

GEM CUTTERS NEWS

THE AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER
OF THE GEM CUTTERS GUILD OF BALTIMORE. BALTIMORE, MD



MAY, 2008
VOLUME 58 NUMBER 5

PROGRAM NOTES

from Richard Meszler, President

We are most fortunate to have as our May meeting speaker the talented young jewelry artist and goldsmith - Valerie Heck.

Valerie began her career by taking a class at our workshop, then went on to major in Fine Art Jewelry at Towson University. Her education continued with classes at MICA, Peters Valley and Haystack.



Her work, marketed under her "Silver With a Twist" business name, can be seen in galleries throughout Maryland including Pristine (Taneytown) and ArtFX (Annapolis) and on her website <www.vahjewelry.com>. Valerie currently serves as the Jewelry and Supplier Manager for the Philadelphia Buyers Market of the American Craft Show. In this position, Valerie mentors and assists

artists in their jewelry design and business decisions.

Valerie will be talking about her jewelry and the road she's traveled in growing her business. She will also share with us photos of many of her jewelry items. Our meeting starts as usual at 7:30 p.m. at the Workshop.

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

by Leslie Meszler, Membership Chair

Mary Keller
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<maryjkeller@earthlink.net>

Mary was born in Houston, TX, attended high school in Idaho, and received her BA in Sociology from the Univ. of Baltimore. The mother of two children, she's currently employed as a highway planner and has interests in jewelry, lapidary, needlepoint and quilting.

Janice Pumphrey & Eric Willison
707 W 33rd St
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Janice, a native of Washington, DC is a Medical Technologist with interests in all aspects of the hobby. Eric, a photographer with the MTA, is also president of the Mill Valley Cultural Arts Umbrella, a non-profit local arts group.

REFRESHMENTS

by Pam Sliwoski & Linda Haddaway

Thanks to all who brought goodies for our April meeting.

Volunteers for the May 6th meeting are Lois Schwartz, Melinda Hope and Steve Page.



THANK YOU!!!

from Rose Duke and Richard Hoff

Thanks go out this month to all the members who helped staff the booth at the recent International Show at the Convention Center. We signed up several new people who expressed an interest in our workshop classes and will perhaps see some of them at our upcoming meetings.

The hearty crew at our booth included: Brook Botvin, Steve Botzum, Cathy Cochran, Willie Crews, Chuck and Rose Duke, Richard Hoff, Wayne Homens, Charles Jones, Charlotte Lindgren, Tricia MacNeal, Anne Millar, Susan and John Powell, John Purcell, Lois Schwartz, and Shelly Walck.

Our next "meet the public" outing will be July 4 - 6 at the Timonium Fairgrounds.



The Gem Cutters Guild is a founding member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. and a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

ABOUT OUR GUILD

The Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Inc. was established in order to allow its members to gain knowledge and skills in gem cutting, jewelry making and in identifying and evaluating lapidary materials. Through field trips, exhibitions, and cooperation with other societies, we endeavor to further not only our own knowledge, but also that of the general public.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month except January, July and August at our workshop which is located at Meadow Mill at Woodbury, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd, Suite 116; Baltimore, MD 21211. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. Visitors are always welcome. Dues are \$30 per year for families and \$18 for individuals. More information and directions to our meetings can be found on our website, <www.gemcuttersguild.com>.

OFFICERS

President - Richard Meszler

Vice President - Wayne Homens

Recording Sec'y - Jeannette Coleman

Corresponding Sec'y - Richard Hoff

Treasurer - Steve Weinberger

Past President - Pat Baker

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Deadline is the 15th of each month.

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RICHARD'S REFLECTIONS

by Richard Meszler, President



I thought it would be instructive to look at the purpose for which the Guild was established in 1950 and see how we have evolved to our present state. This should help us, especially our new members; put in perspective the activities of the Guild. As indicated by the stated objectives in our Bylaws listed below, our roots are in the lapidary arts and geared to the interested hobbyist.

1. To encourage and facilitate the improvement of its members in the art of cutting and polishing gem materials.
2. To increase the knowledge of its members in the properties, identification and evaluation of gemstones, ornamental stones and other cutting materials.
3. To cooperate with other lapidary societies in fostering the interests of gem cutters and collectors.
4. To arrange and conduct field trips to facilitate the collection of materials for cutting and polishing.
5. To provide opportunity for the purchase, exchange and exhibition of specimens and gem materials, and to arrange for the exhibition and display of gems, gem materials, specimens and other art objects and handicraft; and to do all other things which may be deemed necessary or advisable to promote the foregoing objects and purposes.
6. To foster and encourage the teaching of the lapidary and associated arts, especially in schools and among "teen-age" groups.

As I mentioned in my talk at the April meeting, I started out and in fact was attracted to the Guild through lapidary. Once I learn how to cut and polish stones, the next logical step was to learn how to make use of my cabochons by incorporating them into jewelry. Fortunately, the Guild had already taken that step and offered classes in wire wrapping, introduction to making jewelry (Jewelry 1) and an intermediate course in making jewelry (Jewelry 2). In addition there were occasionally more advanced and focused classes taught by established artists such as Steve Page, Wayne Werner, Cindy Blackburn and John Fix all of which I took.

Today there seems to be an explosion of interest in jewelry arts and crafts as well as many new materials and techniques for this creative process. The wide availability of beads of every type, glass, PMC, polymer clay, acrylic resins and the equipment to work with them, to mention just a few, has caused many of us to explore new avenues in our artistic pursuits. So now we have a growing diversity of interests in the jewelry arts and crafts among our members many of whom came to us knowing little about lapidary.

In addition, the concept of a hobbyist has changed with the advent of web sites such as EBay, ETSY, Craig's list, etc. It is now possible for us to open our own virtual shops and offer our work for sale directly to the world. We can now sell our creations to defray the ever increasing cost of our "hobby" or even try to make a profit. This has created a diversity of motives for our members' interests. We now have true hobbyists, home business "hobbyists" as well as aspiring and full time professional bench jewelers in the group. As a result there is an

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MEETING MINUTES

from Richard Hoff, Corresponding Secretary

April 1, 2008

The April meeting of the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Richard Meszler.



Wayne Homens moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer Steve Weinberger reported that we are solvent and that refunds for those enrolled in classes that were cancelled would be going out shortly. Steve also presented free admission tickets for those volunteering at the upcoming Intergem Show. The scholarship can was passed around.

Leslie Meszler, Membership Chair, welcomed seven guests and presented badges to two new members.

The field trip committee reported that there is nothing definite

at this time, but that a possible mid-May trip to Mineral Hill may be held.

Sunshine - Pat Baker will take over the chairmanship.

Refreshments were provided by John Purcell, Velina Glass, and the Meszlers.

There was no Old or New Business.

Announcements:

Bernie Emery invited the club to take a table at Chesapeake club show in May to talk about our club and classes.

Show and Tell was presented by Wayne Homens.

After the break, Richard Meszler spoke about his personal history and his hobbies.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by
Richard Hoff
Corresponding Secretary

RICHARD'S REFLECTIONS

continued from page 2

ever-growing thirst for classes on how to use and do all of these new materials and techniques.

The Guild cannot be all things to all people. But we can each expand our horizons by learning from each other and respecting and appreciating the diverse activities of our members. We do not offer any formal organized teaching program or certification. There are other venues for that such as Towson University and MICA. Our niche is still based on the lapidary arts and our focus is on the hobbyist. Our class planners try to offer at least introductory classes on many of these other jewelry making processes, when we can find instructors to teach them. We welcome and encourage your input as to possible instructors and what you would like to learn. Unfortunately, we don't always have a sufficient number of students to allow some classes to be given. So, if you see a class offered that you would like to take, encourage others to take it as well and register early. Very often an instructor must buy materials for the class and needs to know the number of students in sufficient time to do so. So, to paraphrase an election year adage: "register early and register often".

LAST MEETING RECAP

from Carolyn Weinberger

We always knew that Richard Meszler was an interesting fellow, but just how interesting was revealed during the April meeting of the Guild via a PowerPoint presentation.

Beginning with early photos of himself and family, Richard shared with us some of the highlights of his career as well as insights into what led him into the hobbies that he enjoys - cutting cabs, designing and creating jewelry, and bonsai.

Did you know that some of the trees in the Bonsai collection at the National Arboretum were donated by Richard? Did you know that one of his trees was used in an exhibit of clay vessels at Clayworks? Richard shared numerous photos of his trees and briefly told us what they were and how he had obtained several of them.

Richard also showed photographs of several of his jewelry pieces explaining how he prefers the simpler, more tailored designs to highlight the various cabochons he's cut.

It was wonderful to learn more about Richard, his family and his hobbies. Plans are in the works for more of our members to share their background with us - perhaps as 5 minute talks at upcoming meetings.

SUNSHINE

from Pat Baker

I've not heard about any of our members being ill.



Norma Wallis was able to attend the April meeting, but her shoulder remains in a sling. She's undergoing, what she described as a painful rehab.

Please let me know if you learn about any member being ill.

FIELD TRIP NEWS

by Wayne Homens

On Saturday, May 10th we'll make a return trip to the Mineral Hill Mine. We'll meet at the mine at 10 a.m. and collect until 2 p.m.



Originally an iron mine featuring a 2 1/2 foot thick hematite ore vein, mining began there at the time of the Revolu-

tionary War. Later the property was mined for copper with a shaft reaching a depth of 400'. At its peak it employed 100 miners and was owned by Tyson Mining Company, the same firm that owned the Soldier's Delight property in Owings Mills and the Elizabeth Mine in Vermont. Today Mineral Hill is abandoned except for casual collectors like ourselves. A portion of the Liberty Reservoir washes the banks of the site.

Minerals associated with Mineral Hill include actinolite, albite, bornite, brochantite, calcite, carrolite, chalcocite, chalcopyrite, chlorite, covellite, epidote, gahnite, gold, hematite, hornblende, ilmenite, limonite, linnaeite, magnetite, malachite, pseudomalachite, pyrite, quartz, siderite, siegenite, sphalerite, talc and of course copper and hematite.

You will need to have sturdy closed-toe shoes (tennis shoes are okay), geology hammers and picks and perhaps a light sledge, a bucket or pack to collect your treasures and newspaper for wrapping, safety glasses and long pants (poison ivy, mosquitoes, etc). The property is hilly, so be prepared.

To get to Mineral Hill, take your favorite route to I-695 and take exit 18 - MD 26 west (Liberty Road). Travel on MD 26 for approximately

SAFETY FIRST — AND LAST

by Jim Doran, EFMLS Safety Chair. from EFMLS News, May 2008



This month I want to test your powers of observation. I want to see if you really are aware of the sometimes not-so-obvious regarding safety and collecting.

There is a very popular TV show on the Travel Channel titled: "The Best Places to Find Cash and Treasures." The premise of the show is to send the host to different areas around the country to try to find valuable minerals, gemstones, fossils, and other items to see how much the items are worth.

Recently, I watched a show where the host ended up hunting for emeralds at the North American Emerald Mine, in Hiddenite, North Carolina. She was brought into the diggings of the mine by the owner, the now famous, Jamie Hill. He showed her how to break open an emerald pocket by using a rock pick, and he was not wearing safety glasses! How many of you noticed that?

In a second show I watched, the host went to Herkimer, New York, to try to find Herkimer Diamonds. At the first location, she was wearing her hard hat and safety glasses. She then went to a second location to try her luck, and was shown trying to break a rock without safety glasses! How many of you noticed that?

My point in bringing up these incidents is to make you try to be more aware, more observant on collecting trips. Do you have all your required safety equipment? Do the other club members have theirs? Most importantly, is the equipment used, and used correctly?

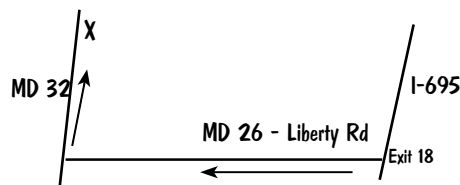
Next month I want to give you some more examples of observations regarding safety in part two of this article.

(I welcome any and all comments, suggestions, ideas, from any club or club member. Feel free to contact me: Jim Doran, at email address: <jpdoran@comcast.net>.

12 miles until you reach MD 32 in Eldersburg. Turn right and continue until you cross the bridge over the reservoir. Parking is on the right just after the bridge.

The trip will be cancelled if it rains. There is no rain date.

References:
Maryland Geological Survey, Vol IX: 310
Rocks & Minerals, Vol. 26.



BIRTHDAY WISHES

from Leslie Meszler

A happy birthday this month to those celebrating this month. Your birthstone is emerald, a member of the beryl family.

4 - Barry Berlin
10 - Sallie Patterson
14 - William Cutman
20 - Steve Page



Emeralds are green members of the popular beryl family of minerals. The green color occurs when pure, clear beryl contains either chromium or vanadium.

Beryl occurs in many other colors, with shades dependent on the impurities that Mother Nature has mixed into its otherwise clear formula. Blue beryl is known as aquamarine. Pink shades of beryl are known as Morganite. Yellows are often simply called yellow beryl and golden beryl. The term bixbite refers to red beryl, a variation that's even more rare than emeralds.



Emerald on matrix
Hiddenite, NC. Photo S. Weinberger

•Egyptian emeralds were introduced to the world about 4,000 years ago, but the stones from those mines are a duller green and are not considered high quality by today's standards.

•Mummies were often buried with emeralds and the gems were popular in ancient Rome, but some think that many of the stones called emeralds in ancient times were actually peridot.

•Traditionally, emeralds are worn to promote healing and enhance love and contentment.

Common Emerald Treatments

Most emeralds are treated to enhance their appearance. Even though treatments are common and accepted, they should be disclosed.

•Nearly all emeralds are treated with oils or epoxy resins to fill-in surface cracks, making the cracks less visible and improving transparency.

•Some oils are clear, some are tinted green to make the gems more vivid. Most jewelers tell us to avoid cleaning emeralds with ultra-sonic devices, because that process can remove coatings.

When It's Too Good To Be True

When high-demand gemstones are scarce and costly, humans attempt to create products that look like the real thing. Emeralds can be lab-grown synthetics, which do have the same chemical composition as a stone grown in nature, or they can be genuine stones combined in ways that make a small sliver of gem look like a larger specimen. What you think is an emerald might even be a fake made of glass or another material.

Synthetic Emeralds

The way they are grown has changed, but synthetic emeralds have been produced for many years. Some of the stones even have inclusions that make them look natural. Some dealers may claim a synthetic is "real," and that is technically correct, since true synthetic gems have the same chemical characteristics as their natural counterparts, but a reputable jeweler will disclose that a gem is lab-grown. Always ask if gemstones are created or natural, and if you are buying an expensive stone, have it checked by a lab.

Emerald Facts

1. Emerald hardness on the Mohs scale ranges from 7.5 to 8. As a reference, turquoise ranges from 5 to 6; diamonds are the hardest substance, at 10. Even though emeralds are relatively hard stones, the presence of cracks and inclusions can affect their durability.

•Emerald is the birthstone for May and is the traditional gift for the 55th wedding anniversary.

•Colombian emeralds are among the world's most beautiful, with rich grass-green coloring that's often kissed with a touch of blue. Quality emeralds are also found in India, South Africa, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, and Zimbabwe. Recent finds in North Carolina may provide us with quality emeralds if the mine continues to produce stones.

Emerald History and Folklore

•Emeralds are traditionally thought to enhance the clairvoyance of their wearers.

AN INEXPENSIVE SOLUTION TO TARNISH FREE SILVER AND COPPER

by Herman Falcon

from the [Yahoo Wire-Wrap Jewelry list](#) via Pat Baker

I have used this method for 4 or 5 years with a minor variation. The first article I read stated using an aluminum pan. I bought a 9 inch diameter 2 inch high pan with a handle. I use two cups hot water (from the faucet) two teaspoons baking soda, two teaspoons table salt and put the tarnished silver in it. This usually takes a couple of minutes or longer sometimes for heavy tarnish. Take the jewelry out and rinse.

While we are on the subject you can clean copper with a cup of white vinegar and a teaspoon of salt, dip the jewelry in that solution for 5 - 25 minutes depending on tarnish and dirt. Sometimes the copper requires some scrubbing and re-dipping then rinse and dry.

Brass can be cleaned with a cup of ammonia and a teaspoon of salt using the same method as copper.

STAR STONES

by Mary Prosek from the *RockCollector*, Dec. 07

The optical phenomena of some gem materials to display a single ray of light on their surface is called chatoyancy, a French word meaning cat or cat's-eye. Gems displaying this characteristic exhibit a single undulating narrow band of white light with a changeable luster.



Another optical effect is shown when some gem materials exhibit more than one ray of light. These rays will cross or intersect each other at some central point or points on the surface of a cut and polished gem. This phenomena is called asterism or is more commonly known as a star.

The cause of asterism or chatoyancy is attributed to tubes, or needlelike inclusions within the gem. When these foreign inclusions are highly uniform in alignment within the gem, they will be capable of concentrating and reflecting or transmitting the light which enters the gem. However, this potential will not be effectual in the form of a ray or rays if the gem does not have the optical shape necessary for focus and magnification of the light. When the foreign inclusions are aligned only in one direction with the gem, a single ray of light will be possible. If the alignment is in two directions, then the gem will have the potential of emitting two rays of light which will intersect each other at a central point or points on the gem creating a star with four legs. When the alignment is in three directions, three intersecting rays can be emitted which will produce a six legged star.

Gem materials which are capable of displaying a ray or rays of concentrated light will usually show some indication of this phenomenon in the form of a satin sheen or silkish luster

FINDING ROCK HUNTING MAPS ON THE INTERNET

by Glen Miller from *CFMS Newsletter*, Feb. 2008

Here are some tips for locating free online maps (primarily USA). The good news is that there is a federal program that publishes digital products online that will provide complete national coverage. The bad news is that it is a federal program, subject to manpower and funding constraints, but it is a very good start. The Internet is a source for many maps of other countries. I have viewed geological maps of Oman and even the Moon and Mars online.

Geological and Geophysical Maps -Finding The Map you need:

Traditionally, one went to a state bookstore to purchase a paper map, hoping it was still in print. The trend today is to publish them online with free access! Tennessee will no longer be printing maps in advance. Maps that aren't online can be purchased for \$20 a map, printed straight from a digital file.

"About.com" = the quick and easy solution for links to state geological maps. About.com pre-searches and assembles all types and classes of information. If you go to their *Geology* or *Maps* sections and poke around, there are pages for state geological maps and state geological organizations. There is also <geology.com> with similar sources. They also list state authorities and links to their websites. Once in those websites, you may frequently find a free downloadable map for the local area you are looking for. The USGS has taken great steps to centralize the search for geological maps.

while in the rough state and when exposed to a incandescent type of light. The area in which the sheen or silk is most intense will usually yield a star or cat's-eye effect. This area should be tested with a testing fluid such as STP motor oil and marked prior to shaping. The gem is shaped so that this area will become the approximate apex of the gem's dome or curved surface.

Approximate is mentioned because the ray or rays will tend to shift their location slightly as shaping progresses. This shifting is attributed to the relationship between the gem's physical shape and optical properties. Any change in the physical shape of the gem will also exert a change in directions, focus and magnification of the ray or rays.



THE TRIVA VUG

by R. J. Harris from *Rock Buster News*, May 08

•The Charleston Place spa in South Carolina is offering a procedure called the Luxe 24 Karat Gold Facial, which uses the highest grade of gold leaf in an 80- minute procedure which costs \$360.

•Pearls should never be cleaned with jewelry cleaner.

•When you see the initials "NG-MDB" in a USGS publication, they are referring to the National Geologic Map Database.

•Only two in one thousand diamonds are considered truly colorless.

•The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists is an organization supported by more than 60 companies employing more than 1200 geologists in the Commonwealth.

Sources:
PCPG, Launch Radio, USGS

WHAT IS A ROCK?

from Rimstone Review, February 2008

Rocks are the principal constituents that make up the crust or the Earth's outer "rocky" shell. Most rocks are aggregates of minerals. Consequently they range widely in appearance and other properties according to the minerals present, the number of kinds and their relative abundance, the size of the mineral grains, and the manner in which the minerals are associated. The kinds of rocks are many, but if classified according to the ways in which they come into existence they fall into three major classes:

1. Igneous rocks, formed by the solidification of molten rock-matter as exemplified by the rocks formed by the cooling of lava poured out from a volcano.

2. Sedimentary rocks, most of which were formed by their substance settling as sediment from a body of water.

3. Metamorphic rocks, which were formed from preexisting rocks by developing new characters as the result of geologic processes acting on them within the Earth's crust.

Every rock carries within itself evidence of its mode of origin, and as one of the prime purposes of geology is to determine the constitution, structure, and history of the Earth's crust the recognition of rocks and the ability to read them is of fundamental importance.

Characters Used in Identifying Rocks

The properties most useful in identifying rocks are structure, texture, hardness, and fracture.

Structure is a term reserved for the larger features of rocks. A layered or laminated structure generally indicates sedimentary origin; if the rock contains numerous spherical or almond-shaped cavities or vesicles (formed by the expansion of gases in

molten rock matter) it has a vesicular structure and is of igneous origin. Other distinctive structures are referred to in the appropriate places.

Texture is the appearance of a rock as determined by the size, shape, and arrangement of its constituent mineral grains. The magnitude of the grains determines the grain size of the rock: if the grains are as large as peas, the rock is coarse-grained in texture; if they are the size of those in granulated sugar, the rock is fine grained; and if they are so small that they can not be distinguished as individuals by the unaided eye and the rock seems to be a homogeneous substance, the rock is said to be aphanitic.

The shape and arrangement of the mineral grains with respect to one another produce the fabric of a rock. For example, a rock composed of grains approximately of one size has an even-grained or equigranular fabric, and a rock in which the grains are of differing sizes has an inequigranular fabric. There are various fabrics, many of which are distinctive of the rocks in which they occur. Inasmuch as texture is the conjoint effect of grain size and fabric, it has become customary to use texture for grain size, for fabric, or for their conjoint effect.

Certain textures are of definite help in identifying rocks. The texture of a granite, which is so distinctive that it is termed the granitic texture, proves not only that the rock is of igneous origin, but that it was formed under conditions of slow undisturbed cooling. A glassy texture also proves that the rock is of igneous origin, but that, unlike granite, it was formed by the sudden solidification of molten rock-matter, for glasses are the result of the extremely rapid chilling of molten rock matter. The clastic texture, which occurs in rocks made up of fragments of minerals more or less rounded, is characteristic of many

sedimentary rocks. Other textures are described in connection with particular rocks.

Hardness is of service in distinguishing between certain kinds of rocks. Many rocks resemble limestone, but the test for hardness with the knifepoint serves at once to distinguish a limestone, whose hardness is 3, from the much harder rocks that resemble it.

Fracture is a less useful property. However, a semi-conchoidal fracture yielding shell-like fragments characterizes shales, and the tendency of most metamorphic rocks to split into slabs or thin flakes is a valuable aid in their recognition.

WILL CALIFORNIA EVENTUALLY FALL OFF INTO THE OCEAN?

via Pegmatite, May 2006

The USGS says: No. The San Andreas Fault System, which crosses California from the Salton Sea in the south to Cape Mendocino in the north, is the boundary between the Pacific Plate and North American Plate. The Pacific Plate is moving northwest with respect to the North American Plate at approximately 46 to 55 millimeters per year (the rate at which your fingernails grow). The strike-slip earthquakes on the San Andreas Fault are a result of this plate motion. The plates are moving horizontally past one another, so California is not going to fall into the ocean.



However, Los Angeles and San Francisco will one day be adjacent to one another (in about 15 million years)!

A FABULOUS WILDACRES SESSION!

by Steve Weinberger

We're just back from another fabulous EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. What a fantastic week it was!

Getting to Wildacres is always a beautiful drive, but this year it was even more so as the redbuds, dogwoods, lilacs and burning bushes were in bloom along with hundreds of daffodils and all the non-flowering trees exhibited the new green of springtime. We wondered if this an omen of things to come and indeed it was.

The session, a full house, had participants from throughout the U.S. who shared their expertise, funny stories, and camaraderie with the group. Guest speaker Alfredo Petrov (our international attendee), gave five terrific talks in which he showed and told about his adventures collecting minerals in Bolivia and Japan - two nations he visits frequently. Alfredo was born in England, then lived in Bolivia (he still owns a home there) and is married to a lovely Japanese lady so he spends much time in Bolivia, Japan and the United States. His journeys have taken him into the wilds of Bolivia (where the roads are so poor and so narrow that it can take hours to travel only 20 miles) to the jade outcrop in Japan and the mineral localities of Okinawa, and to gem shows throughout the world. One mineral show anecdote Alfredo shared with the group was of his experiences at the Japanese mineral shows where space is exceedingly limited and one 8 foot dealer table rents for \$800 for a weekend. During one show, Alfredo was given a table on the steps of the show venue...the front legs of the table were cut so that the table nestled on the steps. His chair also had foreshortened legs and wobbled each time he moved! Japan is indeed a crowded nation.

Classes offered this session included mineral and gem photography, geology (taught by a professional geologist,



but aimed at the amateur), chain making, intarsia, faceting, exhibiting and judging, casting, gem trees and fused glass. Folks had fun and produced some wonderful items to take home and treasure.

If you've not yet been to Wildacres, I urge you to consider coming in fall when our guest speaker will be Denise Nelson, a Washington, DC gemologist and importer of gems and pearls. Her illustrated talks will take us to Brazil, Asia, and Africa. She will also focus on pearls, and the Diamond mining by DeBeers in Namibia. Sounds fabulous!

Interested in attending? Classes being offered in fall are: Bead Craft & Bead Weaving, Chain Making, Faceting, Gem Identification, Geology, Soapstone Carving, Precious Metal Clay, Silversmithing, and Wildacres Wild (nature walks)

Cost for the week is \$330 plus a small fee for materials in the class or classes that you take during the week. More information can be obtained from me or via the EFMLS website <www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres>.

Do consider coming! Wildacres is a relaxed place nestled in the mountains just off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville, NC. You'll be surrounded by clean air, the sounds of birds and laughter, and you'll have a chance to meet lots of people who share your interest in the hobby.

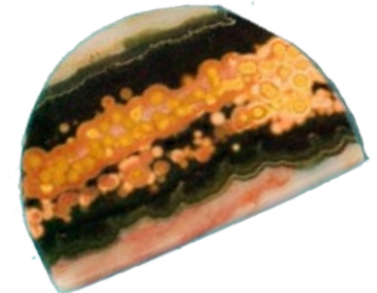
CARING FOR YOUR CABS

from West Seattle Petroglyphs, Jan. 2007

Natural and synthetic stones need TLC. Here are some tips for extending the life and luster of your stones.



- Clean stones with hot, soapy water.
- Dry stones thoroughly with a soft towel.
- Some stones can be cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner; some can be permanently damaged if cleaned in one (amber, coral, lapis, opal, pearl and turquoise, for example).
- Rub gems with a smooth, soft cloth to remove fingerprints and keep them shiny.
- Store stones away from intense heat and light.



Hiding Fractures in Your Cabs

The secret of hiding fractures in a cab with epoxy is to shape your stone and semi-polish it. Heat the stone to 200 degrees in an oven (Not one that you use for food). Mix epoxy and apply it to one end of the crack and work toward the outside of the cab so that the air in the fracture is driven out and the resin now replaces it. You will note that the epoxy becomes very fluid when it touches the hot stone and flows right into the crack. Put the stone back in the oven for 20 minutes for the epoxy to harden. Scrape off the surplus and proceed with your final polish.

AFMS ENDOWMENT DRAWING - YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

from Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

The AFMS Endowment Fund was established so that the Federation would have available funds for special projects. In recent years these projects have included the purchase of patches for the Juniors program, sending representatives from the regional federations to the AFMS Judges Seminar and most recently converting the slide programs in the library to DVD. Funds collected are invested and only the interest from them can be spent.

One successful method of adding to the Endowment Fund principal is to hold an annual drawing. For 2008 the drawing will be held on September 27 during the AFMS Convention in Humble, TX. But, as the Maryland Lottery is so fond of saying...."You've got to play to win." Tickets are \$5 each of 5 for \$20 and will be available at your next meeting via Carolyn Weinberger.

Here's what you might win if you have the winning ticket.



Vial of Virgin Valley Opal
Est. value - \$500 - \$700



Selenite Plate on Amethyst Pipe
Est. value - \$250-\$300



Kauri Gum from New Zealand
Est. value - \$200



Brazilian Amethyst Cathedral
Est. value - \$200



London Blue CZ Pendant set in 14k gold. Faceted by Steve Weinberger. Est. value - \$200



Digital Scale
Est. value - \$100



Hand engraved vase by B. J. Bowman
scenes engraved all around
Est. value - \$225



Charoite Pendant Wire-wrapped in 14k gold
Est. value - \$125 - \$175



Faceted Topaz
Est. value - \$400



Float Copper and Calumet & Hecla Mining Company Share Est. value - \$75





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Visit us on the web at
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Open Shop *
4 Open Shop *	5	6 Guild Meeting 7:30 P.M. Refreshments:	7	8	9 Chesapeake Club meeting 7:30 p.m. Women's Club of Catonsville Program will be on Opals	10 Mineral Hill Field Trip 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Shop *
11 	12	13	14 Board of Directors Meeting 7 P.M. at the Workshop	15	16	17 Open Shop * Baltimore Mineral Society Picnic Visitors welcome. Call Bernie or Steve for info on location and time
18 Open Shop *	19	20	21	22	23	24 Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show Ruhl Armory 10 - 4 (Guild Demo) Open Shop *
25 Open Shop *	26  Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31 Open Shop *

* For Those Paying 2008 Shop Fees