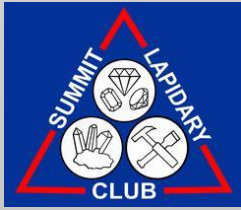


# The Summit Gem - May 2025 Newsletter



Website: [www.SummitLapidaryClub.com](http://www.SummitLapidaryClub.com)

244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Phone: (330) 929-3798

**2025 Board Members:**

President – Mary Myers

Vice-President – Joyce Kish/Kim Evangelisti

Treasurer – Laura McElroy/Laura Thomas

Secretary – Patricia Burk

Membership Chair – Cathy Milhoan

Newsletter Editor – John Kerr [slcnewsletter2023@gmail.com](mailto:slcnewsletter2023@gmail.com)

Trustees – John Kerr (exp 12/2025), Susanne Schoffner (exp 12/2026),

Greg Megois (exp 12/2027)

Immediate Past President Finley Lahmers

2025 Gemboree Chair – Cathy Milhoan

## **Mission Statement**

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



## **May 14th, 2025 Monthly Meeting**

(the SECOND Tuesday of the month) held in person.  
at 7:00 PM at the Polish American Club



**The Polish American Club (PAC) is located at 472 Glenwood Ave, Akron 44310**

**The May program will be Skeeter Kish giving a presentation on the atlatl. An ancient weapon of mass destruction.**

## **President's Message**

I hope you found a great rock today!

Many congratulations are due to our Gemboree Chair, Cathy Milhoan, and to all our Chairs and Leads, and to all the members who contributed so generously of their time and talents to make our Spring Gemboree such a wonderful success! Congratulations!!! I am so grateful to all of you who contributed!

Please be sure to come and participate in Cathy's Gemboree meetings. All are welcome to attend. We need you as we begin preparations for our Fall Gemboree!

Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the clubhouse are becoming popular again. It is so wonderful to see the club house in use again. Stop by and join us for an evening of rocking fun.

We finally finished our April Fool's Day jigsaw puzzle of Lake Superior Agates. Um, did someone play a joke on us? One piece was missing 😊.

Our thanks to Cathy Milhoan for bringing in a framed document with lifetime members names on it. Hmm. Did someone take it from me to improve? Or am I losing my mind?

**Membership Rock Swap/Slab Sale – Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>:** The club also has items to sell to members out in the shed.

**Big Dig** is set for **June 21<sup>st</sup>**. Meet at 7:00 AM at the clubhouse. Bring a wagon and any other equipment you need. Summit Lapidary will pay for the backhoe. Each member will pay their own mining cost (\$10) and the cost of flint (\$1/pound). AMS members will also pay their own costs.

### **Results of the Joint Board Meeting**

A document from 2000 was distributed clarifying that both boards agreed to pay 50/50 for the joint events of a summer picnic and Christmas party. Issue settled!

The two boards agreed the joint Christmas party would be held December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Houston Hall in Norton. The menu was also approved in order to fix the cost/person. The cost per person is approximately \$27.50 plus service charge. There is no cost for the room.

Three volunteers from each club are needed to form a joint committee to coordinate these events. Volunteers so far include:

#### **Summer Picnic volunteers**

**SLC:** Greg Megois

**AMS:** *Susie Shoffner, Joyce Kish*

#### **Christmas Party volunteers**

**SLC:** Susie Shoffner

**AMS:** *K. Morrow, M. Manley, J. Kish*

Field trips will be arranged and paid for by one club. Members from the other club may participate if there is space available. Members may incur individual costs to participate. This eliminates potential arguments about the planned event.

The Bus Trip that was in the planning stages by AMS is on hold for now.

Classes offered by AMS will be coordinated with SLC's classes by using the calendar in the kitchen.

Finally, each club can hold their own parties/events without necessarily inviting the other club.

Another Gemboree well done. Congratulations to all!

Mary Myers

### **Gemboree news from Cathy Milhoan:**

I would like to thank everyone for a successful Gemboree, it cannot happen without all of you!

Unfortunately, there was no April Gemboree Gemstone newsletter sent out, I did not have the time to do one, sorry.

There will be a Gemboree meeting on May 13th at 6 pm. All members are welcome to attend, we should have a financial report to review.

Thank you,

Cathy 

**SLC Dues** –2025 Dues can be paid to Laura McElroy. (If you have any questions as to whether you've paid for this year, contact Laura PLEASE! The initial registration fee for new members is \$25.

**The annual dues are \$48 per year ... and only \$44 - IF PAID BEFORE MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Dues can be brought to our meetings or sent to **Summit Lapidary Club, 244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Oh 44221**. Let's get those paid soon!

**Sunshine News from Mari:** No News

**Library news from David Macseoinin:** No News

**Newsletter from John Kerr:** Please forward club news or articles you would like included in the newsletter to [slcnewsletter2023@gmail.com](mailto:slcnewsletter2023@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 details to Cathy if you move or change your phone number.

**Machine Maintenance: No News**

**Midwest Federation News:** See attached MWF newsletter. It contains a plethora of information and reports from the April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> convention that took place in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Shop Tender Days**

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. It is so nice to see members coming back to the club!

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 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.

**Classes and Events:**

Beading Workshop – Bring your own projects  
May 17 @ noon

Wire Wrap Workshop  
May 20 @ 7pm

Piercing Saw Class  
May 22 @ 7 pm

Metalsmithing Workshop  
May 24 @ noon

Metalsmithing Workshop  
May 31 @ noon

Wire Wrapping  
June 3 @ 7 pm

Turtles cut out  
June 5 @ 7 pm

Byzantine Bracelet  
June 7 @ noon cost: \$5

**Stop in for the Leaf and Blossom Plant Sale on Saturday May 17 from 10-2.**

We have Annuals, Perennials, Herbs and Vegetables.

Thank you for again allowing our club to use the SLC lawn.

**April 12 2025 Joint Meeting of Summit Lapidary and Akron Mineral Executive Boards:**

The document below was discussed during the meeting.

## PROPOSAL

The Akron Mineral Society proposal for the profits from the Gemboree to be distributed 2/3 to The Summit Lapidary Club and 1/3 to The Akron Mineral Society.

The Akron Mineral Society will be guaranteed the following:

1. The use of the Summit Lapidary Club building for:
  - A. Our regular monthly meetings and Board meetings.
  - B. Classes on days the building is not being used by the Lapidary Club.
  - C. An appropriate place to display our mineral collection.
  - D. An appropriate place for our library books.
  - E. The use of the kitchen facilities for our meetings.
  - F. The use of the TV/VCR and Slide Projector etc. at our meetings.
2. The officers of The Akron Mineral Society will have keys to the building, TV, Slide Projector, Library etc.
3. "Open Door Policy" All regular meetings of the Akron Mineral and Summit Lapidary, Tuesday night etc. are open to all.
4. Bus Trips : The club planning the trip has the first right to the trip, if the bus is not full, members of the other club can go.
5. Christmas party and summer picnic etc. The clubs will pay equally
6. The members of The Akron Mineral Society will have access to non-lapidary oriented classes given by the Summit Lapidary Club. The definition of lapidary oriented classes shall be determined by the Board of Trustees of the Summit Lapidary Club.
7. If members of The Mineral Society wish to participate in lapidary classes, they must become Summit Lapidary Club members.
8. This agreement shall be by mutual agreement of both Boards and put before the membership of the clubs.

Officers Akron Mineral Society 4/8/00

Richard T. Lee  
Joyce Kish  
William E Harris

Officers Summit Lapidary Club 2/1/00

James Shoffner  
Ruth Goe  
Thomas McLaughlin  
and Macsoyia  
Lloyd Winters  
Bill Daidson

**Club Members' Meeting Minutes from April 2025:**

Treasurer's Report: Laurie M. stated AMS paid for the Christmas party. Gemboree paid back the SLC for storage fees.

There was an introduction of board members and for new members and guests.

Presidents report:

Greg M Purchase. Step stool for downstairs for \$63.89. Joyce moved to reimburse Greg m, 2nd Lyle, Motion was carried.

AMS is Put-In-Bay field trip will be discussed at the joint board meeting.

Battery has been ordered for the AED device. It will be paid for by AMS, SLC, and Gemboree.

Zoom account is open. Next up is setting up the meetings and sending the links.

Members only pages set up. We will be putting the sign-up genius link on this page. We will be putting up Sign up genius links to classes on this page. We will be adding our meeting minutes and board meeting minutes.

We will be taking those minutes off the newsletter.

The 2025 saw cleaning day was a success. It was completely done in just under 3 hours!! Thanks were given to Greg W, Greg M, Tyler C, Susanne S, Jesse R, Michael C, Mary M, Kathy H, and Ian H. A motion was made to pay \$63.44 to Greg M for the buckets. Second by Joyce. Motion carried. Also, thanks were extended to Bob S and Jeffrey R who stopped in to see if more help was needed.

**Field trip Thursday, April 10th.** Dress for cold and rain. Great day at the beach. David and Mary made a field trip to Mentor Headlands Beach last Friday, March 21st and brought home some beautiful Lake Erie rocks. This trip will include Walnut Beach, Conneaut Beach, and Mentor Headlands Beach. Lunch at a local fish place.

**Mama's rocks:** Took their own geode cracker to their show.

**Budget and financial information was discussed.**

**Summer Picnic:** A discussion was had about inviting Akron Mineral Society. Everyone agreed that SLC would pay. The percentages will be discussed with the membership 50/50? They stated she has documentation stating that the 50/50 split was an agreement made many years ago. We will talk about it more at the joint meeting.

**Volunteers are still needed for the Gemboree.** As of 4/8/2025, 42.34% of positions are filled with 143 more slots to fill.

**Calendar report.** We are slowing down on classes to get ready for the Gemboree. Game night is cancelled on April 12th due to the scheduled trip to Mentor Headlands and Walnut Beach. We will leave the clubhouse at 9:00 AM.

Library News. No new news.

Children's Hospital Christmas tree project. Cathy M showed the tree to everyone. We need a big Flat Rock for a base. Suggestions were made for plaster of Paris and Joyce offered a big piece of Selenite.

Geo Juniors report. No new news.

Midwest Federation report information. The Mid-west Federation Board would like to use our clubhouse for their fall meeting. The motion to let them use our clubhouse was made by John K, 2nd Bob S, motion carried.

Website Report. Everybody needs to update their e-mail addresses.

Newsletter Report. Newsletter was sent out.

Maintenance report Exhaust fan needs repaired.

Secretary's report. Notes went out. Motion was made to accept the notes by Joyce, 2nd Jeffrey, Motion carried.

Gemboree Information. We have 92 paid members. For those that have volunteered, expect to do at least four hours.

New news:

Akron Mineral Society made an invitation to have a joint board meeting on April 12th, 2025 at 5:00 PM. Summit Lapidary Club accepted the invitation. We will discuss things such as percentages, Christmas party, and summer picnic.

Membership dues will be prorated. Laura T will update the list.

We discussed having bags made-up for the next Gemboree. Jill will let us know the costs. 12 bags are the medium quantity. John D made a motion, 2nd Greg M, Motion carried.

David suggested we get a new lock on the outside door. A dead bolt is needed.

Big Dig is set for June 21st. Meet at 7:00 AM at the clubhouse. Bring a wagon and any other equipment you need. David R made a motion, 2nd by Jeffrey R. Motion carried.

## Bench Tips for May

Below are a couple of my jewelry bench tips for use in your club newsletter next month. If you use it, please include an attribution such as given below (and the live link if possible).

**See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series**

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

Happy hammering,

- Brad Smith

[BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com](mailto:BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com)

### DRILLING SMALL ITEMS



Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape over plier jaws if needed to avoid scratches.



## DRILLING A STONE



One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.

Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foreman and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, ease up on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise, you may chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.