

Summit Gem - September 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)
Immediate Past President – Becky Kosco

Mission Statement

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



September 14th, 2021 Monthly Meeting
(the SECOND Tuesday of the month!)
will be held in person and online
at 7:00 PM at the Polish American Club



The Polish American Club (PAC) is located at 472 Glenwood Ave, Akron 44310. The invitations to the Zoom meeting for all members are sent by Courtney to those who have provided their email addresses.

Below is the UPDATED ZOOM LINK for the 2nd Tuesday of each Month for the Members' Meetings.

Summit Lapidary Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Summit Lapidary Club Monthly Member's Meeting

Time: September 14th, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Tuesday, until Dec 14, 2021 (that's for all meetings!)

Sep 14, 2021 07:00 PM

Oct 12, 2021 07:00 PM

Nov 9, 2021 07:00 PM

Dec 14, 2021 07:00 PM

You can download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Monthly meetings:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/85177270880?pwd=VE1pUHNhUzVENDdmOXo4Z1RvVHZxUT09>
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEscO6qqTsiEtRXalHuwR1ZccERk5CjT_XO/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtrzwTNOVuBGHRpwMBY_CKOrwtmJHj7dvpB7MKzVEUFLMNeFnALkqM9Lk



Or you can join the Zoom Meeting right here!



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85177270880?pwd=VE1pUHNhUzVENDdmOXo4Z1RvVHZxUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 7727 0880

Passcode: 637360

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85177270880#,,,,*637360# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,85177270880#,,,,*637360# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 851 7727 0880 Passcode: 637360

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85177270880?pwd=VE1pUHNhUzVENDdmOXo4Z1RvVHZxUT09>

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.*

Proposal to move the meetings back to the Quirk Center

Mary Myers has suggested that the Summit Lapidary Club move its meetings back to the Quirk Center next year. She suggested that the lighting and space seemed brighter and more open at Quirk. The Board decided that it only made sense to continue our contract through the end of this year at the PAC.

The Center is under new management (Michael Fallon). They have now fully recovered from the flood this spring when the water main burst and essentially killed everything in the building for a couple of months. They have put some money into the building, with new (and much nicer) bathrooms. The building staff generally feels much more welcoming and friendly, and the building feels much cleaner in general.

Mary was told the following: The second Tuesdays might solve the problem of space on Election Tuesdays (which fall on the first Tuesdays of the month typically twice a year), BUT they are not yet taking reservations at Quirk because the City of Cuyahoga Falls has hired a new program manager who will plan the schedule.

The cost for the ballroom/gym would most likely be \$125/month for our general meeting and we would be able to use the kitchen area. That cost would probably include a second room for the Board meeting on another day if we needed to meet there for some reason. They have instituted (probably permanently) new cleaning procedures and they may not be able to schedule events in both the afternoons and evenings because of the need for the additional time for cleaning the room and furniture before turnover events.

Mary was asked to check back in a month or two to see if we could reserve the space. She is asking for the members interest in 1) moving the meetings back to Quirk and 2) keeping the new schedule of meeting on the second Tuesdays of each month.

Program: Beth Vild, of Wild Woman Designs & Consulting

Beth Vild is a permaculture designer and consultant. Based on biomimicry processes Beth has applied permaculture design methodology to a variety of inter-organizational, cross-sector, and community structures. She will speak on rock-scapes at our club meeting.



President's Message – by Gene Willis

The gardens are being harvested as we approach the fall and winter months. Please start considering if the club could benefit from your bounty if you would/could run for any of the club officer openings that may be up for election this Fall. (You could start by considering being on the Nominating Committee for starters!)

Replacement parts for Saw #3 arrived. We now have a nice and quiet rock saw which is fully operational after being outfitted with new bearings. Many thanks to Tom McLaughlin, Bob Spore, and Tom Banks for their assistance in fixing this problem! We all had black greasy hands, but we got the job done!

Courtney is to be congratulated on her efforts in scheduling a speaker for each of our monthly meetings. Check out her scheduled speaker for our September 14th meeting. Thanks again, Courtney!

Becky Kosco continues with her plans to pull together our October Gemboree.



Please contact her if you have questions. Kim Evangelisti can assist you in using the Sign-up Genius program if you need help in scheduling your volunteer hours at the Gemboree. Her phone number is provided by Becky below.

Many thanks to Frank Mack who cleared up our basement water intrusion problems!

Many thanks to my wife, Bonnie Willis, for volunteering to fill in as our club's Secretary for Kathi Hampton while Kathi enjoyed a well-deserved rock hounding vacation in the northwest.

If you missed the screeching sounds that emanated from our sound system at our previous meetings, you can thank Becky Kosco and Courtney Cable for helping me to correct that problem.

Hopefully, by the time you have received and read this newsletter, our very own Treasurer will have completed her Officer requalifications for 2021-2022. Congratulations to Nancy Halloran!

Please continue to pass on any ideas that will make our club more attractive to additional new members. Also, please make an effort to establish contact with any of our missing members – to check on them, to let them know that we are back up and running, to tell them about the Gemboree, and to pass on the fact that we miss seeing and hearing from them. Share your recent rock hounding stories with them.

Wishing you the best,
Gene Willis

Gemboree from Becky:

Please mark your calendars for our Fall Gemboree to be held on October 23 and 24th!

You can email her at kingtoast@aol.com. We need you for all the hours you're able to help!

The Gemboree Sign-up Genius is up and running!

We are excited to resume hosting Gemboree. Members need to sign up for at least two 2 hour shifts. You can sign up the most easily by clicking the link below, finding the shifts you want and entering your information. If there are members who do not have access to the internet, they should call or text Kim Evangelisti at 440.567.0536 and she can assist you in signing up. Mary Myers will be at our meeting this month with her laptop and she can also help you to sign up at our meeting. Below is the link so you can do this yourself!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4ca9af2ca6f94-gemboree8>

Please volunteer for as many spots as you can!

Aug 10 Gemboree meeting notes:

Set up lead (Bob Powers) – Concern if we could request better tables. Question if rewiring done at Emidio's would negate our need for overhead wires. Both issues can be resolved by Mr. Pellagrino. Bob is also going to handle the postcards. We can anticipate around 1190 names for approximate cost of \$700 plus postage. Big problem – Who has the post cards and email/address change slips from the last show? Please address Bob or Becky if you know where they are.

Sign Up Genius – Signing up for your volunteer times and positions is up and running. The link was sent out via Mail Chimp and should show up in your email as Summit Lapidary. Kim Evangelisti is the contact for this. If you cannot sign up with a computer give her a call (440)567-0536 – please leave her your name, phone number, email (if possible) and your desired shifts. We will have a laptop available at the next meeting for people to get signed up as well. Please know our membership is down so it would be great if you planned on working more than 2 shifts. Thanks in advance.

Table cloths – This issue is under control. Most are accounted for and we may use less tables for this show. Evelyn matched the schematic of our floor plan with our need for 6 & 8 foot tables. Joyce has rounded up most of the clothes. Thank you all for pitching in.

Display cases lead (Joyce Kish) – Contact Joyce if you want to set up a display case.

Silent Auction lead (John Wallace) – Question of having baskets to auction off was discussed. John was not able to attend the meeting. I think it's a good idea but for another show.

Gem Mine lead (Bob Spore) – Supplies all good. Rock Mine Bagging will be the Saturday before the show at the Clubhouse – October 16, 2021 – Mark your calendars!!

Geode cracking lead (Frank Edwards) – we have plenty of geodes.

Tear Down lead (David Rich) – We need people to sign up for this position in advance. We need to know we have adequate help. There is a time limit – Let Kim or Becky know if you can't do Sign up Genius.

Admissions lead (Gene Willis) – Name tags will be up front at admissions as usual. This year we will have Square available – Laura Thomas will be up front to allow us to take cards for admission as well as purchases at geode cracking &/or silent auction.

Treasure Hunt lead (Nancy Yeager) – This show we will not have a Children's Activity table so the treasure hunt will be their "thing." We will also not sell tree kits at this show. Let us plan for a return to normalcy by next Spring.

Vender Chair lead (Evelyn Tryon) - Best News – we have commitments for all 32 spaces!

Hospitality lead (Bonnie Willis) – Due to the lingering virus our food options will need to be more creative. We can go with individual water and pop and individual snacks. Any suggestions of individual packaged sandwiches or ????? please contact Bonnie or myself. Again – this is a transitional year. Hope to be able to return to what you have become accustomed to by the spring. We will need to purchase disposable plastic gloves.

That's all for now!
Becky Kosco

SLC Dues – (The fee for late dues was cancelled for 2021)

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

Classes and Events:

Thursday, September 23rd – from 7:00-9:00pm

Kathi Hampton is offering a twisted wire-wrap bracelet class! This class will be held on Thursday, Sept. 23rd at 7:00 in the club house. We will be using 18-gauge wire for the one bracelet. The instructions for a variation with 6/0 seed beads will also be included. The other bracelet is 12-gauge with 28-gauge wire wrapping. The cost is \$2.00 or you can bring your own supplies. Please bring your round nose pliers, cutters and optional nylon jaw pliers. Sign-up sheet will be at the meeting and the clubhouse.

Saturday, October 16th

Bagging rocks for the Gem Mining at the Gemboree – please come and help us at the clubhouse!

Tuesday, Dec. 7th, 6:00pm-?

Auntie Laura's 2021 Holiday Earring Extravaganza – is returning this year at the clubhouse!



Laura is once again offering her **fabulous!** Holiday Earring Extravaganza to club members this year. We are permitted to bring a non-member friend or relative. Laura offers the materials at her cost, (rounded up to 25 cents), so please do not participate if you plan on **selling** the completed items because workshops offered at SLC are meant to learn, have fun, and to socialize but not to profit from the generosity of other club members. Please see the attached flyer for additional information. Oh, and if you see a holiday earring that you'd like Laura to consider adding to this year's collection, please text her at 330-620-3782 or email her at bluecollarbeads@gmail.com.



Faceting: Please contact Ron Maitland, if you are interested in learning about faceting. The club has a limited number of faceting machines available for our members. We meet some Saturdays.

Silversmithing: If you're interested in learning more about silver smithing, or copper working, please let Dave Macseoinin or Mary Myers know. We have met in the past on Saturday afternoons (when we're not faceting).

So who wants to teach a class? What classes do you want offered?

If you would be interested in offering a class or scheduling time at the clubhouse, please contact Kathi Hampton or Mary Myers. Please take COVID precautions particularly if you have not yet been vaccinated. We value you and want to keep our members healthy and alive!

William Holland trip: Sandy Shorter – The week for the club's trip is set for the week of September 11th-16th, 2022. Please consider going to their website to donate items for their online auctions in order to help them to keep afloat.

Sunshine News from Mari: Mari has been recovering from a knee replacement. Please wish her well. We miss her!

GeoJuniors Program from Evelyn: The September meeting for GeoJuniors will be held on the 3rd Sunday, this month, September 19th at 1:00pm. The group is growing. Evelyn is asking for help, even once in a while. If you're interested in teaching a craft, going on a field trip, or just hanging out with the kids for an afternoon, please call Evelyn. Questions contact Evelyn Tryon: geojuniors@juno.com or 330 673-9664.

Library news from Doug Shorter: If you have books out that are past due please return them. If there are specific books or AV materials or subjects that you would like to see in the library, let Doug Shorter know.

Also, Doug forwarded the following: The Akron Mineral Club is extending an invitation to all Summit Lapidary Club members to join the AMC now for the remainder of the year and your dues will applied for next year too. The cost is only \$10 for individual and \$15 for families. This is a great opportunity to join our sister club and learn about rocks, minerals and geology.

Newsletter from Mary: Please remember that If you break something (mistakes happen) or if you see something broken, please look in the book downstairs to see if Gene has been notified about it. If not, please give him a call (his number is available there on the bulletin board) and let him know.

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.

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. (The addresses were provided earlier).

Miscellaneous items:

Calls for Volunteers:

We need volunteers!

- Fall Gemboree: We will need many volunteers for our Fall Gemboree on October 16th, 23rd and 24th!
- We are still looking for members to help with the Rock Tumbler Role, or even to ... TAKE CHARGE!
- Any members planning to go out west who could bring some rocks back home?
- 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, hoist the main, 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. It's OUR clubhouse. ... and I promise kudos to volunteers (if I know about their efforts).

Kudos to Our August Volunteers:

- Kudos to David Mac again for answering all the phone calls that come into the club, for taking out the trash, wiping down table, and for keeping an eye on the place so often, even though he's working full-time on the second shift now.
- Kudos to Susie for keeping the pop, paper products, water, and all the other supplies refilled.
- Kudos to David Mac, Kathi Hampton, Mary Myers, and John Kerr for being shop tenders for the month of August.
- Kudos to Courtney Cable for planning our monthly meetings, speakers, and programs. Kristina Malcomb was wonderful in her presentation! And thanks to Courtney for redoing her recorded tour of our SLC clubhouse for the Highland Park Co.
- Kudos to Becky, Guy, Bobbie, Kim, and Evelyn for their efforts on the Gemboree.
- Kudos to Gene, Tom, Tom, and Bob for their work on the machines.
- Many, many, many kudos to Gene, Bob, Tom, and David for going through 150+ pages of insurance documents.
- Kudos to Joyce, Skeeter, and Suzanne for agreeing to take on the coordination of our members' contributions for the Children's Hospital Christmas tree this year.
- And finally, kudos to all those volunteers whom I have forgotten to mention. (Please let me know who I might have missed.) By the way, the clubhouse is looking good! Thanks to all for helping with that.

September Shop Tender Days:

During the month of September, Dave Macseoinin, Kathi Hampton, 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, or for new members who would like to learn to use our equipment.

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 shop tenders.

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 call or text Kathi Hampton at 330-690-2070.

You can text Mary Myers at 330-696-4315.

We will be available by appointment only – and please remember bring your masks and safety gear! You must wear safety glasses and a dust 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:

If you're interested, please come for the Saturday mornings coffee klatches! Remember, we are still limited to some of the Covid restrictions at least for a while yet, and please take proper precautions.

August 10th, 2021 Summit Lapidary Club Meeting Minutes:

Platform: In-person and Zoom

7:00 pm Start Time

Meeting leader: Gene Willis, President

Minutes taken by Bonnie Willis

Meeting was called to order by Gene Willis at 7:08pm. The speaker was Kristina Malcomb, her "Work in Progress" about her life story collecting rocks and designing jewelry. Minutes from July's meeting were not available for approval. One visitor attended.

Treasurer's report: Nancy is still looking for dues.

Building report: Frank said everything is good.

Library report: Doug said the library is fine. He is looking for suggestions for books.

Newsletter report: Mary said it would be sent out shortly.

Website report: Sandy said the new website would launch within the next day or two.

Classes report: Mary said to let her or Kathi Hampton know what kinds of classes sound interesting. Ron Maitland has offered faceting classes to interested members. Silversmithing could also be available.

Gemboree report: Becky said we're good to go! We have a full complement of 32 vendors. The Sign-up Genius website is ready for members to pick their volunteer hours. Members need at least two 2-hour stints, but we'd surely appreciate more from everyone. On the day of the show, please be prepared to go where ever someone is needed.

Rock bagging for the Gemboree – Bob Spore asked members to please come to the clubhouse on Saturday, Oct. 16th, at 9:30am to help bag rocks for the Gemboree Mine.

Evelyn read a letter of appreciation from one of our show vendors (Val and Frank Bennett).

GeoJuniors report: Evelyn said the group was active over the summer. She is requesting help from any interested members in giving classes to the group, going with them on a field trip, or just hanging out with them. She is requesting their help for show set up and during the show.

Machine Maintenance report: Gene said the buckets are ready for oil filtering and the new blade for saw #3 is expected to arrive this week. Bonnie offered to supply grocery bags for the filtering of saw oil.

Courtney will send a copy of her video of the SLC workshop tour of our building to the Highland Park Co. per their request.

Insurance report: Gene is making an appointment with the building's insurance company to review our building's insurance, the building value, and deductibles (along with our trustees).

A suggestion was made that it is time to review and update our by-laws, particularly regarding dues for members, the newsletter editor, officers, trustees. The Executive Board will consider the suggestions and strive to reach a consensus among the members at a later meeting.

A square dance convention is going to be held in Akron in the Spring of 2022 and SLC has been invited to sell jewelry at a table there. The cost of the table is \$75. There are expected to be approximately 500 couples there. Sales split for anything sold at our table would be 20% for the club and 80% for the member.

Gene asked if there was any interest among our members in having rocks cut that are bigger than 6 inches. Gene was thinking about bringing in a "temporary saw" to cut larger boulders to sizes that will fit in our saws downstairs. The group did not indicate much interest and the suggestion was made to ask Joyce or Skeeter if anyone has any big rocks that they want to cut.

Christmas tree report: Joyce said the Sept. 24th application deadline is approaching. The club agreed to do an all-flint tree – Joyce, Skeeter, and Suzanne are the coordinators and they are seeking a name for the tree. She also asked about getting a budget to buy non-tarnishing wire from Evelyn for the ornaments. Becky and Gene requested a budget amount of \$50, made the motion, seconded by Tom and Andy, and the motion passed. The tree has to be finished for the show by Nov. 9th.

There are 24 concrete cylinder cores available if anyone wants them.

Evelyn mentioned to see her for emails and phone numbers about upcoming shows.

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 was made and approved by many.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Willis

Gems provided by members:

The Metal Smith Society has a very interesting website with the following information – Mary Myers

GUIDE TO BUYING SHEET METAL

Here are some tips for purchasing silver SHEET METAL from Rio Grande. The choices can be overwhelming. Here are some of the options are and how they differ.

The most common is sterling silver (.925). It is stronger than fine silver, more prone to fire scale and tarnishes more easily. The other main option is fine silver (.999). It's significantly softer than sterling, has a whiter appearance and is way less prone to tarnishing.

The next consideration is gauge. Most of the sheet options come in a range of 6 gauge (4.11mm) to 30 gauge (0.26mm). There are options for dead soft (annealed), ¼ hard (a bit resistant to bending but readily takes shape) , ½ hard (has been worked a bit, tightening the grain at the molecular level but the metal can still bend a bit, with force), and spring hard (thoroughly hardened and with basically no malleability.)

So with those options in mind, here are a few questions: Is the project going to get a lot of wear and tear (like a ring or a bracelet?) If the answer is yes, sterling is probably the best choice (since fine silver is softer).

Next the gauge must be chosen to be heavy enough to experience the wear and tear but light enough to be worn comfortably. Heavy earrings for example can be uncomfortable and a very delicate ring can get squished. On average, 20-to-14-gauge metals are well within that range, but that depends on the size and specifics of the design. Lastly which hardness should be used? In most applications it may be advisable to order dead soft. If soldering will be incorporated, dead soft is easy to work with and any hardness the metal may have will be lost when the heat to solder is applied. Here is an example of when to order a harder sheet: Perhaps the piece incorporates sawing out a design and cold connecting it, a harder option will lend strength to the piece, and that strength will be maintained since soldering is not used.



GUIDE TO BUYING BEZEL WIRE

One of the most common questions is: what gauge bezel wire should be purchased?

Here are some tips for ordering BEZEL WIRE from [Rio Grande](#). It typically comes in gauges 24 (.51mm) to 30 (.25mm) and in various heights.

First, let's focus on gauge. If the jeweler is newer to bezel setting, consider 28 to 30g because it's easier to push over, especially if doing it all by hand using a bezel rocker tool and a burnisher. If hammer setting, either with a hammer handpiece or manually, a thicker gauge bezel wire can be used. Next, consider the stone that will be set and look up the stone's hardness (MOH scale). If the stone is delicate it should be set by hand (as opposed to hammer) and therefore can use a thinner gauge (28-30g). Aesthetics is also another consideration; sometimes thicker bezels are more attractive! They are more forgiving and can take more sanding and polishing with less risk of damaging the bezel by over working it! Regarding bezel height, take the shape and height of the cabochon into consideration. Order a few heights of bezel wire for additional options, if it's too tall the bezel can always be trimmed down or sanded. If using a variety of cabochons, having a variety of bezel wire on hand very helpful.

There is also fine silver or sterling wire. Fine is brighter and more resistant to tarnish, sterling is more durable. There are also tons of gallery wire options available at [Rio Grande](#). Gallery wire should be annealed (carefully) prior to forming! After it's shaped and when the piece is ready to solder, the heat must be very carefully applied (they love to melt) Apply the heat from below using a trivet, tripod or bricks. Once the gallery wire is soldered into place and it's time to set, take extra care so that it doesn't crack or break during setting. When initially pushing down at the four sides only bring it down about 50% and then push the rest in as uniformly as possible!

GUIDE TO BUYING WIRE

Here are some tips for ordering WIRE from Rio Grande, particularly the gauge and hardness! First determine the kind of project that is being made and where on the body will it be worn? The image of rings on the right shows that the 12g wire will provide more strength than the 18g. So choosing the gauge of wire needed for a project definitely depends on the amount of wear and tear (i.e. a bangle gets more wear and tear than an earring). For earring posts and wires 20g (0.80mm) is often ordered by most customers.

The hardness of the wire is all about application, if soldering the wire, it becomes annealed so purchasing dead soft is appropriate. If making an earring wire which will simply be formed and cold connected, using half-hard or hard might be most appropriate since it will maintain that hardness and give the earring wire strength. Hard wire can be used for wrapping wire or creating rivets.

When it comes to decorative wires Rio Grande has an amazing selection! When working with the more fragile options like full bead ([item #100916](#)) or half bead ([item #101314](#)), always anneal prior to bending to avoid it snapping. Melting these wires is definitely an issue that many people



experience so when working with decorative wire try to give as many connection points to the soldered baseplate as possible. Heat from below instead of putting the flame directly onto the decorative wire. Titanium clips and soldering clay can be useful for keeping design elements in place while soldering! Rio Grande also has amazing patterned options and they even have slotted wire ([item #101984](#)). This wire has a slot for sheet, so a beautiful edge can be created! When working with the patterned wires try to place the solder in an area which won't cause it to run into the pattern! Ronda Coryell's Masking Mud (# 504099) can be used to paint onto the decorative side to prevent solder from flowing onto it.



Customers can always call Rio Grande and speak to a member of the tech team if further assistance is needed! Their number is 1-800.545-6566.

Source: reprinted with permission from <https://metalsmithsociety.com/blogs/news/metalsmith-societys-guide-to-ordering-metal-for-jewelry-making>

BRAD'S BENCH TIPS JUST A DROP

Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.



FOREDOM MAINTENANCE

If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of videos on how to everything. The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and handpiece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. The videos can be found here: www.foredom.net/flexibleshaftmachinemaintenance.aspx particularly under "Foredom Basics" or the "Foredom Shafting..." categories.



Any repair parts needed are available on the Foredom site or from most jewelry supply catalogs. If you have any question about their products, a phone call or an email will get quick answers.

Happy hammering, Brad Smith

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

[Click to see all of Brad's books on Amazon](#) BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

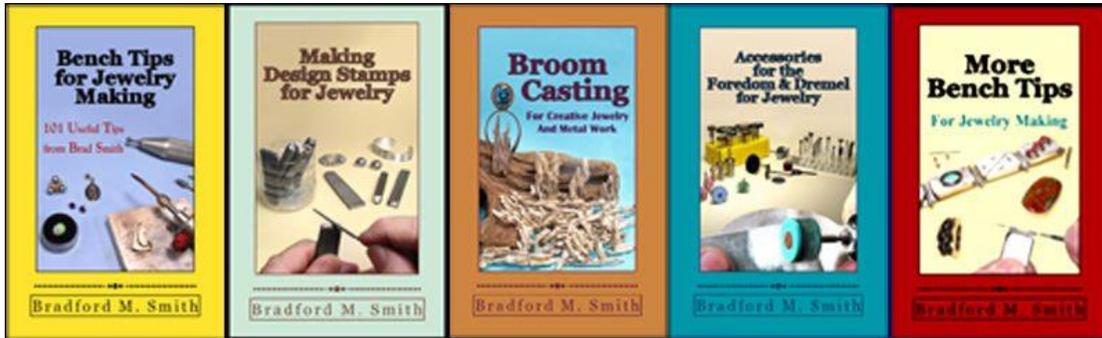
Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Resource: <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

Bench Tips, PO Box 491063, Los Angeles, CA 90049-9063

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



INFORMATION ABOUT SOME UPCOMING ROCK AND MINERAL SHOWS

From Mary Myers - Are you interested in attending some of the upcoming rock and mineral shows?

Source: <https://www.rockandmineralshows.com/search/jewelry-lapidary-shows>

October 23-24, 2021 **CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO – Our GEMBOREE!**

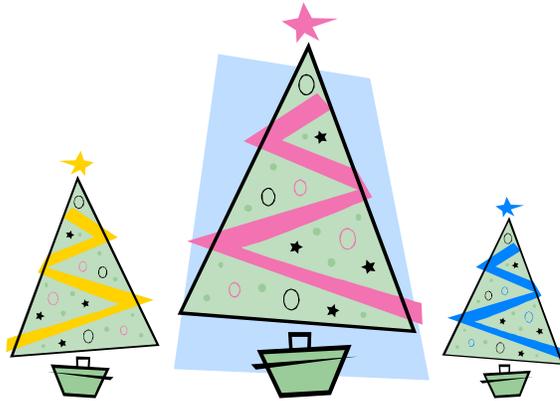
Annual show; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$5, seniors and students \$4, children 7-14 \$1, free admission for children under 6 and scouts in uniform; Show participants will adhere to safety regulations related to COVID-19, dealers will be selling rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, lapidary art and supplies; displays and demonstrations, and activities for children; contact Evelyn Tryon, 2028 Tallmadge Rd, Kent, OH 44240, (330) 673-9664; Email: gemboree76@gmail.com; Website: SummitLapidaryClub.com

November 20-21, 2021 **Body Mind Spirit Expo**

Hours: Sat 10:00 - 7:00 Sun 10:00 - 7:00

Venue: Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd, Cincinnati, OH

Website: <https://www.bmse.net/bmseweb/index.php>



Auntie Laura's 2021 Annual Holiday Earring Extravaganza!!

Tuesday Dec 7th 6pm -?? At the Clubhouse

Ok to bring one non-member Friend or Relative!

Due to the ridiculous price of silver and gold, All findings are silver/gold-plated.
Instructor is offering these items at COST - rounded to the nearest Quarter \$0.25.

All Makers of Gifts for Yourself or Others are Welcome!

Instructor Notes:

Please Do Not participate if you plan on SELLING the completed items.

Workshops are to learn, have fun, and to socialize, not to profit from the generosity of club members.

Please bring Your Own Tools!!! Be sure they are CLEARLY MARKED!!

Wire Cutters, Round Nose Pliers, Flat Nose Pliers! Club tools supply is limited!!

That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

Thank you for your cooperation ;-)

*If you see a photo of a Holiday Earring you like - text to Laura at 330 620-3782, or email to
bluecollarbeads@gmail.com*