

Summit Gem - January 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

January 2021 Monthly Meeting – held online On the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM due to the Covid19 pandemic





The meeting for January was held online as a Zoom meeting at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday in January, 01/05/2021, 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:

The program for January was developed by Courtney Cable for us: "Tools of the Trade." Members were encouraged to bring a favorite tool to share with the group on zoom. She also presented a short video from Time McCreight's Toolbox Initiative: Traditional Touraeg Casting Process. If you missed our meeting and would like to watch that video, it can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHwAUbOSHHg

President's Message – by Becky Koscso (This is her last Presidential message to us.)

"The year end brings no greater pleasure then the opportunity to express to you season's greetings and good wishes. May your holidays and New Year be filled with joy." - Charles Dickens

As we close the door on 2020, I'm sure each of us is breathing a sigh of relief. Though the end of this craziness is not in sight, the "new year" brings a sense of optimism.

At this point we are planning to have the Spring Gemboree. We will have to modify our show to make it safe and to comply with the rules of the Health Department and Emidio's.

I want to thank everyone who helped bring our club through the past three years. The individual contributions add up to an evolving and improving club. I am very grateful to have served as your president. I'm grateful to my board, the trustees and everyone else who helped the club continue to be successful. I'm also very grateful to Gene Willis for becoming our new President.

Thank you – Oh and keep Rockin' Becky

In Memoriam:

We are sad to announce that **John Tryon** passed on Dec. 22, 2020. He has joined the group of other great rockers of the skies waiting for all of us in the heavens. John (and his grieving wife, Evelyn, who is still with us), have been honorary lifetime members of Summit Lapidary for several years, now in gratitude for all their work for the club. John taught classes and served in many leadership roles through the years. Becky hopes that you took his wire wrapping class to make a hot air balloon. John will be greatly missed for his friendly welcome to all new members. If you wish to send condolences or sign his guest book, please visit www.cliffordshoemaker.com. He was a font of knowledge about rocks and was quite willing to share his experience and knowledge with all interested. In his memory, let us all make an effort to warmly welcome new members.

We are also sad to announce that **Maxine (Mickey) Sauricki** has unfortunately also passed away on Dec. 21, 2020, having never recovered from Covid. She has reunited with her husband of nearly 70 years, Pete (who passed May 29, 2019), in the group of great rockers of the skies waiting for all of us in the heavens. Maxine (also known as Mickey to her friends) and her husband were both long-time rock hounds. Her family will have a memorial service later when it is safer for friends and family to gather. Maxine was a founding member and secretary of the Flint Ridge Knappers, and she was a member of both Summit Lapidary and Akron Mineral. She was always willing to help other members and sought diligently to answer their questions about stones and minerals. As a tribute to her, an example of that willingness to seek answers and her diligence in finding them is included in this newsletter under Members' Gems. If you wish to send condolences or sign her guest book, please visit https://www.kinnickfuneralhome.com/obituary/OrphaMaxine-Sauricki. In her memory, let us all make an effort to share our knowledge and to diligently seek the answers to all questions raised by any of our members.

Summit Lapidary has made a financial contribution to both their charities of choice.

Classes and Events:

So who is ready to volunteer to teach a class as soon as the social distancing restrictions ease and the club reopens? 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 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! 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 if you will be willing to work this event this year.

GeoJuniors from Evelyn: No report.

Library news from Doug Shorter: A new book has been added to our library – *The Pinch Collection:*

Canadian Museum of Nature. There are many resources in our library if you are interested! David Macseoinin has keys and can assist in borrowing these assets.

<u>Newsletter from Mary</u>: 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 at <u>SLCnewsletter2019@gmail.com</u>.

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!

<u>Membership information</u>: 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 **cthymilhoan@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.

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 Summit Lapidary Club 244 Chestnut Blvd Cuyahoga Falls, Oh 44221

Miscellaneous items:

SLC Executive Board Election 2021 News:

Congratulations to our new Executive Board members!

President - Gene Willis

Vice President - Courtney Cable

Treasurer - Nancy Halloran

Secretary – Kathi Hampton

Member Chair - Cathy Milhoan

Trustee – Robert Spore (joining trustees Tom McLaughlin and David Rich)

or send them to

Newsletter Editor - Mary Myers

William Holland trip:

Please remember that the club has reserved a week at William Holland beginning on 09/12/2021. If you are interested in joining in this adventure <u>it is not too late!</u> We would love to have more members come. Contact Sandy at <u>Sandyshorter25@gmail.com</u>. So far, so good. The school has reopened with Covid precautions in place for now at least. William Holland's website: https://lapidaryschool.org/main.aspx and their facebook page is: https://www.facebook.com/groups/913773268679924/

Calls for Volunteers:

We need volunteers! (Continued on the next page)

- 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 Gemboree we are going to need volunteers 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 December Volunteers:

- Kudos to Susie for refilling the pop and for getting the President's plaques updated from Mineral 2004 to 2020 and from Lapidary to 2017-2020.
- Kudos to David Macseoinin for wiping down tables, taking out the trash, teaching new members several times, and for cleaning the glass on the display cases.
- Kudos to Kim Evangelisti for washing the dishes left last month in the sink by unknown members.
- Kudos to David Macseoinin, Mary Myers, and John Kerr for offering to be shop tenders in January.
- Kudos to Becky Koscso for her 3 years of service as our President and for taking on the Gemboree along with Guy Kotch, Bobby King, and others.
- Kudos to Gene Willis (and his wife, Bonnie) for accepting the role as President for 2021 (Hey! We're
 getting two for the price of one!), and to all the other members of the 2021 executive board for their
 service including Courtney Cable, Nancy Halloran, Kathi Hampton, Cathy Milhoan, Mary Myers, Tom
 McLaughlin, David Rich, and Bob Spore.
- Kudos to Courtney Cable for planning our New Year's Eve zoom party, for her enthusiasm in planning presentations for our meetings, and for her colorful artwork in those announcements.
- And finally, kudos to all those volunteers whom I have forgotten to mention! (The fault is entirely the editor's.)

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 <u>you must make an appointment with one of our shoptenders</u>.

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 or Becky and they will help you to host a Zoom meeting.

The Saturday Silversmiths' group gratitude gift to Becky Koscso:

Four of the Saturday afternoon Silversmiths collaborated together and made a gift for Becky Koscso to thank her for her three years of service as President, and particularly for getting the club through these very tough times of Covid. She spearheaded the efforts to keep the club members as safe as possible during this time. The four members worked together to design and make this gift for her, of sterling silver with brass accents, Ohio Flint, and Mahogany Obsidian. It was designed as a lapel pin that might be worn when she plays with the Akron Pops. None of the members had ever inset stones before and none had ever collaborated on such a group effort in lapidary work. It was truly a learning experience and all done with proper Covid precautions in place.





Rough copy



Becky Koscso



Finished piece

Old News:

We are still hoping that the Spring 2021 Gemboree™ is moving forward, it will probably look a little different with Covid precautions in place.

William Holland info was sent out to those who previously signed up. It is the week of September 12, 2021. Please contact Sandy Shorter at sandyshorter25@gmail.com for more info.

Zoom¹

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.

New Year's Eve Party - Thanks to Courtney for setting up such a 'hot' zoom event! It was volcanic!

December 1, 2020 Summit Lapidary Club Meeting Minutes:

Platform: Zoom 7:00 pm Start Time 8:00 pm End Time
Meeting leader: Becky Koscso, President Minutes taken by Courtney Cable, Vice President

Members Present: 18 members in attendance New Member Present: Richard Dudley

Announcements:

WEATHER: There is a 'Snow Ban' in Cuyahoga Falls. You cannot park on the street if you go to the

clubhouse.

2021 Membership dues are due.

Mail your 2021 dues to Nancy Holloran or directly to the Clubhouse. If you pay before February it's \$44. It's \$48 afterwards.

MAIL CALL at the Clubhouse: reported by David Macseoinin

Andrew Long, June Johnson + Mail from PNC Bank & Red Cross

SUNSHINE NEWS:

At least SIX members have contracted COVID-19 (with at least one death)! Please be very careful.

Paul McElroy is doing better.

Joyce Kish is doing better. (minus the internet connection) She can make a fist with her right hand. **Richard Lee** is supposed to have surgery on his back.

John Tryon is not doing well. (Keep him in prayers.) Note: He has since passed.

COVID-19 NEWS: The following news was brought up throughout the meeting.

• 37% positive rate everyone tested at the Cleveland Clinic. - from a source who works in a lab.

- There is a strict policy of those who are allowed to get a test. You have to pretty much be 'symptomatic' to get tested. – from a member who is familiar with internal operations. This most likely leads to a 45% positivity rate in the community. Many counties are ready to go Purple. (Highest State of Alarm)
- Akron General: Four floors are booked with COVID-related patients and more. from a friend who works there.
- Vaccine is projected to be generally available for all in May. (April/May)
- Akron Children's Hospital: 24% of staff tested positive, as reported last Monday to someone who is on the board.

CLASSES: David Macseoinin, 234.706.1523 (cell)

If you have a class or plan to attend a class, it must be a 'small' class size. Make sure you contact DAVE for class schedule.

GEMBOREE: ACTION requested to Vote for Chair position.

Mary Myers nominated Becky Koscso. Joyce Kish 2nd.

Member Vote = Approved/Agreed

Becky Koscso = 2021 Gemboree Chair

Bobby King = 2021 Gemboree Back-Up

CHRISTMAS TREE: The Jeweled Tree sold.

The patron of the tree was purchased by a friend of a past participant of Summit Lapidary Club, possible Geo Juniors connection.

2021 Tree Theme: Flint Ridge Tree

Joyce Kish agreed to lead the Akron Children's Hospital Christmas Tree Festival endeavor through 2021. She is looking forward to developing a 3' tree. Dollar General has a 4' white tree for \$18. They also have a golden tree. ~ Per Suzie

William Holland Trip: Sandy Shorter. (Sept. 12, 2021)

This trip is still open to members who would like to participate. Their auction is LIVE online now. Classes are open to everyone. Housing was briefly discussed.

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Craft Show: Joyce says, connect with Annette Long for intel. The show went on during Thanksgiving.

LIBRARY: Welcome a new book, The Pinch Collection: Canadian Museum of Nature - per Sandy Shorter Email for Zoom meeting link was received by various sources. Thanks to all who attended.

ELECTION for 2021 Club Leaders: VOTE for 2021 Leaders

David Rich, Made a motion to accept the leaders stated in the December Newsletter. John Kerr 2nd

Member Vote: Approved. None opposed.

President: Gene Willis

Vice President: Courtney Cable

Treasure: Nancy Halloran

Back Up Treasure, Laura Thomas

Secretary: Kathi Hampton

Membership Chair: Cathy Milhoan Newsletter Editor: Mary Myers

Trustee: Bob Spore, 3-year term. (expiring 01/01/2024) & two prior elected trustees

Trustee: Tom McLaughlin. (expiring 01/01/2022) &

Trustee: David Rich. (expiring 01/01/2023)

Akron Artwalk: Dec. 5, 5-8pm in Akron. Summit Artspace has a makers' market event 12-5pm on Saturday. **ZOOM**: May Akron Mineral Society use the Zoom platform. ~ ASKED by Joyce. Approved by Becky. Just avoid times when the Club will be using it.

Summit Lapidary Club: If pay before end of Feb. = \$44. If after Feb, dues are \$48.

Akron Mineral Society: Dues are due. \$10 individual, or \$15 per family.

Midwest Federation: Dues are 50% off this year. Was \$2. Is now \$1. Juniors are \$0.25 - per David Rich. Joyce reported with a news update to the Midwest Federation about the Christmas Tree, our Zoom meetings.

Congratulations to David Rich who is the 3rd Vice President of Midwest Federation. Way to go, David! Jim Brace-Thompson wants to bring back the poster contest as a national program.

David Macseoinin - Motion to adjourn. Joyce 2nd. None opposed.

Gems provided by members:

Rock Puns contributed by Becky Koscso

I really hate rock puns - - - my sediments exactly

What do you call a benzene ring where iron atoms replace all the carbon atoms?- - - A ferrous wheel

Why can't minerals ever lie? - - - They are always in their Pure form.

How do Geologists like to relax? - - - In rocking chairs, of course. When were rock puns the funniest? - - - During the Stone Age

What do you call an Irish gem that's a fake? - - - A Sham rock

Did you hear about the Geologist who went to jail? - - - He was charged with basalt and battery

What happens when you keep reading geology jokes in your free time? - - - You know that you have really hit Rock bottom.

Desert Varnish in tribute to Maurine Sauricki, contributed by Bob Powers

Several years ago at Gemboree Dave Macseoinin asked me what the coating was on Birdseye Rhyolite. I finally came across article by Dr. Peacock that answers his question.

In the desert the hills are made up mostly of schist and quartzite, which are shale and sandstone that have been subjected to intense heat which sometimes developed the shiny coating known as "desert varnish." Desert varnish is a dark brown or black coating of iron and manganese oxides that build up on rocks in hot, arid climates. It takes centuries to accumulate. Microbes might have something to do with it but scientists aren't 100 percent certain how the whole process works.

The cool thing about desert varnish is that it provided the canvas, so to speak, on which the Hohokam and other ancient Americans etched their petroglyphs. The varnish preserved the drawings over the centuries. In memory of our member, Maxine (Mickey) Sauricki who so willingly shared her knowledge and research with others – here is an article she wrote many years ago, provided by Bob Powers. Thank you, Mickey, for this information about desert varnish. and no matter where you are, I am sure that you are picking up some very interesting rocks now.

Ohio rocks contributed by Mary Myers

Let's begin with the basics: There are 3 types of rocks – sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic.



Sedimentary example



Igneous example



Metamorphic example

Sedimentary form from layers of mud, sand, dead plants and animals which settle to the bottom of seas and lakes. This soft gunk eventually hardens into rocks. Igneous rocks form when hot, molten magma cools very quickly and solidifies. Sometimes sedimentary or igneous rocks are changed by heat and pressure and when that happens, metamorphic rocks are born.

In Ohio, we have many sedimentary rocks that are found at or near the surface of the earth and these include clay, shale, limestone, sandstone, and coal. Some of Ohio's rocks are much deeper underground and these rocks are mostly igneous and metamorphic rocks, and sometimes sedimentary rocks are also found underground. All rocks are made of one or more minerals which take the form of crystals and these come in many different shapes and varieties.



The geologic maps of Ohio show the ages of Ohio's rocks.

The oldest rocks that exposed on the surface are in southwestern Ohio in the area around Cincinnati.

The younger rocks are found in the eastern and northwestern parts of the state.

Ohio's Official State Fossil is the Isotelus. It lived in the warm shallow seas that once covered Ohio during the Ordovician Period. The Isotelus is a kind of trilobite. These very common fossils can be found in Ohio's limestone. Later, during the Silurian Period, Ohio was still covered by warm shallow seas and the minerals Halite (salt) and selenite (gypsum) were deposited in these seas. There are places in Ohio where you can still go and find and (*legally) collect fossils such as these.



During the Devonian Period, the seas that still covered Ohio became full of amazing critters and this period is known as the Age of Fish because of the many kinds of fish that lived right here in Ohio. One of the most famous is the Dunkleosteus, which grew up to 30 feet long and had a bite stronger than even the great white sharks have that live today! It was a really ugly fish, with a big mouth and big teeth. Glad these are no longer around!



During the Mississippian Period, Ohio began to dry out, and the land was sometimes above sea level, and sometimes below it. Land plants began to survive and thrive and many different kinds of sedimentary rocks were formed during this period.



During the Pennsylvanian Period, coal was formed in Ohio. Coal is the black or brown sedimentary rock that is mostly made from the fossilized remains of plants which is why it is called a fossil fuel. During this period of time, Ohio was covered by swamps full of huge forests and big bugs! Did you get any coal in your stockings this year?

Finally during the Permian period, Ohio was mostly above sea level. Plants and animals thrived but few rocks were formed because the water and the wind were wearing down the landscape by erosion which created sand and silt, sediments that eventually formed our youngest sedimentary rocks here in Ohio.

But then came the glaciers. More than 2 million years ago ice began to pile up all across Canada, forming glaciers, giant sheets of ice up to a mile thick! These glaciers slid and scraped







their way down into Ohio, melting back, and spreading again until they covered more than half the state. These glaciers carried huge amounts of sand, gravel, and large rocks with them as they gouged across Ohio, forming the Great Lakes, smaller lakes and even ponds, and as they melted, left behind rich soils making Ohio's fields well-known as good farmlands. All that sand helped to break down the clay in our soils.

Only certain plants (oak trees, grasses, and wildflowers) could grow on the bare ground scraped by the glaciers in Ohio. In the parts of Ohio where glaciers didn't reach, other trees and plants can be more naturally found, such as maple, hemlock, and sassafras trees. Mammals began to rule the land during the Ice Age and two of these which were common in Ohio were the mastodons (in the forests) and the mammoths (which preferred open grasslands)! Believe it or not, we also had saber-toothed tigers, bison, giant sloths, giant beavers, and others. Then, about 10,000 years ago, many of these large animals became extinct. Perhaps the arrival of humans who hunted these animals for food had something to do with it, speaking of which...



We all know that Ohio is well known for its flint (our Official Gemstone – since 1965) which was often used for making spear and arrow heads, and other tools. Flint is a type of the quartz mineral. Ohio's flint was (and still is) prized because it was so strong and so easily shaped into tools and weapons, as well as jewelry. Crystals commonly found in Ohio include calcite, fluorite, quartz, celestine, dolomite, spalerite, and pyrite (fool's gold). Check out these beautiful Ohio flint arrowheads made by Roy Miller! Aren't they absolutely & stunningly beautiful!

Resources:

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Bench Tips by Brad Smith

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ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.



A simple and inexpensive (\$12) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or modelmaking outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder.

What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



Brad Smith Jewelry Expand Your Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To" Books at http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

