



GEM SCOOPS



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Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

May 2010

Rappings of the Gavel

I represented the PDGMS at the Southeast Federation Board Meeting in Charleston, SC on May 1st. Most of the meeting was devoted to reports from various officers and chairpersons. However, one club presented a request for the Southeast Federation to investigate whether an IRS Group Tax Exemption ruling could be obtained for all the individual clubs in the Federation. The Federation President, Mark Easterbrook, appointed a committee to followup on this request and present a proposal at the Annual Board meeting later this year. It is unlikely that the process will be completed in time to help the PDGMS because we have received information from the IRS indicating that our club should resolve our tax status by the end of this year.

At the meeting we were informed that the Southeast Federation now has a web site specifically for workshops sponsored by the Federation. Please check these out at <http://www: sfmsworkshops.com>.

Fred

JUNE MEETING

Our June speaker will be John Rasmussen who will give a talk on Gem Identification. John is a Certified GIA Gemologist who is a member of the Western Carolina Gem and Mineral Society in Greenville.

MAY MEETING

The Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society will hold its monthly meeting on May 18, 2010 at 7:00 at the main campus of Tri-County Technical College, 7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC, in Room 127 of the Industrial and Business Development Center. **Please join us for a demonstration of how to cut a cabochon stone by Larry Boller.** Refreshments will be served. Visitors are always welcome. Find directions to our meeting place and more information about the Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society on our website, www.pdgms.org.

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society Minutes of General Meeting 4/20/2010

Location: Room 153 at Tri-County Technical College.

Attendance: 13.

Fred Sias called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The March minutes were approved.

Treasurer, Phyllis Phillips, reported receipts during the month of \$65.89, no payouts, and a current bank balance of \$1030.50. Two new members joined at the meeting.

Fred informed us that he, Ted Wallenius, and Larry Boller represented our club at the Pendleton Spring Jubilee. They demonstrated castings, cabochon making, and Steve Compton showed flint knapping. The Jubilee was well attended on Saturday, but Easter Sunday's crowd was lighter. A photo of the flint knapping made the Sunday *Greenville*

News, although the club was not identified.

On Saturday, May 1st, the SFMS will hold their annual Board meeting in Charleston, associated with the local gem show running that weekend. Fred Sias will attend as South Carolina's representative to the Federation. He asked for volunteers from our club to attend the meeting in order to make a motion asking the Federation to apply for a Group Exemption program for the individual clubs. If the SFMS would offer this program, clubs could also qualify under their 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

One major advantage of 501(c)(3) status is that donations to such or-

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2010 Officers

President: Fred Sias	864-654-6833
V.P. : John Palmer	941-545-3713
Secretary: Linda Rakey	864-224-4245
Treasurer: Phyllis Phillips	864-654-8514

2010 Directors

Larry Boller	864-296-8077
Chris Cicimurri	864-650-7115
Dr. Richard Warner	864-654-0913

organizations are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's federal tax return. Otherwise, by default, clubs are listed as businesses until they can qualify for tax exemption on their own. Businesses must file the IRS form 1120 and pay at least 15% of their income (in our case, dues). It will be difficult for our club to obtain the tax exempt status on our own and requires a substantial fee. Hopefully, the Federation will consider this motion favorably. If not, our club will have to obtain informal IRS recognition as a 501(c)(7) organization that will not honor donor's contributions as deductible, but will no longer list us as a business.

Reminders about refreshments will be published in the newsletter.

A survey of requested program ideas resulted in field trips being of prime interest to members, yet only five members attended the April trip to Diamond Hill Mine. John Denev brought some incredible amethyst and quartz crystals he found that day.

Upcoming programs:

May – Ray Christopher on geology of the national parks. [Ed. This has been postponed until later.]

June – John Rasmussen, gemologist, will speak on gem identification.

July – club picnic on the 3rd Tuesday. Ted Wallenius will check availability of his neighborhood's pool area for the setting.

Upcoming club sponsored retail shows nearby:

May 1 – 2: North Charleston, SC. Convention Center Complex, Exhibit Hall A. Sat. & Sun. 10 -5.

May 7 – 9: Marietta, Georgia.
 July 22-25: Franklin, NC – Separate wholesale and club retail shows.
 July 29 – August 1st: Spruce Pine, NC – Separate wholesale and retail shows.

Rudy Curley showed his catalog from Arrowhead Lapidary Supplies. He recommended their pricing on bits, grinders, and rough stones.

Fred Sias and Ted Wallenius provided a fascinating program. Using the club's centrifugal casting machine, they demonstrated freeform castings using rock salt and pine straw as the embedding material. Sterling silver was melted with a torch and released in the centrifugal machine, forcing the silver into the salt and pine straw. Every casting is unique and minor variations are endless. Splash casting involved dropping the liquid silver into water, and the height from which it was dropped influenced the product. Ted displayed some lovely castings that he had fitted with gems. This

was a popular program, and members were reminded that the machines are available for their use.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Rakey,
 Secretary

SFMS Needs a Stamp Chairman

For over ten years the Southeast Federation has had a Stamp Program that sponsors a number of Workshop Scholarships each summer. Federation member club collect canceled stamps that are forwarded to the Stamp Chairman, Jim Robinson. He auctions the stamps to other collectors and the proceeds are used to fund workshop scholarships.

Jim is retiring from this position at the end of the year and the Federation urgently needs an experienced Stamp Collector who can handle his job. See Fred Sias if you are interested and your nomination will be submitted to the SFMS.



Photo by Jim Dusenberry

Fred Sias and Ted Wallenius demonstrate freeform straw casting at the April Meeting of the PDGMS.