

# GEM SCOOPS



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Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

October 2015

## Gemstone Shaping Techniques

### Editorial

Do you want a Gem and Mineral Club? Do you want to contribute more than just a few dollars in Dues? I fear that many of our present paid-up membership just expect the club to happen without any effort on their part.

Right now it seems that only a few persons are contributing and the club is about to disappear. This happened a few years ago when no one was willing to take on the duties of the club officers.

Of course, the club needs a President; but the President cannot do the job all by his or herself. The President's job is to conduct the meetings and guide the general direction of the club.

The President is highly dependent on a person that finds speakers and plans the monthly program. This person is called the **Program Chair** and is often the Vice President. With so few members it is probably best to combine the two responsibilities. In many clubs it is expected that the Vice President will move up to be the President.

It is hard to emphasize enough the importance of the Program Chair. Without a separate Program Chair, the President must take over this job or some other club member must volunteer as is happening now

**NOVEMBER MEETING**  
The next meeting of the PDGMS will be on November, 17, 2015. Please put it on your calendar.

### OCTOBER MEETING

**WHEN:** October 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** The OLLI Life Long Learning Center, Patrick Square  
**TOPIC:** Lapidary Methods Then and Now  
**SPEAKER:** **Jim Potterf, "Rockhound, Inventor (and then some)"**

*ABSTRACT: Jim Potterf will present a brief history of how gemstone shaping techniques evolved over time followed by a demonstration of at least one of the machines he designed, built, and uses.*

Jim worked in Illinois as a Electronics Engineer before moving south. His collateral interest in the Earth Sciences played a big role in that decision. He has spent the last 20 years rock hounding and using the associated lapidary arts. Jim is an active member of MAGMA but also spends a lot of time "lone wolfing" it. When existing lapidary machines won't do what he wants, or won't do it fast enough, he designs and builds his own.

*Refreshment will be served by Dard and Bob Whitmore, and visitors are always welcome.*

when Ted finds a speaker, for example. It is unfair to expect the President to take on the duties of the Program Chairman. However, the President is responsible for managing the club so the job often defaults to him or her.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), to which we belong, provides assistance to the Program Chair in the form of an extensive library of free videos and slide shows.

Please start thinking about how you can help the Pendleton Club during the upcoming year. We urgently need a Program Chair as well as the regular officers during the upcoming year. Please volunteer.

*Fred Sias, Editor*

### Mini Minutes September 15, 2015

The regular meeting of the PDGMS was called to order about 7:00 p.m. Larry Boller demonstrated cabochon cutting and polishing using one of the club-owned Genie cabbing machines. About thirteen people attended.

**Officers for 2015**

Carol Lund, President.....	864-247-8204
John Palmer, V. Pres.....	941-545-3713
Teresa Smith, Secretary.....	864-885-9098
John Ishler, Treasurer.....	864-885-9126

**2015 Directors**

John Deney.....	864-878-5342
Fred Sias.....	864-654-6833
Teresa Smith.....	864-885-9098
Ted Wallenius.....	864-882-3940

## October Birthstones

October is another month with two birthstone choices – *Tourmaline* and *Opal*.

### Tourmaline

*Tourmaline* has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste. Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These *bi-color* or *tri-color* gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as *watermelon tourmaline*, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA.

The name *tourmaline* comes from the Singhalese words 'tura mali'. In translation, this means something like 'stone with mixed colours', referring to the colour spectrum of this gemstone, which outdoes that of all other precious stones. There are tourmalines from red to green and from blue to yellow. They often have two or more colours. There are tourmalines which change their colour when the light changes from daylight to artificial light, and some show the light effect of a cat's eye. No two tourmalines are exactly alike. This gemstone has an endless number of faces, and for that reason it suits all moods. No wonder that magical powers have been attributed to it since ancient times. In particular, it is the gemstone of love and of friendship, and is said to render them firm and long-lasting



Red tourmaline is often called Rubellite.



Blue tourmaline is often called Indicolite.

The most common species of Tourmaline is Schorl, which accounts for ninety-five percent of all Tourmaline in nature. It is black, or sometimes a blue so deep it appears to be black. The term Schorl was in use before the 1400s, named for a town in Saxony, Germany, where Black Tourmaline was found in nearby tin mines. One of Tourmaline's most distinguishing properties is its ability to become electrically charged simply by heating or rubbing it. When charged, one end becomes positive and the other negative, allowing it to attract, or repel, particles of dust or bits of paper. .

Needles of Black Tourmaline, or Schorl, can also be found embedded in clear Quartz, called Tourmalinated or Tourmalated Quartz. The combination of clear white and radiant black are believed to create a perfect polarity of energies, a manifestation of light and dark forces united together for a common goal. It is regarded as a symbol of great fortune and is not carried as an ongoing charm, but when specific good luck is needed.

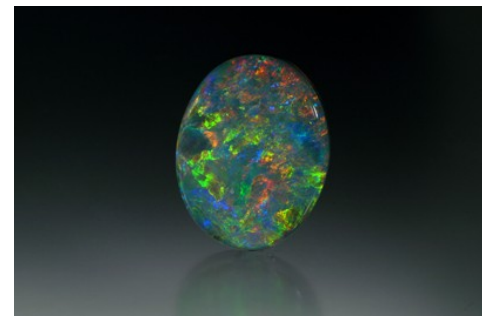
Ancient magicians relied upon Black Tourmaline, known as Schorl, to protect them from earth demons as they cast their spells.

### Opal

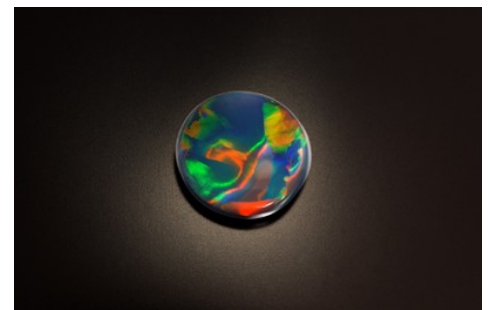
The name *opal* derives from the Greek *Opallos*, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals. The opal is composed of particles closely packed in spherical arrangements. When packed together in a regular pattern, a three-dimensional array of spaces are created that give opal its radiance.



Fire Opal has a uniform translucent color.



Precious Opal has a play of color.



The most valuable Black Opal has a play of color against a black background.