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Official publication of the West Suburban
Lapidary Club

Volume LVIII, Number 5

First Class Dated Material



*Established in 1959
64 years and counting!
Membership at 43 and
growing*

The Opal is published January thru April; September thru November

Meetings are usually held on the 4th Saturday in the months of January thru April, Sept thru November. **Please check The Opal for changes.**

Next Club Meeting

Saturday, Sept 23, 2023

1 pm to 3 pm at:

Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art
1220 Kensington Rd
Oak Brook, IL 60523

Next Board Meeting

Friday, Oct 6, 2023 7 pm

Board meetings are being held virtually via Zoom. Contact a Board Member if you are interested in attending

West Suburban Lapidary Club Membership Info

Membership in the WSLC is \$20 per year, per household/family. Student memberships are available for \$10. Students are identified as 22 years of age and younger and currently enrolled in an accredited school and have a valid school I.D. Dues are payable by January 31st for that calendar year regardless of the date you joined.

accepted via mail or at a WSLC function other than a meeting.

Visitors are welcome at all General Meetings. Members of the WSLC are expected to serve on various committee's and volunteer their time where needed. Applications may be found on the WSLC website (see pg 2)

Contact information for all Board Members are located on page 2 of this publication.

Visitors who are not members of the Museum and want to sit in on a WSLC meeting must pay the entrance fee to the Museum. If you choose to become a WSLC member at that meeting, the monies paid will be applied to the WSLC membership fee.



This is to be done at any General Meeting. Applications will not be

WEST SUBURBAN LAPIDARY CLUB
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION INCORPORATED IN THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Regular meetings of the West Suburban Lapidary Club are usually held the 4th Saturday of each month at the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Oak Brook, Illinois. Doors open at 1 p.m. The meeting starts at 1:15 with club business, then is immediately is followed by a presentation relating to the lapidary, jewelry or earth sciences.

Board Members:

President	Lee Herrera
Vice- President	Kelly Kindelin
Treasurer	Jose Ponce'
Secretary	Don Shore
OPAL Editor	Mary Prosek
Board Member	Mark Talbot
Board Member	TBA
Board Member	TBA
Past President	TBA



WSLC Mission Statement:

To foster the development of the lapidary arts and the jewelry craftsman's and to increase public interest in handcrafted gems, jewelry, and their materials

<< The Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art



The OPAL is the official publication of the West Suburban Lapidary Club and is issued September through May with the exception of December. The Opal will be sent email or via regular mail on request, one copy per household as a pdf. Articles may be copied provided full credit is given to the author and this bulletin. The deadline for material to be published is the fourth Friday of the month prior. Visit the WSLC website at: www.westsuburbanlapidaryclub.com

Minutes of the General Meeting held April 29, 2023

President Lee Herrera called the meeting to order at 1:15. First topic was field trips which Lee looked in to transportation and was very expensive and mentioned perhaps a trip could be organized and members could caravan to the destination.

There will be a holiday party on Sunday, Dec 10th at Angelo's Ristorante on York Rd in Elmhurst. The cost will be about \$30 per person. Members may bring their spouse or significant but must pay for their meal. There will be a cash bar

The call was put out for volunteers for the CGMA Show to be held at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St Charles on Memorial Day weekend.

The program for April was a talk about the new School of Lapidary Arts by Mary Prosek and how the new location was found.

Not yet having a place to move to and wanting to be somewhat productive, Mary decided to work on a school budget and business plan and called Reentel looking for wholesale prices on the Cab Kings. The conversation turned to the school having to find a new home. Customer Service Manager Jennifer Stangley said she thought that the President of Reentel might be interested in talking to her. Not holding out much hope, Mary sent an email to Jennifer explaining things. She called Mary within an hour and said Neer Patel, President of Reentel would like to meet to discuss.

Still a little skeptical, Mary met with them a couple of days later and a plan was made to have Reentel host the school in their extra warehouse located 2 doors down from their company headquarters in Westmont, IL

An agreement was drafted up and signed on May 17, 2023 and the old school was moved to Reentel's location in Westmont where unpacking and preparation are under way in hopes of offering classes by the end of the year..



Mary Prosek (left) and Neer Patel (right) exchange signed copies of the school agreement on May 17, 2023 at the Reentel Headquarters in Westmont, Illinois

Neer then gave a presentation on the company including the equipment they sell which includes Cab Kings, wet saws, sanders, stained glass equipment and tumblers. Jennifer answered general questions regarding the equipment that Reentel sells.

In lieu of a May meeting, Lee impressed upon the members to use that day volunteering for the CGMA Show.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15



Websites to check out

Here are some websites to check out:

Fire Mountain Gems:

www.firemountaingems.com

Beside being one of the largest online sellers of beads and jewelry making supplies, they have a great library of how to's and tutorials.

On the home page, click "Learn" at the top of the banner and there will be an option for many different subjects and media

Facebook groups to check out

If you need advice on how to do something related to the jewelry arts, the Facebook groups is the place to be.

Check out: *Jewelry Making Videos, Tips & Resources*

You can check out what people ask about and see how others react or respond with a solution to their problem or question

Check out: *Fantastic Rocks and Where to Find Them*

Besides people posting the beautiful and interesting specimens they found, sometimes they post a photo of something they can't identify in hopes of readers who can.

Some Facebook groups require you to answer a few questions before you are let in to the group. This is done to weed out the mass marketers and to keep down the amount of advertisement you will see in the forum

You Tube Channels

It's been said you can learn anything you need to learn on You Tube. It's true!

One thing I find fascinating is the art of intarsia for rockhounds. Historically, intarsia was always thought of as something to make out of wood or fabric. It has gained popularity in the last 30 years or so using rocks and gemstones to create interesting patterns.

When you open up You Tube, type in the search bar: Intarsia Rocks and a few videos will come up by Bill Boggs. He goes by the tagline "Old Rockhound".

Bill Boggs has a couple of really interesting videos on the art of creating intarsia with rocks. Bill teaches Intarsia at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Georgia. If you could make the trip, it is totally worth it.

You can find Bill's videos at:

[\(9\) Part 1 YouTube Rockhound Intarsia - YouTube](#)



Condolences

It is with deep regret that the WSLC extends it's sympathies to club President Lee Herrera on the passing of his Mother, Julia G. Fernando.

Ms Fernando was a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico and was 96 years old. She passed away on Saturday, September 2nd. Please keep Lee and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Arrangements are pending.

Here are some upcoming shows from other clubs:

Sept. 16-17 Livingston Gem & Mineral Hartland Educational Support Ed Oller, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4 Society Services, 9525 E. Highland Road, livingstongems.com Howell, MI

The Livingston Gem & Mineral Society is hosting the MWF annual convention Sept. 15-17 in conjunction with its show.

Sept. 22-24 Tri-State Gem & Mineral Joplin History and Mineral Museum, Chris Wiseman, Society 504 S. Schifferdecker, Joplin, MO jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net

Sept. 23-24 Brown County Rock & County 4-H Fairgrounds, 802 Rhonda A. Dunn, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4 Mineral Club Memorial Drive, Nashville, IN bcrmc2010@gmail.com

Sept. 23-24 Minnesota Mineral Club Dairy Building, State Fairgrounds, Earl Netwal, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 1694 Judson Avenue, St. Paul, MN enetwal@gmail.com

Sept. 23-24 Oshkosh Earth Science Club Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. Bob Fox, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4 County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI foxbooks@att.net

Oct. 7-8 Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Orr Bldg., State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Ed Wagner, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5 Society (LOESS) Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL loesseditor@gmail.com

Oct. 7-8 Midwest Mineralogical and County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Bill Barr, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 Lapidary Society Road, Belleville, MI wbarr@umich.edu

WSLC School of Lapidary Arts News

The school has officially moved out of the building in Elmhurst known as Crestview Park. Two sales were held and were nicely attended. We are completely moved to the new location.

Casualties include:

- > Jose's phone suffered what turned out to be fatal injuries when the school door slammed on him and cracked his screen, resulting in replacement.
- > Mary broke 2 toes on her right foot when a rock jumped off a table and landed just in the right spot.
- > Kelly's back was wrecked already, so we cannot blame that on the school
- > Mark Talbot is still intact, but it's still early

Want to help? Things needed by the school:

\$\$\$\$ - if you would like to make a donation to the school, please contact Mary Prosek, Jose Ponce, Kelly Kindelin or Mark Talbot

Foredom drills: If you have one you don't use, or if you just want to purchase one and donate it to the school, let us know

Tools: The School will accept any type of lapidary, wire wrapping or silversmithing tools in good condition. These can include hand tools, saws, etc. Please contact a school rep

Books: How-to books are always welcome



Jose Ponce & Mark Talbot are extremely pleased with the storage cabinet they put together

< Kelly Kindelin moving things out of the way

Calendar of events—September

Where:

The Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts www.lapidarymuseum.org
1220 Kensington Rd, Oak Brook, IL 60523

16th: Saturday -

* **Rock and Mineral ID Class** - 10:30 am to 11:45 am

Geologist Sara Kurth teaches the techniques for rock and mineral identification. Learn to identify minerals through basic hands-on identification including observation skills and hardness tests. Great for rockhounds and scouts, this class completes the earth science badges for Cub and Boy Scouts. An optional kit is available for purchase, but not required for the class. **Ages 8 yrs. and up \$10 per person – Museum Members Free—Reservations Required – Register online** - Museum members are free

***Rockin' jewelry for kids** - 1:30 to 2:15

Children can make their own gemstone jewelry with the Rockin' Jewelry for kids. Learn to make a necklace, a keychain, and a pin. All materials included in individual kits. After the class, tour the Museum and complete a scavenger hunt. Completes the Jewelry Badge for Girl Scouts.

Ages 8 years and up—\$15 per person, museum members 10% discount with code - must register at the museum's website

23rd—Saturday - 1 to 3 pm

WSLC Meeting

WSLC members free - visitors must pay museum entrance fee of \$10 which will be refunded if the visitor completes a member application and pays their dues on the same day of the meeting.

Other dates:

30th & Oct 1st

Worthen Earth Searchers Rock Mineral Fossil Club—2nd annual show

> where: Rock Island County Fairgrounds—4200 Archer Dr—East Moline, IL 61244

> Saturday, Sept 30th—9 am to 5 pm > Sunday, Oct 1st 9 am to 4 pm

Admission: \$1—children under 12 free

Website: www.worthenearthsearchers.org

Email for info: mikepepping@dahlford.us

Save the dates:

WSLC Club meetings - Saturday, October 28th & Saturday, Nov 18th - 1 week earlier!

WSLC Board meetings - Friday, October 6th & Friday, Nov 4th

Lapidary Day at Lizzadro Museum - Saturday, Nov 11th - more details to follow

WSLC Holiday Party - Sunday Dec 10th at noon at Angelo's Ristorante, Elmhurst—cost is approximately \$30 per person - cash bar - door prizes - more details to follow