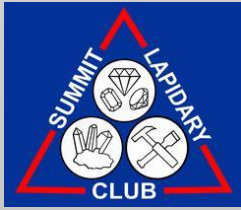


The Summit Gem - April 2025 Newsletter



Website: 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

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.

April 8th, 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 April program will be VP Joyce Kish speaking on How to Clean Crystals

President's Message

April 2025

Come on down to the clubhouse!

We are trying to schedule something for every Tuesday and Thursday evening, and on most Saturdays (even if it's 'just' our weekly coffee klatch). All members are welcome to join us at the various activities, or just to stop in and meet with old friends, or to slab and polish some cabs. It's been wonderful to see so many people 'coming on down' to the clubhouse again. It's good to laugh together and share camaraderie over a few ...

rocks. (😊)

Excitement of new members

I wish each and every one of us could re-experience the excitement and 'ohhh, WOW!' moments that our new members have when they cut into their first rock or polish their first cabochon! Anyone who would like to become one of our shop tenders, especially serving as an ambassador to our new members, please let any member of the board know. Here, I simply must mention what a great ambassador we have in David Macseoinin. He is always ready to step up and teach our new members. Thank you so much, David!

New Building Fund

Laurie McElroy has officially opened the account for our new building fund. Please consider donating to this fund. Wouldn't it be great to have a one-floor building, handicapped accessible, large enough where we could meet? Please consider adding SLC's new building fund to your will.

Call for clean rags

We need clean rags for the saw room. Please donate clean, cut-up, rags that are good for cleaning oil off rocks and hands. T-shirts (trimmed to size) are a great material. Satiny rags are less useful.

Thanks are due

Thanks are due to Finley Lahmers and Greg Megois. They do so much for the club. Lately, they've been working on the kitchen exhaust fan. Finley also has been working with the security cameras that have been sitting in a box for several years. We can now place and access those. Thanks are due to Cathy Milhoan also. She is doing a tremendous job as our Gemboree Chair. (Please make sure that you've signed up on our Sign Up Genius so she knows when you can help!) Thanks also to Joyce Kish who volunteered to be our representative at the MidWest Federation Meeting in April.

MidWest Federation News

We have been approached by David Rich to host the MWF Fall meeting. Their meeting is held on the same Friday evening and Saturday morning of our Gemboree. They would simply need to use our clubhouse as a meeting location on Friday evening and Saturday morning (when we won't be there anyway). Then, after their meeting, they would attend our Gemboree. They would host a 'Meet and Greet' on Friday evening for any members who would like to meet them. David would serve as the club member host, and he does not need anything from the other club members (since we'll be busy with our Gemboree), other than perhaps the donation of a few snacks and coffee. We can discuss this at our meeting.

Classes/Workshops

Classes and workshops have been scheduled now into June. Stop in the clubhouse and check the calendar. Look at our website and look at the calendar there (as soon as I get to it, that is). We're looking for more people to teach classes – Kathi Hampton and David Macseoinin have been offering most of these classes (with me filling in sometimes). We sure would like more of our members to share their experience with us! Greg Megois is working on teaching members how to drill holes in stones using a Dremel tool and/or a drill press. I'm working on a class on how to heal stones (not how to heal with stones, lol), by using a pump or our vacuum to pull/push sealants into fractures.

Speaking of classes – I apologize that I just didn't make the time to advertise **Annette Long's Acrylic Pour Experience this week!** She is offering that experience on **Saturday, April 5th** from 10am-1pm. I'm going to try to push out an email (tonight) to the club members. This is such a fun experience! If you miss this time, be sure to mention to her that you'd like her to offer it again.

Metalsmithing, Wire Wrapping, and Soft Soldering Contests

We are going to offer 3 separate contests this Fall. David Macseoinin is coordinating the metalsmithing, Kathi Hampton is coordinating the Wire Wrapping, and I'm coordinating the Soft Soldering. We will set the rules soon. Please keep an eye out for more information.

Field Trips

The Lake Erie Beaches field trip is scheduled for **Thursday, April 10th**. We will be carpooling from the clubhouse (**leaving at 9am**, returning late afternoon) headed to Mentor Headlands Beach, and possibly then going to Walnut Beach. We will likely have lunch at one of the two restaurants (specializing in fish but which have a nice variety on their menus).

The Big Dig – we have a possible date for this event – if the club wants to go. The tentative date is **Saturday, June 21st**. We typically carpool to this event from the clubhouse to the Nethers' farm. If the club wants to do this, the cost will be \$ 600 for the backhoe (plus passing the hat for a tip for the backhoe operators). The members in the past have each paid their own mining fee (it was \$10 last year) and paid for their own flint (it was \$1 per pound last year).

Summer Picnic

The date for the Summer Picnic has been set: **Sunday, August 17th**. We are planning to fire up the grills around 11am, and planning for lunch at 1:00pm with the games to follow. We will be meeting at the Chestnut Lodge in Sand Run Metro Parks, off the Sand Run Parkway. The driveway to the Lodge is near the ford.

Joint Board Meeting

The Akron Mineral Society Executive Board has invited the SLC Exec. Board to a joint meeting on Saturday, April 12th. We have several topics on the agenda, including social events such as the Summer Picnic and the Christmas Party. AMS is also planning a field trip to Put-n-Bay for June 12th. More details should be available after that joint board meeting.

Gemboree news from Cathy Milhoan: Here is the link for the Sign-up Genius for the Spring show, thank you Kim E. for all your hard work on this.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4CA9AF2CA6F94-55184934-gemboree>

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 1st.

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.

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 **cthymilhoan@yahoo.com**. Please update your contact information to Cathy if you move or change your phone number.

Machine Maintenance: No News

Midwest Federation News: See attached MWF newsletter and 2025 MWF annual meeting agendas and reports.

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:

Field trip to Mentor Headlands Beach State Park to collect Lake Erie rocks. Meet at the clubhouse at 9:00 AM Thursday April 10th.

Special Thanks to Retired US Air Force Major and SLC Member William Maki for the following:

I made a gem tree and gave it to the Project D.R.E.W. team
You can look up the website online.
They compose songs to help veterans with PTSD
So, I gave them a gem tree on Sunday 2 March with the
following accolade:

Hope Grows on a Rock

A rock is sterile
Blasted by lightning
Scoured by rains
Scorched by the sun

Yet

With time, there is a hint of green
as moss finds its soft way across the rock
Then lichens may form
then grasses
And finally, a seed is blown in and.....

A tree grows

So

The rocks are our blasted military souls
Beat up, scorched, blasted

Yet over time, healing and growth can happen
What we gave up and forgot
Can Bloom again in our souls

Dedicated to the Project D.R.E.W. cadre and all vets

Club Members' Meeting Minutes from March 2025:**Summit Lapidary Club Members Meeting March 11th, 2025****Treasurer's report:**

Web video of the day: Paul McElroy's impressive video of the Gemboree.

Presidents report:

Welcome new member Liz Cross.

We had a wonderful time at the clubhouse on Tuesday, March 4th. Kathy Hampton's class and a get together like old times around the kitchen table.

Thursday, March 13th was game night at the clubhouse. Game night is held at 7PM the second Thursday of each month at the clubhouse.

Saturday, March 15th is Spring Cleaning Day.

Saturday March 22nd is saw cleaning/oil changing at 10am

Saturday, March 29th is a field trip to Stark County Gem Show. Meet at the clubhouse at 10:00 AM for carpooling.

Members Rough slab rough rocks event will be in June.

Sunday, August 17th is the summer picnic at Chestnut Lodge off Sand Run Parkway, near the ford. The cost of renting the shelter was \$241.50. Some members will arrive at 11:00 AM to get things set up and start cooking at 1:00 PM.

Thank you to Finley for fixing our crystal cave lighting. Greg, Jeffrey, Suzanne, and Doug Dever (a friend of Greg's) for fixing the women's bathroom floor, which cost \$169.99. Greg for getting us a new shop vac and bags for the clubhouse. Suzanne for buying some cleaning supplies for the bathrooms.

Christmas Party: Akron Mineral Society has paid us for the 2024 Christmas Party 50/50 split. Do we have any news about this year?

Contests: This fall David M is having a silversmithing contest, Kathy Hampton is having a wire wrapping contest, and Mary Myers is having a soft soldering contest.

Board recommendations for lifetime memberships: Guy Kotch and David and Mary Ann Rich have been recommended by the board for lifetime memberships. There are currently 14 honorary lifetime members. Kim E made the motion, 2nd by Kristen, motion was carried by unanimous approval. David Moore made a proposal that we need a plaque in a frame.

Sunshine Report: A new card was passed around for signatures for Virginia Mackey, wife of Bill. There was a report that Guy is having cataract surgery.

Membership chairs report: Cathy M stated we have 76 paid members.

Calendar/classes/workshops report: March classes: on the 15th there is a gem tree class, the 18th chain maille, 20th soft soldering, 22nd and the 29th metal smithing.

Discussion was had about what new classes we would like to see. A few suggestions were faceting, paint pours with Annette, Suzanne wants to do a beaded necklace, and maybe polymer clay classes?

Field trips: Stark County Mineral Show, March 29th and 30th. Columbus Rock and Gem Show, April 5th and 6th.

Library News: No new news to report.

Children's Hospital tree project: There are 36 spots on the tree to be filled. Kathy, Isis, Joyce, and Evelyn have items to donate.

Geo Juniors report: No new news.

Midwest Federation report: No new news.

Website Report: Mary M and Kim E are still working on a member's only page.

Newsletter Report: Posted.

Maintenance report: It was reported that saw #2 is not working.

Secretary's report: Approval requested for the meeting minutes from the February 11th meeting. There were 3 mistakes on page 2, so a corrected copy has been submitted. Motion by Kathy H, 2nd by Jeffrey, motion carried.

Unfinished business: Financing the summer picnic and Christmas party with AMS.

After the meeting, a beautiful presentation about Iceland was given by Jennifer Mizicko.

Bench Tips for April

Below are a couple of my jewelry bench tips for use in your club newsletter next month. All I ask is that you include an attribution below (and the live link if possible) whenever you use the tips.

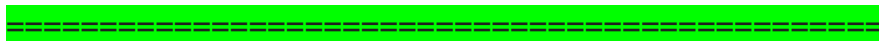
See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series

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

Happy hammering,

- Brad Smith

BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com



TAPERED REAMERS



A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. It's not a tool you'll use every day, but they're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.



TORCH GASSES INSIDE THE HOME

It's important to understand the risks in using a torch to make jewelry inside the home. For fuel gases, my preference is to use only the small disposable Propane tanks. That avoids any possible problems with the fire marshal, with your landlord, or with your insurance company. Note that you can get an adapter to refill these tanks outside from your BBQ propane tank.

For oxygen, I used to use the high-pressure tanks, but I don't like the risk of transporting them for refills. My gas supplier wouldn't even load them into the car for me because they didn't want the liability.

A better choice is to get an oxygen concentrator. Search the want-ads for a good bargain. I got mine for \$300. The units put out about 5psi and will run a Smith Little Torch very nicely. No regulator is needed. Look for units with under 5-7000 hours of operation.