



GEM SCOOPS



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Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

November 2010

Rappings of the Gavel

The November meeting is important, first, because we have a great speaker who will demonstrate Lampwork Bead Design. This is one of the more exotic crafts that is taught at SFMS Workshops.

Second, we will be having an important business meeting. We will plan our Christmas meeting or party and then elect next year's officers who will be installed at the December meeting.

I am seriously concerned about the future of the PDGMS. The Nominating Committee has met and is interviewing potential officers and directors. I have been told that they have a slate of officers for all positions except the President. We really need a President to lead the organization. He or she does not need to be an expert on any aspect of the hobby but is needed to provide continuity from meeting to meeting. The Committee slate will be presented and then nominations will be accepted from the "floor."

Will You Help?

Fred

NEXT MEETING December 21, 2010

The December meeting of the PDGMS has traditionally been a Pot Luck dinner followed by an exchange of inexpensive gifts relating to the hobby or craft. We will discuss this at the November meeting.

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

DATE: Seven p.m., Tuesday, November 16, 2010
PLACE: TriCounty Technical College, Industrial and Business Development Center, Room: 126
TOPIC: **Lampwork Bead Design**
SPEAKER: Connie Compton
Program: Connie designs and fabricates unique beads by fusing different types of materials using a process called "Lampwork". She will bring some of her finished creations to the meeting and demonstrate how it is done.
Refreshments will be served by Viola Wolf at 7:00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society Minutes of General Meeting 10/19/2010

Location: Room 127 at Tri-County Technical College. Attendance: 25.

Vice President John Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Refreshments were provided by Dale Baughman. Due to the Secretary's absence, there were no minutes from the September meeting to be approved. Treasurer Phyllis Phillips reported a bank balance of \$1076.34.

The only **old business** concerned the club's IRS status. After November 8th, the Secretary will finalize seeking informal 501(c)(7) status with the IRS. The 990-N tax form for 2009 can then be electronically filed; it must be completed by 12/31/10. After year end, the 990-N for 2010 may also be filed; deadline for this is 5/15/11.

New business revolved around an upcoming dig on Wednesday, November 3rd, at Diamond Hill mine. Twice per year the owners do a major excavation for amethyst and quartz. Our club will be the first outsiders to mine the area after their recent excavation.

Program: Chester Karwoski, an owner of Diamond Hill Mine, presented a fascinating program on the local mine in Antreville, SC. Chester donated a large smoky quartz specimen to our club for a raffle. It was auctioned and contributed \$55 to the club treasury.

Mr. Karwoski found the first printed historical reference to Diamond Hill from 1763. The location was described in detail. He and his wife, Gail, have been owners for seven years. They hire a large track-hoe to excavate areas, and the debris is put on dump piles. The large dump piles are not sifted during excavation, and so are great places for us to mine. Chester showed a map of the mine area, identifying the veins they have discovered

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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

About the Speaker

Connie Compton, a native to upstate South Carolina and a graduate of Clemson University, has been teaching art for 30 years in the United States and in Germany. She is currently teaching art for the Oconee County School District and practices what she teaches using a variety of media. Seven years ago Connie took an interest in working "warm glass" which is actually using molten glass in the form of lampwork and kiln work to create a variety of art forms, which includes beads, pendants, plates and other colorful glass objects. Her forte is creating colorful glass beads that she uses to create bracelets and necklaces. Connie uses a clean fire torch to melt glass onto steel rods, adding color to the glass as she creates her jewels. She will bring some of her finished creations to the meeting and demonstrate how it is done.

Lampworking

Lampworking is a type of glasswork that uses a gas fueled torch to melt rods and tubes of clear and colored glass. Once in a molten state, the glass is formed by blowing and shaping with tools and hand movements. It is also known as flameworking or torchworking, as the modern practice no longer uses oil-fueled lamps.

Although the art form has been practiced since ancient Syrian times (First Century B.C.), it became widely practiced in Murano, Italy in the 14th century. In the mid 19th Century lampwork technique was extended to the production of paperweights, primarily in France, where it became a popular art form, still collected today.

Lampworking differs from glassblowing in that glassblowing uses a blowpipe to inflate a glass blob known as a *gob* or *gather*, by blowing air into the blowpipe, whereas lampworking manipulates glass either by the use of tools, gravity, or by blowing directly into the end of a glass tube.

Early lampworking was done in the flame of an oil lamp, with the artist



Typical examples of Lampwork beads

blowing air into the flame through a pipe. Most artists today use torches that burn either propane or natural gas, or in some countries butane, for the fuel gas, with either air or pure oxygen as the oxidizer. Many hobbyists use MAPP gas in portable canisters for fuel.

Lampworking is used to create artwork, including figurines, trinkets, curios, Christmas tree ornaments, beads and much more. It is also used to create scientific instruments as well as glass models of animal and botanical models.

The colors of the glass must be selected for compatibility with each other, both chemically and in terms of coefficient of thermal expansion (COE). Glass with incompatible COE, mixed together, can create powerful stresses within a finished piece as it cools, cracking or violently shattering the piece.

Tools for lampworking are similar to those used in glassblowing. For example, graphite marvers are flat surfaces that are used to shape, smooth or consolidate applied decoration.

(This article is an edited version of a description of Lampworking that is available online on Wikipedia.org. The edited article is reprinted here under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License.)

Minutes (Continued)

containing amethyst, milky quartz, and smoky quartz. His crew has found some incredibly large outcroppings of crystals, some of which have been donated to museums. His slide show highlighted some great finds, and his program covered the geological changes leading to the formations.

To clean the mineral deposits off the specimens, Mr. Karwoski begins by using oxalic acid, available at rock shops or janitor supply stores. Any yellow coating that remains is then removed by Super Iron Out.

It was recommended that when mining, bamboo stakes, PVC pipe, or a large screwdriver could be used to excavate around specimens prior to lifting.

Chester brought many specimens to show and many were for sale, along with finished jewelry pieces. Gail, a children's book author, brought copies of her books to sell. Most stories dealt with nature for children.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rakey
Secretary