



THUMBLICKER AUGUST 2009 EDITION ---

UN-EDITED

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 7:25 pm

STOOD FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESIDENTS REPORT - Tara Bartol

1st ORDER OF BUSINESS

During our board meeting, we made the decision to include board members as shop supervisors. The reason for this decision is in case there is not an instructor available, a board member can fill in. This will be more of an open workshop rather than an actual class. Board members would be able to help answer questions and steer a new student in the right direction as well as give more experienced students a chance to work on their projects.

Current board members are;

Tara Bartol, Jim Johnstone, John Piziak, Bob Cole, Gaither Tunnell, Michele Bogle

We have decided to offer them equal shop time in exchange for their time. They will be responsible for opening the shop and shutting it down. This includes making sure equipment is clean and turned off. The shop left in a clean state and all electrical items unplugged.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT - Bob Cole

No report given.

2nd VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT – Gaither Tunnell

Gaither would like to get our showcases in order. While surfing the Eastern Federations website, he came upon a club that had pictures of their showcases. They had nice cabinets displaying nice minerals and club made items. Their cabinets boasted nice lighting as well. We have three cases, one that is in use now but needs major attention. Due to our limited space, the other two will be set aside for our club shows. What we need is a couple of nice wall mounts.

Gaither suggested the area between the two inside windows looking into the shop would be a nice place for a display cabinet. Everyone agreed with him.

Michele said it wouldn't take much to add lighting to our cabinets.

Gaither would like to know if there are any members who are talented in cabinet making or woodwork. If you can donate some of your time, maybe you can help to dress up our front meeting rooms. Please let Gaither know if you would like to help.

Tara mentioned needing a volunteer or two to help straighten out the existing cabinet we are using. The minerals need cleaning. Proper labels need to be made, and some risers for the smaller minerals. These

can be made out of most ordinary day disposable items. Maybe paint the inside or just give it a good cleaning. If you would like to get involved with the displays in our club, please come on in on a Saturday morning or come and volunteer at the meeting. See Michele if you would like some ideas on making risers.

Fred Tunderman offered us a nice display cabinet that will probably fit in between the mentioned windows. He will bring it in on this Saturday. This cabinet sounds very nice and everyone thanked Fred for his generosity. Good job Fred!!

TREASURERS REPORT - Jim Johnstone

All bills are current. Jim gave checking acct. balance and monthly income report. We're in good shape for now. See Jim if you have any questions.

SECRETARY REPORT - Michele Bogle

Michele thanked Tara for covering for her in her absence last month. Tara wrote the newsletter and instructed Michele's classes while she was gone. Tara did a great job in

both positions and it is well appreciated as she has quite a bit of club responsibilities already.

SHOW CHAIRMAN – Bill Meginley

Most of you know we have a fall show coming up t we are doing for the first time. It is a smaller show than our spring show. We will be taking half of the same building at the fairgrounds. We have 4 tables available out of 100. So if you would like to get a table, see John Piziak soon or they will be gone. This is our first three day show as well. It is Friday, Saturday and Sunday; November 13th 14th and 15th. Hours are Fri. 1:00pm – 8:00pm, Sat. 10:am – 8:pm and Sun. 10:00am – 5:00pm. This means we need more volunteers. For those of you who volunteered in the past, we hope to see you again and we will also need new volunteers to accommodate the additional hours. We need items for grab bags. Ladies please go thru your older costume jewelry and donate what you don't use anymore. Donated items can be pens, magnets etc. with business names. Or any items kids can use like small notepads, erasers, etc.

We need 'Silent Auction' items! Our last show left us scrounging for material. Please consider donating a decent to nice mineral specimen, fossil or piece of jewelry that can be used for our auction. Our Silent Auction brings our club much needed revenue to help keep us going as a Club. This has always been an important part of our shows.

Also, we will be having our sluice at the show. We are also running low on material for this too. We can use tumbled stones, small pieces of rough rock, small quartz crystals, etc. This is also a big feature at our show. Everyone loves to sluice! Adults love it as much as the kids.

Michele recommended we use our saw trimmings. Paul Bordenkirchner volunteered to take them home and tumble them for us. Thanks Paul!

If you have any trimmings at home that you are not going to use, please contribute them to the cause. Cause we need all we can get.

We will only have one entrance door, so we need fewer people for that area, but can use you somewhere else. We will have less club tables as well. We will still have the usual, but in a smaller scale. We will be doing something new at this show. We are going to have a 'Recruiting Table' set up. In the past, people with questions were directed to our demonstration area. With this table, someone will be able to give out any club information in question. As well as having our Power Point Presentation there. We will have applications and our website will be posted.

Although this show will be smaller, it will be a new and improved one. This show could be a prototype of future shows. We're hoping for the best!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN- Gaither Tunnell

We are having a committee meeting on Saturday, July 25th directly after workshop. This will be 12:00 noon. If you would like to get involved in our education department, or just want to attend and observe, feel free to come.

Gaither will be sending out emails to announce this, also, it will be posted on our website.

We are trying to expand our workshop, so if you are interested in becoming an Instructor, please join us. Gaither is open to any suggestions you have, so please join us. We are moving along in increasing the days the shop will be open. New days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6pm – 9pm.

Gaither recognized Tom and Kay Benham. Tom and Kay will be hosting another weekend workshop. This will be for Intarsia. For everyone who missed the first class, this is your chance to take a workshop with very talented Instructors at a very reasonable fee. There is also a payment plan so you don't have to pay all at once. This workshop will be the weekend of Aug. 29th & 30th. Sign up early as spots are limited.

Gaither let us know that Tom and Kay has an article in Lapidary Journals Jewelry Artist magazine July 2009 addition. They featured a step by step Intarsia article. So if you have a chance to see this, this is what you will be doing. All material will be provided for a reasonable fee. See our Treasurer Jim Johnstone to make payment arrangements for this class. The cost is \$135.00 for the weekend.

Kay also suggest to read their 'Ask the Experts' article that is in there every month. This is a great article that answers alot of real questions we all have about Lapidary. Also, Kay let us know that they will have another project in the Aug. edition.

If you take the basic Intarsia workshop and enjoy it, they will host a series of more advanced workshops. All the students from the past workshop had great things to say about this class. Jim Johnstone even picked up tips for faceting. Kay showed us all a beautiful intarsia pendant she was wearing. Very impressive!

If you would like to see Tom and Kay Benhams' projects and articles, you can log on to Lapidary Journals website at www.jewelryartistmagazine.com

Look for new classes to start soon! Casting and Stained Glass will begin sometime next month. We have a shortage of Instructors right now, but are hoping to solve this issue with your help. Gaither went over the membership applications and noticed there are a few Geologist in our club. This is another area we would like to focus on. As we are a mineral club, we would like to offer classes on mineral identification. If you are qualified

to host this class, and are interested in teaching, please contact Gaither about having classes begin soon.

Tom Benham mentioned that he and Kay also teach 'Chasing and Repousse'. This is a metal forming class that turns sheet metal into three dimensional shapes. Tom and Kay would be happy to host a workshop if there are enough people interested. Tom would be expensive and you can't always find just what you need. Tom makes his own tools for Chasing & Repousse' as well as tools for other projects. He and Kay would be pleased to teach this much needed technique to us in a future workshop.

Thank you Tom and Kay, for volunteering your time. We know you have busy schedules.

INSTRUCTORS

John Piziak would like advanced notice from anyone wanting extended hour classes. If you know you would like to stay longer for class prior to that weekend, please let John know as he does make weekend plans and cannot always accommodate you if you cannot ask in advance. John teaches Silversmithing!

FEILDTRIPS – Michele Bogle

Just a little about our trip to Rucks Pit in June. First off... Lauren wanted everyone to know she had a "really, really, really great time." And take my word for it, she did. I think the few of us that went walked away pleased with our findings. We all found our monies worth plus some. I just want to emphasize that I am questioned often about fieldtrips, when's the next one? Where's the next one? There always seems to be a lot of interest, until the time come to go, then, we generally have the same people or the same amount show up. Which is very, little compared to our clubs size. With over 100 members, we only had eight members and one youth guest. I will keep scheduling trips on the 5th Saturday months for those who haven't been able to attend, I hope you can find time in the future trips. I will say that you did miss a fun time. And, a profitable one too. Mr. Rucks sr. made sure everyone had a fresh pile to dig through as well as digging through the huge piles already there. I found some great pieces and left a huge matrix piece still full of crystallized clams there. Someone is going to strike rich with that one.

The Peace River Trip – I have been asked by a few people who missed the last trip to the Peace River when we are going again. Well, I think the month of August would be an appropriate time to go into the water. So The last Saturday of August will be scheduled for that trip. Emails will be sent out with directions to get there. This is a lot of fun. You can view pictures of our last trip three years ago on our website. We found some cool Fossils. Paul Bordenkirchner spoke about a recent trip there with the Florida Fossil Hunters club. Paul said the newest member found a perfect Mastodon tooth. That is one of the many types of fossils that can be found there. Florida has an amazing fossil

record. There are several books out on Florida's fossils that you might want to look into. I have a couple, and one right off hand is by Mark Rentz. He has three books out on all of his finds.

Some items you will want to bring:

Sunscreen

Change of clothes

Lunch and drinks

Sluice screen with float noodles attached so it will float (seen in website photos)

Small laundry net to drop findings in while in the water

Shovels and or buckets

Kitchen colanders work great

If you have a Florida snow shovel, this will be ideal. They are the scoops you see at Venice beaches in Fla. Used for finding sharks teeth on the waters' edge. They sell them at most convenient stores in Venice or you can make your own. If you google 'peace river fossils' you can check out other peoples trips and you will see a Fla. snow shovel. I made several of these when we went to Venice. Most of them have broken handles now (KIDS!!)

Last time I brought a baby boat float to keep all of my tools on. Worked out well.

There is a large tree with a rope swing that the kids had a blast on. (See pictures on website)

Also, if you snorkel, you can bring your gear. You'll probably have much better luck.

The access to the water is very easy. You should have no problems there. There is a boat ramp if you want to bring a canoe or kayak. There are covered picnic tables and plenty of shaded areas. There is a store within a quarter mile. They do have facilities, although they never unlocked them last time we went. Hopefully just an oversite that day.

If you don't receive an email with driving instructions by this newsletter publishing, please contact our Editor Tara Bartol. She will be glad to send it to you.

Last time we were there, we did not see any gators, but keep in mind, they could be near. Lets all go have some fun!!

GENERAL DISCUSSION

It was brought up that our ads for the monthly rockfest did not make it into the newspaper. Members that came and set up were disappointed as there was no traffic flow. John Piziak commented that we are at the newspapers

our ads to be posted. He also sent an additional email and made a phone call. Apparently, the person in charge was away on vacation, the person filling in assured Jim that he would post the ad. Hopefully we will not have this

Gaither announced that he still has membership cards. IF you have not received your club membership cards yet, please contact Gaither Tunnell.

If you have not been receiving your newsletter via the internet, check your spam folder, it could be there or contact our Editor Tara Bartol to correct this. Hard copies are only sent to those without internet services. Tara will generally bring a few copies to our meetings for new members and guests.

Bill Meginley announced that our show flyers are in. if you have anywhere near your community that you can leave some, like a Library branch, senior center or even your workplace, please take a stack with you and help us to get these flyers out to the public. If you know of any businesses that will let you leave a stack in visible site, please take a small stack. We have some businesses that give them out for us now, but the more we get out, the better chance of a large turnout.

GUESTS - We had one guest this month. Paul Simons. Paul came to our show this past spring and looked us up on the internet and well, here he is. Welcome Paul!!

SHOW AND TELL aka Bring & Brag

Gordan brought some stones in that were tumbled and he cut into cabochons. These were dyed agates that he was not aware were dyed. They were not advertised as such. Gordan also shared with us his faceted stones. He cut these with instructor Fred Tunderman. Nice job Gordan.

Michele brought in a piece of Red Jasper rough that she slabbed a few pieces of. What appeared to be ordinary red jasper on the outside turned out to have beautiful color inside. Yellow, blue and green swirls were a pleasant surprise. This rough came from a past members' pile that she acquired. Sybil Churchwell.

Note on this Agate does not have to be advertised as dyed when sold as it is permanently dyed. Michele had just read this in her studies last week on treated stones.

DOORPRIZES

Donated By: Tara Bartol, John & Ann Piziak, Jim Johnstone, Michele Bogle, Byron Wertz and Keith Woodard

Won By: Jane, Gaither Tunnell, Ray Miller, Michele Bogle, Tom Benham, Byron Wertz, Paul Bordenkirchner, Keith Woodard, Jim Johnstone and our guest, Paul Simons

50/50 - Won by: Jim Johnstone Jim graciously donated his winnings back to the club. Good job Jim!!

ATTENDANCE – 25 members

FINAL BUSINESS – none

MOTION TO ADJOURN Accepted by Michele @ 8:29pm

Note form the Secretary:

If you haven't had a chance to come and see our new location, we are hoping with increased days and hours, this will give you a chance to stop by and see your new club. Although we have been here several months now, we are still excited by the changes that have been made by our move and by future changes in the works. Please take some time and stop by and see what we have to offer. I think you'll be pleased with the difference of this new location.