



# GEM SCOOPS



## Cabbing Demonstration

### President's Message

Hello All:

We had a relaxing potluck picnic at the Summit Subdivision Amenities Center in Seneca on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen people attended. A delicious ham was prepared by John Ishler and Ted Wallenius smoked a turkey. Many other great side dishes were brought by those attending.

This month, we will have a cabochon cutting demonstration by Larry Boller. He will be using some of the equipment that is being restored for our club lapidary workshop. We are looking forward to other instructive workshops in the future, possibly including gem faceting and cabochon cutting classes. I look forward to seeing all of you on the 15<sup>th</sup>! Robert will be serving refreshments.

*Carol*

### Our Club Genie used at Apple Festival

The first machine to be put back in operating condition was used at the Hendersonville Apple Festival to demonstrate cabochon cutting by the Hendersonville Gem and Mineral Society. The machine was ready and we responded to a call for help.

#### OCTOBER MEETING

The next meeting of the PDGMS will be on October 20, 2015. Put it on your calendar.

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

**WHEN:** September 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The OLLI Life Long Learning Center, Patrick Square

**TOPIC:** Cabochon Cutting and Polishing Demonstration

**SPEAKER:** Larry Boller

Using our Club gemstone blanks, diamond trim saw, and Genie cabbing machine, PDGMS member Larry Boller will demonstrate how to turn a rough gemstone into polished jewelry-quality cabochon.

Larry was originally from southern Indiana. After earning a mathematics degree from Northwestern and a career in the Marine Corps, he retired to Clemson where he earned a graduate degree in Wildlife Biology. He served for over 10 years in Forestry Dept at Clemson where he was associated with the "Teaching Kids About The Environment Program".

Larry became involved in Lapidary Arts while stationed in the Mojave Desert. There he had access to a well equipped "Rock Shop" that was managed by a very skilled and knowledgeable old grizzled prospector type. He did a lot of collecting in the surrounding desert area and managed to acquire a goodly amount of some "pretty good" cabbing material. He continued working in the lapidary arts and has been associated with the PDGMS since he arrived in Clemson. Larry taught cabochon cutting and polishing when several club members taught a Leisure Arts Course for Clemson.

Refreshment will be served and visitors are always welcome.

### What is a Cabochon?

A **cabochon**, from the Middle French word *caboché* (meaning "head"), is a **gemstone** which has been shaped and polished as opposed to **faceted**. The resulting form is usually a convex (rounded) **obverse** with a flat reverse. Cutting *en cabochon* (French: "in the manner of a cabochon") is usually applied to opaque gems, while faceting is usually applied to transparent stones.

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### SFMS 2015 Workshop Schedule

Session Three – Wildacres  
MONDAY, September 21-27, 20

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

## What is a Cabochon? (Continued)

Hardness is also taken into account as softer gemstones with a hardness lower than 7 on the Mohs hardness scale are easily scratched, mainly by silicon dioxide in dust and grit. This would quickly make translucent gems unattractive—instead they are polished as cabochons, making the scratches less evident.

In the case of **asteriated** stones such as star **sapphires** and **chatoyant** stones such as cat's eye **chrysoberyl**, a domed cabochon cut is used to show the star or eye, which would not be visible in a faceted cut.

The usual shape for cutting cabochons is an ellipse. This is because the eye is less sensitive to small asymmetries in an ellipse, as opposed to a uniformly round shape, such as a circle, and because the elliptical shape, combined with the dome, is attractive. An exception is cabochons on some **watches' crowns**, which are round.

The procedure is to cut a slab of the rough rock with a slab saw, and next to stencil a shape from a template. The slab is then trimmed to near the marked line using a **diamond blade saw**—called a trim saw. Diamond impregnated wheels or **silicon carbide** wheels can be used to grind the rough rock down. Most lapidary workshops and production facilities have moved away from silicon carbide to diamond grinding wheels or flat lap disks.

Once the piece is trimmed it can be "dopped" or completed by hand. "Dopping" is normally done by adhering the stone with hard wax onto a length of wooden dowel called a "dop stick". The piece is then ground to the template line, the back edges may be bevelled, and finally the top is sanded and polished to a uniform dome.

(Adapted from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.)



**Demonstrating cabochon making at the Hendersonville Apple Festival.**

## September Birthstone

### Sapphire

*Sapphire, the September birthstone, has been popular since the Middle Ages and, according to folklore, will protect your loved ones from envy and harm. Medieval clergy wore sapphires to symbolize heaven, while commoners thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Blue sapphires range from very light to very dark greenish or violetish blue, as well as various shades of pure blue. The most prized colors are a medium to medium dark blue or slightly violetish blue. Sapphire is a variety of the gem species corundum and occurs in all colors of the rainbow. Pink, purple, green, orange, or yellow corundum are known by their color (pink sapphire, green sapphire). Ruby is the red variety of corundum.*



**Star sapphire cabochon (left) and fine blue faceted sapphire (right).**