



May 2017 issue

***** Our next regular meeting will be held on
MONDAY, May 15, 6:45 pm at the TADL *****

Five Minute and Main Programs

Don Reed will present the highlights from the Tucson show including many photos along with interesting and humorous commentary.

Snack Hosts: Pat Captain, Jerry Conroy, Jim & Jill Gary, and Sarah Vanderkleed

Door Prizes: Cathleen Miller and Dayna Valpey

From the April 17 Meeting:

After Pierre's math quiz, the Main Program featured tables set up around the meeting room with various equipment and skills being shown and demonstrated. These items included wire wrapping, gem trees, silversmithing, hand polishing of stones, tools and accessories for rock hunting, and more.

Snack Hosts were Bill & Eileen Bunn, Don & Kathy Flegel, Rhonda Hudson, and Sarah Vanderkleed. The door prizes were furnished by Pat Captain and Gary Knudsen. Thanks to our volunteers for their help.

The Rockhound of the Month for March was presented to Don Flegel.

Plan now for 2017:

The June meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, June 20th.**

The Suttons Bay Library has a display case and is looking for monthly exhibits for it. If you have an idea for a rock and mineral (or other) exhibit call 231-271-3512.

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The registration for the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club trips to mine rock dumps between August 8 and 11 began on March 6.

Registration for Keweenaw Mineral Days put on through Michigan Tech's Seaman Mineral Museum with trips to mine rock dumps between July 18 and 22 has also begun. Register early to avoid full trips.

Please sign up to present a 5 minute or main program or to provide treats or a door prize. See Lorna or Kevin.

The American Federation Convention will be June 9-11 in Ventura, California

Newsletter Items Wanted

There is a need for items of interest and importance for the upcoming newsletter editions. If you know of something you would like to contribute including photos of club activities or areas of interest, please email to Lauren Vaughn at:

maple2b@aol.com

Congratulations Don Flegel – Rockhound of the Month



Following is a new feature presented by “The Fly On The Wall” recapping news to use from previous meetings. Thank you Fly !

Interesting Tips from Past Meetings

By: The Fly on the Wall

In discussing a project with a club member recently, we were both concerned about fractures found in a very nice stone being worked. That person was not at the March Meeting where John Matz had given his presentation titled “Chemical Dependency”. At our April Meeting, some very good advice was given but it was difficult to get within hearing range of some of the demonstrations and to be at all the work stations at the same time. Also, for most presentations, handouts listing key information with correct spelling, sources for obtaining, etc. are not always provided. My memory is short. I find that by the time I get home, it is forgotten. Lauren has been asking for additional material for our Newsletter, so I saw this as an opportunity to possibly enhance the value of our meetings.

1. Filling cracks in stones: Glass like stones, such as Leland Blue, often have numerous cracks that could ruin a very good cabochon being worked. Below is an example with “spider cracks”.



John’s tip was to use Opticon Fracture Sealer in situations like this. Opticon can be found from a number of sources on the internet. Rio Grande was the first place that came up in my search. Their description is as follows.

“This clear, easy-to-use sealer is the standard for sealing stone fractures.

- **Highly effective in penetrating surfaces.**
- **General cure time is 3-5 days when cured under a 60 watt light bulb.”**

Their price is \$21.95 plus shipping.

2. Filling indentations in stones: Deep pits, where more stone removal to eliminate will reduce the thickness of a cabochon to an unacceptable level, can be filled with a hot glue material. Some hot glue materials can be polished and then hide those imperfections. The correct hot glue material can be obtained from lapidary supply sources on the internet also. My search found this material at Johnson Brothers Lapidary.



Their catalog shows the following. “Industrial Strength: A very pure form of cyanoacrylate (instant glues). Oil is not added to lengthen shelf life (as many competitive products do). You get SUPERIOR bonds with HOT STUFF adhesives. Hot Stuff remains clear & will buff up to a high polish using the same things you use on gemstones. And yes Hot Stuff has real good shear strength.”

“Uses: Mounting stones, fossil preparation, inlay, crack sealing, doping cabs & faceted stones, repairing crystals, filling small pockets in stones, treating, porous gems & many more.”

3. When slabbing, where to start your cut to orient the pattern in stones like Petoskey: One of the tips Kevin provided at his slabbing demonstration at our April meeting, was to view your stone first in terms of how the colony of coral grew. They were much like a handful of pencils. Long pencil size stems, with the hexagonal (six sided) tips pointing up. As the center stem grew, it produced buds, which became the next ring of the colony. So if your aim is to get that perfect top down pattern from each slab cut from your stone, rotate the example in your hand and view it like a fist full of pencils. When you see what would be the points of the pencils, your cut should be made along the plane that your first finger and thumb grip the stone (perpendicular to the pencil points).



Hope this is helpful!

See you at the meeting on Monday, May 15 !