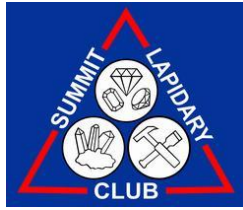


The Summit Gem - June 2024 Newsletter



Website: www.SummitLapidaryClub.com

244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Phone: (330) 929-3798

2024 Board Members:

President – Annie McNeilly

Vice-President – Finley Lahmers

Treasurer – Laura Thomas

Secretary – Kathi Hampton

Membership Chair – Cathy Milhoan

Newsletter Editor – John Kerr slcnewsletter2023@gmail.com

Trustees – Bob Spore (exp 12/2024), John Kerr (exp 12/2025), Susanne Schoffner (exp 12/2026)

Immediate Past President David Macsoinin

2024 Gemboree Chair – Mary Myers

Mission Statement

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

June 11th, 2024 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

Our speaker will be Elaine Marsh from Summit Metro Parks.
She will talk about removal of the Gorge Dam and reclamation of the falls.



President's Message – by Annie McNeilly

Greetings!!!

Hope everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend! Now that summer is upon us, it would be wonderful to hear from members that take trips, go rock hounding, or any fun thing done during this summer. We used to have members post articles in our newsletters about their escapades and it would be fantastic to hear from all of you. It could also be an education piece about rockhounding, metalsmithing, etc.

June is our last meeting before summer break (July and August); our clubhouse remains open this summer for all to come on down. I hope everyone will enjoy the summer picnic on August 10th at Donell Shoffner's house (same location as last year). His address should be listed in this newsletter.

Here's to everyone to have a great summer!!!

Annie

Gemboree news from Mary Myers:**SPRING 2024 GEMBOREE INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND NEWSLETTERS: MAY 14th**

Mary Myers enjoyed a much-needed vacation after the Gemboree.

Meeting of the Gemboree Leads on May 8th, 2024: Mary called a meeting just for the Gemboree Leads before she left on vacation so that she could get feedback and input from the people who have invested the most time and energy in our Gemboree by taking a Lead role. This was just a quick meeting of the individuals who had invested the most time and effort regarding our Gemboree (i.e., the Leads) so that Mary could hear their feedback before she left for out of town on her much-needed vacation, before too much time had passed. The entire Gemboree Board was not needed at this meeting since the purpose was to hear from those who had invested the most time and effort as a Lead. Mary apologizes if anyone else felt excluded. Please understand that while the focus at that meeting was limited to these individuals, the input of all members is important and welcomed by your Gemboree Chair.

News from Emidio's: Nothing new yet. The Emidios are still waiting to hear and will let Mary know as soon as they know anything. He again mentioned that he'll likely be tearing out the north side wall. For now, we have our storage area, but that may change during this summer.

Attendance: Rainy day Saturday – 1,218 Sunny, beautiful Sunday – 816
For a grand total of 2,034 – a very good number.

E-tickets: Surprisingly, we sold 31 E-tickets – not bad for the first time we ever tried this!!! We had a slight glitch – Mary forgot to show Attendance how to print off the list. We'll fix that in the Fall.

Financial Information: Please get all receipts **ASAP** to Laura McElroy. We need those to close out our books for the Spring 2024 Gemboree. The financial information will be released as soon as we get all the info needed.

Geodes: Mary has not finished finalizing the geode counts since so many different categories were added by sizing and pricing the KY geodes and that was a bit confounding. She is working on that information for you.

New Opportunities for Members: We have an opening at the Children's Table and at Advertising for a member who would be willing to step forward and accept the role of Lead. We need Backups in Admissions, Children's Table, Demonstrations, Hospitality, and the Gem Mine. Let's see – that's SEVEN (7) members we need to step forward. Please contact Mary about these opportunities.

Lead Children's Table Backup Admissions
Backup Children's Table

Backup Demonstrations
Backup Hospitality
Backup Gem Mine

Lead Advertising

Grand Prize Drawing: The winners for the 2nd and 3rd place prize have responded and have received their prize. We are still waiting to hear from the Grand Prize Winner. We collected quite a few addresses, emails, and/or phone numbers from those who participated to whom we can advertise our show in the Fall

The Member's Door Prize Drawing for those members who signed up to work 8 or more hours: The drawing is all set to go! If your name is drawn, please pick DOOR # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6. Members do not have to be present to win. Their door prize will be left at the club with their name on it – unopened, lol! Best of Luck to all! We had 36 members who signed up and volunteered for 8 or more hours! Thank you so much!!! Hopefully, we will pull those names at the SLC members' meeting tonight, on May 14th, 2024!

Thank you to all who volunteered!!! Thank you to all of those who worked so hard on this Gemboree, and especially to all who gave so many more than the minimum hours required. This is a team effort and together, we presented a fabulous Gemboree!

With so many last-minute injuries and illness amongst our members and their families, we needed all hands on deck. We did not have enough members to fully staff the show, so we had to close some of the children's activities and the second geode station at times. Let's try to fill those slots in the Fall! Volunteering for as much as you can is greatly appreciated since these Gemborees are how we keep the doors open and the lights (and machines) running.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who contributed to our Gemboree!!! Cathy Milhoan and Mary M. hope that you heard as many positive remarks and compliments about our Gemoree as we did. We heard from vendors, members, and the public. They were all VERY impressed with our show. **Well done, Team Gemboree!!!**

Vendor's injuries:

We had injuries among two vendors. We need to consider how we can better secure the curtains. Andy and Annette helped and the Tear Down Crew also helped her carry her stuff out to her vehicle.

Solution: We will most likely need to make the curtain bases bigger. Possible solutions have been offered including: Shortening the curtains, adding more weight to the bases we now use, and adding a larger flat steel base to increase the stabilization of the curtain poles. We will attempt to develop a solution when Emidio's informs us that we must get our items out of storage, or during the summer, or on the Thursday before the Fall show.

Storage options: Gene Willis told me that he might have a way for us to buy a used trailer that can be secured for a very reasonable rate of perhaps around \$3,000. We would have to be able to store it at Emidio's (near the rear dock doors) for this to be a great solution. We will investigate that more when the Emidios lets us know about the need to move our storage and we will ask at that time what the charge would be for us to park our trailer on the lot. Mary Myers has also researched a local storage unit facility. Reasonably sized, non-temperature-controlled units were available at a cost of about \$100/month, temperature controlled ones at around \$150/month. We currently pay about \$200/month to Emidio's for our onsite storage. We are still open to ideas – and will have to decide once Emidio's tells us of their plans.

Call for Slabs and donations: We will need more slabs and donations for the Gemboree. Please keep an eye out for estate sales and inheritors who would like to donate to our Gemboree – because this benefits BOTH CLUBS.

Call for complaints: Your Gemboree Chair cannot attempt to resolve issues promptly when issues are not brought promptly to his/her attention. Example: On May 13th, (i.e., SIXTEEN (16) days AFTER our Gemboree), it was brought to my attention that someone at our new Geode station was having difficulty with

using the square on Saturday. This might have involved a problem of either accessing the internet or perhaps was simply a lack of knowledge about either the new password or how to use the square. Please bring issues and concerns promptly to the Gemboree Chair.

Another repair needed for our Gemboree: The wheels on one of our blue dollies need to be replaced. Mary thinks it might have been Bill Maki who mentioned this and that he could replace those?

Social Media Advertising: It is becoming more and more clear that social media has an important role to play in our advertising. We need to begin placing hashtags on our Facebook posts. We need to encourage members to share posts. Videos are given more exposure in social media than mere pictures. Please consider learning more about this important aspect of our advertising. NOTE: The May 3-5, 2024 gem and mineral show at Kalamazoo, Michigan (<https://www.kalamazoorockclub.org/event-information>) had MORE than 7,000 people in attendance (with only 50 vendors)!!!! The show runs over 3 days. That show caters breakfasts, lunches, and dinners to their vendors. The cost to vendors was less than our costs. They do a TREMENDOUS amount of social media advertising. It's time to step up our game.

Idea for bags, ideas for t-shirts: It was brought up at an April Gemboree Board meeting and subsequently at the April SLC membership meeting to make (and perhaps sell) T-shirts with our logo for our Gemboree. The idea was tabled for the Spring. Some members really liked the idea. Another idea was posed at the May 8th, after-Gemboree meeting of the Leads that perhaps even more useful would be to create and sell heavy duty canvas bags that could be sold at the Gemboree to the public to carry their treasures bought at the Gemboree (while giving us lots of free advertising wherever the bags would be used in the future). Mary has researched the idea and will share that research after she returns from vacation. Almost all the Leads were in favor of the bags. Some of the Leads were in favor of the T-shirts. Mary is interested in how many members of Akron Mineral Society and Summit Lapidary Club would be interested in buying a t-shirt or a bag, and which they think would be the biggest seller.

Set up changes: We need to more firmly attach our Gemboree sign out front. (It blew down in the winds on Saturday at our Spring Gemboree). We need additional electricity to Admissions (for their Square) and to the booths near the Demonstration table (from the pole – to keep the circuit breakers from tripping). And we need traffic cones to designate loading and unloading zones, particularly at the back door.

Door prizes: Collecting and distributing these was highly time and labor-intensive. In future Gemborees, we will simply print a certificate "door prize," one from each vendor, that will be handed to the individual by Admissions, whenever it is determined that an individual has won a door prize. No choice will be given about which vendor's prize has been won. The booths will be labeled by the Vendor Chair. The individual who won the prize will be given the certificate and a program indicating the location of the booth. That individual will then be directed to that vendor's booth.

Closing the Gemboree each night: A pleasant announcement will be made encouraging customers that the Gemboree is closing and to take their purchases to the vendor. Let's keep it sweet and clear. These are our customers!

Loading/unloading zones: Traffic cones shall be placed outside the rear doors (and at the front if deemed necessary) to keep vendors from parking their vehicles and blocking the immediate area of the loading and unloading zones by the door(s).

First Aid: It has been suggested that we purchase some instant ice packs for injuries.

Service Animals at our Gemboree: It seemed to be a concern to more than one member about the dogs that were brought into the Expo Center during our Gemboree this Spring 2024. Mary has researched the issue and is attaching an addendum to this report. In short:

Yes, there is a difference between a service animal and an emotional support animal, however, we are PROBABLY not permitted to ask that.

No, the animal does NOT have to wear any sign (or banner) that it is a support animal.

Note: Ohio apparently follows The Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) as it has few laws about service animals. Most of the laws regulating service animals pertain to various college campuses. NOTE: Ohio law recognizes that a miniature HORSE may also be designated as a service animal under certain circumstances. The ADA designates DOGS ONLY as service animals, however, states (such as Ohio) might approve other animals (horses, peacocks, etc.) as equivalent to a service animal.

The bottom line seems to be this: There are TWO and ONLY TWO questions that we may ask.

We may ask:

1. **Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?**
2. **What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?**

We are *not* allowed to:

- **Request any documentation that the dog is registered, licensed, or certified as a service animal**
- **Require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability**

HOWEVER: PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

What happens if a person thinks an entity's staff has discriminated against him or her?

A. Individuals who believe that they have been illegally denied access or service because they use service animals may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice. Individuals also have the right to file a private lawsuit in Federal court charging the entity with discrimination under the ADA.

The best solution appears to be this: As long as the animal is in the control of the handler (NOTE: A leash is NOT required, but the animal must be under the handler's control) we should probably just let it go.

An example on an unleashed animal might be when a bomb sniffing dog is released to run throughout the building which then returns to inform the disabled vet/etc. that no bombs were detected.

We have placed a sign on the front door indicating that only Service Animals are permitted inside.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: The definition of being under a handler's control also includes toilet activities. If the animal is not housebroken, we are permitted to ask that individual to leave the premises. If the animal lunges at others, barks uncontrollably, jumps on others, throws up, poo-poops, urinates, etc., the animal is NOT under the handler's control. Ergo: We are NOT responsible for cleaning up dog poo-poo or pee-pee. The handler is.

MARY BELIEVES THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE TO ANSWER A COMPLAINT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, NOR DO WE WANT TO BE SUED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE ADA.

THEREFORE, IF THERE IS ANY PROBLEM WITH ANY ANIMAL AT OUR GEMBOREE, PLEASE CONTACT OUR SECURITY AND/OR THE GEMBOREE CHAIR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE DO NOT PUT OUR CLUBS IN JEOPARDY OF LEGAL ACTION UNNECESSARILY. IF THE ANIMAL IS OUT OF CONTROL, OR POO'S, OR PEE'S, PLEASE CONTACT OUR SECURITY AND/OR THE GEMBOREE CHAIR.

Service animals (and perhaps support animals) may legally enter our Gemboree facilities. Remember that disabilities may be hidden – and it is illegal federally to ask what disability the individual has.

Final Note: We do NOT have to worry about Emidio's business decision about their building affecting our Gemboree. WE are affecting the future of our Gemboree.

We must make this a TEAM EFFORT, keeping it FUN and LIGHTHEARTED, and encouraging our members to enjoy helping at our Gemboree. If we don't stop all this turmoil and drama, the Gemboree is going to implode

from the inside out. I have heard from so many members that they're ready to quit because of the drama (and I recently find that refrain playing in my own head sometimes, too).

There are too many people spreading little rumors, stirring the pot, promoting conspiracies, making accusations, disregarding the efforts of this or that member, etc. Too many people are singing Shakespeare's song of the witches: "Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble." **Hey! Here's an idea. Let's say appreciate each other and keep this Gemboree fun and exciting – for the vendors, customers, AND our members!**

SLC Dues –2024 Dues can be paid to Laura Thomas. (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.

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: No news

Club Members' Meeting Minutes from May 2024:

. Annie McNeilly brought the meeting to order.

Summer Picnic will be held on Aug 10 at noon. Lunch will be served at 1:00. The address is Donnell's office at 35 South River Road in Munroe Falls. The clubs provide hot dogs, hamburgers, cheese, buns and drinks. Please bring a dish to share and your own chair.

Christmas Party Susanne Shoffner is looking into the price per person at Tangiers, Huston Hall, Guys Party Center. The price range is 42 to 45 per person.

Stair lift The club would need a commercial stair lift for the club.

Gemboree Advertising Joyce Kish will do the advertising for the fall show. Someone else will need to take over for next year.

Big Dig David Rich is looking into it.

Midwest Federation We need to send a delegate to the August meeting. Joyce volunteered to Zoom the meeting. MWF will be offering black and white t-shirts and zippered hoodies.

PAC Hall John Dombrosky volunteered the PAC hall for a members only show. He will make sure food and drinks are available. PAC membership is only 10 per year.

It was suggested that we charge members for tables. Thanks to John for offering the hall.

Gemboree door prizes were given out. Paulette Moore, Milo Schoffner, Frank Edward's, Tracey McKelvey, Annie McNeilly and Susanne Schoffner were the recipients.

Akron Mineral Society Mark Manley stated the meeting was on Fluorite and Calcite. Next month's meeting will be Malachite and Azurite.

Coshocton Knapp In will be held May 24, 25 and 26.

Parma Gem and Mineral show will be next week, and the **Mansfield show** is the first weekend in June.

David made a motion to adjourn, and Laura seconded.