

“CUTTING REMARKS”

The Official Publication of the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
520-323-9154

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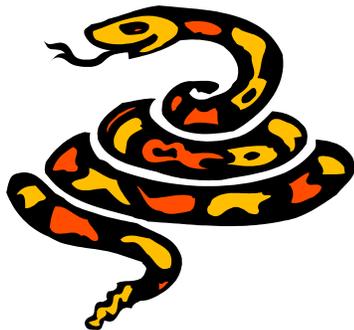
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Please join us **September 14th** at 9 am for the monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at 8 am followed by an educational program that begins at 9 am, followed by the meeting. Visitors are always welcome!



Articles or news to be included in the *Cutting Remarks* should be emailed to your Editor, Mike DeMeritt (silverlininggemstones@gmail.com), or feel free to call him at 520-203-8430. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month. Thanks!

THE PREZ SEZ by John Poole



September was a beautiful month! The last of August we had a few days below 100 degrees. It gives the rockhounds the hope that they can soon get out and do some collecting. A couple of trips are in the planning stages, and Field Trip Committee Chairperson Bob O'Donnell says he will have a sign-up sheet available at the September meeting.

Our own Helen Serras-Herman will be our guest speaker. A very knowledgeable and gifted lapidary artist. I am sure it will be an interesting and informative presentation.

Don't forget the smaller gem show that Tucson hosts the weekend after Labor Day, September 5th - 8th. Keep in mind it is a much smaller show than February's! Some places are open to folks without a business license; check the Tucson EZ-Show Guide. Have a great time finding treasures and inspiration.

I'll see you at the meeting, and don't forget to wear your badge!

John

TIPS FOR USING FILES

- The teeth on all files point away from the handle and therefore cut on the push stroke. Lift the file or ease pressure on the return stroke.
- Press down on the top of the file with your index finger while filing. It is important to hold the workpiece stable so the file meets resistance. Cut notches in the bench pin as needed. Don't file while walking around!
- Dust files with chalk or talc to prevent clogging, especially when filing soft materials like plastic, white metals, or soft wood.
- Keep files clean with a file card (wire brush) or by scraping with a thin piece of brass. As it is used, the brass will develop serrations that reach into the file's grooves.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Bruce Bartholemew

Gloria Jean Dana

John Fial

W.H. "Two Bears" Lambdin

Jeanine "Joni" Pinkney

John Sherwin

Tawny Weir

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OPLC MONTHLY MEETING August 10, 2013

Our speaker was Tucson historian Jim Turner. He gave a fabulous slide show based on his new book called ARIZONA. The photographs are gorgeous and he shared parts of his book related to geology, mining and colorful characters in Arizona history. The Club purchased a copy of the book which will be available in our library. President John Poole brought the business meeting to order at 10:20 AM and declared a quorum present.

Several new members and visitors were introduced.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer Mark Gibson presented a financial report and said that we are at 49% of our budget and that we are doing fine. The report will be filed for audit.

Norma Lackow thanked those who brought refreshments to the meeting. Anyone wishing to bring refreshments to future meetings can call Norma at home 742-7561.

Old business: The Club has purchased numerous parts and supplies for our lapidary, faceting and saw rooms. Thanks to Mike DeMeritt, Mike Tucker, and Glenn and Dominick Hansel, all of the wheels have been replaced on lapidary equipment and faceting equipment has been inventoried and spruced up.

John Poole thanked Mike DeMeritt for another fine newsletter.

John asked if a woodworker could help

build a light box of some sort for the Club and Jim Baker volunteered to take care of the project.

A member thanked the Club for sending out the newsletter from the American Federation of Rockhounds to all members as this is an important and interesting publication.

Wayne Klement reported that we currently have over 300 members.

John Poole is pleased that our lapidary rooms are being well used and said that even this Saturday folks were waiting to get in to work before the monthly meeting.

Bob O'Donnell is checking into field trips to two local mines and also encouraged all to think about attending the Gem O Rama near Trona, California the weekend of October 12th at Searles Lake. See the internet for more information. There will be a sign up sheet at the Sept. meeting.

Sheila Powell, our education liaison reported that things are going well and she has one school scheduled for this fall. She would appreciate any mineral donations at any time for the students.

Our speaker for the September meeting will be our own member Helen Serras-Herman who will tell us tales of Mayan jade.

Barb Elliott and Sharlene Baker will be offering classes on a Japanese beading technique called Kumihimo. A sign-up sheet will be posted.

(MONTHLY MINUTES CON'T.)

Danny Harmsen reports that plans for the Silent Auction are excellent.

Jean Barkley thanked Margaret Schreifels and Barb Elliott for selling \$126 worth of raffle tickets.

Murray Hiller was thanked for opening up the meeting room and getting the cooler going.

Billy Bob Riley is halting the Wednesday night faceting classes until October.

The door prizes were won by Two Bears and Phil Madsen.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 and followed by the raffle drawings.

Twink Monrad, Secretary

MALACHITE

With the increasing costs of precious metals, malachite offers the jewelry and lapidary enthusiast a stone that is both affordable and attractive. Its Greek name is *Malache* for "mallow", a green herb. Its light and dark green bands form designs that are one-of-a-kind, and give it a unique ornamental quality unlike that of any other stone. The bands are so distinctive that malachite may be one of the most easily-recognized minerals by the general public. Its banding forms from subtle changes in the oxidation states of the surrounding pore waters, but the exact mechanism still is not well understood. Malachite often results from weathering of copper ores and is often found together with azurite, goethite, and calcite. Except for its vibrant green color, the properties of malachite are similar to those of azurite and aggregates of the two minerals occur frequently - even banded together and called "azure-malachite". Malachite is more common than azurite and is typically associated with copper deposits around limestone - the source of the carbonate.

Having a Moh's hardness of 3.5 - 4.0, tumbled stones of malachite are possibly the most popular tumbled stones ever and are sold in literally every rock shop around the world. Carved boxes and figurines of malachite are almost as common. Although malachite art is not as precious as jade, it is hard to argue that it is less beautiful. Malachite is also popular in jewelry, and we see quite a bit of it in Native American wares. The stones inlaid in silver make a nice variance from the traditional turquoise jewelry.

Mining malachite began as early as 4000 BC by ancient Egyptians. In Israel, malachite is extensively mined at Timna Valley, often called King Solomon's Mines. Archeological evidence indicates that the mineral has been mined and smelted at that site for over 3,000 years. It is found worldwide, including in Zaire (*editor's note*: now the Democratic Republic of Congo), Namibia, Russia, Australia, and England. In the U.S. it's found in Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. The ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans used malachite for jewelry and ground it to use as eye shadow. It is used in amulets to protect against the evil eye. In the Middle Ages it was used to protect children from witches and other dangers. It is the guardian stone of travelers.

Reprinted from Rockhound Ramblings, May 2011

SEPTEMBER STONE: SAPPHIRE



Fine Faceted Sapphires in various colors

Sapphire is the gemstone for September, and the common name for gem-grade **Corundum** (technically, **Ruby** is another name for gem-grade corundum, but only for those rare red crystals with chromium as the chromophore, or coloring agent...) Corundum is an oxide of Aluminum that occurs as trigonal crystals (typically barrel-shaped with several steep hexagonal bipyramids, tabular bipyramids, usually lamellar, and sometimes granular). It has vitreous luster and is translucent to transparent. It has no cleavage, a Moh's hardness of approximately 9.0, and a density of approximately 4.0. Color is usually grey, weakly blue, yellow, or red, but all colors can occur. Normally pure Al_2O_3 , the color-giving ions, such as Cr (ruby) or Fe and Ti (sapphire), are present only in very small amounts - typically only a few parts per million!

Crystal structure can be described as an almost-hexagonal close packing of spheres of O atoms in which two-thirds of the octohedrally-coordinated interstices are occupied by Al and the remaining third are empty. Corundum occurs in silicon-poor igneous rocks such as syenites and nepheline-syenites and associated pegmatites, in contact zones between peridotites and surrounding rocks, and in metamorphic rocks such as gneisses, mica-schists, and crystalline limestones. Because of its hardness and chemical resistance, it is also widespread in sand and gravel deposits.

Sapphire is found all over the globe - important deposits occur in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Queensland, Australia, among others. We have gem occurrences in the United States in

North Carolina and Montana. The most famous sapphire deposits, though long mined-out, occurred at high altitude at Padar in Kashmir, India, where marble and other metamorphic rocks are cut by pegmatitic dykes. New sources are found often, especially in Africa, but a very recent find in Ceylon, Sri Lanka, shows amazing promise with deep-blue transparent crystals that can weigh over 20 grams! Sapphire is fairly easy to cut and polish, though beginners sometimes have trouble with pre-polish. Try using a 3,000-grit diamond lap, works every time for me... You will probably never cut another stone with such sharp facet breaks (unless you are a diamond brilianteer!) You *will* go through laps/saws more quickly, thanks to corundum's incredible hardness. But after factoring in corundum's high refractive index (1.76), decent dispersion, and amazing variety of colors, you'll come to understand why this species is truly "king of the colored gems"!



Top-Quality Faceted Sapphire surrounded by diamonds in platinum ring



African Sapphire Rough

Compiled/written by Mike DeMeritt, 2012

*****SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM*****

Maya Jade- The revival of a gem revered by royalty

Lecture by Helen Serras-Herman, MFA, FGA

Jade was revered in the Maya world, an ancient culture that flourished in the first millennium AD in Mexico and Central America. The sources for Mesoamerican jade were lost for the past five centuries, primarily because the Spanish conquistadores did not value jade. Today we know the exact location of many of the ancient mines, and a magnificent variety of jadeite colors is now mined in Guatemala.

In this presentation, I will share the jade rediscovery story, as well as the reasons why my husband, Andrew, and I were drawn to Mexico and Guatemala, and the jade. I will show intricate jade carvings from the *National Museum of Anthropology* in Mexico City, the Palenque Museum, the British Museum in London, the *Museum of Archeology & Ethnography* in Guatemala City, the *Archeological Museum of Miraflores*- the ancient Maya site of *Kaminaljuyu*- in Guatemala City, and the Museum in Tikal, Guatemala.

We will go behind the scenes at the *Jades S.A* factory for carving jade in Antigua, Guatemala, as well as my studio, to look at the carving jade machinery and equipment. We will also take a look at all the jade varieties and how they are identified. And lastly, I will show my *Maya Jade Collection* that premiered this past February at 2013 Tucson gem shows.

A comprehensive article is to be soon published in *Rock & Gem* magazine.

Helen Serras-Herman is a gem sculptor with 30 years of experience in unique gem sculpture and jewelry art. Her award-winning, one-of-a-kind, distinctive artwork has been exhibited world-wide and published in over 100 trade magazines and books. She was inducted in the *National Lapidary Hall of Fame* in 2003. See her work at www.gemartcenter.com

Without any doubt, good and accurate
use of files comes from practice,
And more practice.

- Charles Jarvis

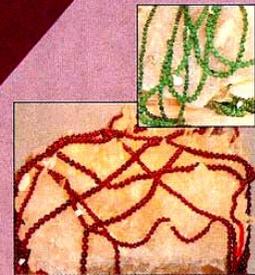


Lifetime Member Sylvia Czayo with Billy Bob Riley are enjoying Labor Day, September 2, 2013 at Old Pueblo Lapidary Club.

They are so dedicated to their hobby of faceting that they came to OPLC on the holiday. Billy Bob is checking out the stone Sylvia is working on.

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-Ray Eames

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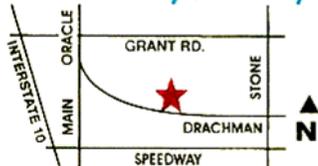
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- **Jed's Rock Shop** - 20% on all items. 520-882-6044 - **6275 N Sandario Rd, Tucson**
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- **Kent's Tools** - 10% 520-624-8098 - **133 E Grant Road, Tucson**
- **Tucson Mineral & Gem World** - 10% 520-883-0682 Web address: www.tucsonmineral.com **2801 South Kinney Road, Tucson**
- **Arizona Lapidary** - 10% discount for OPLC members. See ad in this issue. 520-399-6641
4699 E Pima St, Tucson

DON'T FORGET

Please don't forget to continue to bring in **YOUR** (or anyone else's for that matter) aluminum cans to the Club for recycling. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated to help add \$'s to the Club's treasury. **Thanks!**

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Al Romey 325-7263

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Twink Monrad 297-9454

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Gretchen Arnaiz 747-1511

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Twink Monrad 297-9454

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Wayne Klement 954-6298

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John Poole 777-5588

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Dan Harmsen 721-8452

WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154

Mondays

1PM - 4PM **Faceting Guild** (Exp. Facetors Only)
Monitor - Paul Head 296-0331

1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**
Monitor - Lou Akerman 290-6968

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Faceting**
Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518

Tuesdays

9AM - Noon **Cabbing***
Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**
Monitor - John Poole 777-5588

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**
Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

1PM - 4PM **Faceting***
Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**
Monitor - Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

Wednesdays

6PM - 9PM **Beginning Casting**
Monitor - Chuck Lundstrom 577-6446

6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**
Monitor - Keith Haubert 784-8283

6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing Lab**
Monitor - Bill Cascio 638-8144

6PM - 9PM **Faceting***
Monitor—Billy Bob Riley 225-9060

Thursdays

10AM - 1PM **Rock Sawing**
(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)
Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

Fridays

9AM - 12PM **Cabbing***
Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 203-8430

Saturdays

8AM - 12PM **Rock Sawing**
Monitor - Jim Griffin
10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing**
Monitor - Terry Cox 296-4949
10AM - 3PM **Cabbing**
Monitor - Ron Davidson 749-3157

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Old Pueblo Lapidary Club
 (Cutting Remarks - September 2013)
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 Tucson, AZ 85712
 (520) 323-9154

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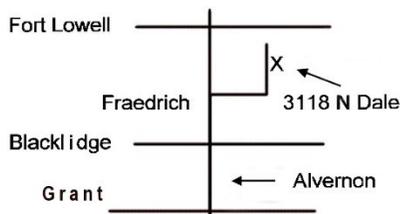
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Type of membership:	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Annual Renewals
Single Member	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

Mail to: Membership Chairperson, Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712



The Business Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. A pre-meeting social hour (except for the December meeting) is at 8:00 a.m., followed by an educational program, and ends with the monthly meeting. Visitors are most welcome.