



# GEM SCOOPS



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Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

March 2014

## Lost-Wax Casting Demo

### President's Remarks

First, some sad news. We have lost Bob Perry (a life member) and former Secretary Linda Redmann. PDGMS extends deep condolences to all affected.

On happier issues, a February 22 visit to the Tellus Museum in Cartersville, Georgia was made by 6 PDGMS members (Carol Lund, Russ Ligeikis, Rudy and Norma Curley, and Bob and Darlene Whitmore). They reported a solid (pun intended) time in the rock section and some mesmerizing fossils.

March's activity is a class on wax ring design for Lost Wax Casting. Taught by Fred Sias in the evening, it is a prequel to an OLLI afternoon workshop series that commences on the same day. Partake in this and you'll be set to continue with the workshop. The event will commence at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 18 in the ART CLASSROOM at the OLLI Center.

Our January fossil talk with Dr. Alan Coulson from Clemson's Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences Department is tentatively rescheduled for Tuesday, April 15, at 7 PM at the OLLI Center. This

### APRIL MEETING

The next meeting will be on April 15th and will feature Dr. Alan Coulson who will present a talk on Fossils.

### MARCH MEETING

**WHEN:** March 18, 2014

**WHERE:** Charles K. Cheezem OLLI Education Center

**SPEAKER:** Fred Sias

**TOPIC:** Jewelry Making by the Lost-Wax Process

The meeting will be the start of a three-session class in the ART CLASSROOM for those who have signed up. Others are welcome to participate in the introductory session. Fred will first talk about the history and technique of lost wax casting. Then he will demonstrate how to make a wax model for a ring. Those taking the class will then try their hand at making a wax ring model. There will be a second class session on Thursday, March 20th to finish the ring models that will be then sent to a company in Georgia to be cast in sterling silver.

**Refreshments are served. Visitors are always welcome.**

should be a petrifying presentation.

One item of business that we need to rehash: it is now Spring and time to make plans about our club's storage shed. Indeed, the weather will soon be warm enough to permit John Palmer's return north. It is time to do this before the summer heat kicks in!

*Robert*

### LOST WAX CASTING

The Technique of Lost-Wax Casting is simultaneously very old and still a modern high-precision casting method. Dentists use it for making gold inlays and crowns, jewelers use it to make fine jewelry, and manufacturers use it to make turbine blades for jet engines. Go down to your local hardware store

and you will find brass faucet fittings that were manufactured using the lost-wax process.

The technique is extremely precise and any scratches left in the wax model will show up in the casting. The class will be devoted to making a wax ring model that will then be sent to a jewelry casting shop in Georgia to be cast in Sterling Silver. The cast ring will be returned to be given its final finish at the next class meeting.

### Officers for 2014

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**Jim Dusenberry.....864-654-5741**

**Fred Sias.....864-654-6833**

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## Speaker Bio

Fred Sias is an Engineer who retired from Clemson. He has been teaching Lost-Wax Casting courses for several years at workshops in Georgia and North Carolina.

Class notes were used in early classes but they soon evolved into a book titled *Lost-Wax Casting: Old, New, and Inexpensive Methods* that was published in 2005.

## Regional Gem and Mineral Shows

**March 14-16 – Rome, GA.** Annual; Rome Georgia Mineral Society; The Forum; 301 Triburn St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry, crystals, free mineral and fossil ID, door prizes, exhibits, grand prize;

Web Site:

[www.rogams.wordpress.com/gem-and-mineral-show](http://www.rogams.wordpress.com/gem-and-mineral-show)

**April 26-27 – Memphis, TN.** Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show. Archaeological and Geological Society “*The Earth Wide Open*,” International Agricenter, Saturday, April 26, 9-6 and Sunday, April 27 10-5; Dealers, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Kids Area with Rockzone featuring Gem Dig, Geode Bowling, Rocks Around the Clock. Adults \$5.00, 2-day pass \$8.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00.

Web Site:

[www.TheEarthWideOpen.com](http://www.TheEarthWideOpen.com)

**April 27-28 -- Dothan, AL** Dothan Gem and Mineral Club 6th Annual Show and Sale. James Grant Recreation Center at Westgate Park, 501 Recreation Road, Dothan, AL. Hours: Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 10-4. Free admission, exhibits, demonstrations, hourly door prizes, silent auction, kids’ activities, etc. Contact Arnie Lambert 334-792-7116 or e-mail [alambert@comcast.net](mailto:alambert@comcast.net).

See [www.wiregrassrockhounds.com](http://www.wiregrassrockhounds.com)

**April 28-30 – Hickory, NC.** Annual Show, Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club. Hickory Metro Convention Center; I-40, Exit 125, 13th Avenue Dr. SE; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4, Students and Children free, Children’s screening, demonstrations, faceting, cabbing, exhibits, dealers, minerals, jewelry, fossils, beads.

Web site: [www.cvgmc.org](http://www.cvgmc.org)

**May 4-5 – North Charleston, SC.**

Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, “Art by Nature”. Charleston Area Convention Center; Exhibit Hall A. Hours: Sat. & Sun 10-5. FREE admission and FREE parking; hourly door prizes, demonstrations, fossil dig, geode cracking.

Contact Karen Havenstein of Charleston, SC at (843) 795-2956;

Web Site

[www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org](http://www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org)

## BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. [When too dull for dental work the dental tools are fine for making tools for jewelry work.] Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however - If you want to modify the shape of the tool, don’t try to just bend it with pliers. Working this alloy of steel while it’s cold will cause it to snap. Changing its shape can only be done when it’s hot. I work it like a blacksmith. Prop your torch up on the bench so that you can use both hands for the work. Have a hammer and bench block ready. Heat the tip red hot, and hammer it straight or bend it with pliers.

And don’t forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It’s best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist or hygienist to put some of these tools aside for you. It’s good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you. If that’s not possible, pop them in an oven at around 300 F.

***Have you paid  
your Dues?***