clubhouse and our meetings.

I want to thank everyone who has helped our club in the past and I very much look forward to your continued contributions. The members make the club and I think this is a wonderful club. One of the ways that we can all contribute is to encourage and welcome others to join us (especially the younger folk).

Bonnie and I are grateful to be a part of such a welcoming group. I'm grateful to my board, the trustees and everyone else who will help our club continue to be successful. I'm also very grateful to Becky Kosco for her help in my transition as your new President.

Bonnie and I have lost several dear friends to COVID-19, one of whom was in his early 50s and he left 4 little kids behind. Please stay healthy and safe. This should only last a couple more months before most of us will have had access to the vaccine (if you choose to take it).

Thank you for your warm welcome,
Gene

SLC February 2021 News:

The Executive Board voted unanimously to cancel the Spring Gemboree and postpone it to the Fall. We will probably still have to modify our show even then to make it safe and to comply with the rules of the Health Department and Emidio's but let's work together to make this our best show ever. We are all disappointed, to be sure, but it is in our best interests to wait just a little longer to host another Gemboree.

The Executive Board also voted to continue our membership in the American Lands Access Association (the ALAA) during the Board meeting this month. This group works to keep various federal lands open to collectors and we thought it important for our members.

Regarding the William Holland trip: The Executive Board has requested that Sandy Shorter contact William Holland to see what options they might offer or if our trip can be extended to next year. Without the income that was going to be raised during our Spring Gemboree, the Board is looking at what our options about that trip might be. The school has reopened with COVID-19 precautions in place for now at least. We have time to decide this. This is not something that we need to focus on right now – Sandy will get the information for us and we will discuss this more in March or April. William Holland has postponed their opening until April.

Friendly Reminder about your SLC Dues: The Board asks for each member to please pay your annual dues as soon as possible. Only members are permitted to participate in the club's activities and use the club's equipment. We have missed three Gemborees, so we need members' dues for operating expenses. This is a reminder that your **2021 dues must be paid** in order to be an official member who is permitted to participate in club activities and use the club's equipment.

*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/drop them to

**Summit Lapidary Club
244 Chestnut Blvd
Cuyahoga Falls, Oh 44221**

Reminder about COVID-19: We have had a good number of members catch COVID-19, and at least one has died from it. Please continue to practice all precautions if you come to the clubhouse. Please wear a mask, limit groups to 6 people, turn on the exhaust fan, sanitize before you sit, wipe the tables down after yourselves, etc.

Classes and Events:

So who wants to teach a class? Class held inside the clubhouse must be limited by the instructor and cannot be greater than 5 participants and the instructor (6 people in total). Masks must be worn when at the clubhouse. Sanitizing products will be provided by the club. Classes held on our zoom account must be

limited to members. If you would be interested in offering a class or scheduling time at the clubhouse, please contact Dave Macseoinin! Remember we don't make money off fellow members but members can be expected to pay for their own supplies for these classes!

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 have cancelled our Gemboree that was to be held on April 24th and 25th, 2021. **Please mark your calendars for our Fall Gemboree to be held on October 23 and 24th!** Becky, Bobbie King, and Guy Kotch are collaborating on this event. Please mark your calendars to assist them in making this show the best ever! It will be so nice to be able to hold this event this year and we'll need all hands on deck to make this a success for our clubs. Please let Becky know NOW if you will be willing to work this event in the Fall. You can email her at kingtoast@aol.com. We need your support!

GeoJuniors from Evelyn: No report.

Library news from Doug Shorter: No report. There are many resources in our library if you are interested! Check with David Macseoinin. He has keys and can often assist you in borrowing these assets. Why not educate yourself while you're waiting for the clubhouse to officially get back to full speed?

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 (ha-ha!) Please email me at SLCnewsletter2019@gmail.com.

I've begun a new item in this newsletter, "Kudos to our members," for the volunteering that they do for the club. Any mistakes or items left out are entirely my own fault and I apologize ahead of time. Please let me know of future members' contributions to our club!

I've also begun another new item in our newsletter, and that is introductions to various members. As a relatively new person myself, I find that I really don't know much about other members and I thought this would be a good way to make new members feel more at home in our club. I am going to begin this item with an introduction to your new president and his wife.

Membership information: If you know of anyone in the club who is not receiving emails or invitations to our zoom meetings, please forward their email addresses to Cathy Milhoan at cthyamilhoan@yahoo.com. Please update your contact information to Cathy if you move or change your phone number. Membership dues are to be sent either to Nancy Halloran or the clubhouse. See addresses below.

Important note about membership information: **If any member does not want his or her address, phone number or email provided to other club members on the membership list, please contact our Membership chair, Cathy Milhoan, and Mary Myers, by (or during) our next zoom meeting on February 2nd, 2021. Otherwise we are going to make our email list available to active members.**

Miscellaneous items:

Calls for Volunteers:

We need volunteers!

- Fall Gemboree: We will need many volunteers for our Fall Gemboree on October 23rd and 24th!
- We are still looking for members to help with the Rock Tumbler Role. Could you do that? They usually meet about once a month for a couple of hours to change out the rocks. This work will likely start back up later this spring.

- 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?
- Speaking of the Fall Gemboree – did I mention we are going to need you for that project?
- We also need members to volunteer to vacuum once in a while, wipe down surfaces, clean the restrooms, swab the floor, sweep the decks, that sort of thing. If you have a few minutes when you're there, perhaps we could begin by thinking of the jobs that need to be done and writing them down? 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. ... and I promise kudos to volunteers (if I know about their efforts).

Kudos to Our January Volunteers:

- Kudos to David Mac for teaching a class on basic wire wrapping to a small group of 3 members
- Kudos to Susie for keeping the pop, water, and other supplies refilled.
- Kudos to David Mac, Mary Myers, and John Kerr for being shop tenders for the month of February.
- Kudos to David Macseoinin for wiping down tables, and for taking out the trash.
- Kudos to Courtney Cable for planning our monthly speakers and programs.
- And finally, kudos to all those volunteers whom I have forgotten to mention. (Please let me know who I might have missed.)

Introductions to members:

I often hear or meet members of the club and I find that I don't know anything about them. I thought that it might be important for other members, especially our new members to be introduced to people whom they might meet here. Each month, I thought that I might pick one or two members and introduce them (briefly). Let me begin by introducing you to Gene Willis, our new club President, and his wife, Bonnie Willis.

Gene and Bonnie Willis

Gene said, "Thanks for having enough confidence in me to vote for me to be your President. I will need your help to make this club successful this year as we pull out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and my wife, Bonnie, will make sure that I get the things done that must be done."

Gene and Bonnie are relatively new to the club. They enjoy the club and are looking for ideas to expand our knowledge. They are currently clearing out 60 years' worth of accumulations on Gene's family farm and he and Bonnie will need a couple of weeks (or a month or two) to finish that up before he can jump fully into his presidential role.

Summit Lapidary is their 3rd club. He belonged to the Medina Rock, Gem, and Mineral Club and to the Parma Lapidary Club. Gene was one of their 5 trustees and during the past 10-15 years he reviewed many of the club rules and documents while Bonnie is a Past Vice-President and Treasurer for Parma's club. He and Bonnie find the Summit Lapidary club to be very welcoming and friendly and very much to their liking. Prior to the pandemic, Bonnie enjoyed cabbing, wire wrap, silversmithing, and using the hydraulic press to make metal forms and looks forward to the end of the pandemic to return to those activities while Gene was mostly responsible for equipment maintenance and repair at both the Parma and Summit Lapidary clubs.

Another of their interests is muscle cars. They particularly like the 67, 74, and 89 muscle cars. Gene also enjoys wood carving and turning. He made a large wall clock for Bonnie. He travelled a great deal for his work in order fulfillment for businesses such as Victoria Secret Stores and Catalogs, and is skilled in the concepting and implementing of jobs. (They are both retired now). Gene and Bonnie have been married for a long time. They were both 'country kids' when they met in high school and had an hour bus ride every day to and from school. He was the new kid on the bus and Bonnie (still just as sweet now as she was back then) saved him a seat on the bus every day. They still love taking field trips together and look forward to more trips with the Summit Lapidary Club once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. It is wonderful that we are getting two such experienced, friendly, and knowledgeable members. Gene's goal for the club: Get more young people interested – our club needs that 2021 miracle!

While I'm introducing the 2021 President, I thought I might also introduce our Past President.

Becky Koscsó

Believe it or not, Becky plays the cello! She has been a member of the Akron Pops for a number of years now, which is based in Cuyahoga Falls, although they have not been performing much lately. She is married to Mike and she is a retired pharmacist (she's excellent at counting pills and could have been giving us our COVID-19 vaccinations but she has retired from all that just in time!) She was born in Cuyahoga Falls, grew up in Hudson, and now lives in Kent with her husband, Mike, who is a real gem. He very much supports her in her interest in lapidary.

Becky loves her rocks. (Okay, NO jokes about getting anyone's rocks off are permitted – this is a family club!) In addition to loving Mike, she does love her lapidary work and silversmithing. She very much enjoys the camaraderie of Summit Lapidary and the friendships she has developed here. She enjoys learning more and her goal when she was the President of our club was to increase the learning opportunities for club members. She very much enjoyed being President although the last year with COVID-19 was very stressful for her.

An interesting 'note' (yes, the pun on playing the cello was intended), is that this month's speaker, John-Michael Warner is actually Becky's neighbor. She said that John-Michael is going to 'give us the dirt on dirt' and informed me that he is quite interesting and knowledgeable.

Becky hopes to make us proud in her new role in taking over the Gemboree (along with Guy and Bobbie). But she explained that she's really going to need the help of all the members to make this event successful. She is calling for all of us to help her with this endeavor!

Becky and her husband, Mike, really enjoy travelling. Some of her favorite places have been Amsterdam and Iceland, but Becky particularly loves anywhere there is geothermal activity such as Yellowstone, New Zealand, and Iceland. Yes, Becky is one of those who would probably just love to take a selfie with a boiling volcano behind her, or at least, a jet of water coming from a geyser or a beautiful hot spring in the background.

January Shop Tender Days:

We have a new Shop Tender! John Kerr has graciously volunteered his time if anyone who doesn't have a key would be interested in using the machinery downstairs. During the month of January, Dave Macseoinin, John Kerr, 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 call or text John Kerr at 330-701-1882.

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 or on Zoom, anytime:

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 and she will help you to host a Zoom meeting.

Old News:

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. For example, if you desire to teach a class over Zoom to our Club members, you can contact Courtney Cable to set that up. Hey, everyone's teaching online these days, so can you!

January 5th, 2021 Summit Lapidary Club Meeting Minutes:

Platform: Zoom	7:00 pm Start Time	8:00 pm End Time
Meeting leader: Gene Willis, President	Minutes taken by Kathi Hampton	

Gene welcomed everyone to the meeting. He met with Becky last week to go over the duties of President. Mark Manley requested that he receive the newsletter at his email address. Laura McElroy gave her email address to get the newsletter sent to her.

Cathy Milhouse, membership, said Lisa will be her backup. Currently there are 125 names on the list.

David Rich reported the National Federation meeting has been moved from April to June. The meeting will be held at Big Pine, Wyoming.

The Midwestern Federation is reducing the dues by 50% this year.

Jon Kerr made a motion to donate \$50 each to the endowment fund for past members John and Maxine. Laura McElroy seconded and all agreed.

Nancy, treasurer, reported that the money situation is ok. 22 members have paid their dues so far.

About the Gemboree: Becky reported that the Gem Tree Show was requiring masks and the vendors were being spaced out. There were no food or beverages available at the show. Becky was contacting Mr. Pellagrino, at Emidos to see how they are doing. The Cincinnati gem and rock show was canceled.

Sandy Shorter is bowing out of doing the web site. Bob Powers will update the web site.

Joyce said all the posters, etc. for the Gymboree were done at the school.

Evelyn is the primary contact for the kids list for the show. Rob Rothchild has the current roster that needs to be sent to the Federation.

It was mentioned that in the past we sent a barrel of Ohio flint to South Africa. They sent back a barrel of tiger eye, etc. We might want to consider doing that with a group from the US. Oxford, England has Ohio flint in its collection.

David Rich asked for a membership list. A number of members wanted a copy of the list. Courtney will send a copy of the list to members.

It was stated that the saws are getting filthy. Gene said he has not been able to get down there. Susanne volunteered to clean the machines.

Defiance is opening their Calcite and Fluorite mine. They are open to groups twice a year. We will need to contact them the beginning of February if members want to go. It is a 3 hour drive to the mine.

Paleo Joe is speaking at the Feb. Mineral society. Contact Joyce if you want a link sent to you for the meeting. He can tell you where to find trilobites in Ohio.

Joyce made a motion to adjourn the meeting and David seconded it.

Gems provided by members:

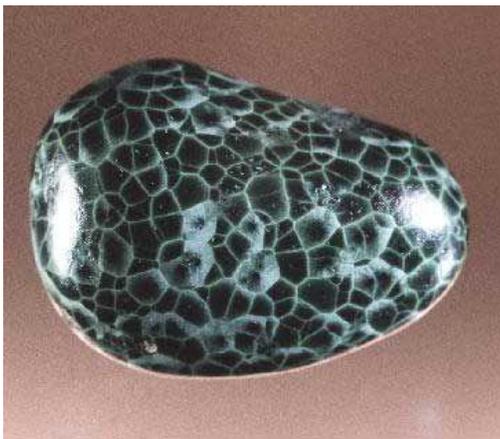
Wire Wrapping by Heather

The Torch Timers took a break from their usual metal silversmithing work recently and learned how to wire wrap a cabochon pendant. New member, Heather Waltz, along with older members, Kathi Hampton and Mary Myers, were treated to a beginner's wire wrapping class by David Macseoinin. David patiently walked the class through making a series of pendants. Kathi has been doing wire wrapping for a while but Mary and Heather were both first-timers. When the group's first attempts were a challenge, David advised us, "You learn from your mistakes, may you make many". Here are the group's very first wire wrapping attempts. Thank you, David!

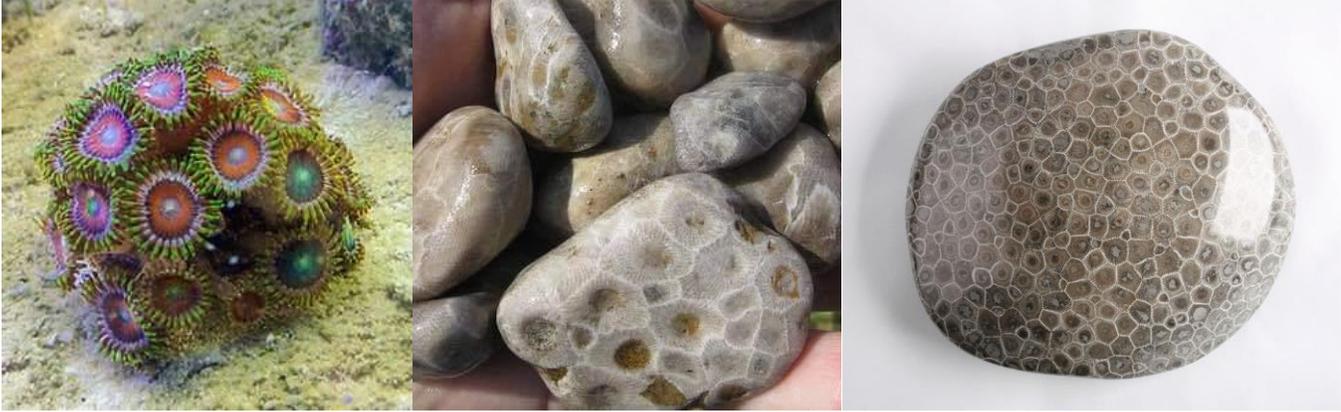


Polishing Petoskey rocks contributed by Mary Myers

The official state gemstone of Michigan is chlorastrolite, a variety of the mineral pumpellyite. It commonly goes by the name of greenstone or Isle Royal greenstone. The term greenstone is confusing because it is both a rock and a mineral term. Below are pictures of polished or tumbled chlorastrolite or Isle Royal greenstones. As you can see, they are quite beautiful.



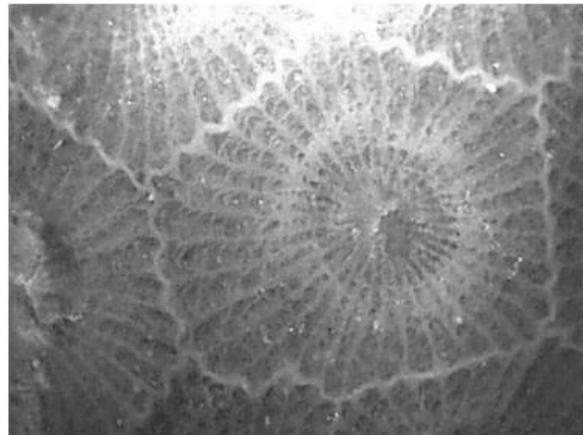
However, the official STONE of Michigan is the Petoskey stone. Note the difference, GEMstone vs. STONE. The Petoskey stone has similar types of apparent 'cell-like' structures but is also typically more gray in color, and is actually a very different material. The Petoskey stones are fossils of corals found near the city of Petoskey along Lake Michigan. The corals probably looked something like the picture on the left. The center picture is how these stones appear naturally when found along the lakeshore. The picture on the right is a polished Petoskey stone.



Petoskey stones are soft fossilized stones which have a rough surface naturally but can be polished to show the structure of the coral remains. Here is a magnified picture of rough and polished Petoskey stones.



The surface of a natural or rough Petoskey.



Surface of a polished Petoskey stone magnified to show the structure of the coral.

Finally, here is a photograph of a Petoskey stone which has been sliced very thinly and polished, with light behind it.



Petoskey stones can also be tumbled. Tumbling leaves a different texture to the stone. Here is a picture of two stones. The one on the left was polished and is more shiny. The one on the right was tumbled and it shows more of the texture of the stone. Whichever method you like, Petoskey stones can be gorgeous!



To polish a Petoskey stone, you can start on the wheel to rough shape it. Then you can progress to either hand sanding or belt sanding (but remember, they are soft and will work quickly!). To polish a Petoskey stone by hand, use water and start with a file to smooth the stone or do any other rough shaping. When you have the shape you want, wet sand the stone with a 220 grit. Hold the dampened stone firmly in one hand and rub the area of the stone to be polished on the sandpaper with a steady, rotating motion. After rubbing, rinse the stone and dry it. If you are using a bowl of water, replace with clean water often. Examine for scratch marks which should be removed with more rubbing. This first sanding is very important and should be done with care. Repeat the process using the 400 grit paper. This step should remove the scratches from the coarser paper and any white spots. Rinse, dry, and check. Complete the sanding with 600 grit paper. When you think you have all of the sanding marks out and it looks smooth and beautiful, sand for another five to ten minutes. Rinse and dry the stone. Examine the stone very carefully for any scratches or abrasions. If there are any, go back to a coarser paper and repeat the process.

ALL SCRATCHES MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE POLISHING. You are now ready to polish your stone. Use a piece of corduroy, velvet, or any other smooth, hard-surfaced polishing base and either a polishing powder or polishing compound. Many car-finish rubbing compounds are suitable for this task. Sprinkle a very small amount of polishing powder or compound on a lightly dampened corduroy or velvet square. A short, rotating rubbing does the polishing. If scratches show after polishing, go back to the 400 grit and work through the steps again. You can also use various clear finishes (sprays are better than brush-ons) to help bring out the pattern in specimens that you may not want to grind. These require special precautions and supervision is needed. When you have finished polishing, wipe off the stone with a clean, dry cloth. You now have a smooth, highly polished Petoskey Stone to add to your collection.



Sources:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ogs-gimdl-GGPS_263213_7.pdf
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=a928ffa992&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-a:r-2997803981397570170&th=1775db8a36162abb&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=1775db848e8fd1539f1>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ogs-gimdl-GGPS_263213_7.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ogs-gimdl-GGPS_263212_7.pdf
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/262897696969208170/>
<https://copperconnection.com/pages/greenstone-facts>
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Chidrens_Museum_of_Indianapolis_-_Polished_Petoskey_stone.jpg

Brad's Tips**BEZEL CLOSER**

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. It works with regular bezels, with tube settings, and with prong settings. Stones can be set in as little as 30 seconds.

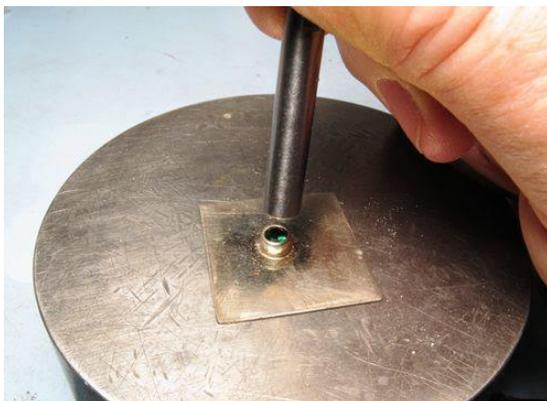
The working end is a concave cavity that fits over the bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

Find a round steel rod or bolt a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, centerpunch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next, if it's a small stone, I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, I burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.



BENCH SHEARS

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$36 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run from more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07

I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.



Brad Smith Jewelry

Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To" Books at <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



and finally,

No matter
how long the winter,
spring is sure to follow.
- English Proverb



Happy Groundhog Day!

©AGCM, Inc.

To Do List
First Day of Spring

1. Shovel walk
2. Scrape windshield
3. Break icicles off gutters
4. Shovel snow off roof
5. Salt sidewalk
6. Defrost water pipes
7. Reschedule cancelled Airline reservations
8. Chip ice off car door
9. Tow frozen car to garage to defrost radiator
10. Put groundhog in oven w/BBQ sauce

Happy Groundhog Day in Ohio, to all my SLC friends. Yup, we have six more weeks of winter coming....